



Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 7th February 2025

A Message from Julia Jones, Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Local Governing Committee would like to share with you some changes relating to the leadership at Anker Valley Primary Academy. As a result of the growth of the Trust, and the strong position that Anker Valley is in, Mrs Hamblin now feels the time is right to step away from her role as Executive Head. Therefore, going forwards, governors are delighted to announce, that Mrs Horlor's role has changed from Head of School to Headteacher. Anker Valley has very much benefitted from Mrs Hamblin's four years of support, and governors are grateful for the time and dedication that has helped the school go from strength to strength. Mrs Hamblin will of course still visit Anker Valley and have oversight of the academy, as she does with all other schools within the Trust.

The Governing Committee looks forward to working with Mrs Horlor and all stakeholders, as Anker Valley continues to thrive.

Kindest regards,
Mrs. Julia Jones
Chair of Governors

After School Clubs – Spring 2

We are pleased to be able to announce our after-school clubs for Spring 2, which will begin Monday 24th February and run until Friday 4th April.

Clubs are now live

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.

Scholastic Book Fair

Many thanks to those who joined us for our Scholastic Book Fair this week. We hope the children love their new books!

We are pleased to let you know that we have sold £650 worth of books, meaning that we have been able to secure £180 to purchase new books for our school library!

Our library has grown massively since opening in 2021 and this is partly due to parents continued generosity and donations, so thank you again for all your support.



SEND Parents Workshop on Sensory Needs – 11th 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 11th 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.

Attendance

School attendance this year: 96.4%

Dragonflies (this week): 100% Well done!!

Hérons (this week): 95.9%

Kestrels (this week): 97.9%

Kingfishers (this week): 99.1%



Congratulations to our children in **Dragonflies** 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 loved learning all about the Gingerbread Man this week. We have recreated the story, baked gingerbread and conducted an experiment about what happens to gingerbread in water. In Maths we have been learning about finding and creating doubles up to 8, and in phonics we are reading longer words by chunking.



What we have been learning in Herons...

Herons have had a fabulous week of learning. In Maths, the children have started their new unit of learning, all about adding and subtracting within 20. All children are making huge progress with their Numbots, which is having a great impact on their fluency! In English, the children have been busy writing their own story and it has been a pleasure to read their writing this week. In our wider curriculum, the children have been introduced to William MacGregor, explored the different celebrations throughout the year in RE. They have also enjoyed creating their own sculptures in Art. We are looking forward to starting our next unit of learning next week!



Kestrel's Stars of the Week

Well done to our Stars of the Week, **Elsie-Mai** for designing a brilliant sculpture, and **Zachary**, for a great discussion about different celebrations.

Our Readers of the Week are **Blake**, for trying hard with his phonics, and **Nevaeh**, for brilliant resilience when sounding out and blending.

Congratulations to our Outstanding Citizens, **Ethan**, for being a polite and considerate member of Herons, and **Matilda**, for always wanting to make others smile.

Rainbow Reads: **Eva, Ethan, Albie, Oliver S, Georgia, Matei, Jamie, Blake, Noah, Eva, Elsie-Mai, Nevaeh, Lottie, Rory, Myla, Ollie, Felicity, Rocco, Louis, Sophie and chance**

Numbots: **Zachary, Charlie, Chance, Matei**



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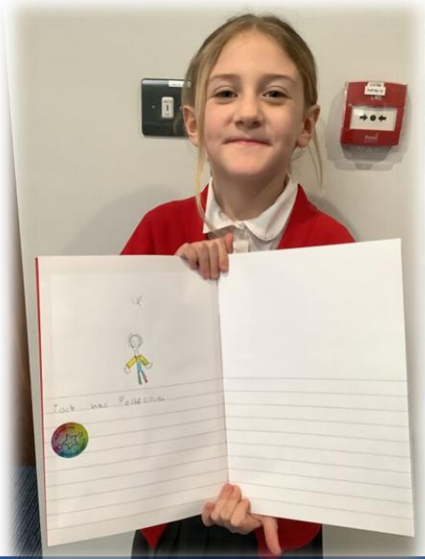
What we have been learning in Kestrels...

This week in Kestrels, we have been keeping an eye on our bean seeds and daffodil bulbs to spot any signs of growth. The children were very surprised to see that our seed, which has been placed in the cupboard is starting to grow and so are the bulbs we have planted in water too. All the children have shown such enthusiasm for planting and growing seeds that they have each been given two bean seeds to plant at home to see if they are able to grow their own bean plant too. We are looking forward to any updates being shared via Tapestry. On Thursday, we were lucky to have Mrs Jones in to share her Kenyan safari photos and stories with us and we are very grateful for her time. In maths, we have completed our unit on money and will be starting a new unit on multiplication and division next week. In English, we have used all the information we collected to write about African Animals. As part of our RE learning, Kestrels led an assembly linked to Children's Mental Health week for the whole school, thinking about the importance of using our voices to share our thoughts and feelings and how to develop resilience when things are a little tricky.



What we have been learning in Kingfishers...

In English this week, Kingfisher's have worked hard on editing; We have looked at ways to help us to recognise and correct mistakes and what tools we can use around the classroom to help us. In Maths, we started the week working systematically to find all the possibilities and how we can use multiplication to check we have found them all. We then started our new unit length and perimeter by measuring pieces of tape around the classroom with either a ruler or metre stick. This week during reading lessons, we have developed our love for reading by discussing our favourite books and authors and hearing extracts from books that we would like to read in the future. In the afternoons, we created mirror image routines of our balances in gymnastics, we discovered how plants reproduce, and we finished our Stone Age unit by exploring the changes and continuity from the Palaeolithic era to the Iron Age.



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Dates for your Diary

Friday 14th February – Dragonflies trip to Parkridge Centre (Payments on Arbor)

Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February – Half Term

Tuesday 4th March – Lunt Roman Fort Trip (Y3) (Payments on Arbor)

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

Monday 10th March – Kingfisher's Rock It Parents session (2:30pm)

Friday 14th March – Year 3 Level 1 Bikeability

Monday 7th April – Kestrel's Rock It Parents session (2:30pm)

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

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

Tuesday 6th May – Tempest Class Photographs

Wednesday 14th May – Year 2 trip to Llandudno

Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May – Whitsun Holiday

Monday 9th June – Heron's Rock It Parents session (2:30pm)

Monday 9th June – Friday 13th June – Y1 Phonics Screening Week

Monday 9th June – Diabetes Awareness Week (Wear blue to school)

Thursday 12th June – Year 3 Trip to Cadbury World

Friday 20th June – Sport's Day (1:30pm)

Monday 30th June – Dragonflies' Rock It Parents session (2:30pm)

Tuesday 1st July – Year 2 Trip to East Midlands Airport

Saturday 5th July – Summer Fair (12pm – 2pm)

Monday 7th July – Friday 11th July – Fierte Festival Week

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

Spring 1 Family Assemblies

Fri 14th Feb – Dragonflies

Spring 2 Family Assemblies

Fri 28th Feb – Kingfishers

Fri 7th Mar – Kestrels

Fri 14th Mar – Herons

Fri 21st Mar – Dragonflies

Fri 28th Mar – Kingfishers

Fri 4th Apr – Kestrels

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 28th February & Friday 28th March – Kingfishers

Fri 7th March & Friday 4th April – Kestrels

Friday 14th March – Herons

Friday 21st March – Dragonflies

We look forward to seeing you there!

Items from Home

Please could we kindly ask that children are not bringing in keyrings, toys or jewellery such as bracelets and necklaces into school from home to prevent belongings from becoming lost or damaged.

Many thanks 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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APPROVED TRAVEL PLAN 2024