



Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 15th November 2024

National Challenges for Special Educational Needs and Impact on Schools

You may have recently been made aware of the news reports highlighting the challenges of the Special Educational Needs provision in England. The National Audit Office (NAO), which is the government's spending watchdog, recently published a report which argued that many view the special needs education in England as broken and that a whole system of reform is needed. This links to a significant rise of children registered in England with special educational needs (SEN).

Some of the key challenges that parents and schools are facing are related to accessing professional help and support; delays in waiting for specialist assessments and Educational Health and Care Plans (EHCP's) and the lack of Special Educational Provision.

In all schools across the Fierté Multi-Academy Trust teachers are working hard to support the special educational needs of children against these challenging circumstances. We understand that for many parents it can be incredibly frustrating having to wait for support for your child especially from outside agencies. We are committed to continuing to work in partnership with parents in seeking to support all children and hope that parents can be aware of the limitations that schools are facing which are outside our control.

For further information on this please either contact your SENDCO at your school or contact the Trust Inclusion Leader at inclusionleader@fierte.org

Remembrance Day

We would like to express our thanks to Mrs Hamblin for leading our Remembrance Day assembly on Monday. The children listened carefully about the origin of Armistice Day and why we wear poppies as a mark of respect. Mrs Hamblin talked about her own family members who have served and serve in the armed forces. The assembly finished with a minute's silence to pay respect to those who have lost their lives and to think of those who are serving and affected by war today. We thank all those who donated to the Royal British Legion and wore their poppies on this day.



Odd Socks Day

Odd Socks Day marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week and is supported by cBeebies presenter & ABA patron Andy Day and his band 'Andy and the Odd Socks'. Most importantly, 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, without the pressure of having to buy expensive clothes or costumes.

We would like to thank everyone who took part in Odd Socks Day to help raise awareness of bullying.



Attendance

School attendance this term: 96.5%

Dragonflies (this week): 94%

Hérons (this week): 95.2%

Kestrels (this week): 97.9%

Kingfishers (this week): 95%



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.



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This week in Dragonflies...

What a fantastic week for Dragonflies! We have learnt about Remembrance Day, made lots of poppies and did a brilliant job at being silent in the assembly. In phonics, we have been learning some new sounds and are getting much better at blending the sounds into words. In Maths, we have been looking at identifying shapes and counting their sides and corners.

In our choosing time, we have been exploring painting using watercolours and have been adding our own water to the paints very carefully and sensibly; these have been making some excellent paintings. We have also been exploring light sources we use to help us see in the dark using a black out tent. Well done for another great week Dragonflies!



Dragonflies' Stars of the week

Congratulations to our Stars of the Week, **Mihan and Aliya** for having a great start to their Anker Valley journey, **Isla-May**, for making good choices and being a good friend and role model, and **Theo**, for making good choices, trying hard in learning inputs and making some wonderful pictures in the creative area

Well done to our Outstanding Citizen, **Billy**, for showing masses amounts of care and kindness inside and outside of the classroom. Billy is always kind and helpful to his friends and made the amazing choice to donate his beautiful hair to the Little Princess Trust.

Congratulations to our Reading Star, **Isla**, for making great progress in reading. She has been joining in with the learning in phonics sessions and is now able to segment and blend CVC words independently!



This week in Herons...

Herons have had another full week of learning and fantastic effort!

In Maths, the children have been learning number facts for numbers within 10 and are becoming more confident with adding. In English, the children have started to look at the story 'Lost and Found' and have drawn and written sentences for the boy and boat. In phonics, the children are starting to learn alternative graphemes for sounds we already know such as ai and now ay. In our wider curriculum, the children have enjoyed learning about identifying an object and its material and in PSHE identifying safe and unsafe strangers. We are looking forward to our friendship workshop next Thursday!



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This week in Kestrels...

This week, the children in Kestrels visited Tamworth Castle as part of our history learning. They found out what it was like to live in the Castle in the past and helped the Lady of the Castle to prepare for her banquet. We then chose a new Lord and Lady of the Castle, and they were dressed in clothing from the past by their chosen servants. The children then completed a squire workshop where they prepared the armour for a knight. The children were fabulous ambassadors for our school, and we had comments from members of the public about their beautiful manners. Well done, Kestrels! **Happy Birthday to Isobel**, we hope you had a wonderful day! From your Anker Valley Family.



This week in Kingfishers...

Kingfisher's have really showed off their maths skills this week, by exchanging in addition and subtraction. They have all worked really hard and independently and have really applied their skills answering word problems. In our English lessons, we started the week by acting out parts of The Stone Age Boy, we then retold the story, thinking carefully about exciting ways we could start our sentences to engage a reader. In our wider curriculum, we have tried to really understand how long ago The Stone Age was by making timelines from toilet roll and why it was needed to break it down into 3 significant periods. We have also explored art by Henri Matisse and started to think about what our own piece of art will look like by drawing with scissors.

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



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Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 26th – Wednesday 27th November – Year 3 Residential to Laches Wood

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

Monday 9th December – Year 3 Bikeability (rescheduled date)

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

Monday 16th December – Christmas Pantomime – 4:00pm – 5:15pm (All children - £3.50 Payments on Arbor)

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

Wednesday 18th December – Christmas Dinner Day (Dragonflies Parents only)

Thursday 19th December – Santa Safari (Dragonflies – more information to follow)

Monday 23rd December – Friday 3rd January – Christmas Holiday

Monday 6th January – Inset Day (School closed to pupils)

Tuesday 14th January – Y1 Florence Nightingale Workshop

Wednesday 29th January – Chinese Dragon Dance Workshop (all classes)

Thursday 30th January – Y2 African Dance Workshop

Tuesday 4th February & Thursday 6th February – Parents Evenings

Friday 7th February – Number Day (More details to follow)

Friday 14th February – Dragonflies trip to Parkridge Centre

Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February – Half Term

Tuesday 4th March – Lunt Roman Fort Trip (Y3)

Thursday 6th March – World Book Day (More details to follow)

Autumn 2 / Spring 1 Family Assemblies

Fri 22nd Nov –
Kingfishers

Fri 6th Dec –
Kestrels

Fri 10th Jan – Herons

Fri 17th Jan –
Dragonflies

Fri 24th Jan –
Kingfishers

Fri 31st Jan – Kestrels

Fri 7th Feb – Herons

Fri 14th Feb –
Dragonflies

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 19th November**.

. 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.

Christmas Pantomime – Dick Whittington – Monday 16th 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 16th 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.

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

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) jjones@ankervalley.org

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



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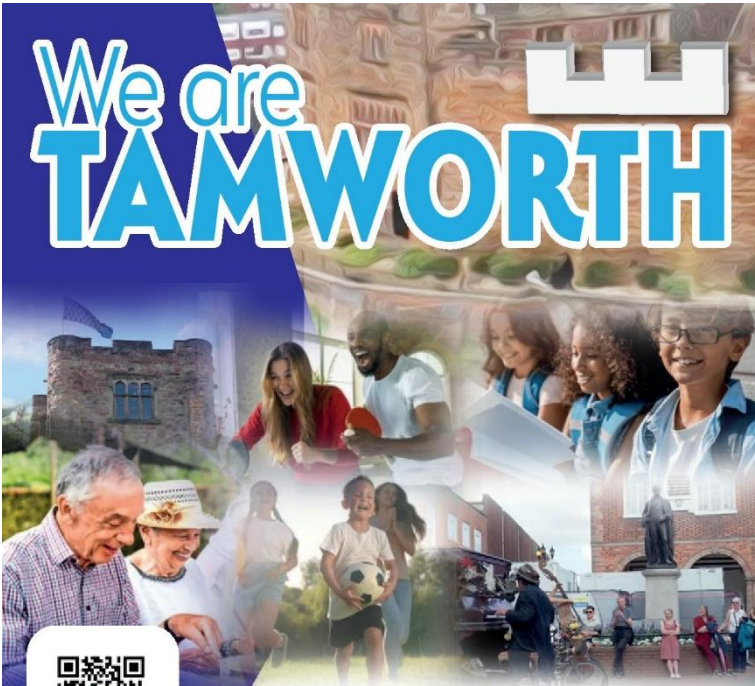


A message from Mrs Wallace: 'Thank you so much for all the donations we have received - Billy has managed to raise an incredible £360 for The Little Princess Trust.'

A massive well done to Billy, we are so very proud of you!



We are TAMWORTH



Scan me

We have made a video to showcase the good there is in Tamworth involving community leaders, local schools, faith leaders, businesses and others. Please scan to QR code to access our video and spread the word 'We are Tamworth'.



FACTS MYTHS **STOP AND STOP MISINFORMATION** **FACTS MYTHS**

EMBRACE, EMPOWER, THRIVE

PAUSE & THINK ONLINE

1. Stop and Think
Before drawing conclusions about a topic and then sharing it with others, reflect on the information you have. Are you confident that the information is 100% true? If someone shares information you shared with them, are you a credible source? If the info was later discovered to be incorrect, would you be comfortable with your name attached to spreading false information?

2. Check the Source
Don't assume information is coming from a credible place. For example, if it comes from a website, click away from it to investigate the site's history, its mission, and its contact info. You probably wouldn't take advice from a person that's known to have a bad reputation, or that is overly bias, so do the same when it comes to other information sources.

3. The Source's Source
Where and how does your source get its information? A proper article should cite the information and data they are sharing. Investigate their sources for yourself. Does the information line up, was important information left out, or are facts being twisted? If they don't have a source at all, or it comes from a non-credible source, that should be a red flag.

4. Check the Date
Does this information align with current events? Make sure you know if there have been updates to the information since it was originally published.

5. Look out for Satire
Is this just a joke that you are taking too serious? If something seems extremely outlandish, that may be by design. Again, check your source and research your author to see if this is their trend.

6. Viral Traps & Clickbait
Sometimes information is put out, especially on social media, which is meant to be misinterpreted, false, or to create rage in order to get clicks. This information often encourage clicking and spreading by using outrageous or false headlines. Sometimes the posts use language like, "please share this with everyone immediately." Just because everyone is sharing information, it doesn't mean it's true.

CLICKBAIT

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APPROVED TRAVEL PLAN 2024