



# Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Please note that this week was the final week of clubs. **There will be no after school clubs week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> April.**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank those who have shared kind words and understanding following the announcement shared about my leaving by Mrs Jones on Monday. It has been a pleasure to watch the school grow over the past 4 years and I know that it will break my heart to leave such a wonderful staff team and incredible families. I would like to echo Mrs Jones' message with regards to the recruitment process and know that as soon as is practicably possible, the Trust will share updates with you.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Kindest regards as always,

Natalie Horlor

### Polite Request

As I am sure you are aware, we have classrooms on the front of the building which inevitably with the warmer weather have had the windows open. Staff have drawn attention to occasions when parents have been using inappropriate language or having inappropriate conversations which are subsequently being overheard by children. Please can we ask that when lining up and, on the playground, you are respectful to the fact that you are on school premises.

### 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 and Easter bonnet parade! Children will have the opportunity to parade their fantastic Easter bonnets in the school hall and three winners from each class 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!



### VE Day Celebrations

We are delighted to invite parents into school on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the end of the war.** We will share finer details and information regarding lunch bookings closer to the time.

### Kestrel's Rockit Music Parent Session

Please be aware that Kestrel's Rockit Music Session is taking place on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April**, which parents are warmly welcome to attend. The children will be showcasing all they have learnt this year with Rockit Music by participating in a performance for parents! If you would like to attend, please arrive at the school hall for 2:30pm.

### Attendance

Today, you will have received emails sharing with you your child's attendance (Year to Date) and notifying you if your child is receiving an award for spring term attendance in Friday's assembly. A full breakdown of your child's attendance can be viewed on Arbor and as always, please don't hesitate to contact the office if you have any queries.

### Attendance

**School attendance this year: 96.6%**  
**Dragonflies (this week): 98.4% (1 lates)**  
**Heron (this week): 100% Well done! (2 lates)**  
**Kestrels (this week): 98.7% (2 lates)**  
**Kingfishers (this week): 98.5% (1 lates)**



Congratulations to our children in **Heron** 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 exploring the text of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* this week. We have used watercolour paints to create symmetrical butterflies, made our own caterpillar books and learnt all about the life cycle of the caterpillar. We have also been extremely excited to find that two of our classroom caterpillars have now become beautiful butterflies! In Maths, we have been looking at identifying and continuing more detailed patterns, as well as continuing to add numbers together. In Phonics we have been continuing to practice our Phase 3 sounds and reading longer words more independently.



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

Hérons have enjoyed starting new units of work this week and have shown great enthusiasm to wanting to find out more! In Maths, the children have been learning about mass which is looking at how heavy or light an object is. In English, we have started to use prepositions to help our descriptive writing when describing a house. In the wider curriculum, the children have enjoyed looking at different stimuli of birds to create sketches, they have enjoyed logging on and using word on the Chromebooks and have started to think about feelings and emotions in PSHE. We are looking forward to continuing our learning next week and the count down to the Easter holidays!



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

This week in Kestrels, we have started a new unit of maths learning focused on mass and have explored the mass of different objects and used sentence stems to discuss which items are heavier or lighter. In History, we have finished the last part of our learning about Pioneering Women and are looking forward to starting our new unit on the Seaside before our visit to Llandudno in May. In English, we have been reading the Owl and the Pussy-Cat and have created noun phrase, lists, and looked at the use of the correct article (a or an) depending on the word which follows. In science, we have started our new unit on everyday uses of materials. We have been busy practising singing our favourite Easter songs in preparation for our End of Term assembly and Easter bonnet parade next week, we can't wait to see your fabulous bonnets!



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

What a wonderful week we have had in Kingfishers. We have started our new texts in English and Reading lessons and the children have made some lovely predictions about the setting, characters and plot of the books. In maths, we have started our new unit of mass and capacity by reading scales and investigating what the missing numbers could be. We also enjoyed our visit to St Editha's, where we experienced what Jerusalem would have felt like during holy week. We waved palm leaves to celebrate Jesus' arrival, took part in the last supper and discussed if his arrest was fair, before carrying our own crosses across the church.



## Dragonflies' Stars of the Week

Well done to our Stars of the Week, **Oliver**, for trying hard in all areas of his learning and for always volunteering to help in the classroom, and **Noah**, for showing an improved attitude towards his learning.

Our Readers of the Week are **Jax**, for trying hard with his reading and reading with growing fluency and accuracy, and **Leo**, for trying hard with his reading and reading with growing fluency and accuracy.

Congratulations to our Outstanding Citizens, **Harry**, for showing great determination and perseverance with his learning, and **Theo T**, for always demonstrating the Anker Valley values.

**Rainbow Reads:** Jayden, Bradley, Emily, Matilda, Henry, Elsie, Leo, Taliyah, Lily H, Alfie, Evie, Isobel, Oliver, Monika

**Numbots:** Bradley, Emily, Amelie



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## Dates for your Diary

**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

## 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  
**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May** – Parent Workshops to celebrate VE Day  
**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  
**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June** – Year 1 Trip to Twycross Zoo  
**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 (2:30pm – 4:30pm)  
**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July** – Festival Celebrations in the Castle Grounds (10am-5pm)  
**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July** – Fierté Festival Week  
**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July** – End of Term Family Picnic, Family Games and Celebration Assembly (12:30pm – 3:30pm)  
**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July** – INSET Day. School closed to pupils.

## End of Term – Summer Holiday

## Spring 2 and Summer 1 Family Library Sessions and Assemblies

**Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Apr** – End of Term  
Assembly and Easter  
Bonnet Parade

**Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> May** – Kestrels

**Fri 9<sup>th</sup> May** – Herons

**Fri 16<sup>th</sup> May** – Dragonflies

**Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> May** – Kingfishers

## Easter Disco

Our Easter Disco is taking place **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April** from 4:30-6:00pm.

Please be aware that the deadline for purchasing tickets has now passed and final numbers have been shared with the kitchen.

## Can you help with the animals over the Easter holidays?

We are looking for volunteers to care for the Anker Valley animals during the first week of the Easter holidays. You and your child would have the opportunity to care for the chickens, rabbits, and guinea pigs; This would involve visiting school in the morning and late afternoon to feed, clean and care for them. Miss Garrett will be able to show you exactly what you will be required to do prior to handing over the gate keys. This really is a lovely opportunity for your child to experience having the responsibility of looking after the animals daily, and we hope that they gain a sense of pride in doing so.

## 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.*



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