



# Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025

## Uniform for next week

Given that the weather is forecast to remain warm next week, children may wear PE kit to school if they would feel more comfortable. On **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July**, the children are invited to come in non-school uniform.

## Transition (Reception and Year 1)

Just a reminder that on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July**, Reception will be moving into their new classroom for the day with Mrs Free so will need to enter through the Year 1 door (in the undercroft). Year 1 will also be spending the day with Mr Hunter, who I know is very much looking forward to meeting them all.

## Family Picnic – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July

Just a little reminder that parents are invited to join us from 12:30pm for our Family Picnic followed by end of term assembly. The weather, at present, is forecast to be overcast and a cooler 22 degrees, we will however monitor this for any changes. Should you wish to bring parasols to provide some shade please feel free and please ensure that your children have suncream applied and hats. We look forward to you joining us for this end of year celebration.

## Further Staffing Details

I am pleased to be able to confirm with you where support staff will be placed in the Autumn term:

**Dragonflies will be supported by Miss Coggins**

**Hérons will be supported by Miss Stacey**

**Kingfishers and Mallards will be supported by Miss Garrett.**

**In the afternoons, Miss Stacey and Miss Garrett will be delivering interventions across the classes.**

We are also proud to be working with the John Taylor SKITT programme again next academic year, therefore

Hérons will also be supported and taught by Miss Jakubauskaite, along with Mrs Free, throughout her placement at Anker Valley.

I would also like to inform you that Miss Herrick will be leaving us at the end of this academic year. We have loved having her as part of the family and wish her the all the very best for the future; She really will be missed.

Miss Becci King will, therefore, be joining the family in September as the new teacher in Dragonflies and I am sure you will all join me in wishing her a very warm welcome.

## After School Clubs – September 2025

I am pleased to confirm that Progressive Sports will be offering the following after school clubs will be available from September and will open for booking on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 6:00pm:

**Monday 3:30pm – 4:30pm** – Year 1 and 2 Football £4 per session = £28

**Thursday 3:30pm – 4:30pm** – Year 3 and 4 Football £4 per session = £28

**Friday 3:30pm – 4:30pm** - Reception – Year 4 Archery £4 per session = £28

## School Dinner Payments for Children Moving into Year 3 in September

Just a reminder that if your child is moving up into Year 3, and you would like them to have a school dinner, there will be a small charge for these (unless you are eligible for Free School Meals) as Universal Free School Meals stops at the end of Year 2.

The cost of a school meal is currently £2.85.



## Weekly Attendance

School attendance this year: **96.1%**

**Dragonflies (this week): 96.3%**

**Hérons (this week): 88.6%**

**Kestrels (this week): 94.3%**

**Kingfishers (this week): 97.6%**



**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.



*'Inspiring all to excellence'*





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## What we have been learning about in Dragonflies this week...

Dragonflies have loved becoming artists this week and exploring lots of different ways to create art. We have explored lots of different artists in our Drawing Club text, 'Luna Loves Art' and learnt more about what an artist does during our Topic lessons. We have loved creating paintings, carefully sketching flowers and using clay to make our own sculptures.



## What we have been learning about in Kestrels this week...

This week we have continued to celebrate all things art following on from Saturday. We have looked at the work of Banksy and Keith Haring and created graffiti inspired art. Then we looked at the work of Leonardo Da Vinci and created our own takes on the Mona Lisa painting and drew portraits of our friends. Inspired by Henry Moore, we have created our own sculptures using modelling clay. We were lucky to have Mrs Key visit us and have created some river inspired work, which we have used mixed media based on the River Anker. On Monday, the children will be spending the day with Mr Hunter ready for when he starts at Anker Valley in September and he is looking forward to meeting them and their families during open evening after school.



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## What we have been learning about in Kingfishers this week...

In Maths, we have started our new unit of position and direction, the children have had fun in their learning playing our own version of battleships where we directed our partners where to go. This week, we have been showing our creative side. We have visited The Louvre in a virtual tour to discover who stole the Mona Lisa. We then made our own version of the Mona Lisa followed by portraits of our partners. All the children worked really hard and took time to study their partner's features before exploring mixing colours to paint their portrait.



## Kingfisher's Stars of the Week

Well done to our **Stars of the Week**, Harry and Emily, for showing resilience and determination in their learning!

Our **Readers of the Week**, Evelyn and Oliver, for showing enthusiasm for reading in the classroom!

Congratulations to our **Citizens of the Week**, Elsie and Bradley, for being amazing role models!

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

**Numbots:** Matilda, Hallie and Amelie



## What we have been learning about in Mallards this week...

Mallards have had a wonderful week learning all about different artists. They created their own soap sculpture after learning about the Barbara Hepworth and her amazing sculptures inspired by nature. The children then were fascinated to learn about Leonardo Da Vinci and one of the world's most famous paintings in the world, the Mona Lisa. The following day they had a lot of fun creating their own street art after learning about the mysterious Banksy and Keith Haring. Mallards worked very hard with Mrs Key on their marble artwork. It has been a wonderfully creative week.



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APPROVED TRAVEL PLAN 2024



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Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025

## Dates for your Diary

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July – Open Evening (3:30pm – 4:30pm)

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

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July – Open Evening (3:30pm – 4:30pm)

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

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**

## Summer2 Family Library Sessions and Assemblies

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

## 2025/26 Dates for your Diary

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September – Inset Day (School Closed to pupils)

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Children return to school (Reception half day and parent lunch)

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September – Book Bus at Anker Valley

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September – Year 1 Trip to Sudbury Hall

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September – Jeans for Genes Day (Wear an item of denim to school)

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September – Harvest Festival 9:00am (Donations for Tamworth Food Bank)

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September – Tempest Individual photographs (including sibling / family)

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October – Year 2 trip to London

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October – Parents Workshop Year 1 (Phonics Screening Check) 8:30am

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October – Parents Workshop EYFS Phonics (8:30am)

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October – Parents Evening (4:30pm – 7:00pm)

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October – Parent's Evening (4:00pm – 6:00pm)

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Pumpkin Festival (4:00pm – 5:30pm)

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Inset Day (School Closed to pupils)

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 – Half Term**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November – Antbullying Week

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Odd Socks Day

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Assembly (Mrs Hamblin) Parents welcome (10:45am)

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November – Year 2 Trip to Tamworth Castle

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November – Christingle Assembly led by Mallards (inc Stars) (2:45pm)

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Year 3 Residential to Laches Wood

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Reception & Year 1 Nativity (6:00pm)

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Reception & Year 1 Nativity (9:00am)

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Peter Pan Pantomime (4:00pm – 5:00pm) Reception – Year 4

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Year 2 – Year 4 Carol Concert (9:00am and 6:00pm)

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December – End of Term Assembly (9:00am)

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026 – Christmas Holidays**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Inset Day (School Closed to pupils)

## Autumn Term Family Library Sessions and Assemblies

Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Sept – Mallards

Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Sept – Kingfishers

Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Sept – Kestrels

Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct – Herons

Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Oct – Dragonflies

Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Oct – Kestrels

Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Nov – Herons

Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Nov – Dragonflies

Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov – Kingfishers

Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Nov – Mallards

Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Dec – Kestrels

## 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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