



Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 13th December 2024

Autumn 2 After School Clubs

Please note that all after school clubs for this half term have now **finished** (this includes both SH Active and Animal Club).

Whoops-A-Daisy-Angel



We are so proud of Dragonflies and Herons for their performances of Whoops-A-Daisy Angel. The children did a fantastic job learning their lines and remembering the songs and dance moves. A big thank you to parents for providing their costumes – they all looked amazing. We hope you enjoyed attending our 2024 Nativity.

Attendance

School attendance this term: 93.8

Dragonflies (this week): 97.5%

Hérons (this week): 87.3%

Kestrels (this week): 96%

Kingfishers (this week): 100%



Congratulations to our children in **Kingfishers** 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 had an amazing week this week. They have finally been able to showcase all of their hard work in their performances of Whoops-a-Daisy Angel, which I'm sure you will agree was fantastic! Miss Stacey and I are so, so proud of all of them for being brave enough to get on the stage, say their lines, sing the songs and do the actions.

We have been practicing digraphs in Phonics to ensure we are able to recognise them quickly. In Maths we have been practicing counting and recognising up to 5. In our Topic, we have been learning more about Christmas and how this is celebrated. We have been making decorations for our classroom and turning our faces into Santa!

Well done for another brilliant week Dragonflies!



This week in Herons...

This week the children in Herons have been showing great perseverance in everything they do. The children performed beautifully in both of their Nativity performances, and we are so proud of them all! In English, we have come to our final Drawing Club lesson and will be starting English lessons soon. In Maths, the children have been learning about taking away and will have lots of opportunity to continue to develop this new skill. In computing, the children have learnt how to log on to a Chromebook and have practiced using the trackpad to select and drag objects. We have then been learning to use paint to draw pictures inspired by famous artists. We cannot believe we are entering our final week of 2024 in Year 1!



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This week in Kestrels...

This week in Kestrels we have been busy rehearsing for Anker Valley's first Christmas Concert next week and we can't wait to share songs, poems and a few Christmas jokes with you all. We hope that you will really enjoy our performance. In maths we have completed our unit on addition and subtraction and have started to look at the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. We have looked at our learning from Year 1 on omnivores, herbivores and carnivores and have created food chains thinking about the term producer, consumer, predator and prey. With Miss Brayer we created our own food chains and added arrows to show the transfer of energy. In RE this week, we have reflected on the features of assemblies at Anker Valley and listened to our favourite piece of music thinking about how we feel when we listen to this. Miss Garrett took us outside for our last Forest School session of 2024 and we enjoyed helping to clean the animals out and making sure they had lots of nice fresh straw and hay.



This week in Kingfishers...

Year 3 have started to get into the Christmas spirit this week. In English, we have been exploring the story of Monty and Sam, 2 best friends. The ending had us all surprised and we ended the week thinking about what our own stories could be. We have worked really hard to expand our vocabulary using a thesaurus and thought hard about how we can structure an exciting sentence.

In Maths, we have been learning how we can multiply and divide by 3. We are all becoming very fluent with our 2 times tables and are excited to see how much of an improvement we have made when we check next week.

Our Christmas performance is getting closer, and we are excited to share it with you, we have been rehearsing lots and practicing our lines and songs ready to get everyone into the festive mood!



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Dates for your Diary

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

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 – 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)

Friday 14th March – Year 3 Level 1 Bikeability

Monday 14th April – Friday 25th April – Easter Holiday

Thursday 1st May – INSET Day (School closed to pupils)

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

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*) - **Spaces available**

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

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

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

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 at 6:00pm. 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.

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!

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 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 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.

End of Term Assembly (All parents)

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 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.

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



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