



Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 21st March 2025

VE Day Celebrations

We are delighted to invite parents into school on **Thursday 8th May** from **9:00am** until **1:00pm** to take part in a series of workshops with the children. The activities will include a baking activity, an art activity, maypole dancing and traditional games. After a fun-filled morning, we would also like to invite you to enjoy lunch with the children, followed by an assembly where the children will share some songs that they have learnt in school.

This special day at school will mark the 80th anniversary since the end of the war.

We will share finer details and information regarding lunch

Year 3 Cross Country at Rawlett

Congratulations to the 8 children who represented Anker Valley in the Tamworth Primary Cross-Country event on Thursday evening. All of the children performed exceptionally well and showed great sportsmanship. A special congratulations go to Edith, who came 2nd in the girl's race, and Ollie, who came 3rd in the boy's race!

Team results are as follows:

Boys

1st Millfield
2nd Flax Hill
3rd St. Gabriel's

Girls

1st Manor
2nd Millfield
3rd = Anker Valley
3rd = Woodlands



Trip Booking Update and Reminders

Please be aware that there are upcoming trips on Arbor:

Kestrels trip to Llandudno: Wednesday 14th May (Sign-up Deadline – 25th April)

Kestrels trip to East Midlands Airport: Thursday 26th June (Sign-up Deadline – 8th May)

Laches Wood Residential (current Kestrels class): 1-2nd December (Sign-up Deadline – 23rd May)

We have changed the way we process trip bookings and sign-up is required further in advance than we have previously requested. If the sign-up deadline has passed, it is unlikely that your child will be able to be added onto the trip and some bookings may be cancelled as the school may be unable to cover the cost.

We appreciate your support with this.

Year 3 Trip to St Editha's Church

Please be aware that Year 3 children will be visiting St Editha's Church on Wednesday 2nd April. The children will be walking from school to the church, so please ensure that they are wearing suitable footwear and that they bring a waterproof coat if the weather is forecast to be wet.

The children will be learning about ___ to link with their learning in class.

Mother's Day Assembly

We would like to invite one special person from each family to a Mother's Day Assembly, which will be led by Kingfishers (Year 3). This will still include the Year 3 Family Assembly. Children will be taking part in some themed activities throughout the day and will bring home a card for their special person.

Attendance

School attendance this year: 96.5%
Dragonflies (this week): 98% (2 lates)
Hérons (this week): 90% (2 lates)
Kestrels (this week): 91.6% (3 lates)
Kingfishers (this week): 98.8% (2 lates)



Congratulations to our children in Kingfishers 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 Three Little Pigs in Drawing Club this week. In Maths, we have been looking at how to make the number ten and finding and creating doubles, and in phonics we have been practising reading and spelling longer words. In our choosing time, we have become 'pig' builders and are now using saws, hammers and nails to join pieces of wood to make small structures. We have also enjoyed recreating the story outside by using different materials to build the pig's houses, and inside by creating our own Three Little Pigs puppet shows. We took home our beanstalks this week as they were growing so tall and we are now using the space to house our new classroom visitors, baby caterpillars! We cannot wait to watch them grow and change into beautiful butterflies.



Dragonflies' Stars of the Week

Well done to our Stars of the Week, **Leo A-S**, for showing resilience in his learning and making better choices during choosing time, and **Evie-Mae**, for showing enthusiasm in her learning and always trying her best with everything she does.

Our Readers of the Week are **Liv**, for trying hard. She can now read lots of words and some by sight!
Vinnie, for not giving up even when he has found it tricky. He now knows lots of sounds and is beginning to be able to read some words.

Congratulations to our Outstanding Citizens, **Poppy**, for always showing kindness and respect in learning and choosing times, and **Arlo**, for showing resilience and determination in his learning, especially in learning his sounds in Phonics.

Rainbow Reads: **Renesmee, Jax, Arthur, Amelia, Skyla, Sydney, Bella, Poppy, Lenka, Kaylee, Iris, Leo A-S and**



What we have been learning in Herons...

Herons have shown great determination and perseverance this week!

In Maths and English, we have completed some assessments with the children, in a relaxed setting, where we have worked in small groups or on a 1:1 basis. These assessments are used to inform us as a school the next steps for your children in the summer term, alongside our everyday assessments too. All children gave 110% and we have celebrated all the progress they have made so far in Year 1! We are all so proud of every child in Herons and cannot wait to see the continued progress they will make from now and into the summer term!



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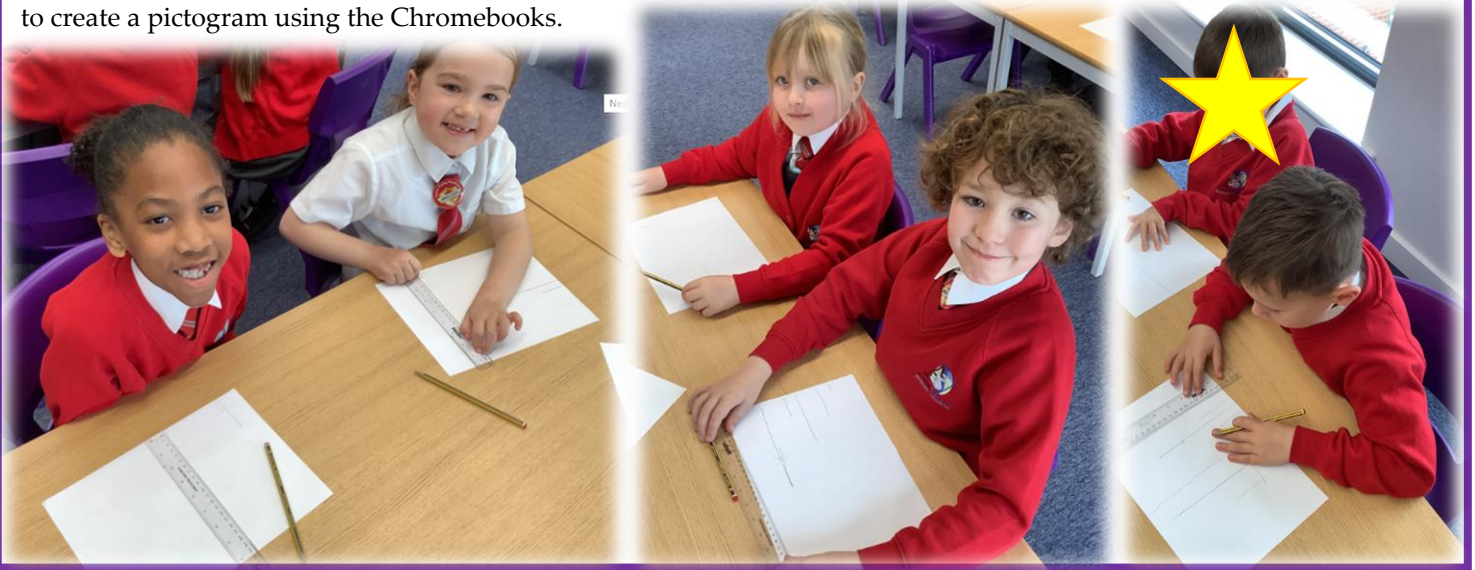


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What we have been learning in Kestrels...

This week it has been assessment week and the children in Kestrels have been showing us what they have remembered from their learning during the spring term, and I am very proud of them all. They have shown great determination and resilience and have demonstrated fabulous progress so far, this academic year. In Forest School, the children went on a bug hunt with Miss Garrett to see what they could find living in our school environment. In RE, we have looked at similarities and differences between the way in which new babies are welcomed into the Christian and Islamic faiths. In science, we have found out about the key things all animals including humans need to survive. We have cooked our last African themed recipe and have discussed which was our favourite and why and in computing we have inputted data to create a pictogram using the Chromebooks.



What we have been learning in Kingfishers...

All the children have been superstars this week, as they have consolidated their learning in year 3 so far. We have been reflecting on our previous learning in Maths and English to set ourselves targets to reach in the coming weeks. In art, we used a picture of the Castle grounds to help us explore different ways we can mark make, ready to paint and stitch on a canvas. We have designed walls for Emperor Hadrian to help keep the Roman Empire secure in History and it was nice to be able to get out in the sun for cricket. Some of our Kingfishers went to Rawlett on Thursday to compete in an inter-school cross country competition. Not only did they all give 100% and come away with amazing results, but they also demonstrated our Anker Valley values throughout and were a credit to the school. We are all super proud of them!



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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

Thursday 8th May – Parent Workshops to celebrate VE Day

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 (2:30pm – 4:30pm)

Saturday 5th July – Festival Celebrations in the Castle Grounds (10am-5pm)

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

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

Monday 21st July – INSET Day. School closed to pupils.

End of Term – Summer Holiday

Spring 2 Family Library Sessions and Assemblies

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.

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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