



# Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

## Laches Wood Residential



Edith: Roasting marshmallows was really fun and going to bed was my favourite part because I was sleeping with my best friends.

Grayson: My favourite part was when we were trying to chip flint to make a fire!



Evan: My favourite part was roasting the marshmallows and bread. We twirled dough around a stick and put it in the fire to cook it.

Nicole: I loved sitting by the fire pit at night and we learned to sing a song called the wiggly worm!

Eva: Making the fire was my favourite part, we used metal and flint to create a spark. I also liked making the necklaces with a stone age drill.



We all loved breakfast, and we had music to listen to as well!

### Attendance

School attendance this term: 95.2%

Dragonflies (this week): 90.4%

Hérons (this week): 94.7%

Kestrels (this week): 100%

Kingfishers (this week): 93.7%



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...

Dragonflies have been learning all about Space this week. We have been discovering all about Earth, the moon and life on a space station. In the outdoor provision, we have been making rockets and cooking space food in the mud kitchen. Inside we have loved becoming astronauts, putting on our space helmets and exploring our space station role play. We have been working hard to learn some new digraphs in phonics and have been delving deeper into the composition of the numbers four and five in Maths. We have also begun full rehearsals of our Christmas show; this is going very well, and we cannot wait for you to see it!



## This week in Herons...

Herons have had a very exciting week with lots of different events happening! On Monday, we had a visit from two of our parents who came in to talk all about their role in the Police. This was a brilliant opportunity for the children to ask questions and see all of the equipment and different uniform they have. On Wednesday, the children walked beautifully and safely all the way to Spital Chapel. In Re, we have been learning about welcoming ceremonies, so the children enjoyed seeing and acting out a Baptism in the chapel. These are great experiences for the children as it allows them to see their learning first hand.



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## This week in Kestrels...

This week in Kestrels we have continued our learning about Motte and Bailey Castles in History. We have practised different types of balances in gymnastics and have thought about how to improve our performances. Kestrels have retold the story of Rapunzel but with an alternative ending thinking about different ways she could have escaped the tower. In maths, we have continued to work on our addition and subtraction skills and have looked at adding two 2-digit numbers. On Friday, the children in Kestrels led the Christingle assembly beautifully. They had practiced and learnt their lines so that they were able to say them with confidence and were super sensible when holding their lit candles. Well done, Kestrels, we are really proud of you!



## This week in Kingfishers...

What an exciting week Kingfishers have had! They loved their time away and want to say a BIG thank you to Mrs Horlor and Mrs Free for looking after them and giving them such an amazing opportunity! Back in class, we have been exploring what makes a good non-chronological report, looking at the features that need to be included and what information we want to share. In art this week, we added detail to our collages using oil pastels and wax crayons and we finished off the checking how many of our two times tables we remembered in maths, they were very impressive!



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## Dates for your Diary

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December** – Non-Uniform Day – Donations for Christmas hampers

**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 - £4 Payments on Arbor)

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December** – Year 2 and 3 Christmas 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

## Autumn 2 / Spring

### 1 Family Assemblies

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

## After School Clubs – Spring 1

We are pleased to be able to confirm that the following clubs will be running after Christmas.

Tuesday – Archery Club (*SH Active, £18 for six weeks*)

Wednesday – Martial Arts Club (*SH Active, £18 for six weeks*)

Thursday – Street Dance Club (*SH Active, £18 for six weeks*)

Thursday – Animal Club (*run by Miss Herrick, free to join*)

All clubs will start at 3:30pm and finish at 4:30pm. Clubs will start week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> January and run for six weeks, finishing week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> February. With the exception of Animal Club, all clubs will be indoor due to the unpredictable weather. Due to the popularity of Animal Club, can we please ask that any children that have been part of the club this half term do not re-apply for places to allow others the opportunity to take part. Bookings will open on Arbor at 6:00pm on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. As soon as a club becomes full, you will no longer be able to book on to it.

Thank you for your support with this.

## Non-Uniform Day – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December

We would like to invite the children into school on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December wearing non-uniform (this can include Christmas jumpers). In return, we ask for donations to make Christmas hampers for our end-of-term raffle. Donations could include selection boxes, mince pies, Christmas puddings, mulled wine, Christmas decorations, crackers, Christmas crafts etc.

You will be able to purchase raffle tickets through the school shop on Arbor priced at £1 per number. We will draw the raffle in our End-of-Term Assembly on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December. Many thanks for your support with this.

## 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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## Christmas Events

### Decorating the Christmas Tree (Reception parents only)

On **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**, we would like to invite Reception parents in to school to help their children decorate the Christmas tree from **2:30pm**, until the end of the school day.

### Christmas Nativity (Reception and Year 1 parents only)

This year, the children will be performing their Christmas Nativity on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December** from **6:00-6:45pm**, and **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December** at **9:00-9:45am**. Each family will be entitled to **two tickets per show** which have been sent home in a named envelope.

Please be aware that due to limited space in the hall, we ask that pushchairs and prams are left outside the hall and unfortunately, we will be unable to accommodate siblings. Miss Herrick and Mrs Sweeney will be in touch to confirm costume requirements, if you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher and any donations of old Nativity costumes would be welcomed. We are very much looking forward to watching the Christmas Nativity this year and seeing how hard the children have worked to remember their lines and deliver a fantastic performance!

### Christmas Concert (Year 2 and Year 3 parents only)

The children will be performing their Christmas Concert on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December** from **9:00-9:45am**, and **6:00-6:45pm**. Each family will be entitled to **two tickets per show** which have been sent home in a named envelope.

Please be aware that due to limited space in the hall, we ask that pushchairs and prams are left outside the hall and unfortunately, we will be unable to accommodate siblings. The children will need a Christmas jumper to put on over their uniform and are welcome to wear Christmas hats or hair accessories. If you have any questions, please ask Mrs Free or Mrs Williams. We are very much looking forward to watching the Christmas Concert this year.

### Christmas Pantomime – Dick Whittington (all children invited; payment available on Arbor)

All children are invited to attend the Dick Whittington pantomime at 4:00pm on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December**. The payment is available on Arbor through School Shop and is £4 per child. Please note this will be as an alternative to the Christmas Disco.

### Dragonflies Christmas Dinner (Reception parents only)

We would like to invite **one parent per child** in to school on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** at 12:00 to enjoy Christmas dinner with the children at a cost of £3.42, which will be made available to purchase through Arbor over the next week. In past years we have been able to provide this for all classes, however as our school is growing, we are now unable to offer this due to limited space in the hall. Please note that we will be unable to accommodate siblings from other year groups during this event and pushchairs and prams will need to be left outside the hall.



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