



Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 7th February 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 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!

Smart Watches in School

Although smart watches have many positive features, including monitoring heartbeats and the use of a step counter, they can also be used to receive emails, text messages, make phone calls and take photos. Children are not permitted to take photos for personal use in school via any platform.

As you will appreciate, these work in a similar way to mobile phones and don't allow the school to monitor the content which children are looking at in school. The monitoring of acceptable internet use is something that the school takes extremely seriously and there are clear mechanisms and reporting systems in place, within the school, to ensure that our pupils remain safe at Anker Valley Primary Academy.

The school has a clear no mobile phone policy in school and due to the nature of access, which the smart watches provide, this policy also extends to the use of smart watches at Anker Valley Primary Academy. Pupils can easily become distracted in lessons, whilst also allowing them to access content during the school day; content which the school is unable to monitor and which may not be appropriate for primary aged pupils. A further concern is that pupils run the risk of incurring damage to this extremely expensive item, in a busy school, as we are unable to guarantee the safety of the watches during break times and lunchtimes.

Any smart watch which has the function to be able to take photographs or videos or that has enabled internet connectivity to a smartphone, is not permitted; such as Apple or Samsung and even some Fitbit watches, as these types of smart watches have the ability to send and receive text messages and phone calls.

If you are unsure whether your child's watch would be suitable for school, then please speak to a member of staff.

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.

Attendance

School attendance this year: 96.5%

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

Herons (this week): 97.7%

Kestrels (this week): 94.7%

Kingfishers (this week): 99.6%



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...

This week Dragonflies have been exploring the text Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We have made porridge and added different ingredients to alter the taste, made wanted posters for Goldilocks and even had a visit from Goldilocks herself! We have been revisiting our new digraphs and tricky words in phonics and looking at different measurements in maths. We have also been lucky enough to go on another exciting trip today, where we have explored the forest and engaged in different outdoor activities.

It has been an amazing half term for Dragonflies and the children should be very proud of all they have achieved. Well done Dragonflies!



Dragonflies' Stars of the Week

Well done to our Stars of the Week, **Maxwell** and **Kaylee**, for their improved attitude to learning.

Our Readers of the Week are **Fabian** and **Iris**, for showing improvement in their reading .

Congratulations to our Outstanding Citizens, **Leo V** and **Arthur**, for always being polite and helpful.

Rainbow Reads: **Mihan**, **Evie-Mae**, **Aliya**, **Amelia**, **Billy**, **Leo A-S**, **Isla M**, **Lenka**, **Arthur**.



What we have been learning in Herons...

In our final week of our Spring 1 half term, the children have continued to challenge themselves and try their best in all aspects of learning. In Maths, the children have focused on addition within 20 and have been looking at doubling, near doubles and number bonds to 20. This is an aspect that the children should continue to practice so that their automaticity becomes even faster! In English, we have started our new story 'Beegu' and have even found a spaceship that has crashed landed onto our field! We cannot wait to continue with this learning after the half term! In the wider curriculum, the children have been learning about William MacGregor, and it is amazing to see how much they remember about him already. They have also been learning about a Christian and Muslim wedding and how these are similar and different. We hope all of Herons have a fabulous half-term break!



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What we have been learning in Kestrels...

This week, we have started our new unit of learning. In RE, we thought about the different groups that we belong to both in school and at home. In maths, we have started to identify and make equal groups. During our English lessons, we have read the story Malala's Magic Pencil and thought about what we would draw if we had our own magic pencil. There were some lovely ideas including, drawing things which would help children who are less fortunate. We have continued to watch our bulbs and seeds, to see how they are growing and have been amazed by the growth of the bean seeds planted in the cupboard. The children have now taken their plants home to continue looking after them or have been given a new bulb to have a go at planting at home.



What we have been learning in Kingfishers...

This week in Kingfishers, we have started to explore the Romans. The children have enjoyed reading our new books and looking at artefacts to make predictions about what they think the changes might have been between the Iron Age period and Roman Britain. In Maths, we have been comparing and finding equivalent lengths in metres, centimetres and millimetres. In fluency lessons, we have finished our focus on the 10 times tables, with children now able to recall up to 60 multiplication and division facts in 5 minutes!



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Dates for your Diary

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

Friday 14th March – Year 1 Sewing Workshop (9:30am – 11:00am, parents are invited to take part in this workshop)

Friday 14th March – Year 1 Tour of Tamworth (PM, using the Trust minibus)

Friday 28th March – Non-uniform day – donations of Easter eggs and themed goods.

Wednesday 2nd April – Year 3 trip to St Editha’s Church

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

Thursday 10th April – Easter Disco (4:30-6:00pm)

Friday 11th April – End of Term Assembly incl. Easter Bonnet Parade and Easter Egg Hunt

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 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

Fri 11th Apr – End of Term Assembly and Easter Bonnet Parade

Easter Bonnet Parade

On Friday 11th April, we invite one parent per child to join us for our End of Term assembly, followed by an Easter egg hunt and Easter bonnet parade! Children will have the opportunity to parade their fantastic Easter bonnets in the school hall., and three winners will be announced who will receive a prize for their creativity and hard work.

We hope that you enjoy this activity with your child, and we look forward to seeing what you can create!



Safeguarding – Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Mrs Natalie Horlor (Headteacher) nhorlor@ankervalley.org

Mrs Andrea Free (Class teacher) afree@ankervalley.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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THE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM IN SCHOOLS ARE **OPEN** OVER THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February
(excluding weekends and bank holidays)

If your child is experiencing low level mental health difficulties, we may be able to help. Call us* between 9am - 5pm (Monday to Friday), leave your name and number and one of our practitioners will give you a call back to see what support we can offer.

We can help with:

- Low mood
- Anxiety
- Sleep difficulties
- Worry
- Panic

Burton and Uttoxeter
01283 504487

Cannock and Lichfield
01283 352113

Stafford
01283 352097

Tamworth
01785 301027



*Please note that these contact numbers are not to be used in an emergency.



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APPROVED TRAVEL PLAN 2024