



Friday 22nd October 2021

Anker Valley Newsletter

'Inspiring all to excellence'

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe that we are at the end of our first half term and what a busy one it has been! We have had our Harvest celebration, celebrated Jeans for Genes, hosted our first Macmillan Coffee morning, celebrated our wonderful grandparents and of course had our official school opening. I am so incredibly proud of how well our Butterflies and Dragonflies have settled into school life and would like to thank each and every one of you for your support over the past seven weeks. I would also like to extend my thanks to the staff and governors for their hard work this half term, for making sure everything was perfect for our children.

I would like to wish you all a wonderful half term and look forward to seeing you after the holiday. Please do keep adding updates onto Tapestry, as I am sure that the teachers would love to see all the exciting adventures that the children have next week.

Best wishes, Mrs Horlor.



What we have been learning about this week in Butterflies

This week in Butterflies, the children have enjoyed exploring their senses, whilst carving pumpkins and playing with the scented Halloween playdough. The children all looked amazing in their Halloween costumes and have had fun playing Halloween party games.

The children have also had their very first visit to the school library, where they learnt how to handle books carefully. We look forward to visiting the library weekly, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, when they can exchange their books.



Congratulations!



Stars of the Week:

Edison and Eva (Dragonflies)
Taliyah (Butterflies)

Reader of the Week:
Harper (Dragonflies)

Outstanding Citizen:
Evan (Dragonflies)



School Uniform Reminder

We are incredibly proud of how smart our children look in their Anker Valley uniform, however we would just like to remind you that:

- Children in Dragonflies should be wearing blouses or shirts **not** polo shirts. We understand that buttons can be tricky, but we are working hard before and after PE to master them, so please support us with this.
- Black school shoes **must** be worn during the day, not boots or trainers. As the colder weather approaches, children may want boots to walk to school in, however they should then change into shoes when they arrive.
- Earrings **must** be removed on Wednesdays and Thursdays, in Dragonflies, when they have PE.

Many thanks for your support with this.

Attendance

Dragonflies (This week): 85.78%
Dragonflies (This term): 94.66%

Our attendance for this week is much lower than we would like to see it. Can we please encourage you to send your child to school every day (unless displaying Covid symptoms), we will always let you know if they are unwell in school.

If your child has Covid symptoms (high temperature, continuous cough or loss of taste or smell), they **must isolate** until results from a PCR test are received in line with government guidelines.



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What we have been learning about this week in Dragonflies

Linked to the children's interests, this week we have read the story *Room on the Broom* by Julia Donaldson; we have also had the story on CD in our listening area, with some stick puppets so we could re-tell the story.

In our continuous provision, we have had lots of spider themed activities this week too because the children in Dragonflies have been enjoying hunting for spiders in the outdoor environment and bringing them to show Mrs Free and Miss Garrett!

In our maths area, we have been playing mathematical board games, including *Incy Wincy Spider* and *Spotty Dogs*. We have had to take turns, count the number of spots on the dice and identify different 2D shapes to be able to move around the boards.

As part of our whole school approach to well-being, we have started to use a feeling check in station in the classroom. Dragonflies can let us know how they are feeling when they first arrive in school by placing their photo on the corresponding colour monster (pink for loved, yellow for happy, blue for sad, green for calm, red for angry and black for fear). The children are then able to access this resource throughout the day and Mrs Free, Miss Garrett and Mrs Horlor can check in with the children about their feelings too. We are also continuing to learn about our feelings through our stories at story time and during our circle time activities with Daisy the Dragonfly too.

The outdoor play equipment has now been installed and so this week (in between the very heavy rain showers), Dragonflies were very excited to be able to play on it for the first time. They enjoyed playing the musical instruments, balancing on the beam, crossing the bridge (being careful to not wake any trolls!) and climbing to the top to see how far they could see. They have also been enjoying sharing stories with their friends on the story telling chair and they cannot wait to see who moves into the new bug hotel first!





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Dates for your Diary

Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October – Half Term

2nd and 4th November – Parents Consultations

8th November – Flu Immunisations (Dragonflies)

12th November – Children in Need Day – Children to wear something spotty.

3rd December – 9:15am – Christingle Family Assembly

16th December – 9:15am – Reception Nativity and Carols

10th December – 3:30pm – 5:00pm – Christmas Fayre

17th December – Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Dinner and Christmas Party

20th December – Christmas Holidays Start

4th January – Inset Day (School closed to pupils)

5th January – Spring Term Starts

21st February – 25th February – Half Term

October Half Term Holiday Club - OPOJ,

Held at Dosthill Primary Academy.

For further information and registration packs, please contact

LWhetton@opoj.fierte.org

Happy 5th birthday

to Grayson in Dragonflies!



We hope you had a lovely day filled with celebrations.
Best wishes, your Anker Valley Family.

Autumn Parent Consultations

We are holding our Autumn Parent Consultation Meetings on the **2nd and 4th November**. Can you please ensure that you return the parent reply slip to Mrs Free as soon as possible, in order to arrange your meeting. Each appointment will last 10 minutes and will provide you with the opportunity to discuss how your child is settling in, as well as see some of their work.



Tempest Photography

There is still time to order school photographs through the Tempest website, however delivery will now need to be to your home address. As soon as we receive any orders in school, we will send them home with the children.

Reception Starters for September 2022

If your child's fifth birthday is between **1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023**, you will be no doubt be starting to think about applying for a Reception place for September 2022.

At Anker Valley, we pride ourselves on offering an education where we aspire for excellence for all, by offering a bespoke curriculum that takes influence from our local area and the natural environment. We would love you to come to see this for yourself and to take a tour of our newly built school.

For further information about applications or to arrange a visit to the school, please contact our main office on 01827 949310 or via email on office@ankervalley.org. We look forward to meeting you.



Safeguarding – Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Mrs Natalie Horlor (Head of School) nhorlor@ankervalley.org

Mrs Maria Hamblin (Executive Head teacher and CEO) CEO@fierte.org

Mr Toby Swift (Safeguarding Lead Governor) office@ankervalley.org

The school Safeguarding Policy is available to view on our school website.