



Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 16th May 2025

Update on Staffing

As I know you are all aware, Mrs Sweeney is expecting her first baby this summer, and I am delighted to be in a position where I am able to share a staffing update with you for when her maternity leave commences on Friday 13th June. We are still undertaking recruitment for one more class teacher for September and teaching staff do have until 31st May to resign from positions, therefore this is not a full update and may be subject to change.

I am delighted to announce that the Anker Valley teaching team will be joined by Mrs Claire Stott, who will be the new Year 4 (Mallards) teacher. We are very fortunate that she is able to join the team from Monday 16th June, meaning that we are able to offer an extended transition period this year which we feel will really benefit the children. This means that children will move up to their new classrooms from 16th June for the final five weeks of the summer as follows:

Kingfishers (Y3) will become Mallards (Y4) and be taught by Mrs Stott.

Kestrels (Y2) will become Kingfishers (Y3) and be taught by Mrs Williams

Hérons (Y1) will become Kestrels (Y2) and will be taught by a new member of staff in September, who we are in the process of recruiting. Therefore, for the summer term, to minimise disruption, they will be overseen and taught by Mrs Free for half of the week and Miss Polson, a temporary teacher, for the remaining half of the week.

Dragonflies (EYFS) will remain in their classroom for the summer term, but in September, when they become Herons, will be taught by Mrs Free. Therefore, for the rest of the summer term, they will be taught by Miss Herrick and Mrs Free to support with their transition.

Miss Coggins, Miss Garrett and Miss Stacey, will remain with their current classes for this 5-week transition period. Staff have carried out full handover, and as we are in a small school we are very fortunate that children do already know existing members of staff well. I am therefore certain that this extended period of transition will benefit all children immensely. However, as always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions with regards to this. I look forward to sharing details of our new Year 2 teacher after the Whitsun holiday.

Walk to School Week (Monday 19th May – Friday 23rd May)

Walk to School week takes place **Monday 19th May** and will run until **Friday 23rd May**.

Walking to school is a great way to start the day – it keeps children active, helps the environment, boosts health, reduces congestion, helps the environment and even boosts concentration in the classroom. That's why we're encouraging more pupils to swap the car for their trainers and take part in this exciting challenge!

Why walk?

Happy, healthy bodies & minds – Walking is great exercise and helps children feel more awake and ready to learn.

Safer streets – Fewer cars means less congestion around the school gates.

Cleaner air – Cutting car journeys helps reduce pollution, making a healthier environment for everyone.

Too far to walk the whole way? Park and stride!

If you live further away, parking a short distance from school and walking the last few minutes still brings all the benefits.

Let's lace up, step out, and make this Walk to School Week the biggest yet!

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

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



Weekly Attendance

School attendance this year: **96.4%**

Dragonflies (this week): 95.5% (2 lates)

Hérons (this week): 96.7% (2 lates)

Kestrels (this week): 90.5% (4 lates)

Kingfishers (this week): 100%



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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Kestrel's Trip to Llandudno



What we have been learning in Dragonflies...

This week Dragonflies have loved learning all about the farm while exploring our Drawing Club text 'Farmer Duck'. We have been making our own tractors outdoors, making duck hats to retell the story and writing our own clues for a farm animal guessing game. In Phonics, we have been practicing reading CVCC words and words where we need to use our chunking skills. In Maths, we have been practicing adding and subtracting using resources like our bowling game to help us.



Dragonflies' Stars of the Week

Well done to our **Stars of the Week**, **Leo V**, for listening beautifully on the carpet and trying hard with his independent writing, and **Charlotte**, for joining in with carpet times and engaging in whole class learning sessions with her friends.

Our **Readers of the Week** are **Leo A-S**, for trying hard during Phonics sessions and being able to recognise lots of sounds and read some CVC words, and **Poppy**, for trying very hard with her reading in school and at home. Poppy can now read sentences on her own.

Congratulations to our **Citizens of the Week**, **Liv**, for being kind and helpful to all children in the class, and **Aliya**, for becoming kinder to the children in the class and treating the toys with respect.

Rainbow Reads: Kaylee, Arthur, Billy, Charlotte, Arlo, Mihan, Isla, Liv, Leo, Poppy, Evie-Mae, Iris, Lenka and Amelia



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What we have been learning in Herons...

This week, Herons have enjoyed the sunshine and have been working extremely hard! In maths, we have been learning about multiplication and division. The children have practiced skip counting which will help them as they transition further up the school. Herons have also learnt how to double 2-digit numbers, add equals groups and share an amount into groups too. In English, the children have been continuing their learning of 'In Every House on Every Street' by innovating the original story. They have also planned their own story, ready to write next week. In our wider curriculum, the children have been learning about how Muslims demonstrate they are a good friend and how to underline a piece of text when using word.



What we have been learning in Kestrels...

This week in Kestrels the children have been completing the Year 2 SATs papers. They have shown amazing determination, resilience and positivity towards their 'special jobs' and we are really proud of them all. The results of these, once completed, will be shared with parents in their end of year reports. On Wednesday, we travelled to Llandudno, North Wales to link with our current geography learning. The children were able to explore the beach and look for physical and human features of a seaside town. We then travelled on the Great Orme Tramway; Otte the Otter came with us too and had his photo taken at the top. The weather was beautiful, and the children were fantastic ambassadors for the school. We had lots of positive praise from members of the public. Well done, Kestrels!



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What we have been learning in Kingfishers...

This week in Kingfishers the children have worked really hard to produce some amazing newspaper reports. They have tried hard to think of all the features that make a successful report and how to make it exciting and engaging for the reader. In maths, we have returned to fractions and the children have shown great confidence in adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominators. We have used practical equipment and pictorial representations to show our deeper knowledge. In the afternoons, we have continued to investigate the physical properties of rocks by testing if they are hard, solid and absorbent. In PE, we have been practising our cricket skills ready for the tournament after half term.



Dates for your Diary

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

Monday 16th June – Reception NCMP Height and Weight Checks

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

Tuesday 24th June – Year 1 Trip to Twycross Zoo

Thursday 26th June – Year 3 Tennis Tournament

Thursday 26th June – Year 2 Trip to East Midlands Airport

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

Summer 1 and Summer 2 Family Library Sessions and Assemblies

Fri 23rd May – Kingfishers

Fri 6th June – Kestrels

Fri 13th June – Herons

**Fri 20th June – Sports
Assembly**

Fri 27th June – Kingfishers

Fri 4th July – Kestrels

Fri 11th July – Herons

Fri 18th July – Picnic lunch (12:30pm) followed by games on the field and bouncy castle and End of Term Celebration Assembly (2:45pm)

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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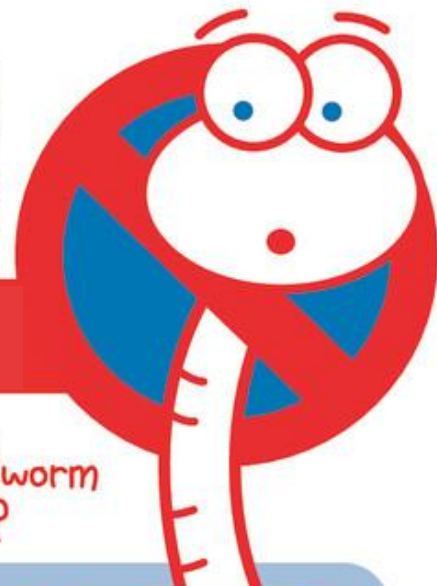
Not going far? Ditch the car.



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MAKE YOUR HOME A *fred* FREE ZONE



Fred Worm is our friendly threadworm and is here to explain about threadworms and how to treat them.

How common are threadworms?

Around 40% of children under the age of ten will get threadworms at some stage, so it is a very common condition. However, it's not always easy to recognise the symptoms, or know what to do if you find them!

So, how do I know if my child has threadworms?

The most common symptoms are:

- An itchy bottom
- White "threads" around the bottom and in the stools
- Bed wetting
- Disturbed sleep



fred says

But, some children have no symptoms at all, so it's worth looking for white, threadlike shapes in their stools.

How did my child get threadworms?

Threadworms come from eggs which are so small, you can't actually see them. The eggs stick under the fingernails and can be swallowed. This is the beginning of **the threadworm life cycle.**

Where do threadworm eggs come from?

Threadworms can be found in:

- House dust
- Clothing
- Carpets
- Towels
- Bedding



fred says

They can be picked up from another person who has threadworms, but they can't be caught from pets!

Are threadworms dangerous?

No, threadworms are harmless, but the intense itching they cause can be very uncomfortable and can cause bed-wetting. Treatment is simple and readily available from your pharmacist without prescription.

What is the threadworm life cycle?



Once the eggs have been swallowed, they hatch out in the gut, and the adult worms cling to the gut wall.

... the eggs are transferred to the fingers and then to the mouth which continues the cycle.



Female threadworms come out of the bottom at night and lay eggs. The sticky eggs cause itching, so when the bottom is scratched...



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APPROVED TRAVEL PLAN 2024





[Grab your reader's attention with a great quote from the document or use this space to emphasise a key point. To place this text box anywhere on the page, just drag it.]

INSPIRING CHILDREN'S
INNER FOODIE, ONE
EXPERIENCE AT A TIME!

What's Cooking?

- Fun, interactive classes for all ages
- Exciting recipes & essential life skills
- After-school clubs, workshops & **Birthday parties**
- Foodie Discovers (2.5-5yrs) | Explorers (5-11yrs) | Pioneers (11yrs+)
- We provide everything—just turn up, cook & take home something YUMMY!



Just £10
Per child per class. Family Hub Passes accepted so you just pay £5!

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Foodies Discoverers Club:
Mondays 10 am, term-time
@ Basin Lane Family Hub,
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Foodies Explorers Club:
Saturdays 10 am, term-time
@ Leyfields Family Hub, B79
8JB

New Clubs & Holiday Workshops Coming Soon! Follow @TheFoodiesClub_UK to keep up to date!



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