



Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 2nd May 2025

Please note that school will be closed Monday 5th May for May Day Bank Holiday.

Please be aware that Tempest will be in school on Tuesday 6th May to take 'vista' style class photos. Children need to be in school at the usual time of 8:45am, wearing their full and correct uniform.

Lunchtime Trial

For the past week we have trialled a slightly different approach to lunchtimes, having last term trialled the children being in classes, in order to enrich outdoor play further. Today, our pupil governors have met with each class to see what is working well, what they like, and 'even better if's'. Harry and Molly fed back to Mrs Horlor and Miss Elliott and shared that the children in Reception and Year 1 like having the chance to play with the older children and make new friends, and the children in Year 2 and Year 3 are enjoying sharing ideas for new games and playing with their siblings. The 'even better if' was having the opportunity to play with other children outside of their house, and Molly and Harry came up with the idea of having one day a week where it is free choice. They would also like to have a craft box for those children who like to colour and draw. Therefore, from next week, Wednesday will be free choice play. Harry and Molly will go back around the classes next Friday afternoon to see if this has made lunches even better. We wanted to share with you some photos from

this week:



VE Day Celebrations – Finer Details

We are delighted to invite parents into school on **Thursday 8th May** from **9:00am** until **1:00pm** to attend a special VE Day assembly where the children will share some songs that they have learnt in school. Following assembly, you will have the opportunity to take part in a series of workshops, including baking bread and butter pudding, creating celebratory art which will be printed onto a tea towel as a special reminder of the day, maypole dancing workshop and traditional games such as giant snakes and ladders and chess, and a variety of board games.

After a fun-filled morning, we would also like to invite you to enjoy a buffet lunch with the children, which will consist of a selection of sandwiches, (coronation chicken, tuna mayonnaise, egg mayonnaise, cheese and jam), sausage and cheese rolls, vegetable sticks, and scones or a slice of cake.

Please note that although this is buffet style, food will be limited per person to ensure we cater for the event accurately.

All children eligible for free school meals or who opt for a paid lunch on this day will be having the buffet lunch for dinner. **Children who are required to pay for their lunches will need to ensure they have booked one on Arbor so that you are charged appropriately** - the menu will still display the usual options but please disregard this.

Please feel free to bring your own picnic lunch if you would prefer but **remember that we are a nut-free school.**

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

Weekly Attendance

School attendance this year: **96.6%**

Dragonflies (this week): 98.2%

Herons (this week): 92.2%

Kestrels (this week): 84.1%

Kingfishers (this week): 88.6%



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...

Dragonflies have had a brilliant start to the summer term. We have been working hard to read words with four sounds in Phonics and have been recognising and composing numbers from 11-20 in Maths. In Drawing Club, we have been exploring the text 'Superworm' and have loved learning about minibeasts in our Topic lessons. During our choosing time, we have been engaging in bug hunts, making superhero masks and have begun sewing our own minibeasts, which has been tricky but lots of fun!



What we have been learning in Herons...

Hérons have had a lovely week and have definitely earned a four-day week next week! In Maths, we have been learning about volume and capacity. The children have enjoyed learning with practical resources and gaining a deeper understanding of the terms volume and capacity. In English this week, the children have planned and written a description for their own house! The children have used a range of language features such as prepositions and adjectives to make their description sound exciting for the reader and give a detailed description of what their house looks like. Year 1 are really looking forward to the VE day celebrations next week!



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What we have been learning in Kestrels...

It has been a lovely first week back and the academic year is flying by! Kestrels have been looking at fractions and remembering our learning from Year 1. In English, we have started our new book 'The Snorgh and the Sailor' and have made predictions about what we think the story might be about. In Geography, we have looked at the features of the seaside, in preparation for our visit to Llandudno in two weeks' time. In PE, we have started our tri-golf unit and have really enjoyed our lessons outside in the lovely weather we have had this week!



Kestrels Stars of the Week

Well done to our **Stars of the Week**, **Elsie**, for a fabulous first week back after the Easter holidays and always trying her best with her learning, and **Violet**, for always trying hard with her learning and being super helpful to her friends and the adults.

Our Readers of the Week are **Winnie** and **Taliyah**, or making fabulous predictions about our new text in English this week, 'The Snorgh and the Sailor'.

Congratulations to our **Citizen's of the Week**, **Bradley** and **Theo H**, for always demonstrating Anker Valley values especially their manners.

Rainbow Reads: Oliver, Theo H, Evelyn, Amelie, Isobel, Elsie and Evie

Numbots: Matilda, Hallie and Amelie



What we have been learning in Kingfishers...

Kingfishers have settled into the summer term beautifully. They have shown a really positive attitude to learning. In Maths, we have been exploring the difference between volume and capacity, we made the most of the nice weather by going outside to fill beakers with different volumes of water and testing our friend's knowledge. In English, we have become reporters for the Anker Valley News and are in the research stage of our next big story! In our wider curriculum, we have looked closely at the natural world by discussing the differences between the appearance of rocks and sketching wildlife and in PE, the children perfected their hold of a badminton racquet by have a shuttlecock and spoon race.



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Dates for your Diary

Monday 5th May – May Day Bank Holiday (School closed)

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 19th May – Friday 23rd May – Walk to School Week

Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May – Whitsun Holiday

Thursday 5th June – Y3 Cricket Competition

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

Monday 15th June – Friday 20th June – Sports Week

Friday 20th June – Sport's Day (1:30pm)

Wednesday 24th June – Year 1 Trip to Twycross Zoo (**Please note date change**)

Thursday 26th June – Year 3 Tennis Tournament

Thursday 26th June – Year 2 Trip to East Midlands Airport (**Please note date change**)

Monday 30th June – Dragonflies' Rock It Parents session (2:30pm)

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 and Summer 1 Family Library Sessions and Assemblies

Fri 2nd May – Kestrels

Fri 9th May – Herons

Fri 16th May – Dragonflies

Fri 23rd May – Kingfishers

Bikeability

Please be aware that Level 1 Bikeability is taking place for Year 3 on **Friday 9th May**.

Children's bikes will need to be in school on this day in order to take part in the session as bikes will not be provided. Please click the following link to access further information about any equipment/clothing your child will need in order to take part: [BikeRight · Bikeability Level 1](#)

We do hope Year 3 enjoy their first Bikeability session and look forward to sharing some pictures with you in next week's newsletter.

The deadline for sign up and payment for summer term trips are as follows:

Year 2 Llandudno – **Deadline Passed**

Year 2 East Midlands Airport – 8th May at 15:30.

Year 3 Cadbury World – 9th May at 15:30.

Year 1 Twycross Zoo – 16th May at 15:30.

Current Year 2 Laches Wood Residential deposit due (when in Year 3) – 23rd May at 15:30.

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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Not going far? Ditch the car.



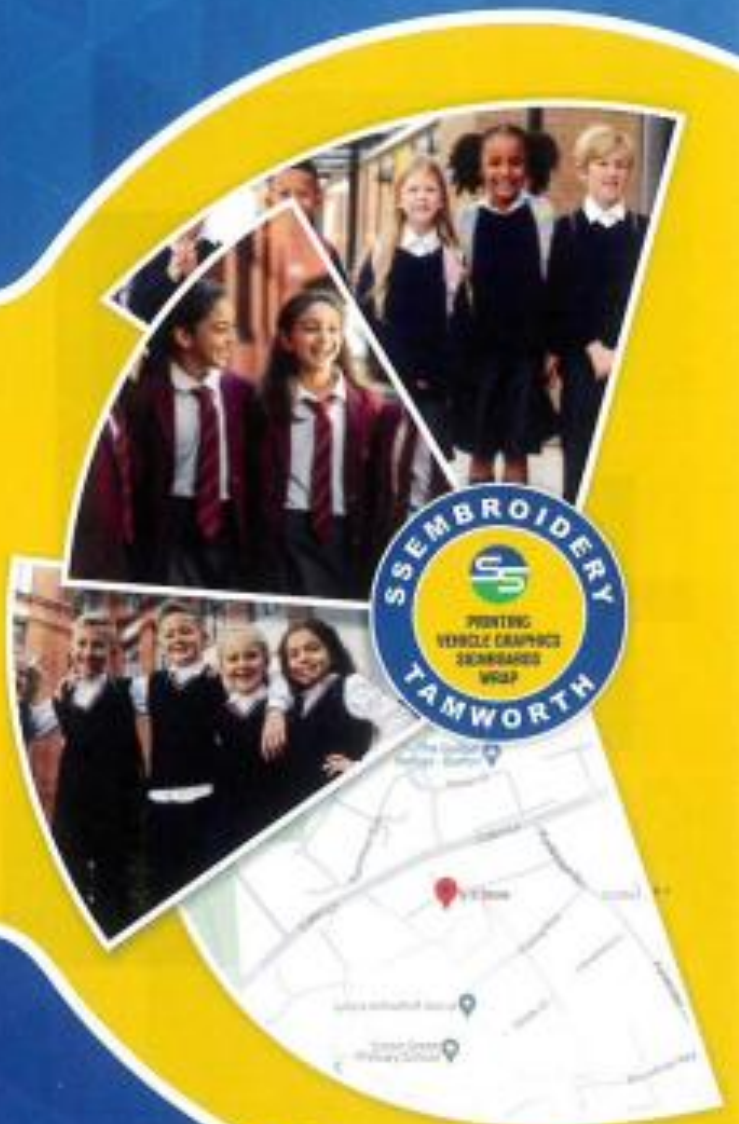
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