



# Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025

## Important Update on Anker Valley Summer Fair

Following the email you received earlier today about the Fierte Festival celebrations in the Castle Grounds, we would like to inform you that we have made the decision to move our Summer Fair from Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July to **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, from 2:30-4:30pm.**

We hope that you are still able to attend the fair with your child/ren and that providing parents with plenty of notice means those who work during the week will be able to join us too.

We are very much looking forward to an afternoon enjoying lots of games and inflatables outdoors, with food and drink available to purchase indoors. We hope that local businesses will join us again this year and set up stalls showcasing their products - If you would be interested in having your own stall, please do email the school office for more information.

## World Book Day

The children had a wonderful time sharing their favourite bedtime stories whilst wearing their pyjamas! They took home with them a £1 voucher which they can use towards a book of their choice. Next week, author Ben Davies will be talking to Year 2 and Year 3, so our book celebrations continue! We do try and alternate World Book Day fancy dress with pyjamas, so parents are not having to buy costumes every year.

Lots of parents commented on how grateful they were for this; We want to thank you for your continued support.



## Pancake Day Race

The children enjoyed celebrating Shrove Tuesday by taking part in a pancake race; They successfully participated in the race, all whilst flipping pancakes in a frying pan!

Team **Avon** won the race with 67 points!

Team **Trent** – 61

Team **Anker** – 58

Team **Tame** -56

Well done to all children for your participation!



## Reading for Pleasure Initiative

We have successfully implemented 'Our Time to Enjoy Reading' together (O.T.T.E.R) in Year 3 and on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February we rolled this reading for pleasure initiative out to all year groups. Each week a child from the class will be selected to bring home a reading O.T.T.E.R journal and companion (a chosen soft toy for each class). Over the week, your child can take the soft toy on adventures and introduce them to family and friends but most importantly share a book with them. With your child you can then complete a page in the scrapbook for them to share back at school. You must include the title and author of the book (could be a current read or a favourite text) and reasons why it is a good book to read, perhaps even tell us about the author. We kindly ask that you include pictures or drawings of the time spent together. You can email the photographs to the School Office FAO your child's Class Teacher, and these can then be printed off at school for you if needed. The O.T.T.E.R scrapbook and soft toy then need to be returned to class by the following Friday ready to share in class before the next child gets to take it home

## Attendance

School attendance this year: 96.6%

Dragonflies (this week): 100% (0 lates) Well done!

Hérons (this week): 95% (1 late)

Kestrels (this week): 98.8% (2 lates)

Kingfishers (this week): 99.5% (0 lates)



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.



'Inspiring all to excellence'





# Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025

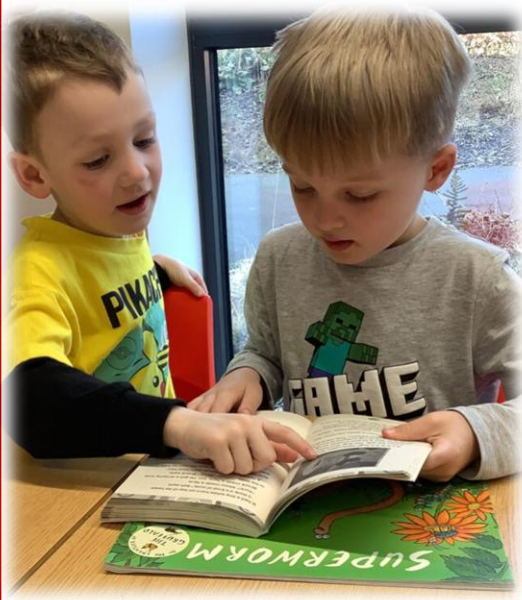
## What we have been learning in Dragonflies...

Dragonflies have had a very busy and exciting week. We have been exploring the story of Little Red Riding Hood in Drawing Club, learning about numbers 9 and 10 in Maths and practicing our phase 3 sounds in Phonics. We have had lots of celebrations this week, including Pancake Day and World Book Day. On Pancake Day, we tried to flip pancakes, had pancake races, and added pancakes into our home corner. We loved coming into school in our pyjamas on World Book Day and enjoyed lots of stories. We were able to make bookmarks, design front covers and share our favourite stories with our friends. We have also been lucky enough to receive two new stick insects to look after. We have learnt all about them, observed them in their net and some of us were even brave enough to hold them and let them run up our arms! In our choosing time we have loved painting Little Red Riding Hood, planting seeds, and playing in our new sand and mud kitchen areas.



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

Herons have had a lovely week and have demonstrated great resilience when trying to challenge themselves in every lesson. We have started our new unit of work in Maths all about numbers to 50. The children are starting to identify the tens and ones in a 2-digit number and have been practicing counting forwards and backwards from a given number too. In English, the children have been rehearsing the story of Beegu, ready for writing the story next week. In our wider curriculum, the children have enjoyed walking around our local area, celebrating both pancake day and world book day, and identifying how Christians show that they care for one another. We are really looking forward to our parent workshop next week where we will be making bags for Florence Nightingale!



*'Inspiring all to excellence'*





# Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025

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

This week in Kestrels, we have explored mixing colours with acrylic paint in preparation to create our own abstract piece of art. In RE, we have looked at the different items which are important to Christians and next week, we will be looking at important items for Muslims. On Tuesday, we participated in our annual pancake race and even had a go at flipping pancakes, luckily, we had not planned to eat these ones! In English, we have written stories about our own character having a magic pencil like the story of Malala, and in maths we have explored multiplication and division, further considering the relationship between the two operations. Any practice of the two-, five- and ten-times tables at home would further support their learning in the classroom. Next week, we are really looking forward to our visit on Tuesday from the author, Ben Davis.



## Kestrel's Stars of the Week

Well done to our Stars of the Week, **Evelyn**, for making fabulous progress with her writing, **Lily H**, for growing in confidence and trying her best in all areas of her learning, and **Archie**, for showing a fantastic understanding of plants during our science lessons.

Our Readers of the Week are **Isobel**, for showing a fabulous understanding of the texts we are reading in class and reading lots outside of school too, and **Jake**, for trying hard with his reading. He is now reading with more confidence and growing fluency and accuracy.

Congratulations to our Outstanding Citizens, **Lily L**, for being a kind and caring friend who always helps others without being asked and **Jayden** - for showing fantastic determination with his learning, which is one of our school's virtues.

Rainbow Reads: **Evelyn, Matilda, Noah, Terae, Isobel, Alfie, Evie**

Numbots: Leo, Theo H, Lilly H



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

What a busy week in Kingfishers! A fun filled trip, competitive pancake races and a day in pyjamas! In English, we have used all the knowledge we learnt at Lunt Roman Fort to plan a diary entry from the perspective of a Roman soldier. In Maths, we finished our unit on length and perimeter and began to explore fractions. We discussed how all our times tables practice is going to really help us this unit. In our science lesson this week, we completed an investigation to see if it made a difference how long our bones were to how far we could jump or throw.



*'Inspiring all to excellence'*





# Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025

## Dates for your Diary

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

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

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 1 Tour of Tamworth (PM, using the Trust minibus)

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March** – Non-uniform day – donations of Easter eggs and themed goods.

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** – Year 3 trip to St Editha’s Church

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

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April** – Easter Disco (4:30-6:00pm)

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April** – End of Term Assembly incl. Easter Bonnet Parade and Easter Egg Hunt

**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

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May** – Year 3 Level 1 Bikeability

**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

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July** – Summer Fair (12pm – 2pm)

## Spring 2 Family Library Sessions and Assemblies

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 and Easter Bonnet Parade

## Easter Bonnet Parade

On **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> 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!

## After School Club Update

Clubs are running this half-term until Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April, and are available on Arbor for you to sign your child up to.

At the time of publishing this newsletter, we currently have spaces in the following clubs:

**Wednesday – Kickboxing** (SH Active, £18 for six weeks) **9 SPACES**

**Thursday – Street Dance Club** (SH Active, £18 for six weeks) **16 SPACES**

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

**Friday – Cheerleading Club** (SH Active, £18 for six weeks) **1 SPACE**

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.*

## 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 Julia Jones** (Safeguarding Lead Governor) [jjones@ankervalley.org](mailto:jjones@ankervalley.org)

*The school Safeguarding Policy is available to view on our school website.*



*‘Inspiring all to excellence’*

