



Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 13th June 2025

Transition

The children in Y1, Y2 and Y3 are all incredibly excited to be moving into their new classrooms on **Monday 16th June** and are excited to meet their new teachers. This week, Miss Stott has joined us in school to start to get to know the Y3 children and make some finishing touches to the Y4 classroom ready for Monday.

To maximise learning time in the mornings, we are asking that from Monday, children enter school once the doors open at 8:45am, instead of lining up on the playground. Reception can go straight in through their classroom door, and Years 1, 2 and 3 can go through the door in between Reception and Y1 to access upstairs. There will be staff on each of the doors to support and take any messages that need to be delivered to classrooms. Over the next few weeks, we will review this change to morning routines to see if any adjustments need to be made and will of course notify you of these.

Routines at home time will remain the same in order to be able to dismiss the children safely to the correct adult.

Baby Sweeney

Mrs Sweeney leaves us today to start her maternity leave; Staff and children would like to wish her all the very best. We cannot wait to share the exciting news of her new arrival with you all!

Reminder: Sports Week – 16th – 20th June 2025

Children are invited to come into school for the whole week in their sports kits, as they will be taking part in a range of activities each day. We will be joined by football coach and former Leicester City player Marc Albrighton on the Tuesday, who will be leading sessions for each of the classes; We also have a parent who has very kindly offered to lead some fitness sessions and cheerleading workshops.

On **Friday 20th June at 9:15am** (weather permitting) we would like to invite parents to attend our Sports Day on the field, where the children will be taking part in a range of house competitions to see who will win the 2025 Sports Day trophy. On this day, we ask that children wear a t-shirt that is in the colour of their house (if you are unsure which house your child is in, please contact their class teacher). **Avon, Trent, Anker, Tame.**

Tapestry in Year 2 upwards

We have reviewed engagement with Tapestry from Y1 upwards and made the difficult decision to only use this platform in Reception and Year 1 from September 2025.

Parents in Year 2 and Year 3 over the next few weeks will receive notification that the account will be closed and will be given the opportunity to download journals as a PDF in order to retain memories.

We do of course still want to see all of the amazing achievements outside of school and would warmly welcome these being shared through the office email account so that we can celebrate in Family Assemblies and / or the newsletter. If you experience any difficulties with downloading your child's journal, please do not hesitate to contact the main office so that we are able to support with this.

Year 3 Cricket Competition

We have received confirmation this week that the Year 3 Cricket competition has been rescheduled to 12:30pm on Wednesday 2nd July. As the minibus is unavailable on this day, we kindly ask parents of those attending, to confirm if they are able to transport their child to Tamworth Cricket Club (collecting from school at 12:15pm). If you could confirm by emailing office@ankervalley.org this would be very much appreciated.

Staffing for Year 2 (September 2025)

I am pleased to be able to announce that Mr Hunter will be joining the Anker Valley team in September, as the teacher in Kestrels, whilst Mrs Sweeney is on maternity leave. He is very much looking forward to meeting all of the children and will be visiting school over the next few weeks in order to get to know everybody.

Weekly Attendance

School attendance this year: **96.4%**

Dragonflies (this week): 95.5% (0 lates)

Heron (this week): 92.1% (3 lates)

Kestrels (this week): 100% Well done! (2 lates)

Kingfishers (this week): 99% (1 late)



Congratulations to our children in **Kestrels** 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 sea animals this week whilst exploring our Drawing Club text, Commotion in the Ocean. We have enjoyed using globes to locate oceans, making ocean habitats in our small world area and writing about sea creatures. In Maths, we have been further developing our skills in doubling numbers and in Phonics we have been reading sentences contain words beginning with consonant blends.



What we have been learning in Herons...

What a fabulous, last week Herons have had! It has been amazing to see the children's progress this year and I know they will continue this into Year 2! This week all of our wonderful children have shown brilliant determination and resilience during the Phonics Screening Check! Mrs Free's socks were definitely blown off with the children's effort and enthusiasm to reading the real and alien words. We look forward to finalising and sharing these results with you, once the pass mark has been shared with the school in a few weeks. I finally want to thank all of the parents and children of Herons, for their ongoing support this year and I wish you all the best of luck for the new academic year ahead..



Heron's Stars of the Week

Well done to our **Stars of the Week**, Blake, for great understanding of healthy eating, and Jessica, for excellent observational drawing when exploring minibeasts.

Our **Readers of the Week**, Albie, for growing in confidence when applying his phonics knowledge, and Sophie, for fantastic effort when reading and answering questions.

Congratulations to our **Citizens of the Week**, Matei, for always helping others and being considerate, and Georgia, for being a kind and considerate member of Herons.

Rainbow Reads: Lottie, Ollie, Eva, Matilda, Lilly, Felicity, Ethan, Oliver, Sophie, Albie, Rocco, Georgia, Chance and Myla

Numbots: Albie, Ethan and Noah



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What we have been learning in Kestrels...

The children have been busy practising and learning how to tell the time on an analogue clock this week and they would really benefit from opportunities to practice this outside of school too, particularly quarter past and quarter to the hour. In English, the children have continued to use the video clip 'Soar' as a stimulus for their learning. They have been preparing the programme for their upcoming music examination and have continued to learn the skills needed to play Dodgeball successfully. In art they considered abstract art and the work of Kandinsky and reflected on some of his paintings. Next week, the children will transition to their Year 3 classroom and will be working with their new Year 3 teacher, Mrs Williams and it is Sports Week - what an exciting and busy week they have to look forward to! Well done Kestrels, I am sure that you will continue to shine in the last five weeks of this academic year



What we have been learning in Kingfishers...

We have had a lovely week in Kingfishers. We started the week by making a shop in which each child had £5 to spend, they then had to work out how much change they needed from the shop keeper. The highlight of the week was our trip to Cadbury's World where we learnt all about the Mayan civilization and their connection to chocolate. We got to create our own melted marvellous chocolate creation pot, experience the journey of a cocoa bean in the 4D cinema and collect all the ingredients needed for the perfect dairy milk bar on the ride. The children were a credit to the school with compliments on their amazing manners and the respect they showed.



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Dates for your Diary

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

Friday 20th June – Sport's Day (9:15am with 1:30pm as reserve if wet in morning)

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

Friday 27th June – Reception Graduation

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

Tuesday 1st July – SEND Coffee Morning (9:00am)

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

Monday 14th July – Open Evening (3:30pm – 4:30pm)

Thursday 17th July – Summer Disco, tickets now available to purchase through Arbor (4:30-5:30pm)

Monday 14th July – Open Evening (3:30pm – 4:30pm)

Thursday 17th July – Summer Disco, tickets now available to purchase through Arbor (4:30-5:30pm)

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

Monday 1st September – INSET Day. School closed to pupils.

Tuesday 2nd September – School open to all pupils (Half Day for new Reception)

Wednesday 3rd September – Half day for new Reception

Monday 29th September – Tempest individual and sibling photographs (morning)

October 27th – October 31st – Half Term Holiday

Summer2 Family Library Sessions and Assemblies

Fri 20th June – Sports Assembly (children only).

Fri 27th June – Dragonflies (Graduation)

Fri 4th July – Kingfishers

Fri 11th July – Kestrels

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

Summer Fair – Thursday 3rd July 2025

Our Summer Fair will be taking place (weather permitting on the field / playground) on

Thursday 3rd July between 2:30pm and 4:30pm.

We ask that parents attending the fair, arrive at the school office at 2:30pm, where you will be able to join your child outside to join the festivities. On offer this year will be facepainting, bottle tombola, games with prizes to be won, bouncy castle (weather permitting), cake and gift stalls and hot food and ice cream from the kitchen to mention but a few.

We appreciate that some parents will not be able to attend until later on due to work commitments, therefore we will be inviting those children to support with running stalls.

Please note Friday 27th June is non uniform – donations of bottles for the bottle tombola.

Tempest Photography Vista Class Photos

It's time to find a spot on the mantelpiece or a space on the wall as I'm delighted to let you know that your recent group photograph is now ready to view and purchase at the following links:

<https://htmp.st/AnkerValley25-Reception>

<https://htmp.st/AnkerValley25-Year1>

<https://htmp.st/AnkerValley25-Year2>

<https://htmp.st/AnkerValley25-Year3>

School Uniform Reminder

Please be reminded that trainers are not part of our school uniform.

School shoes should be flat and black with a closed toe.

If you are awaiting new shoes for your child, trainers can be worn on the way to school and then swapped to black PE pumps at school in the short term. Many thanks for your support with this.

Please also ensure that your child has a cap / hat in school with them as the warmer weather is now upon us.

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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Anker Valley Nursery and Care Club Admissions open NOW for September

**Excellent nursery provision available for
two to four-year-olds**

High quality care in a calm, inviting
environment

All Government funded places available

Highly qualified, experienced and dedicated
staff

An excellent range of exciting resources to
support children's interests.

Indoor and outside access all year round.
Wraparound Care available for children aged
3+

If you are interested and would
like to arrange a visit, please
contact

Email: ankervalley@opoj.fierte.org

Telephone: 01827 949310

www.opoj.fierte.org



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