



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 21st October 2022

Dear Parents,

We have completed our first half term of the academic year. Our Year 6s are fully fledged Year 6s, displaying a great sense of responsibility in their learning and being good role models for the rest of the school. I do think we may have some budding teachers! Our Reception children, the youngest and newest members of our school community, are a little bit taller, much more confident and are embarking on learning lots of new skills. All our other children have got used to the rules, routines and expectations of their next year group up and, in some cases, their new class.

I am slightly reluctant to say this but on our return, we will be thinking about the countdown to Christmas. Although we won't be mentioning anything to the children we have already started to think about productions and services! With this comes the colder weather. Please make sure that your child brings in with them appropriate clothing including a jumper, winter coat, hat, scarves and gloves and wellies. Can we ask that all items are named because one pair of pink sparkly gloves can look very much like another and you wouldn't believe the upset that this can cause when they get muddled up!

Looking forward to the week after half term, we have Parent/Carer Consultations on Tuesday and Wednesday after school. If you haven't booked your appointment yet, then please make sure you do.

I would also like to draw your attention to Remembrance Day, Friday 11th November. We will be assembling around the war memorial for the silence at 11 and afterwards will be inviting families and members of the village community back to school for refreshments.

Please see the attached dates sheet for further dates.

Winning Team – Congratulations to Britannia Team

Britannia were the winning team, with the most team points this half-term. Therefore, they can come into school in non-uniform in their house team colour of blue on the first day back after half term, Monday 31st October.

It was very close with	Beagle	79 team points
	Castorama	125 team points
	Endurance	146 team points
	Britannia	158 team points.

As you can see, it is so close that anybody could win next half term. Keep up the good work and keep earning team points.

Attendance since beginning of term

Oak Class – 93.95%

Whitebeam Class – 95.86%

Rowan Class – 90.91%

CONGRATULATIONS WHITEBEAM CLASS!!

Whole School Attendance – 93.39%

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.

See below for an exciting competition related to Forest Schools!

Clubs

We are looking to get some more after school clubs up and running with the aim of offering one every day of the week. If you, or someone you know, feel able to offer some time and help run a club then please come and see us. It could be anything – craft, outdoor learning, games – the options are endless!

Drop off and Pick Up

Just a polite reminder – please can you make sure you park carefully at drop off and pick up. Our bus driver has had a few occasions where he has not been able to park or turn. In the mornings particularly, please leave the bus bay clear. Thank you in advance for your co-operation with this matter.

News from our Classes

Rowan

Mathematician of the Week – Florence for her excellent dice game that she invented - super creative with maths!

Reader of the Week – Bobbi for his fantastic efforts in retelling the story of Little Red Riding Hood with actions.

Writer of the Week – Isla P for showing lots of concentration in her letter formation in phonics this week.

Shining Lights of the Week – Willow for consistently demonstrating the school values and growing in confidence to have her first school photo!

I can't believe that we have completed our first half term! The time has flown by in Rowan class. The children have all settled in so well and Miss Everett, Miss Watkins and I couldn't be more proud of the children for how far they have all come in such a short period of time. This week the children had a fun start to the week with some harvest/pumpkin related challenges and learning! Firstly, they developed their fine and gross motor skills by hammering golf tees into the pumpkins using miniature wooden hammers and then they developed their skills in safely using cooking equipment by preparing vegetables to make pumpkin soup! In science, we looked a little deeper into learning about the seasons and also learned that each season has three months in it. In English, we have focused on Little Red Riding Hood and had a fantastic time creating actions to go along with our amazing re-telling which has been uploaded onto class dojo. I hope everyone in Rowan class has a wonderful half term and well-deserved rest!

Whitebeam

Mathematician of the Week – Logan for using appropriate apparatus to help him when working in maths.

Reader of the Week – Olivia for increased fluency when reading.

Writer of the Week – Rowan for super sentences including an adjective, verb, noun and adverb

Shining Light of the Week – Elarni for showing responsibility in her learning and always showing respect and kindness.

Children's Worship - Lola, Oscar, Joshua, Pearl

Well done Whitebeam, you have made it to the end of a very long half term. There has been some super learning happening since we came back to school in September. This week I have been very impressed with all the reasons you remembered for how important the river Nile is in Egypt. You have been archaeologists like Howard Carter and have used candle light (not real!) to explore the tomb of Tutankhamun and in art you have explored collage work like Matisse and used a photo of your profile and collage to transform yourself into an Egyptian pharaoh. In maths we have been working on exchanging when adding and in English we have been looking at diary extracts as we prepare to write our own. The Y3 children represented the school really well on Tuesday as they took part in the cross country run and the Y2 children have demonstrated some great team work and partner work.

Oak

Mathematician of the Week – Nataniel for his confident and helpful contribution to class discussion.

Reader of the Week – Elliot for the enthusiasm and hard work he has put into his reading this week and his Harry Potter task from today.

Writer of the Week - Izzy for her perseverance with her suspense writing.

Shining Light of the Week – to the whole of Oak class for their exceptional performance and behaviour at the cross country running event this week.

In Oak class we have successfully completed all of our assessment papers now for reading, writing and maths. The children all behaved exceptionally, despite the quantity of assessment and, for some, the challenging nature of the questions. We have enjoyed a very sporty week in Oak class with a fantastic day at the cross country event on Tuesday, as well as our usual swimming lesson on Thursday and our dodgeball/tag rugby and tennis coaching on Wednesday afternoon. All children have engaged so well with these opportunities and it was really pleasing to see so many Oak names featuring on the top performers lists for the cross country running. On Wednesday we spent our morning taking part in activities relating to RSHE and the children, again, engaged both enthusiastically and maturely with the topics we explored. We explored the concept of feelings and how we can use empathy when considering the feelings of others. We would like to wish all of our children a happy and restful half term break.

Message from Executive Headteacher

Winter respiratory infections

We are asked to ensure that we are doing the following:

Encouraging all staff and pupils who are poorly with symptoms of respiratory infection to not attend the setting

Ensuring that there is adequate ventilation in occupied spaces

Reinforcing good hand and respiratory hygiene practices

Ensuring that cleaning and disinfection arrangements are being followed

Ensuring that all eligible groups are enabled and supported to take up the offer of National immunisation programmes including COVID and flu.

Safeguarding

If you are worried at all about a child for any reason over half-term, the NSPCC helpline is open Monday to Friday 8am – 10pm and 9am – 6pm at the weekend. The number is 0808 800 500. You can ring for advice.

Half-term competition

Don't forget our half-termly competition for all the children; a template entry form is attached to this newsletter. The closing date is 1st November and we look forward to all the entries!

Thank you for your support for our school activities this half-term; please have a lovely half-term and we wish you all some good quality family time.

Finally, as we are a Church school we do not celebrate Halloween. However, I am sure that many of you will be doing something on the 31st. If you are going trick or treating, we want you to stay safe so have attached a guide from the BBC.

Prayer (by Jess and Pearl)

Dear God

You are my help and comfort

You shelter and surround me in love

So tender that I may know your presence is with me now and always

Amen

Thank you as always for your support and remember our door is always open if you need anything, have a query or even an idea.

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