



Diocese of Norwich
Education and
Academies Trust

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Anne Neary

Web: www.narvalleyfederation.co.uk

Friday 16th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

We are now over a week into the first term of the academic year and we have settled back into the routines of school. Last week was all about getting to know each other again, re-establishing relationships and forming new ones. This week has been about our learning, finding out what we can remember from before and starting new topics and learning new things. Oak Class have been discovering the human body (the digestive system particularly) and completed their experiment on teeth. Whitebeam have been learning all about light and the differences between natural and man-made light sources. Rowan Class learned lots of different skills in PE and the Reception children had their first full day in school yesterday. It would be fair to say some of them are looking quite tired after a week of school. A big well done to them as it is a huge step starting school and they have done so well.

We are beginning to put lots of dates in the diary for not just this term but the forthcoming academic year including church services, parent/carer class and whole school cafes as well as a range of other events. Please keep an eye on the date sheet that accompanies the newsletter.

Looking forward to this coming week we have swimming for Oak Class on Thursday morning. We will also be closed for the bank holiday on Monday (19th) to observe the Queen's State Funeral. To echo the messages that Mrs Neary has sent out previously, the death of the Queen will affect all of us in different ways. If you or your child is affected in any way and you feel you would like more support, then please do come and talk to us. We are always here to listen and to support.

Looking further ahead we have our Harvest Festival on Friday 30th September at 9:15am. We are hoping that this will be able to take place in church but they are currently undergoing some redecoration work. We will keep you informed if we have to move this event into the school. In the run up to the Harvest Festival, we will as usual be collecting tinned and packet foods which are donated by the church to charitable groups such as The Salvation Army.

Attendance since beginning of term

Oak Class - 93.31%

Whitebeam Class – 96.83%

Rowan Class – 91.9%

CONGRATULATIONS WHITEBEAM CLASS!!

Whole School Attendance – 93.7%

We are working hard this year to ensure that we reach the best attendance we can. As Mrs Neary stated in last week's newsletter, strong attendance (96% and over) is so important for ensuring that your children learn and achieve well. 95% - considered satisfactory attendance by the Government and Ofsted as well as us - means not missing any more than ten school days over the whole year.

News from our Classes

Rowan

Mathematician of the Week – Florence for super independent counting during carpet time.

Reader of the Week – Tia for sharing her reading for pleasure.

Writer of the Week - Sybil for her wonderful writing about the Good Samaritan.

Shining Light - Bobbi for showing initiative in tidying up the classroom.

This week in Rowan Class we have had a wonderful time all settling in with our new classmates and have spent some time getting to know each other. We have learned about our school values and have participated in lots of fun activities, such as; painting self-portraits, creating an Autumn tree painting and getting changed at school for the first time to do PE!

Whitebeam

Mathematician of the Week – Elarni for her practical work with place value.

Reader of the Week – Carter for reading our science vocabulary.

Writer of the Week - Rowan for good ideas and neat presentation for writing.

Shining Light of the Week – Holly for demonstrating all our values.

We have had a very busy week in Whitebeam as we have introduced many new topics. We have thought about light sources and our need for light in Science and also in RE as we have thought about the importance of light in different religions. In maths we are working on place value and the children have been working practically with a variety of apparatus to demonstrate their understanding of this. As part of their outdoor learning they have made observational drawings of flowers we are growing including beautiful sunflowers, along with carrots and sweetcorn. In English we are learning about information texts and have looked at how adjectives differ in non-fiction texts. In Geography we have started to look at continents and they have located these on a map of the world. Well done Whitebeam.

Oak

Mathematician of the Week – Erin for answering questions with superb accuracy during our place value work during class discussion.

Reader of the Week – Freya for consistent reading at home.

Writer of the Week - Jess for her excellent summary of one of the key parts of our new text.

Shining Light – Izzy for showing incredible courage as a new starter this term and for always working hard in every lesson, taking obvious pride in her work with each and every task.

Oak class have been learning about the sequence of the digestive system and sharing fun facts with each other. We have also been learning about our teeth and how we can look after them, conducting experiments with different liquids to discover which are most harmful to our teeth. In maths, we are learning about place value and have been making great progress with exploring how to represent large numbers. In English, we are enjoying delving into our new narrative text, Clockwork, by Philip Pullman. The children have made excellent progress with learning new vocabulary and summarising the first key part of the story. In geography, we have been learning to identify the countries of Europe.

Message from Executive Headteacher

Although the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second has impacted on many of us this week, it has also made us proud of our children and their reflections and prayers, and the way they have recognised our school values in a life of leadership. Just a reminder that our schools, along with schools nationally, will be closed on Monday for the funeral but open again as normal on Tuesday.

There have also been many lovely moments this week, with our new Reception children settling in fast, our excellent staff helping our children to hit the ground running with their learning and time to chat to families we haven't seen over the Summer.

Our School Councilors, Eco Council members and Head Pupils have been voted for or interviewed this week and it is wonderful to see how many children wanted to do this and to listen to their well thought out speeches.

Well done everyone!

Ofsted update; our OFSTED report is with us but sharing and publication has been embargoed until after the national mourning period for Queen Elizabeth. As soon as we can share it we will!

There is some exciting learning coming up across the year, with our oldest children learning to play the trombone in music (one term of this tuition for each school), classes going swimming and our children visiting the theatre for various activities. We are also planning to be outside learning as much as possible. We're looking forward to seeing you at this half-term's Parents/Carers' Cafes (dates of all events on the dates sheet) and our Harvest Festival Church service. Please also watch out for AGMS for our Friends groups (Parents/Carers' fundraising groups for each school). Everyone is welcome!

Safeguarding Support;

Mental Health is a huge priority for many people at the moment. If you are worried about your child's mental health, or would just like more information, then the below charity have plenty on their website and also have a free helpline for Parents/Carers.

Young Minds – Support for Parents/Carers with worries about their children's mental health
Parents' Helpline: You can call us for free on 0808 802 5544 from 9:30am - 4pm, Monday - Friday.
<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/>

Weekly Reflection

It is very apt that our value for this half term is courage. Whether a member of staff or a pupil, or a parent or carer and whether you are a long standing member of the community or a new starter, returning to school can be daunting. It can require a lot of courage to walk back through the doors, or indeed set foot in them for the very first time. But with courage comes strength and with strength comes courage and over time it all becomes just that little bit easier. It is of course a little easier when we all work together to give each other strength and in turn courage – we can be just that bit braver when we have someone by our side. I have been struck by the courage of our young people over the past week in returning to school but equally struck by the courage that they have given each other. That encouraging smile when someone has wobbled or a supportive hand from a trusted friend when the tears have begun have enabled everyone to walk through the door and believe they can give it a go. And any of us who have watched the sad events of the Royal Family this last week will know that this a value that is required through our whole lives as we have seen courage displayed by people of all ages, young and old.

Weekly Prayer

Dear God,

Please give me strength when I am weak, courage when I am afraid, wisdom when I feel foolish, comfort when I am alone, hope when I feel rejected, and peace when I am in turmoil. Amen

Thank you as always for your support. Emma Spaul and Anne Neary



Head of School
Castle Acre CE Primary Academy



Executive Head Teacher
The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies
Castle Acre, Narborough and Sporle

Allergy Aware Schools – Please do not send nuts into Nar Valley Federation Academies