



Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 6th December 2024

The Start of Christmas at Anker Valley

We would like to thank Andrea from St Editha's for supporting with our Christingle Assembly last Friday, and the children in Year 2 for leading this and making their very own Christingles! It was a beautiful assembly, and we were very impressed with how sensibly the children held their candles.



We were very proud of the children in Year 2 and 3 who chose to take part in the carol singing today in Ankerside to help Specsavers raise money for Birmingham Children's Hospital. The children sang beautifully and impressed members of the public with their excellent behaviour. A big well do all those who took part.



We would like to thank those who donated Christmas themed goods towards our Christmas Hamper Raffle, which will take place during our End-of-Term Assembly on Friday 20th December. The children looked amazing in their Christmas jumpers and sparkly non-uniform!



Attendance

School attendance this term: 96.6%

Dragonflies (this week): 97.1%

Herons (this week): 93%

Kestrels (this week): 99.3%

Kingfishers (this week): 95.6%



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...

Christmas has officially arrived in Dragonflies class. The children did an amazing job of decorating the school Christmas tree with the help of their mums, dads and grandparents. They have also made their own snow in the outdoor area and written letters to Santa that we were then able to post ourselves! We have a new Santas' Grotto role play area, where we have enjoyed transforming into elves, reindeer and even Santa himself. We have loved packing, wrapping and delivering presents to children in the classroom using Santa's magic sack. We have also discovered a magic door in our classroom and have excitedly imagined what could be on the other side of it.

In Phonics, we have been practicing blending sounds to read words and have been recapping digraphs we already know to ensure we are able to accurately recognise them. We have also been participating in full rehearsals of our Christmas Nativity with the Year One children and it is looking fantastic!



This week in Herons...

Herons have had a lovely week despite all of the excitement around Christmas! We have been practicing our Nativity which is looking amazing, and we cannot wait to share this with you next week! The children have enjoyed sharing their stories of their elves from home too! In drawing club, the children have enjoyed drawing and writing about our new story which is called 'The Eyebrows of Doom' and in Maths the children have been learning about taking away. In the wider curriculum, the children have been demonstrating all of their understanding of the four seasons, they have enjoyed playing Christmas songs on the steel pans in music and the children are continuing to grow the code in Phonics.

Happy 6th Birthday Eva! From your Anker Valley Family!



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This week in Kestrels...

This week in Kestrels we have been very busy finishing our learning for Unit 2. We have created monoprint pictures using carbon paper in art. In RE, Kestrels reflected on the Christingle assembly from last week. We have written our own Rapunzel stories in English and then edited and redrafted them. In maths, we have practiced subtraction of 2-digit numbers. Along with Y3, we have also been very busy practicing the songs for our Christmas concert, and we can't wait to perform them on 17th December.



Kestrels' Stars of the week

Congratulations to our Stars of the Week, **Bradley and Hallie**, for their positive attitudes to all areas of learning this half term.

Well done to our Outstanding Citizens, **Millie and Isobel**, for their beautiful manners and always demonstrating the school virtues.

Congratulations to our Reading Stars, **Terae and Taliyah**, for really impressing the adults with their fantastic progress.



Rainbow Reads

Amelie, Noah, Jax, Monika, Jake, Oliver, Millie, Taliyah, Alfie, Elsie, Leo, Isobel, Hallie, Theo H, Theo T, Evie, Evelyn, Terae, Jayden, Lily L, Matilda

Numbots

Diamond Award - Monika and Leo
Alfie, Amelia and Henry



This week in Kingfishers...

Year 3 have been very busy this week; We have used all the information we have gathered from our Tatton Park and Laches Wood trips to write a non-chronological report. We have been focusing on our spelling, presentation and handwriting, so that after Christmas we can use pens to write in our English books.

In Maths, we have recapped and secured our year 2 learning of the 2-, 5- and 10s-times tables finishing the week with increasing our fluency of these facts on TT Rockstars. Lots of us were really proud of ourselves for persevering and being resilient when we made mistakes.

Whilst in Hockey this week, we practised accurately passing and dribbling to our teammates, ready to play some games next week and in computing, we used the Imotion App to make our stick man animations. We have been practising lots for Christmas Concert and now all know what we are singing and saying, we just need to practise at home learning our lines. We cannot wait to share it with you!



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Dates for your Diary

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 - £4 Payments on Arbor)

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

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

Thursday 19th December – Santa Safari (Dragonflies – see final details below)

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)

Friday 14th March – Year 3 Level 1 Bikeability (rescheduled date)

Autumn 2 / Spring

1 Family Assemblies

Fri 10th Jan – Herons

Fri 17th Jan – Dragonflies

Fri 24th Jan – Kingfishers

Fri 31st Jan – Kestrels

Fri 7th Feb – Herons

Fri 14th Feb – Dragonflies

Y3 Bikeability Monday 9th December - Postponed

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Bikeability has once again had to be postponed. They have now given us a date of March 14th 2025. We apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause.

Dragonflies - Santa Safari – Final Arrangements

Dragonflies are going to West Midlands Safari Park on Thursday 19th December. Just a reminder that the children will need to arrive at the school office for **8:30am** to allow time to go to the toilet and collect lunches before the coach leaves at 8:45am. Children will need to wear school uniform and have a coat, hat and gloves as some of the activities will be outside. They will also need a small rucksack to carry their lunch in. They will be returning to school for 4:30pm. Updates throughout the day will be on Facebook (including if there is any delay to the return time). We know they will all have a fabulous time!

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*) – Places available

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

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

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

All clubs will start at 3:30pm and finish at 4:30pm. Clubs will start week commencing 6th January and run for six weeks, finishing week commencing 10th 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 are now open on Arbor. 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.

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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Christmas Events

Christmas Nativity (Reception and Year 1 parents only)

This year, the children will be performing their Christmas Nativity on **Tuesday 10th December** from **6:00-6:45pm**, and **Friday 13th 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 17th 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 16th 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 18th December** at 12:00 to enjoy Christmas dinner with the children at a cost of £3.42, which is now available to purchase through Arbor. 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.

End of Term Assembly (All parents)

On **Friday 20th December** at **9:00am**, parents are welcome to join us for our End of Term assembly. We will let you know if your child is receiving a Star of the Term certificate or an attendance award for the Autumn term by the end of next week. We are anticipating that the hall will be incredibly busy on this day so can we please ask that prams and pushchairs are left outside. Thank you for your support with this. The assembly should last approximately 30 minutes. Please note that there will be no Rainbows Readers on this day, we will however be drawing of Christmas Hamper raffle.

