

Anker Valley Newsletter - Thursday 8th October



Celebrating Success at Anker Valley

As we look ahead to Week 6, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance we place on recognising and celebrating the many achievements of our pupils. Whether through demonstrating our school values, showing kindness to others, making progress in their learning or contributing positively to school life, our children consistently give us reasons to be proud. Through our Celebration Assemblies, house point system and daily recognition in classrooms, we aim to ensure that positive contributions are noticed, valued and celebrated.

At Anker Valley Primary Academy, we believe that recognition and praise should encourage children to develop positive learning behaviours, strong character and a sense of belonging within our school community. Throughout the week, children are regularly recognised by staff for their effort, attitude, improvement and positive contribution to school life.

House points are awarded to celebrate pupils who consistently demonstrate our shared values:

Anker Valley Values

- Be Respectful
- Show Kindness
- Be Courteous
- Be Determined
- Show Care

Fierte Trust Values

- We Care
- We Leave No One Behind
- We Celebrate Individuality
- We Are Brave

House points are not awarded simply for compliance or doing what is expected. Instead, they recognise children who go above and beyond in demonstrating these values through their actions, choices and attitudes. This ensures that praise is meaningful, helping children understand the behaviours, attitudes and character traits that contribute to success both in school and beyond.

Each week, house points are totalled and the winning house team is announced and celebrated during our Celebration Assembly. In addition to weekly winners, points accumulate across the half-term, culminating in the announcement of an overall House Champion team.

This approach encourages children to understand that their individual actions contribute to something bigger than themselves. By recognising effort, kindness, determination and positive contributions to our school community, we help pupils take pride in their own achievements while also working collectively towards shared success. Our Celebration Assemblies provide a valuable opportunity to recognise the many ways in which children embody the values that make Anker Valley such a special place to learn and grow.

The partnership between home and school is one of our greatest strengths. Your support with attendance, reading at home, homework and reinforcing positive behaviours helps create the very best conditions for children to thrive.

Mr Wilkinson

School Governors – Closing Date Reminder

A reminder to parents and carers that there is still time to express your interest in becoming a school governor. Governors play an important role in supporting the strategic direction of the school, helping to ensure the very best outcomes for all pupils.

The closing date for expressions of interest/applications is Friday 9th October. We would be delighted to hear from you.

Parents' Evenings

A reminder that our parents' evenings will take place on:

Monday 19th October | 3:40pm - 6:30pm

Tuesday 20th October | 3:40pm - 6:00pm

If you have not yet booked your appointment, please do so via Arbor.

As we approach the end of the first half term of the academic year, Parents' Evening provides an important opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher, reflect on how your child has settled into their new year group and discuss their progress, achievements and next steps for learning.

Appointments will take place face-to-face in your child's classroom. Please enter and exit via the main school entrance, where staff will be available to help direct you to the appropriate classroom.

We strongly encourage all parents and carers to attend. Building positive relationships between home and school is key to ensuring every child has the support, challenge and encouragement they need to flourish. These meetings provide a valuable opportunity to share successes, discuss any questions or concerns and work together to ensure your child has a successful year ahead.

We look forward to welcoming you into school.

Community Police Support Officer Visit

We are pleased to welcome our local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) to school on Monday 12th October, where they will be delivering an engaging workshop for our Year 1 children during the afternoon.

At the end of the school day, from 3:30pm, the PCSO will be positioned outside the school office and will be available to meet with parents and carers. This informal Police Surgery offers an opportunity to discuss any local community concerns, ask questions, and find out more about the support and services available from the local policing team. We encourage families to come along and make use of this valuable opportunity.



Meet Our SENDCo

I would like to introduce myself as Assistant Headteacher and SENDCo (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator). I am passionate about ensuring that every child has the support they need to thrive, both academically and personally.

I believe that the strongest outcomes for children come when school and homework together in partnership, sharing information, celebrating successes, and addressing any concerns at an early stage.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's special educational needs or development, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Parents and carers can arrange to discuss concerns with me by emailing senco@ankervalley.org.

I look forward to working closely with our families to support every child in achieving their full potential.

Mrs Free

Update for Families with an EHCP

Staffordshire County Council will soon be introducing a new 'Children, Young People and Families Portal', replacing the current EHC Hub. The new system will continue to allow parents, carers and professionals to work together to support children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), while keeping information safe, secure and up to date. Existing EHC Hub users will receive further information and instructions about setting up their new account when the portal launches. For more details, please visit the Staffordshire SEND website.

[EHCP Digital changes in Children's services](#)

The Family Hub - Incredible Years Parenting Programme

The Family Hub are now delivering the Incredible Years parenting programme, an evidence-based parenting programme designed to support parents and carers of children aged 3–6 years.

[Incredible Years Flyer](#)

Support for Families of Children with SEND

We are pleased to share information about support available through Caudwell Children for families of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Caudwell Children offer up to two free parent workshops per child each year, covering a range of topics designed to help families better understand and support their child's needs. Most workshops can be accessed without a formal diagnosis, recognising that many families need support while they are still navigating concerns and seeking advice. Sessions are delivered online via Zoom, making them convenient and accessible for busy families.

In addition, Caudwell Children provides charity-funded autism assessments for children aged 4–11 years. Families who meet the eligibility criteria may be able to access a significantly reduced-cost assessment, alongside comprehensive post-assessment support and guidance.

If you feel your child may benefit from additional support, or you would simply like to learn more about SEND, emotional wellbeing, and parenting strategies, we encourage you to explore the resources available.

Further Information:

- Workshops: Please see the link below to view upcoming workshops and book a place.
- Autism Assessment Support for Parents and Carers: Please see the link below for information about eligibility, the referral process and available support.

These services provide an excellent opportunity for families to access expert advice, practical strategies and specialist support close to home. We hope some of our families find them helpful.

[Autism Assessment information for parents: Autism Assessments | Support for Parents and Carers](#)

[Caudwell Children Workshops: Workshops | Caudwell Children](#)

[Caudwell Children | Disabled and Neurodivergent Children's Charity](#)

[Local SEND Support Team – Caudwell Children](#)



Halloween Safety Advice for Families

The Child Accident Prevention Trust has recently shared a range of helpful safety advice for families, including guidance on staying safe during Halloween celebrations. Their tips cover costume fire safety, road safety when trick-or-treating, safe pumpkin carving, choking hazards from sweets, and the dangers of button batteries in light-up decorations and toys.

[How to keep children safe this Halloween](#)