



Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 12th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of myself and all the staff, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you for your incredible support over the past few weeks. Your positivity, encouragement, and partnership have made a real difference, and we have had a truly uplifting start to the term.

Together, we are committed to striving for excellence in everything we do, and it is a privilege to work alongside such dedicated and inspiring families. Your involvement and care are deeply appreciated.

Wishing you a restful and joyful weekend.

Warm regards,

Maria and all the staff at Anker Valley

SEND Coffee Morning – Tuesday 23rd September – 9:00-10:00am

We warmly invite you to join us for a **Coffee and Cake Morning** at school on **Tuesday the 23rd of September** from **9:00am to 10.00am**. This informal gathering is especially for parents and carers of children with **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**, or for anyone who would like to discuss concerns or simply have a conversation with our **Trust Inclusion Lead, Mrs Shirley-Anne McGill or myself regarding children's support, behaviours or general concerns**.

Mrs McGill is a highly experienced SENDCo with extensive expertise in all matters relating to SEND. She is passionate about supporting families and ensuring every child receives the care and opportunities they deserve.

Whether you have specific questions, would like to share your experiences, or simply want to connect with other parents over a cup of coffee and a slice of cake, we would absolutely love to see you there.

Home Reading

We would like to kindly remind you that while we do not assign formal homework for your child, we do encourage regular reading at home. Ideally, children should read with or to someone at home at least three times a week, as this greatly supports their language development and overall learning. Thank you for your continued support—it makes a meaningful difference.

Request for Feedback

Please click the following link to submit anonymous feedback following the first two weeks back at school:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=1ksIyJx0OkWsK1eu8->

Year 1 Sudbury Hall Trip – Payments now on Arbor

Year 1 are visiting Sudbury Hall on the **Thursday 18th September** as part of their topic about Changes Over Time. They will be learning all about how toys have changed over the years and will have chance to explore some real artefacts amongst other things. The payment for this visit is now live on Arbor, and we kindly ask that this is paid by the **16th September**. If you are experiencing any difficulties in making payment, please do let us know.

Year 2 London Trip – Payments now on Arbor

Year 2 are visiting London on **Thursday 2nd October** to experience an action-packed day in our capital city. This is to enrich the children's learning about Villages, Towns and Cities. During the visit the children will ride on the London Eye and visit St James Park and Buckingham Palace, where they will have a tour of the palace and take part in a workshop about the role of Buckingham Palace through time. The payment for this visit is now live on Arbor, and we kindly ask that this is paid by the **18th September**. If you are experiencing any difficulties in making payment, please do let us know.

Year 4 Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Trip

On Tuesday 23rd September 2025, Year 4 will be visiting The Wolseley Centre in Staffordshire, which links in with the children's learning in class about rivers. During the visit, children will take part in a range of interactive experiences and activities linked to the curriculum, where they will be introduced to river landforms and processes before completing hands-on fieldwork. Throughout the day they will produce field sketches, devise a study to measure velocity, and collect and record various data from the river and lake. They will also pond dip and kick sample to identify species living in freshwater habitats. The payment for this visit is now live on Arbor, and we kindly ask that this is paid by the **19th September**. If you are experiencing any difficulties in making payment, please do let us know.



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Stars of the Week!

Congratulations to our stars of the week and outstanding citizens:

Dragonflies: Nancy-Lin, Harley, George

Hérons: Freddie, Aliya, Poppy

Kestrels: Blake, Eva, Rocco

Kingfishers: Millie, Winnie, Jake

Mallards: Nicole, Michael, Jenson

We are so proud of you!



Thank You!

We would like to thank those who visited the Book Bus last week – your purchases enabled us to

choose some new books for our school library, which we know the children will very much enjoy reading!

This week in Dragonflies...

We have had another fantastic week in Dragonflies! I am so incredibly impressed with how well the children are learning and interacting with each other. This week we started our first Phonics sessions. The children have been learning the graphemes (letters) s, a, t, p and using the letter formation rhymes to practice writing these letters. A big thank you to those that have been practicing these at home too. I have really enjoyed our circle time sessions where the children have been sharing their home boxes. I have learnt so much about them and the other children are so excited to see what is in the box. The children had great fun in Maths when we went onto the field to collect natural materials for our sorting and grouping lesson!

This week in Herons...

This week in Herons, we've been exploring spirals using a variety of media and proudly created our first piece of artwork in our brand-new sketchbooks. In RE, we reflected on the people who care for us, capturing our thoughts through drawings and simple sentences. In maths, we've been busy sorting objects and have completed our first activity in our maths books. We have enjoyed reading and sharing books during story time, which we were able to purchase from the Book Bus. After a full and exciting second week back at school, we're feeling a little tired – but very excited for our first Year 1 trip next week!

This week in Kestrels...

This week in Year 2, the children have been exploring place value in maths, using practical resources such as base ten blocks and place value charts to build and partition numbers up to 100. In English, they began learning about persuasive writing, using the theme of walking in London as inspiration. In geography, the children also used maps and atlases to locate the four countries of the United Kingdom, beginning to understand where we live, where our community is and where London is situated. It's been a week full of curiosity, super brainpower, and map skills!

This week in Kingfishers...

This week, we've been exploring place value in three-digit numbers. The children have been learning how to represent numbers up to 1000 and how to break them down into hundreds, tens, and ones. It's been great to see their confidence grow as they tackle these new concepts.

In English, we've been using the beautiful book *The Tin Forest* to spark our imaginations. The children made thoughtful inferences just from the front cover and then used a variety of sentence types to write persuasive messages encouraging others to recycle and reuse. Their ideas were both creative and passionate!

Our history lessons turned us into archaeologists this week! We examined artefacts and made predictions about life during the Stone Age – lots of curious minds at work! In PE, we've had fun with our new coaches, and in Computing, we've been learning about the inputs and outputs of electronic devices.

This week in Mallards...

Mallards have had another fantastic week, continuing to impress their teacher with the work in class. This week they began reading *The Baker by the Sea* by Paula White, the launch lesson was to make some delicious biscuits. The children worked well as a team and supported each other. Thank you to all the children who have read at least three times this week, you are such super readers.



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Dates For Your Diary 2025/2026

Wednesday 18th September – Year 1 Trip to Sudbury Hall (payment and letter available on Arbor)

Thursday 18th September – Year 1 Trip to Sudbury Hall (payment and letter available on Arbor)

Friday 19th September – Jeans for Genes Day (Wear an item of denim to school, we ask for donations of £2, please do not worry if you are unable to give a donation:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/ankervalleyprimary?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Tuesday 23rd September – Year 4 Trip to Staffordshire Wildlife Trust (payment and letter to be shared on Monday)

– SEND Coffee Morning (9:00-10:00am)

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

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

Thursday 2nd October – Year 2 trip to London

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

Friday 10th October – Parents Workshop EYFS Phonics (8:30am)

Friday 10th – Friday 17th October – Scholastic Book Fair

Tuesday 14th October – Parents Evening (4:30pm – 7:00pm)

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

Friday 24th October – Inset Day (School Closed to pupils)

Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October 2025 – Half Term

Monday 10th – Friday 14th November – Antbullying Week

Tuesday 11th November – Odd Socks Day

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

Thursday 13th November – Year 2 Trip to Tamworth Castle

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

Monday 1st – Tuesday 2nd December – Year 3 Residential to Laches Wood

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

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

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

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

Friday 19th December – End of Term Assembly (9:00am)

Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January 2026 – Christmas Holidays

Monday 5th January – Inset Day (School Closed to pupils)

Safeguarding—Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Mrs Maria Hamblin (Executive Head teacher and CEO) CEO@fierte.org

Mrs Andrea Free (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead) afree@fierte.org

Mrs Julia Jones (Safeguarding Lead Governor) office@ankervalley.org

The school Safeguarding Policy is available to view on our school website.



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