



# Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## Jeans for Genes Day!

A big thank you to all those parents who donated to Jeans for Genes today – we have raised £64 of our £150 target so far! If you would like to continue donating towards this cause, please click the following link to access the Just Giving page:

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/a-1726731840756vpa?utm\\_medium=fundraising&utm\\_content=page%2F1726731840756vpa&utm\\_source=copyLink&utm\\_campaign=pfp-share](https://www.justgiving.com/page/a-1726731840756vpa?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2F1726731840756vpa&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share)

All donations are paid directly to the charity.

The children had a great day coming to school wearing their favourite denim pieces.



## Year 1 Sudbury Hall Trip



Hérons had a fantastic time during their trip to Sudbury Hall this week, where they learned all about toys from the past!



## Reception Balance Bikeability – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, Bikeability will be running Balance Bike sessions for the children in Dragonflies. Bikeability Balance is a fun session for children and BikeRight will supply the balance bikes and helmets.

The children will be taught in 3 groups of a maximum of 10 children and all sessions will take place on school premises – which may be out on the playground or inside using the hall (dependent on the weather).

We kindly ask that you register your child for the session using the following link, by no later than Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September.

[Bikeability Balance \(bikeright.co.uk\)](https://www.bikeright.co.uk)

## Contacting OPOJ (Nursery and Wraparound Care)

Please be aware that OPOJ now have a mobile number that you can use to contact wraparound care: 07432888923.

If you would like to contact wraparound care by email, please use [avp.cc@opoj.fierte.org](mailto:avp.cc@opoj.fierte.org)

If you require Nursery, you can contact them by ringing the school number, 01827949310, or by email using [ankervalley@opoj.fierte.org](mailto:ankervalley@opoj.fierte.org)



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## Attendance

School attendance this year: 95.3%

School attendance this term: 95.3%

Dragonflies (this week): 89.9%

Herons (this week): 97.6%

Kestrels (this week): 99.1%

Kingfishers (this week): 95.4%



Congratulations to our children in **Kestrels** 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...

This week in Dragonflies we have started our Drawing Club lessons, where we have been reading a new story, drawing pictures and writing letters and number codes. We have been working on making sets and grouping objects in maths and are continuing to practice counting accurately. We have done lots of work on mixing colours this week, which has been a bit messy but very fun!

**NB. On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 to the fabulous Sudbury Hall! All children were impeccably behaved and thoroughly enjoyed looking around the museum and taking part in all the activities. Not only this, but they were very excited about their bus ride and picnic on the benches outside. We are very proud of their determination to try their best and effort to learn.

We will enjoy using this experience for our History topic all about 'Toys from the Past' over the next few weeks.

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

## Heron's Stars of the week

Congratulations to our Stars of the Week:

**Georgia and Oscar** for an amazing start to year 2 and fantastic maths learning.

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

**Myla and Noah** are our reading stars this week, for a fantastic start to their Year 1 reading journey.



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## This week in Kestrels...

It has been a busy week in Kestrels! We started with a visit to the Book Bus, RockIt music and Forest School. In PE, we have started our first dance unit. We talked about the importance of exercising regularly and always warming up and cooling down too. In Art, we discussed how art can take many different forms and can include different media. The children then used natural materials to create a piece of artwork which they evaluated. In English, we worked as detectives to identify the features of a diary entry, and we have continued reading Katie in London in our reading lessons.

**NB. On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 8:30am there will be a parent workshop in the hall about supporting with reading in Year 2.**



## This week in Kingfishers...

This week in Kingfishers we have explored why it is important that we have rules in our class, school and the wider community. The children showed amazing understanding that by following rules we can be safe and happy. In English, we have continued to read the Tin Forest and discuss what our dreams and wishes are, ready to write our own version of the ending next week. In maths this week, we have continued to explore place value and patterns of which digits change when adding or taking away 1, 10 or 100. Geography took us back to Italy this week, where we looked at the physical features of the country. We finished off a busy week with art where we experimented with charcoal!



## Year 3 Laches Wood Residential – Payments now on Arbor

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 19<sup>th</sup> 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!



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## Children & Young People's Mental Health Support Map

A navigational guide for supporting children and young people residing in Staffordshire.



### 1. Things to do, where to go, activities

- SCVYS Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services  
<https://staffscvys.org.uk/activities/>
- Sports Clubs - <https://togetheractive.org/>
- Libraries  
Public Library Reading Well offer for children. 2 collections of expert-endorsed books focussing on mental health for children can be found in libraries across Staffordshire.  
<https://reading-well.org.uk/books/books-on-prescription/children-for-7-11yrs>  
<https://reading-well.org.uk/books/books-on-prescription/teens-for-13-18yrs>

### 2. It's good to talk

- GP
- Family and Friends
- Youth worker  
<https://staffscvys.org.uk/activities/>
- 0-19 service (Health Visiting and School Nursing)  
<https://www.mpft.nhs.uk/services/health-visiting-and-school-nursing>

### 3. Digital Tools

- Action for Children  
<https://www.staffordshire-ewb.actionforchildren.org.uk/>
- 0-19 service (Health Visiting and School Nursing)  
<https://www.mpft.nhs.uk/services/health-visiting-and-school-nursing>
- Silver Cloud  
Online platform for young people 15+ to help understand anxiety and worries.  
<https://actionforchildren.silvercloudhealth.com/signup/>
- Tellmi  
A free app for teenagers (11+) providing resources and a fully moderated community.  
<https://www.tellmi.help/how-tellmi-works>
- Chat Health for young people aged 11-19 years:  
Text: 07520 615 721 (Staffordshire)  
Text: 07520 615 723 (Stoke) Mon-Fri 9am - 5pm  
Parents/Carers text: 07520 615 722.  
<https://www.staffordshireconnects.info/kb5/staffordshire/directory/service.page?id=KIMsVyKCoaA>

### 3. Digital Tools Cont...

- Resources for Children, parents, and professionals  
<https://www.staffordshireconnects.info/kb5/staffordshire/directory/advice.page?id=4P3vU6K9yM>
- The Sandbox  
Online hub for children and young people in the south of the county where they can safely seek help and advice about their mental health.  
<https://sandbox.mindr.co.uk/>
- Health for Teens  
<https://www.healthforteens.co.uk/staffordshireandstoke/>  
Aged 11 to 19 in Staffordshire or Stoke on Trent text your Public Health Nurse (School Nurse) on:  
Staffordshire: 07520 615721  
Stoke on Trent: 07520 615 723  
Or call local school nurse on 0300 404 2993

### 4. Education

- SEND  
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Local Offer and Graduated Response  
<https://www.staffordshireconnects.info/kb5/staffordshire/directory/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=0>  
[https://www.staffordshireconnects.info/kb5/staffordshire/directory/advice.page?id=J9rS4V94\\_r4](https://www.staffordshireconnects.info/kb5/staffordshire/directory/advice.page?id=J9rS4V94_r4)
- Mental Health Support Teams  
Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) work within educational provisions to deliver evidence-based early interventions for children and young people experiencing mild to moderate mental health problems.  
x/Twitter: @MhstNorth @SouthStaffsMHST  
Facebook: @SouthStaffsMHST Instagram: @mhst\_northstaffs

### 5. Single point of access (SPA) North

- Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire Moorlands
- 0800 032 8728
- Online referrals:  
<https://combinedwellbeing.org.uk/da-our-services/>

### 6. Children & Families Single point of access (CaFSPA) South

- Cannock, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Stafford, South Staffordshire, Tamworth
- Children & Families Single point of access
- 0808 178 0611
- Email referrals to: CaFSPA@mpft.nhs.uk

### 7. Crisis Centre

- North  
<https://www.combined.nhs.uk/our-services/adult-community/crisis-care-centre/>  
Anybody that is experiencing a mental health crisis call:  
The All-Age Crisis Centre Team  
0800 0 328 728 (option 1)  
24/7 service
- South  
<https://www.mpft.nhs.uk/emergency-help>  
Anybody that is experiencing a mental health crisis call:  
The All-Age Crisis Centre Team  
0300 555 5001  
24/7 service

### 8. Suicide prevention

- SHOUT  
Text Shout to 85258 (24/7)
- Samaritans  
116 123 free from any phone  
[jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org) (replies will take several days)
- NHS links to support:  
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/suicide/>
- PAPYRUS Prevention of Young Suicide  
<https://www.papyrus-uk.org/>  
Hopeline247 - 24/7 service  
0800 068 41 41 Text: 07860 039 967  
[pat@papyrus-uk.org](mailto:pat@papyrus-uk.org)

### 9. A&E services

- Nearest A&E services 24/7  
Find your nearest A&E  
<https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-an-accident-and-emergency-service>

### 10. Emergency services

- Is there a serious concern about the safety of a child or young person?  
Emergency services 999 or NHS 111
- First Response: 0800 0 328 728  
24/7 service



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APPROVED TRAVEL PLAN 2024



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## Dates for your Diary

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September** – Dragonflies Balance Bikeability Course (More information to follow)

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

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October** – Kestrels trip to London (Final details to follow)

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October** – Parents Evenings (Further details to follow)

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** – Kingfisher's Trip to Tatton Park (Further details to follow)

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October** – Pumpkin Festival (4:00pm – 5:30pm) (Further details to follow)

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October** – Inset Day (School Closed to all pupils)

## **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November – Half Term**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November** – Remembrance Assembly (10:45am) Parents Welcome to attend

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November** – Odd Socks Day for Anti-Bullying Week

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

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

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December** – Year 3 Bikeability (rescheduled date)

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

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

## Autumn 1 Family Assemblies

Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Oct –  
Dragonflies

Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Oct –  
Kingfishers

Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Oct –  
Kestrels

## 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.

## 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](#)

## School Uniform

Can we please remind parents of our uniform expectations; we have had a few children with ties missing this week. If you are unsure of which items are needed, please refer to school uniform policy linked the website below:

[Anker Valley Primary Academy - Policies](#)

## Safeguarding—Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

**Mrs Natalie Horlor** (Headteacher) [nhorlor@ankervalley.org](mailto:nhorlor@ankervalley.org)

**Mrs Andrea Free** (Class teacher) [afree@ankervalley.org](mailto:afree@ankervalley.org)

**Mrs Maria Hamblin** (Executive Head teacher and CEO) [CEO@fierte.org](mailto:CEO@fierte.org)

**Mrs Julia Jones** (Safeguarding Lead Governor) [jjones@ankervalley.org](mailto:jjones@ankervalley.org)

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



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