



# Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 31st January 2025

## Family Library Sessions

After February half term, we will be opening up the library at 8:30am for those children whose family assembly it is that day. This will provide parents and children with the opportunity to change their library book together, as well as sit and enjoy sharing part of the story before assembly starts. The sessions for Spring 2 are as follows:

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February & Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March – **Kingfishers**

Fri 7<sup>th</sup> March & Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April – **Kestrels**

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March – **Hérons**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March – **Dragonflies**

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

## After School Clubs – Spring 2

We are pleased to be able to announce our after-school clubs for Spring 2.

**These will go live on Arbor at 6pm on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February.**

Wednesday – Kickboxing (*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*)

Friday – Cheerleading Club (*SH Active, £18 for six weeks*)

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.

*Please note that as soon as clubs are full, you will no longer be able to book on.*

## Staffing Update

I am pleased to be able to share with you that Ms Coggins has now joined the Anker Valley staff family as the teaching assistant in Year 1. She has really enjoyed getting to know the children throughout the school over the past week; Please do say 'Hello' to her on the gate in the morning and afternoon!

## Chinese and African Dance Workshops



The children had an amazing time learning a new Chinese peacock dance in celebration of Chinese New Year!



Kestrels had the opportunity to take part in an African dance workshop to support their learning in class about Kenya, and they will soon be taking part in an African djembe drumming workshop too.



## Attendance

School attendance this year: 96.3%

Dragonflies (this week): 98.9%

Hérons (this week): 96.7%

Kestrels (this week): 99%

Kingfishers (this week): 94.1%



**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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## What we have been learning in Dragonflies...

In Dragonflies this week we have enjoyed learning all about China and celebrating Chinese New Year. In our choosing time, we have loved painting Chinese symbols, created paper dragons and made Chinese money envelopes filled with foil coins. In maths, we learnt about ordinal numbers through the story of The Great Race, and in Drawing Club we explored the story of the Magic Paintbrush.



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

Herons have been focussed and busy with their learning this week! In Maths, the children are continuing to understand the composition of numbers to 20. They have been finding 1 more and 1 less than numbers within 20 and exploring these numbers on a number line. In English, we have been finishing off writing the story of The Lighthouse Keeper's House and planned our own version too! On Wednesday, we thoroughly enjoyed our Chinese New Year dance workshop, and the children did well to learn a dance in such a short amount of time. In our wider curriculum, we have been conducting investigations in science, looking at the condition of hospitals before and after Florence Nightingale, and exploring sculptures in Art.



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

Kestrels have had a very busy week full of dancing! They thoroughly enjoyed their Chinese dance workshop where they were able to recall their prior learning. Kestrels demonstrated fabulous listening skills as a new story was shared and they then danced a special peacock dance using fans. On Thursday, the children participated in an African dance workshop linked to their geography learning about Kenya and enjoyed learning a completely different style of dance to a new genre of music. On Tapestry, you will be able to see photos and videos from both workshops. In English, the children have been researching African animals, ready to write their own non-chronological reports. Next week, we are looking forward to Mrs Jones visiting us to share her photos and stories from her Kenyan safari adventure. We have planted some daffodil bulbs and bean seeds in different conditions to see whether a seed or bulb needs to be planted in soil to grow and we cannot wait to see what happens. In maths, we have continued to look at monetary values; comparing amounts, making the same amount using different coins and calculating with money. Kestrels would really benefit from opportunities to practise using money in 'real life' situations at home too.



## Kestrel's Stars of the Week

Well done to our Stars of the Week, **Henry and Matilda** for fabulous mathematical explanations in our maths lessons using the correct mathematical vocabulary.

Our Readers of the Week are **Emily** for her positive attitude to reading both in school and at home, and **Theo H** for valuable contributions in our whole class reading sessions and participating with enthusiasm.

Congratulations to our Outstanding Citizens, **Violet** and **Alfie** for demonstrating our school values beautifully since we returned to school after the Christmas holidays and for always volunteering to help me in the classroom.

Rainbow Reads: **Jayden, Evelyn, Leo, Alfie, Theo T, Henry, Elsie, Evie, Keela, Harry, Isobel, Oliver, Taliyah, Theo H, Monika, Millie, Matilda, Bradley, Emily, Jax and Noah**

Numbots: Leo, Winnie and Jake



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

Kingfishers have really impressed me with their writing skills this week. They have worked hard and produced some lovely letters about our imaginary trip to Stonehenge, using lots of the skills they have learnt so far in year 3. In Maths, we have shown resilience when dividing a 2-digit number with remainders and are becoming more fluent in our times table facts. The afternoons have been busy with practicing our bartering skills to trade Bronze Age goods, watching how the xylem transport water through plants, and building on our orienteering skills. We really enjoyed our opportunity to learn a Chinese dance, becoming beautiful peacocks.



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APPROVED TRAVEL PLAN 2024



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## Dates for your Diary

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

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February** – Children's Mental Health Week

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February & Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February** – Parents Evenings

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February** – Number Day (Come dressed as your favourite number)

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February** – Dragonflies trip to Parkridge Centre (Payments on Arbor)

**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) (Payments on Arbor)

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March** – World Book Day – children are invited to come to school wearing their pyjamas and to bring their favourite book to school

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March** – Kingfisher's Rock It Parents session (2:30pm)

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

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April** – Kestrel's Rock It Parents session (2:30pm)

**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)

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May** – Tempest Class Photographs

**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**

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June** – Heron's Rock It Parents session (2:30pm)

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June** – Y1 Phonics Screening Week

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June** – Diabetes Awareness Week (Wear blue to school)

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

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June** – Sport's Day (1:30pm)

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June** – Dragonflies' Rock It Parents session (2:30pm)

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July** – Year 2 Trip to East Midlands Airport

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July** – Summer Fair (12pm – 2pm)

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July** – Fierte Festival Week

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July** – End of Term Family Picnic, Family Games and Celebration Assembly (12:30pm – 3:30pm)

## Spring 1 Family Assemblies

Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Feb – Herons

Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Feb – Dragonflies

## Spring 2 Family Assemblies

Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Feb – Kingfishers

Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Mar – Kestrels

Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Mar – Herons

Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Mar – Dragonflies

Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Mar – Kingfishers

Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Apr – Kestrels

Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Apr – End of Term Assembly

## SEND Parents Workshop on Sensory Needs – 11<sup>th</sup> February 9:00am

Our Trust Inclusion Lead will be hosting a series of workshops between now and the end of the summer term based on feedback from our parents about what they would like to know more about.

The first workshop will be all about supporting with Sensory Needs and will be on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 9:00am**.

Please arrive at the School Office once you have dropped off your child and the session will take place in one of our upstairs classrooms.

We look forward to seeing you there.

## 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!

## 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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## PARENTAL MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Do you struggle with your mental health?

Are you supporting someone who is struggling with  
their mental health?

Nobody has to suffer alone.

Drop in for an informal chat with local organisations to  
find out what support is available. Free tea and coffee.

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February

09:30am to 12:30pm

Tamworth Assembly Rooms



**Tamworth**  
Borough Council



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