



# Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## Happy New Year!

The Anker Valley staff would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a very happy new year. It has been wonderful to see all of the children back this week (even though the weather has turned rather chilly!) We have lots of exciting things planned over the next term, so please keep an eye on the newsletter, daily emails and curriculum newsletters from your child's class teacher.

## Contacting Staff

Can we please remind all parents that if you need to contact staff this should be done through the office email: [office@ankervalley.org](mailto:office@ankervalley.org) and not their staff emails. This is so that we can ensure that queries are directed to the right member of staff. It also ensures that a response is provided if a member of staff is not in school.

The exception to this is if a safeguarding concern is being raised to either myself or Mrs Free.

Please note that office emails are not monitored after 6pm or before 8am.

Thank you for your support with this.  
Natalie Horlor

## Scholastic Book Fair

We are pleased to inform you that the Scholastic Book Fair will be in school from **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February** until **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February**. This will be available for children and parents to browse after school and during Parent's Evening Consultations throughout the week. By purchasing books through the Scholastic Book Fair, you are helping us to raise funds to source new books for our school library. We would like to thank you for all your support with this in the past - let's see if we can beat our record of selling over £500 worth of books!



## Staffing Update for the Spring Term

Miss Brayer has now completed her placement in Year 2, and we would like to wish her the very best of luck for her future. She formed some wonderful relationships with the children and staff and will be very much missed.

It is with a heavy heart that we wish to inform you that Miss Murrell will be leaving us on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January. She will be pursuing a new career within the NHS and we would like to thank her and wish her the very best for the future. We have started the recruitment process for a teaching assistant in Year 1 and will update parents in due course.

We are delighted to confirm that Mrs Chyla has returned to the Anker Valley kitchen; The children were very excited to see her. If you have any queries about dinners, please do let the office know as Mrs Chyla will be more than happy to support.

## Dragonflies Phonics Workshop – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January

We invite Dragonflies parents into school on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 8:30am before family assembly, to take part in a second phonics workshop. We hope that this proves valuable in helping you to encourage children to practice their phonics at home.



## Attendance

School attendance this term: 96.2%

Dragonflies (this week): 95.2%

Hérons (this week): 96.1%

Kestrels (this week): 100% Amazing!!

Kingfishers (this week): 100% Amazing!!



**Congratulations to our children in Kestrels and 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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## What we have been learning in Dragonflies...

Dragonflies have had a great week and have settled back into their school routines brilliantly. We have begun to learn about Winter, Arctic animals and their habitats, and have enjoyed creating these in our choosing time. We have also enjoyed building bridges and using them to re-tell our Drawing Club text *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. In Phonics this week, we have begun to learn Phase Three sounds and have been doing lots of word reading practice. We have also been revisiting reading tricky words by sight. In Maths we have been revisiting the composition of the numbers 0-5. During our choosing time, we have loved becoming doctors in our new role play area. We have carefully examined our patients and given them bandages and medicines to help them feel better. We have also worked together to use large boxes to create ambulances to collect our patients quickly and take them to a hospital if they need it.



## What we have been learning in Herons...

Herons have settled back beautifully into a new routine! We are so proud of their hard work and determination this week! In English, we have started to read 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch' and have started to identify and use adjectives. In Maths, we have completed our unit of learning on 'Addition and Subtraction within 10' which we will continue to practice to improve our fluency, and automaticity. In our wider curriculum, we have started to move a robot, started multi-skills in our PE learning and enjoyed our Fluency Bee sessions too. We are looking forward to our Florence Nightingale workshop, which will take place next Friday.



## Herons Stars of the Week

Well done to our Stars of the Week, **Albie** for settling back into the new term and **Felicity** for showing great determination this week!

Our Readers of the Week are **Lilly** for applying her phonics to reading and **Charlie** for great progress in Phonics!

Congratulations to our Outstanding Citizens, **Lottie** for always being an optimistic member of Herons and **Jacob** for always trying his best in everything.

**Numbots:** Sophie, Oscar, Noah





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## What we have been learning in Kestrels...

It has been lovely to see the children back at school after the Christmas holidays and they have settled straight back into their learning fantastically. This week, we have continued with our shape learning in maths and have identified the properties of 3D shapes, sorted 2D and 3D shapes and made patterns using shapes. In English, we have started to look at the autobiography of Nelson Mandela and we are also reading a new book in our whole class reading sessions, which is set in Africa. In geography, we have generated questions we would like to find the answers out to about Kenya and in RE we considered how Christians' worship. On Thursday, we were visited by some of the trainee teachers from the John Taylor Teaching Hub who taught us how to make origami flowers. It has been a very busy first week back!



## What we have been learning in Kingfishers...

What an amazing start to 2025 we have had in Year 3! The children have blown me away with their positive attitude towards learning. In Maths, we have started looking at our 4- and 8-times tables and the relationships they have with each other and the 2- times table. We spent some time looking at how we can use our fact knowledge to help us to work out what  $16 \times 4$  or  $20 \times 4$  could be. Our English and History learning crossed paths this week as we began to look at how we can write a leaflet to persuade people to visit there. The children have gathered lots of information and are excited to get writing next week! We had a lovely Thursday afternoon, beginning our investigation on what plants need to survive. We have planted our seeds and are ready to check on them and care for them every day to see how they grow. In PE, we watched a video of the world's oldest gymnast to inspire us to all try and then had a go at some balances, we have all set a target of what we would like to achieve by the end of the unit.





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## Dates for your Diary

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January** – Dragonflies Phonics Workshop – 8:30am

**Friday 17<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

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February** – Scholastic Book Fair

**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)

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 3 Level 1 Bikeability

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Holiday**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May** – INSET Day (School closed to pupils)

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May** – Year 2 trip to Llandudno

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May – Whitsun Holiday**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June** – Year 3 Trip to Cadbury World

## Spring 1 Family Assemblies

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

- 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 start at 3:30pm and finish at 4:30pm. With the exception of Animal Club, all clubs will be indoor due to the unpredictable weather.

## Parents Evening Bookings

Parents Evening is taking place **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February from 4:30-7:00pm**, and **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February from 4:00-6:30pm**. Slots will last ten minutes per child and will be available for you to book through Arbor from **6:00pm on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January** and will close at **3:00pm on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January**.

We have increased the number of slots that are available on each evening, therefore we will be unable to offer appointments outside these times. Please also be aware that we are unable to accommodate separate bookings for separated parents, so please do bear this in mind when choosing your date and time slot.

## Current Vacancies at Anker Valley

### Playworker Vacancy

Please be aware that there is currently a vacancy for the role of Play Worker within Our Pride Our Joy's Wraparound Care Club. The vacancy can provide morning or evening working hours. If you are interested in this position, please email [info@opoj.fierte.org](mailto:info@opoj.fierte.org) to contact Sharon Shilling who will be able to share an application form and more information surrounding the role.

### 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.*