



Anker Valley Newsletter

Friday 28th February 2025

Our First Family Library Session

Many thanks to those who attended our first family assembly session; We received very positive feedback from parents and are happy to be able to provide this time for children to change their library books and read the first part of their new story with parents. We hope that these sessions provide a valuable and enjoyable experience at school with your child, and we hope to see more of you attend our upcoming sessions each Friday before family assembly.



Sensible Footwear

As we now have a wider range of equipment out at lunch time, including scooters and use of the trim trail, it is important that all children have sensible and appropriate footwear in line with the school uniform policy.

Please refrain from sending children into school wearing heeled shoes, ballet pumps and boots as they will be unable to use certain equipment to prevent injury.

Kestrel's Djembe Drum Workshop

Kestrels had the opportunity to take part in a Djembe drumming workshop, which links in with their learning in class about Africa. The children were split into three small groups where they learned about the origins of the drums and how to maintain a rhythm.



World Book Day

We very much look forward to celebrating World Book Day next week on **Thursday 6th March**.

Children are invited to come to school wearing their pyjamas and we would love if they could also bring their favourite book with them to share in class.

Children will take part in World Book Day themed activities during the day. We do hope they have a fantastic day, and that celebrating World Book Day encourages children to read for fun!

Year 3 Bikeability Update

Unfortunately, BikeRight have been unable to secure an instructor for the Year 3 Bikeability session that was due to take place Friday 14th March.

They have offered us a new date of **Friday 9th May** which we hope will go ahead as planned.

If you have not already signed up for the session which is free of charge, you can do so by following the link below:

[BikeRight · Bikeability Level 1](#)

We apologise if this change of date has caused any inconvenience, however, we look forward to Kingfishers further developing their biking skills in May.

Attendance

School attendance this year: 96.5%
Dragonflies (this week): 96.8% (2 lates)
Heron (this week): 97.9% (3 lates)
Kestrels (this week): 94.5% (4 lates)
Kingfishers (this week): 94% (3 lates)



Congratulations to our children in **Heron** 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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Kingfisher's Trip to Lunt Roman Fort – Final Details

Kingfisher's trip to Lunt Roman Fort is taking place Tuesday 4th March. Children should arrive at school at 8:45am and be collected at 3:30pm as usual. Children must wear school uniform, and as we will be outside all day, we ask that they bring a warm, waterproof coat and come wearing sensible trainers which you do not mind getting dirty.

If you did not complete the form requesting the kitchen to provide a packed lunch, you will be required to provide one from home. children who are entitled to free school meals will have one provided by school.

After School Club Update

Clubs are running this half-term until Friday 4th April, and are available on Arbor for you to sign your child up to.

At the time of publishing this newsletter, we currently have spaces in the following clubs:

Wednesday – Kickboxing (SH Active, £18 for six weeks) **11 SPACES**

Thursday – Street Dance Club (SH Active, £18 for six weeks) **16 SPACES**

Thursday – Animal Club (run by Miss Herrick, free to join) **1 SPACE**

Friday – Cheerleading Club (SH Active, £18 for six weeks) **5 SPACES**

All clubs start at 3:30pm and finish at 4:30pm. With the exception of Animal Club, all clubs will be indoor due to the unpredictable weather.

Please note that as soon as clubs are full, you will no longer be able to book on.

Family Library Sessions

We have begun opening up the library each Friday at 8:30am for children whose family assembly it is that day. This will provide parents and children with the opportunity to change their library book together, as well as sit and enjoy sharing part of the story before assembly starts.

The sessions for Spring 2 are as follows:

Fri 7th March & Friday 4th April – Kestrels

Friday 14th March – Herons

Friday 21st March – Dragonflies

Friday 28th March – Kingfishers

We look forward to seeing you there!



Walking Bus

Parent / Carer Information Introduction

Your school is investigating a Walking Bus to increase the number of children walking to school and reducing vehicles from around the school area.

What is the Walking Bus?

A Walking Bus is a fun, safe and active way to travel to and from school. Trained and checked adults, either parent/carers volunteers or school staff, lead the group of children from a meeting point to school. Staffordshire County Council Active School Travel Team will be supporting your school with training, guidance and route planning throughout the setting up process.

Why do we need a Walking Bus?

It is a great way to bring many benefits to the school and you as a parent/carers and to the children walking with the walking bus. There are many benefits, here are just a few.

Helps the environment

Healthier and more alert to start the school day

Road Safety & local area awareness

Social for leaders and the children

Fun & Friendly

Free & saves time

What's involved in becoming a volunteer?

Not all Walking Buses use parent/carers volunteers, however if your school is looking for support to lead it, the benefits of helping are below.

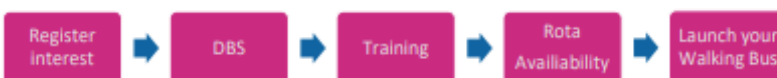
Please speak to your school to find out more.

- Volunteers walk on a rota basis that's suits the individual
- Helping once a week can make a huge difference
- Buses do not need to run daily, they can be set up to suit the needs of volunteers
- DBS checks are free and completed by the school staff
- All training and equipment is provided

Start to make the journey to your school an active and healthier journey that is fun for everyone!

Get active, get moving, get involved.

Next steps



For more information, please contact your school office.

To find out more from Staffordshire County Council Active School Travel Walking Bus scheme www.staffordshire.gov.uk/activeschooltravel or email walking.bus@staffordshire.gov.uk



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What we have been learning in Dragonflies...

Dragonflies have loved exploring Jack and the Beanstalk this week. We have learnt about castles, painted beanstalks on our new easel and planted our own magic beans! In maths, we have been learning about time, and in phonics we have been revisiting our phase three phonemes.



What we have been learning in Herons...

Wow! Herons have had a fabulous week back! It is so lovely to see them all after the break and to see how quickly they have settled back into the school routine. In Maths, we have been focusing on subtraction within 20. The children are becoming more confident with this and we will continue to work on subtracting, to ensure the children become more fluent. In English, we have continued to read and learn skills around the story Beegu. We are now working towards retelling the story using adjectives and the conjunction and. In the wider curriculum, we have experimented with watercolours in Art, drawn our family in RE and learnt how to roll and stop a ball in PE. We are looking forward to our local walk around the estate next week!



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What we have been learning in Kestrels...

It has been a very busy start to the new half term for Kestrels. We have been exploring multiplication further and have discovered that multiplication is commutative, for example $3 \times 4 = 12$ and $4 \times 3 = 12$. In English, we have looked at apostrophes for possession and have begun to plan our ideas for writing our own version of Malala's Magic Pencil. In Science, we have discussed animal offspring and how some animals when they are born do not look like the adult animals, for example, a caterpillar and a butterfly. We discussed how this transformation is called a metamorphosis. In art this week, we explored work by Marelaxarias and Charlie French and discussed our opinions about their pieces of art. We had a Djembe drum workshop on Thursday and started our African cuisine Design and Technology unit of learning by cooking Jollof rice and then sampling it.



What we have been learning in Kingfishers...

We have had a lovely first week back in Kingfishers, we have used drama and music to help us find alternatives for said and to write a character's direct speech in English. In Maths, we have continued with our learning about length and our understanding of what is the perimeter of a shape. In science, we have learnt the scientific names for bones in our skeletons. In our afternoon lessons, we were emperors and the Roman army invading Britannia and artists creating characters out of clay to tell a story.



Kingfisher's Stars of the Week

Well done to our Stars of the Week, **Esme**, for trying really hard in her drawing club sessions, **Hope**, for her reasoning skills in Maths, and **Molly**, for her determination to improve her learning.

Our Readers of the Week are **Eva**, for consistently reading at home, and **Luna**, for her contributions to reading lessons.

Congratulations to our Outstanding Citizens, **Isla Rae**, for always been kind and caring and **Sophie**, for her determination in all lessons.

Rainbow Reads: **Freddie, Hope, Darcie, Ollie, Jayden, Tilly, Molly, Daniel, Nicole and Eva.**



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Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 4th March – Lunt Roman Fort Trip (Y3) (Payments on Arbor)

Thursday 6th March – World Book Day – children are invited to come to school wearing their pyjamas and to bring their favourite book to school

Monday 10th March – Kingfisher’s Rock It Parents session (2:30pm)

Friday 14th March – Year 1 Sewing Workshop (9:30am – 11:00am, parents are invited to take part in this workshop

Friday 14th March – Year 1 Tour of Tamworth (PM, using the Trust minibus)

Friday 28th March – Non-uniform day – donations of Easter eggs and themed goods.

Wednesday 2nd April – Year 3 trip to St Editha’s Church

Monday 7th April – Kestrel’s Rock It Parents session (2:30pm)

Thursday 10th April – Easter Disco (4:30-6:00pm)

Friday 11th April – End of Term Assembly incl. Easter Bonnet Parade and Easter Egg Hunt

Monday 14th April – Friday 25th April – Easter Holiday

Thursday 1st May – INSET Day (School closed to pupils)

Tuesday 6th May – Tempest Class Photographs

Friday 9th May – **Year 3 Level 1 Bikeability**

Wednesday 14th May – Year 2 trip to Llandudno

Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May – Whitsun Holiday

Monday 9th June - Heron’s Rock It Parents session (2:30pm)

Monday 9th June – Friday 13th June – Y1 Phonics Screening Week

Monday 9th June – Diabetes Awareness Week (Wear blue to school)

Thursday 12th June – Year 3 Trip to Cadbury World

Friday 20th June – Sport’s Day (1:30pm)

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

Tuesday 1st July – Year 2 Trip to East Midlands Airport

Saturday 5th July – Summer Fair (12pm – 2pm)

Monday 7th July – Friday 11th July – Fierte Festival Week

Friday 18th July – End of Term Family Picnic, Family Games and Celebration Assembly (12:30pm – 3:30pm)

Spring 2 Family Assemblies

Fri 7th Mar – Kestrels

Fri 14th Mar – Herons

Fri 21st Mar – Dragonflies

Fri 28th Mar – Kingfishers

Fri 4th Apr – Kestrels

Fri 11th Apr – End of Term Assembly and Easter Bonnet Parade

Easter Bonnet Parade

On Friday 11th April, we invite one parent per child to join us for our End of Term assembly, followed by an Easter egg hunt and Easter bonnet parade! Children will have the opportunity to parade their fantastic Easter bonnets in the school hall., and three winners will be announced who will receive a prize for their creativity and hard work.

We hope that you enjoy this activity with your child, and we look forward to seeing what you can create!



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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