



# Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024

## Pumpkin Festival – Huge Thank You!

Thank you to those who attended our Pumpkin Festival and a very big thank you to all our staff who attended too.

**We managed to raise an amazing £650 for our school!**

We hope you and your children enjoyed this event and we very much look forward to our next Pumpkin Festival.

## Odd Socks Day – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November

Odd Socks Day marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week and is taking place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November. It is supported by CBeebies presenter & ABA patron Andy Day and his band 'Andy and the Odd Socks'. Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun!

It's an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! There is no pressure to wear the latest fashion or to buy expensive costumes, all you have to do to take part is wear odd socks to your school. We invite all of our Anker Valley children to wear their Odd Socks with their normal uniform to school on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November so that we can celebrate this day together.

## Kingfishers Trip to Laches Wood Residential

Payments for this trip can 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 19<sup>th</sup> November**.

We would like to invite parents of children attending the residential to a meeting on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 8:30am** where the final details for the residential will be shared. It will also give parents an opportunity to ask any questions that they might have about the trip. We are very much looking forward to taking the children on this wonderful visit and would like to thank you for your support with this.

## Flu Immunisation – 14<sup>th</sup> November

**Your child's flu vaccination is now due.**

This vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and can cause serious complications. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable family and friends by preventing the spread of flu. Even if your child had the vaccine last year, the type of flu can vary each winter, so it is recommended to have it again this year or they won't be protected. Please complete the online consent form (please only submit one form for each child) using the following link: <https://forms.mpft.nhs.uk/>

## Remembrance Assembly and Poppies

In order to raise money for the Poppy Appeal, we have poppies available to purchase in school from the main office for a donation of 50p. Children can bring in their 50p or alternatively purchase them before or after school. Mrs Hamblin will also be leading a special Remembrance Assembly on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 10:45am** which parents are warmly invited to attend.

Thank you for helping us to support The Royal British Legion.



## Kestrel's Trip to Tamworth Castle – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November

Kestrel's trip to Tamworth Castle, taking place Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November, is now available to pay through Arbor. Payment covers entry to the Castle and the Household and Squire Workshop. Children must wear school uniform and as we will be walking outside, we would ask that they bring a warm, waterproof coat if the weather is forecast to be wet and/or cold. Drinks and a packed lunch for the day will be provided. We kindly ask that you choose your child's sandwich filling by clicking the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/2mkkK32Pqp>

## Christmas Pantomime – Dick Whittington – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 4:00 – 5:15pm

We are excited to let you know that Outside the Box Productions will be attending Anker Valley to perform the pantomime 'Dick Whittington' on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 4:00pm**. We invite **children only** back to school on this day. Tickets are available to purchase on Arbor at £4 per child and we hope the children enjoy their first pantomime at Anker Valley.



*'Inspiring all to excellence'*





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## Attendance

School attendance this term: 93.7%

Dragonflies (this week): 95.7%

Herons (this week): 91.6%

Kestrels (this week): 93.2%

Kingfishers (this week): 92.5%



Congratulations to our children in **Dragonflies** 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 fantastic first week back and have settled back into school routines brilliantly. This week, we have been learning all about Diwali and Bonfire Night. We have used clay to make Diva lamps, experimented with different ways to make fireworks pictures and created our own Diwali cards.

In Maths, we have been looking at ways of representing the numbers one, two and three and we have been learning lots of new digraphs in phonics. Well done Dragonflies on another super week!



## This week in Herons...

This week, Herons have settled back into Year 1 beautifully and have been trying hard with all their learning. In English, we have been continuing with the story Christopher Pumpkin and the children have loved reading this story! In Maths, the children are starting to learn about addition and have started by identifying parts and wholes and then writing a number sentence. In our wider curriculum, the children enjoyed exploring different materials in Science, secrets in PSHE and starting seasonal changes in Geography. Happy Birthday to **Blake**, we hope you had a wonderful day! From your Anker Valley Family.



## Heron's Stars of the week

Congratulations to our Stars of the Week, **Oliver** for his understanding of materials in science, and **Matei** for his brilliant writing this week!

Well done to our Outstanding Citizens: **Chance**, for being a kind and considerate friend, and **Jamie**, for his perseverance with learning!

Congratulations to our Reading Stars this week: **Louisa**, for her reading and phonics, and **Indie**, for her confidence and fluency!

**Well done to all the children in Herons who got a rainbow read certificate in assembly today – we are very proud of you!**

Numbots: **Ollie, Matei and Sophie!**



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## This week in Kestrels...

It has been lovely to have the children back in school this week and we have loved finding out about the adventures they have all been having in half term, including becoming a famous football mascot for the Tamworth match last Friday and the fabulous generosity being shown by one Kestrel when out 'trick or treating'. Thank you for sharing photographs with Miss Garrett and I on Tapestry. We have also enjoyed sharing memories and keepsakes from when the children were babies this week in RE and have created a new baby card with a message inside for the future. In History, we have found out about Motte and Bailey Castles in preparation for our visit to Tamworth Castle next Tuesday. The children have also enjoyed being detectives in English to identify some clues about the new text we are going to be using with Miss Brayer and in Maths we have looked at adding and subtracting across a 10.

Happy Birthday to **Oliver P, Theo T and Matilda**, we hope you had a wonderful day! From your Anker Valley Family.



## This week in Kingfishers...

What a first week back we have had! Kingfishers have enjoyed our new PE units this week, Hockey and Dodgeball and started to think about how they are going to make a flip book animation in computing. In Art, we looked at what small details we can see in historic artwork and how we can recreate them. We have also had lots of conversations on how to be kind to one another and what makes a good friend in our kindness workshop.

In English, we have written our diary entries from the perspective of Om by using our knowledge from our trip and the story, The Stone Age Boy. We then became editors and explored what a good piece of writing in year 3 needs, so that we can independently edit and improve our learning.

In Maths, we have built on our knowledge from Year 2 to use formal written methods for addition and subtractions. We have then began to exchange 10 ones for 1 ten and 10 tens for one hundred in our additions! The children are really working hard on their presentation to ensure that they have all the correct digits in the right place value column.

Happy Birthday to **Grayson**, we hope you had a wonderful day! From your Anker Valley Family.



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## Dates for your Diary

**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  
**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November** – Laches Wood Residential Parent Meeting – 8:30am  
**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November** – Year 3 Residential to Laches Wood  
**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)  
**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Pantomime – 4:00pm – 5:15pm (All children - £3.50 Payments on Arbor)  
**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December** – Year 2 and 3 Carol Concert (9:00am & 6:00pm)  
**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Dinner Day (Dragonflies Parents only)  
**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December** – Santa Safari (Dragonflies – more information to follow)  
**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Christmas Holiday**  
**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January** – Inset Day (School closed to pupils)  
**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January** – Y1 Florence Nightingale Workshop  
**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January** – Chinese Dragon Dance Workshop (all classes)  
**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January** – Y2 African Dance Workshop  
**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February & Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February** – Parents Evenings  
**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February** – Number Day (More details to follow)  
**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February** – Dragonflies trip to Parkridge Centre  
**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February – Half Term**  
**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March** – Lunt Roman Fort Trip (Y3)  
**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March** – World Book Day (More details to follow)

## Autumn 2 / Spring 1 Family Assemblies

Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Nov – Dragonflies  
Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov – Kingfishers  
Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Dec – Kestrels  
Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Jan – Herons  
Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Jan – Dragonflies  
Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Jan – Kingfishers  
Fri 31<sup>st</sup> Jan – Kestrels  
Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Feb – Herons  
Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Feb – Dragonflies

## Christmas Pantomime – Dick Whittington

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## 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](#)

## 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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