



Diocese of Norwich  
Education and  
Academies Trust

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## The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Anne Neary

Web: [www.narvalleyfederation.co.uk](http://www.narvalleyfederation.co.uk)

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents,

The weather has definitely turned and there is no doubt we are into autumn; there is a definite chill in the air! Jumpers and sweatshirts are making a reappearance as are tights and shorts are being swapped for trousers. The field is definitely dewy and damp so please make sure that your child has wellies with them so they can go on the field at break times and lunchtimes.

We have had another busy week – the first full week for our Reception children. I think they are feeling it as we have some very tired and weary faces but they are doing so incredibly well and it is like they have always been here. I have enjoyed listening to them joining in with some songs and doing some excellent counting together. The Year 1s have definitely taken on the role of ‘supervisors’ and do take good care of their younger members! I have watched them help them get changed from PE, ensure wellies are on the right feet and take them by the hand to the field.

Whitebeam class have been doing some great geographical work. I have been incredibly impressed with their knowledge of Egypt and the surrounding countries – even when a fly walked across the interactive whiteboard and started to bring up various menus!

Oak class have had a very exciting week with starting their music lessons and learning the trombone (they will be using plastic training ones). They also had their first swimming lesson of the year this week, which was a success and everyone enjoyed it. I have also seen some superb writing about Glockenheim with great use of descriptive vocabulary.

We were very pleased that 4 members of our Year 6 cohort put themselves forward for Head Pupil. They all prepared a speech and endured a rather intensive interview by myself and Mrs Neary. We were both incredibly impressed with their delivery of their speeches and the answers they gave to the questions and believe me some of the questions required a great deal of thought! It was a very hard decision but after a great deal of deliberation we are pleased to announce that our Head Pupils for 2022-23 will be Sammy and Ella and they will be very ably supported by the Deputy Head Pupils Maddie and Erin. Mrs Neary and I both agreed that as a team they will be excellent as they all have something different to bring but very importantly they uphold our values and are excellent role-models.

We have a few dates coming up. Looking forward to next week, we have Oak Class swimming on Thursday morning again and our Harvest Festival in church at 9:15am. We will aim to bring the children up as soon as we can but you are welcome to come up as soon as you have dropped your child off. Myself and Mrs Neary will be in church from just before 9:00am. 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.

As you will know from the posters up around school that was also sent out at the beginning of term, we have the Friends of Castle Acre AGM on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 7:00pm in the school hall. Please do come along. The Friends do a wonderful job of helping to host a range of events throughout the year to raise money for the school. In the past this has bought equipment for outside, additional classroom resources, books for the library, as well as funded coaches for trips and much more. However, they cannot do it without the help of willing volunteers. There are very few meetings and you do not have to attend every one nor do you have to attend or help out at every event. Even if you can just help out at 1 event a year, that makes a huge difference. They are often in school time or immediately after school. Very occasionally they are a bit later into the evening. So do come along, share some ideas, see how you can get involved and get to know members of our school family at the same time! We look forward to seeing you there!

A little further into the future we have our class Reading Cafes. Come and join your child in class, have some refreshments and take part in some reading activities.

Rowan Class – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 9:00 – 10:00am

Whitebeam Class – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Oak Class - Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 9:00 – 10:00am

Please see the attached dates sheet for further dates.

### **Attendance since beginning of term**

Oak Class – 94.31%

Whitebeam Class – 97.62%

Rowan Class – 93.33%

CONGRATULATIONS WHITEBEAM CLASS!!

Whole School Attendance – 94.78%

We are working hard this year to ensure that we reach the best attendance we can. 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.

### **Donations Request to Develop Forest School Area**

We are going to be working on developing a forest school area for all children to enjoy. If you have any of the following items to spare, please could you contact the office or Miss George to arrange bringing them in to support with this? It would be very much appreciated! Items needed are:

Log stumps, planks of wood, metal ware for a mud kitchen, ropes, tarpaulin, milk crates, cable reels and other recyclable materials.

### **News from our Classes**

#### **Rowan**

**Mathematician of the Week** – Ella (Reception pupil), for counting accurately to thirty and choosing to complete a Year 1 maths task.

**Writer of the Week** - Oliver P for choosing to write independently and showing initiative in asking adults for help with sounds.

**Shining Light of the Week** - Willow for being so helpful in the classroom this week with the reception children.

This week in Rowan we have enjoyed learning how to sort objects and count them in maths. We have also been finding out a lot more about each other whilst sharing our 'All About Me' boxes. It has been lovely to get to know each other more! We have also begun practicing our harvest festival song, which we cannot wait to perform!

## **Whitebeam**

**Mathematician of the Week** – Alexander for quickly spotting patterns in his place value counter challenge!

**Reader of the Week** – Fletcher for super reading in class.

**Writer of the Week** - Freddie for trying really hard with his writing and thinking about the presentation of his work.

**Shining Light of the Week** – Olivia for always demonstrating our values.

**Children's Worship** - Erin, Finley, Alexander and Tia.

In Whitebeam Class this week the children have explored and sorted natural and artificial sources of light. In Geography and English the children have been learning about Egypt and have written some super sentences including adjectives, prepositions and conjunctions! The children have risen to the challenge of problem solving involving place value in maths and they have thought about Harvest. Next week we will be looking at the art work of Henri Matisse and we will write our information texts about Egypt.

## **Oak**

**Mathematician of the Week** – Ruby for showing excellent perseverance with our rounding numbers work.

Ruby doesn't always find our maths tasks easy but she always asks for help and will work hard to work through problems to the best of her ability.

**Reader of the Week** – Rory for always being ready to read and reading enthusiastically every day.

**Writer of the Week** - Roxanne for suggesting some brilliant ideas for her setting description and working hard to refine those ideas.

**Shining Light of the Week** – Finley for always making excellent choices both inside and outside of the classroom. Finley is always polite and respectful in his dealings with others and he always gives every task his full focus, even when he finds things difficult.

In Oak class we have enjoyed our first swimming lesson at Dereham Leisure Centre this week. All children behaved well and many children showed exceptional bravery in trying the different exercises in the water. In English, we have continued our work on our narrative text, Clockwork, and children have been exploring their setting descriptions and beginning to plan a diary entry from the perspective of one of the characters. In maths, we have continued to develop our confidence with rounding large numbers and exploring different concepts within place value. We have also been writing poetry ready for our Harvest Assembly next week and we look forward to being able to share some of those with the rest of our community.

## **Message from Executive Headteacher**

This week I have enjoyed carrying out Learning Walks across the Federation and seeing how focused and happy our children are. Their superb learning behaviours are also really evident. Well done to all our Reception children who are a pleasure to get to know. I'm nearly there with all their names and they've been good at telling me which sound their name starts with if I need help!

I am also really pleased that we're being able to offer lots more after school clubs this year, with a lovely range of crafty, sporty and learning clubs. Thank you very, very much to everyone who has volunteered, we appreciate it so much. If there is anyone else who would like to, please do let us know.

Well done also to those families who have improved their children's attendance this year so far - it is SO critical to help their learning that they are here all the time and don't develop gaps that then hold them up later on. Our curriculum is carefully designed to build knowledge on knowledge, skill on skill and missing parts really does disadvantage them in all sorts of ways. Your child should be in school 96% of the time or more so please do keep this in mind.

We're here to talk if you need anything.

Thank you as always for your support and partnership,

### ***Weekly Reflection***

Courage is in abundance this week, especially amongst Oak class as they had their first swimming lesson of the year. Whilst many of our young people can swim there are some that can't and as we get older we seem to develop more fear. However, after some initial worries and wobbles, the children were able to be courageous and overcome their fears. Some took a little longer than others but they did all get there. Well done for finding that inner strength and having a go.

### Prayer

Dear God,

Help us to be brave when we are feeling worried. Help us to find courage to try new things.

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