



Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 13th September 2024

Colder Weather

Can we please ask that all children bring a coat with them into school now that we are experiencing some unpredictable colder and wetter weather. Please ensure that all coats are named to avoid anybody taking the wrong coat home with them.

If the weather is particularly wet at drop off / pick up, we ask that Reception and Year 1 go through the Year 1 doors and that Years 2 and 3 go in through the hall doors.

Thank you for your support with this.

Jeans for Genes Day

On **Friday 20th September** we will be celebrating Jeans for Genes Day in school. We would like to invite the children to wear jeans, denim skirts, jeggings, etc with their normal school uniform on the top (shirt, jumper / cardigan and tie) in exchange for a £1 donation which will be made to the charity.



Harvest Festival

On Friday 27th September, we will be celebrating with our Harvest Festival. This year, our Kestrels (Year 2) will be leading the celebrations, and we would like to warmly welcome our parents to this event. It will be taking place at 9:00am and on this day there will be no family assembly.

If you would like to make a donation to our Harvest Festival, we would very much appreciate this and it will be delivered to the Sacred Heart Church as in previous years, to help keep the Tamworth Food Bank running.

Food items that would be warmly received:

- long-life Milk
- Toiletries - Shampoo/conditioner/deodorant
- Small bottles of squash
- Tinned vegetables - Carrots/sweetcorn/peas
- Tinned fish
- Tinned meat - stew, curry, chilli, hot dogs, chicken, meatballs
- Small jars of coffee
- Nappies
- Soup
- Sugar
- Toilet rolls
- Baked beans
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Pasta

We kindly ask that all donations are either taken to the office or given to your child's class teacher by no later than Thursday 26th September.

We thank you in advance for your generosity and support with this.

Safeguarding at Anker Valley

At the start of the academic year, we update all of our school policies including our Safeguarding Policy, which based upon the guidance provided by Staffordshire County Council. Copies of all of our policies for 2024-25 can be found on our school website via the following link: [Anker Valley Primary Academy - Trust Policies](#) You can also request paper copies of school policies from Miss Elliott in the school office.

The designated safeguarding lead for Anker Valley is Mrs Natalie Horlor and in her absence Mrs Andrea Free and Mrs Maria Hamblin are the deputy designated safeguarding leads. All schools are required to have a governor that leads on Safeguarding and at Anker Valley this role is undertaken by Mrs Julia Jones. This information can also be found at the bottom of our weekly newsletters and on the school website on the safeguarding page: [Anker Valley Primary Academy - Safeguarding and Child Protection](#)

Introducing Miss Brayer to Year 2

This academic year, we are proud to be supporting John Taylor Teaching School with their trainee teacher programme. We would therefore like to warmly welcome Miss Hannah Brayer to Anker Valley. She will be based in Year 2 and will be supporting with teaching as well as having the opportunity to deliver lessons under the guidance and mentoring of Mrs Free and the team from John Taylor Teaching School. Miss Brayer has been in school this week and is starting to get to know all of the children, so please do say 'Hello' if you see her on the playground.



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Attendance

School attendance this year: 95.7%

School attendance this term: 95.7%

Dragonflies (this week): 92.7%

Herons (this week): 98.9%

Kestrels (this week): 97.9%

Kingfishers (this week): 95.6%



Congratulations to our children in Herons for winning our weekly attendance award!

Thank you to all parents who have supported their child this academic year with their attendance. We really do appreciate it.

This week in Dragonflies...

Dragonflies have had a brilliant first full week at school! They have greatly improved their listening skills on the carpet and are now able to show their super sitting and listening for longer periods of time. They have been fantastic during their first P.E lesson and pleasantly surprised Miss Herrick and Miss Stacey with how independently they got changed into their P.E kits. The children visited the library for the first time on Thursday and got to choose a book each to take home for the week. They really enjoyed this and are very excited to share them with you this week.

Miss Herrick and Miss Stacey are very proud of the hard work the children have done this week and hope they have a restful Weekend. Well done Dragonfly Class!

NB. On Friday 4th October at 8:30am there will be a parent's workshop in the hall about supporting reading at home when your child is in EYFS.



This week in Herons...

This week Herons have been amazing at settling into the routine of Year 1! We have been learning about counting in Maths, 'Naughty Bus' in Drawing Club and revising our Phase 3 sounds in Phonics. We have also been learning about how toys move in DT, the four seasons in Science and ordering in chronological order in History. We are very excited for our trip to Sudbury Hall next week!

NB. On Friday 8th November at 8:30am there will be a parent's workshop in the hall about the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check.



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This week in Kestrels...

It has been a busy week in Kestrels! We have started our first unit - Villages, Towns and Cities and have identified the features of each type of settlement. We also discussed the types of human and physical features that we might see on our visit to London. Reading is a little bit different in Year 2 and we have started our whole class reading sessions and are reading the story, 'Katie in London'. In English, we have started our work linked to Paddington Bear! Our maths learning has focused on our place value knowledge, and we have also started our Fluency Bee sessions.

NB. On Friday 18th October at 8:30am there will be a parent's workshop in the hall about supporting with reading in Year 2.



Kestrel's Stars of the week

Congratulations to our Stars of the Week: **Evie and Jayden** for an amazing start to year 2 and fantastic maths learning.

Well done to **Winnie and Henry**, our outstanding citizens, for demonstrating our values of helpfulness, kindness and patience this week.

Matilda, Isobel, Winnie and Monika are our reading stars this week, for completing the Summer Reading Challenge.



This week in Kingfishers...

This week, Kingfishers have been using practical equipment to make and partition numbers up to 1000. The children have started a competition to beat me at times tables using Hit the Button online game.

We have begun to travel Europe with our geography learning about Italy and have greeted each other in French. The Tin Forest text is providing us with lots of questions to answer in English. Why does the old man live alone on a rubbish tip?



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Dates for your Diary

Thursday 19th September – Year 3 (Kingfishers) Bikeability (NB. This has been postponed)

Friday 20th September – Jeans for Genes Day (Donations of £1)

Monday 23rd September – Dragonflies Balance Bikeability Course (More information to follow)

Friday 27th September – Harvest Festival led by Year 2 (No Family Assembly on this day) 9:00am

Wednesday 2nd October – Kestrels trip to London (Final details to follow)

Tuesday 15th October and Thursday 17th October – Parents Evenings (Further details to follow)

Tuesday 22nd October – Kingfisher's Trip to Tatton Park (Further details to follow)

Thursday 24th October – Pumpkin Festival (4:00pm – 5:30pm) (Further details to follow)

Friday 25th October – Inset Day (School Closed to all pupils)

Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November – Half Term

Monday 11th November – Remembrance Assembly (10:45am) Parents Welcome to attend

Tuesday 12th November – Odd Socks Day for Anti-Bullying Week

Tuesday 26th – Wednesday 27th November – Year 3 Residential to Laches Wood (more information to follow in September)

Friday 29th November – Christingle Assembly (2:45pm) led by Kestrels (Parents welcome to attend)

Tuesday 10th December & Friday 13th December – Reception and Year 1 Nativity (6:00pm & 9:00am)

Tuesday 17th December – Year 2 and 3 Carol Concert (9:00am & 6:00pm)

Autumn 1 Family Assemblies

Fri 20th Sept – Herons
Fri 4th Oct – Dragonflies
Fri 11th Oct – Kingfishers
Fri 18th Oct – Kestrels

Year 3 Laches Wood Residential – Payments now on Arbor

Year 3 have a fabulous opportunity to visit Laches Wood for an overnight stay as part of their topic about the Stone Age in November. Whilst we understand that mums and dads may be feeling a little apprehensive about this, I can guarantee that they will have an amazing time and will have the opportunity to take part in activities that we aren't able to run in school. A meeting for parents to explain the final details will be held before October half term, which will include information about what they will need to take with them.

Payments for this trip can now be made on Arbor and we would like to thank those parents that have already made payments and confirmed attendance. We kindly ask that **all payments are made by the 19th November**, and a deposit of £20 will secure your child's place. (Please note that payments can be made in instalments).

We cannot wait to share more information with you about this incredible trip!

Year 1 Sudbury Hall Trip – Payments now on Arbor

Year 1 are visiting Sudbury Hall on the 17th September as part of their topic about Changes Over Time. They will be learning all about how toys have changed over the years and will have chance to explore some real artefacts amongst other things. The payment for this visit is now live on Arbor and we kindly ask that this is **paid by the 16th September**. If you are experiencing any difficulties with accessing this on Arbor, please do let Miss Elliott know and she will be able to look into this for you. Many thanks for your support with this trip.

Year 2 London Trip

The Central Team have been working hard this week to carry over any balances from the Year 2 London trip that were paid before the summer onto Arbor. This should now be live on your account and showing as either paid or an outstanding amount. Many thanks to those have already made payments. Can we please ask that **all payments are made by the 25th September** to confirm your child's place. A letter will be sent out closer to the date with all of the final details. Many thanks for your support with this incredible visit.

Safeguarding – Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Mrs Natalie Horlor (Headteacher) nhorlor@ankervalley.org

Mrs Andrea Free (Class teacher) afree@ankervalley.org

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

Mrs Julia Jones (Safeguarding Lead Governor) office@ankervalley.org

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



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