

Anker Valley Newsletter Friday 25th September



Celebrating a Strong Start to the Year

We are delighted to share the positive findings from a recent teaching and learning review conducted alongside senior leaders from across our Trust. The review highlighted the many strengths already evident at Anker Valley Primary Academy, despite being only a few weeks into the new academic year.

Trust leaders praised the positive culture across the school, recognising the calm, purposeful learning environments that have been established in every classroom. Children were observed demonstrating excellent attitudes to learning, responding well to clear routines and expectations, and showing pride in their work.

Children across all year groups spoke confidently about their learning, recalling key knowledge from a range of subjects and demonstrating enthusiasm, resilience and a genuine love of learning. The review found pupils to be confident, articulate and respectful members of our school community.

The quality of teaching was also recognised, with staff praised for delivering clear explanations, developing pupils' vocabulary and providing engaging learning experiences. These strengths were evident across the school, including amongst colleagues who are new to the profession or new to the academy.

Our Reception children were also praised for their excellent attitudes to learning and that children benefited from carefully planned learning opportunities that promote curiosity, communication and independence from the very start of their school journey.

The review concluded that the academy has established a strong foundation for the implementation of its Quality First Teaching approach, with consistent expectations, strong pupil engagement, effective staff development and positive classroom culture.

I am incredibly proud of our children and staff. This positive feedback reflects the hard work, dedication and commitment shown every day by everyone in our school community. Thank you to our families for your continued support as we work together to ensure every child thrives at Anker Valley Primary Academy.

Mr Wilkinson

School Uniform Reminder

We believe our school uniform plays an important role in creating a sense of belonging, pride and equality. A consistent uniform helps to ensure fairness for all children, reduces pressure around clothing choices and allows pupils to focus on what matters most: their learning. Our uniform policy has also been carefully designed with affordability in mind, helping to support families while maintaining high standards and a strong school identity.

As part of our commitment to supporting families, we are always grateful for donations of good-quality school uniform items and PE kits that are no longer needed. These items can be given a second life by supporting other families within our school community. Why not have a look at our second-hand uniform rail in Reception? All items cost just 50p each, and every penny raised is reinvested back into the school.

[AVPA Uniform Policy 2026-27](#)

Rock Steady Music Lessons

Music continues to be a valued part of life at Anker Valley Primary Academy, and we are delighted to work in partnership with Rocksteady Music School to provide exciting, inclusive music lessons for our pupils.

Rocksteady gives children the opportunity to learn a musical instrument as part of a real band, developing skills in singing, keyboard, guitar, bass guitar and drums.

One of the most exciting aspects of the programme is the chance for children to perform in regular live concerts, giving them the opportunity to showcase their talents and celebrate their achievements with family and friends.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and commitment shown by our young musicians and look forward to seeing them continue to develop their talents throughout the year.

Music has the power to inspire, motivate and bring people together, and it is wonderful to see so many of our pupils embracing these opportunities and discovering a love of music.

Please see the attached flyer for information on how to book Rocksteady music lessons for your child.

[Rock Steady Flyer](#)

Walk to School

Throughout October, we will be taking part in Walk to School Month, encouraging children and families to choose active travel wherever possible. Whether walking the whole journey, parking a short distance away and walking the final stretch, or travelling by scooter, every step counts.

Taking part in Walk to School Month helps children build healthy habits, improve their physical wellbeing and arrive at school ready to learn. It also provides opportunities to develop independence, road safety awareness and a greater appreciation of the local community. In addition, reducing the number of car journeys to school helps minimise traffic congestion and contributes to a cleaner environment.

We look forward to seeing as many children as possible getting involved and thank families in advance for supporting this important initiative. Please see the attached flyer for further information and details of how your child can take part. Together, we can make a positive difference to the health of our pupils and our community.

[Walk To School Flyer](#)



Smile

On Monday 28th September, our school photographers will be in school to take individual pupil photographs.

If you would like a photograph taken with a sibling who does not currently attend the school, please bring them to the school hall between 8:30am and 9:00am. Sibling photographs will be taken during this time before the start of the school day.

Working Together as a School Community

At Anker Valley Primary Academy, we are proud of the strong partnership we share with our families. By working together, we can provide the very best support for our children and help them to thrive both academically and personally.

We recognise that parents and carers often use social media and messaging platforms to stay connected and share information. We encourage everyone to ensure that information is accurate and to contact the school directly if clarification is needed regarding any school-related matter. Our team is always happy to help and answer any questions you may have.

Open, respectful and positive communication enables us to address queries quickly, celebrate successes and continue fostering a supportive school community where children remain at the heart of everything we do.

Thank you for your continued support, trust and partnership. Together, we can ensure that Anker Valley Primary Academy remains a positive and welcoming environment for all.

Upcoming Events

Our local PCSO will be visiting Year 1 on Monday 12th October to talk to the children about the role of a Police Officer. We are hoping that he will also bring a police vehicle for the children to look at, which should make for an exciting and informative visit.

The PCSO will also be offering a Police Surgery for parents from 3:30pm outside the school office. This will be an opportunity to discuss any local community concerns or ask questions in an informal setting.

Reception Applications 2027 School Tour

Is your child due to start school in September 2027?

We are delighted to invite prospective parents and carers to visit Anker Valley Primary Academy and discover everything our school has to offer. A range of school tours are available, providing the opportunity to explore our learning environment, and see our school community in action.

If you are considering a Reception place for September 2027, we encourage you to book a tour and experience firsthand the warm, nurturing and ambitious environment we provide for all our children.

Please click the Microsoft Forms link below to reserve your preferred tour date and time. We look forward to welcoming you to Anker Valley Primary Academy.

[Reception Applications 2027 School Tour Booking Form](#)

School Governor

We are currently looking to recruit new members to join our dedicated Governing Board. School governors play a vital role in supporting and challenging school leaders to ensure that every child receives the very best education possible. It is a rewarding opportunity to contribute to the strategic direction of the school, support our vision and values, and make a positive difference for our pupils and wider community.

No specific qualifications are required, just a commitment to supporting the school and a willingness to work as part of a team. We welcome interest from parents, professionals and members of the local community who are keen to help shape the future of Anker Valley Primary Academy.

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a school governor, please contact the school office at office@ankervalley.org. We would be delighted to hear from you.