



Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 14th March 2025

Some Exciting News!

We are delighted to share some wonderful news with you; Mrs Sweeney, our Year 1 class teacher, is expecting her first baby. This is an exciting time for her, and we are thrilled to support her during this special journey. Mrs Sweeney will continue to teach and care for the children with the same dedication and enthusiasm until her maternity leave begins in the summer term. We will keep you informed about changes to the staffing as soon as this has been agreed and will of course ensure a smooth transition for the class when Mrs Sweeney takes her maternity leave.

Please join us in congratulating Mrs Sweeney and wishing her all the best as she prepares for this new chapter in her life. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Our Visit from Ben Davis

We were delighted to welcome Ben Davis, a children's book author who also happens to be our postman, to Anker Valley this week.

Ben captivated the children with his engaging storytelling, as he read excerpts from his most popular books. The children were excited to meet him and get their books signed.

We hope that the visit has encouraged a love of reading and that the children enjoyed meeting a local author.

Summer Term Clubs

We are happy to confirm that the following clubs will be taking place for the entire summer term:

Monday – Nerf Wars (SH Active, 25 spaces)

Wednesday – Trampolining (SH Active, 25 spaces)

Thursday – Animal Club (Run by Miss Herrick, 6 spaces)

Friday – Scooter Skills (SH Active, 25 spaces)

Clubs will run from **Monday 28th April** until **Friday 4th July**, at their usual times of 3:30 – 4:30pm and are £3 per session, totalling £30 for the term.

Clubs will go live on Arbor from **Monday 17th March at 6:00pm** and will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Payment is required in full by Friday 25th April at 3:00pm, or priority will be given to another child. Late collections may result in your child being withdrawn from the club.

Non-Uniform Day and Easter Raffle Tickets

We invite children into school on **Friday 28th March** wearing non-uniform. We ask for donations of Easter themed goods for our Easter raffle, which will be drawn during our End-of-Term Celebration Assembly. Please note that raffle entries are now available to purchase on Arbor at £1 per entry.

Reminder: 48-Hour Sickness and Diarrhoea Policy

To ensure the health and well-being of our children and staff, please ensure that your child remains at home for **48 hours after their last episode of sickness or diarrhoea**. This precaution helps prevent the spread of illness within our school. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Important Update on Anker Valley Summer Fair

Following the email you received last week about the Fierté 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 5th July to **Thursday 3rd 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.



Attendance

School attendance this year: 96.6%

Dragonflies (this week): 98.8% (1 late)

Hérons (this week): 94.8 (2 lates)

Kestrels (this week): 97.4% (0 lates)

Kingfishers (this week): 96.6% (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 14th March 2025

What we have been learning in Dragonflies...

This week, Dragonflies have loved exploring The Gruffalo as our Drawing Club text. We have retold the story, created our own Gruffalo crumble and used 2D shapes to make Gruffalo faces. In Maths, we have been looking closely into the composition of numbers up to 10. In our choosing time we have loved carefully using a saw on our new woodwork bench, building impressive houses in our outdoor area and observing our bean plants, which are growing so tall!



What we have been learning in Herons...

Herons have been busy working hard across all areas of learning this week! In Maths, the children have continued to learn about numbers within 50. They have been able to estimate on a number line, find 1 more and 1 less than a given number, and they have been partitioning a 2-digit number into tens and ones. In English, the children have been working hard to write the story of Beegu using adjectives, time conjunctions and the conjunction and. In our wider curriculum, the children have been exploring different techniques with watercolours, learning about the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet and they have learnt why we get day and night in Science. Our favourite part of the week has been travelling around Tamworth in the minibus exploring the wider area of where we live!



Heron's Stars of the Week

Well done to our Stars of the Week, **Grayson**, for fantastic effort and determination to join in with his learning in the classroom, and **Rocco**, for his effort and perseverance when adding numbers within 20.

Our Readers of the Week are **Archie**, for making good progress with his reading and phonics, and **Ollie**, for his brilliant effort in phonics lessons.

Congratulations to our Outstanding Citizens, **Sophie**, for her positive attitude and perseverance towards her learning, and Jessica - for showing great determination when sounding out and writing.

Rainbow Reads: **Lilly M, Noah, Matei, Archie, Ollie, Sophie, Felicity, Jess, Eva, Rocco, Ethan, Myla, Rory, Louisa, Blake, Oscar, Nevaeh and Oliver**

Numbots: Noah, Ollie W, Jacob



'Inspiring all to excellence'





Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 14th March 2025

What we have been learning in Kestrels...

It has been a busy week in Kestrels! On Tuesday, we continued our World Book Day celebrations with a visit from the author Ben Davis, who shared extracts of some of his texts and talked about how his books are made and what it is like to be an author. In Art, we have created an abstract painting using acrylic paints. In DT this week, we have cooked another African themed recipe, and it was back to a sweet option as we baked Benne Cakes. We have been editing our stories in English and thinking carefully about the importance of rereading our work to spot errors. In maths, we have continued our learning about multiplication and division, and the relationship between the two operations. It would be fabulous if the children could practice the 2-, 5- and 10-times tables at home including the corresponding division facts too.



What we have been learning in Kingfishers...

In Kingfishers this week, the children have wowed me with their determination and perseverance in Maths. We have looked at what fractions make a whole and how we can compare fractions by looking at the denominators and numerators. English this week has been all about our trip last week and thinking about the day in the life of a Roman Legionary by writing our diary entries. We have also loved our visit from Ben Davis, who has inspired some of us to write our own stories at home! In Science this week, our focus moved from the skeleton to the muscles in our body; to help us understand how they work, we made model hands. We finished the week with RE, where we have tried some foods that are eaten when celebrating Diwali and Holi festivals.



'Inspiring all to excellence'





Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 14th March 2025

Dates for your Diary

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

Friday 9th May – Year 3 Level 1 Bikeability

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

Thursday 3rd 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 Library Sessions and Assemblies

Fri 21st Mar – Dragonflies

Fri 28th Mar – Kingfishers

Fri 4th Apr – Kestrels

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

Easter Disco

Our Easter Disco is taking place **Thursday 10th April** from 4:30-6:00pm. Tickets are £3.50 each and include entry, a packet of crisps, a biscuit and a drink. Please be aware that tickets are now available to purchase on Arbor until **Thursday 3rd April.**

We look forward having a fantastic evening dancing with the children!

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!

After School Club Update

Clubs are running this half-term until Friday 4th 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) **14 SPACES**

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

Friday – Cheerleading Club (SH Active, £18 for six weeks) **3 SPACE**

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.



'Inspiring all to excellence'

