



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 4th November 2022

Dear Parents,

We hope you had a good week last week. It was unseasonably warm so days walking along the beach would have been a little less fresh and expeditions across pumpkin fields a little less muddy! However, it is clear from yesterday that any hope of that continuing is now long gone and we are clearly into the end of autumn/beginning of winter. Please do remember to send your child in with appropriate clothing – a warm, waterproof coat, gloves, scarf and hat and wellies too. We aim to send the children out unless it is pouring with rain or waist deep in snow! We like to make use of field for as long as possible but during the winter months and wet weather the children must wear wellies to save the corridor looking like an extension of the field! From chatting to many of you, the half term holiday felt a long time coming and everyone was ready for a break. It has done the trick and the children have returned with renewed enthusiasm and zest for learning. I have been handing out team points like never before for super work. I have even had to hand out a 10 team token and have had to restock one of my token pots!

The Friends' Autumn Quiz and Supper was a great success, with lots of teams taking part in a fun evening of quizzing. A lovely supper was provided by a previous Chair of the Friends, Charlie Williams. Many thanks to Libby and Charlie for all their hard work including doing a wonderful job of decorating the hall for the event. Thanks to everyone who donated raffle prizes and to our quizmaster, Simon, proprietor of Wittles (our local café). We are delighted to announce that this event raised £492 for The Friends, which is fantastic!

We have a very busy half term coming up so keep a close eye on the date sheet as things get added. We will send out notifications of anything extra too. Looking forward to next week, we have the Remembrance Service around the War Memorial on Friday 11th November. We will assemble at 10:50 for the silence at 11 and afterwards will be inviting families and members of the village community who have joined us at the memorial back to school for refreshments.

Church Service Sunday

St James' church will be holding their Remembrance Service on Sunday 13th November at 10.50am. All families are invited to attend.

Christmas

Now it is November, I feel safe in mentioning Christmas. This year, Rowan and Whitebeam class will be putting on their version of the Nativity in school and Oak Class will be leading the Christmas service in Church. We will also be singing carols around the tree again and the Friends are hosting a Christmas Fayre. The dates for these are:

Carols around the Tree – Friday 2nd December 2:30pm

Friends Christmas Fayre – Saturday 3rd December 10-12 pm (if you can lend a hand, it would be much appreciated so please see Libby Firth)

Rowan and Whitebeam Nativity – Monday 12th December 2pm & Tuesday 13th December 6pm (children to arrive at 5:30pm)

Christmas Service – Friday 16th December 1:45pm (in St James' Church)

Please see the attached dates sheet for further dates.

Attendance this week/since beginning of term

Well done everyone. There have been a couple of days of 100% attendance across the whole school – great job!

Oak Class – 98.67% / 94.27%

Whitebeam Class – 100% / 96.36%

Rowan Class – 99.14% / 93.47%

Whole School – 99.18% / 94.49%

CONGRATULATIONS WHITEBEAM CLASS with 100% attendance this week!

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.

Out of School Success

Over half term Ella from Oak Class took part in a gymnastics competition. She did amazingly well and achieved 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th places. Well done!

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 – Etta, for her fantastic use of ordinal numbers in our learning!

Reader of the Week – Sybil, for showing enthusiasm in her reading and challenging herself to explain the meaning of words.

Writer of the Week – Toby, for his wonderful independent writing, well done!

Shining Lights of the Week – Brianna, for beginning to grow her confidence in approaching challenges on her own and giving things a try, well done!

What a busy first week back in Rowan class! This week we have started to read 'The Jolly Postman' in English to help us learn about letters and postcards. We are going to write our very own postcard next week! Some children have been writing their own letters independently in our class post office which has been lovely. In maths, we looked at ordinal numbers such as: first, second, third etc, which can be super tricky, but we spotted patterns in the numbers to help us. As it is bonfire night on Saturday night, we celebrated early by sitting around a 'bonfire' in the classroom. We drank hot chocolate, ate marshmallows and sang lots of songs together, it was a lovely morning. In PE, we have started athletics and are becoming quite the athletes ourselves, practicing high knees, heel flicks and awareness of those around us. Finally, in history, we have learned about Guy Fawkes and how we remember what he did at this time of year.

Whitebeam

Mathematician of the Week – Holly for achieving her Tackling Tables certificate.

Reader of the Week – Fletcher for his super reading this week.

Writer of the Week – Olivia for her retelling of Rama and Sita.

Shining Light of the Week – Tyler for showing respect and responsibility by valuing and looking after the resources in the class.

This week in Whitebeam the children have been busy imagining they are Howard Carter in English and have thought about how he has felt as he unearthed the tomb of Tutankhamun. They have been using adjectives, descriptive phrases, adverbs and different sentence openers. In maths they have used number lines to help when subtracting and have been solving pyramid maths problems! Their imaginations along with a time machine in writing have taken them on adventures either forward or back in time and they have started passing a ball in different ways in PE. In science they have carried out different investigations using mirrors and explored how shadows are made. Today they have had a very busy morning engaging in different creative activities during our school RE morning and we have read Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments and thought about where they come in the chronology of the Bible. Well done Whitebeam.

Oak

Mathematician of the Week – Lola for persevering with some tricky multiplication problems and attempting the greater depth activities with enthusiasm.

Reader of the Week – Elena for offering some insightful ideas and predicting what might have happened to one of the characters in our story.

Writer of the Week - Rory for taking on board feedback and starting to write as a reader.

Shining Light of the Week – Ellie-Mai for returning to school after half term with a really enthusiastic approach. Despite an intense few days completing the assessments that she missed before half term, Ellie-Mai has worked cheerfully and conscientiously at all times.

Oak class have returned after the half term break with wonderful attitudes to learning. The children have engaged fantastically with all of the tasks they have been set this week. This week in our history learning, Oak class have begun to discuss four different early civilisations and how their location was on a similar line of latitude. In the coming weeks, we will compare and contrast these civilisations. In our R.E learning we have discussed how Christian and other organisations can support those in need. We enjoyed a whole-school RE morning on Friday where we looked at a variety of stories from the Bible and used our creativity skills in terms of art and drama to prepare our own interpretations. In maths we have started to look at the topic of multiplication and division and we have been practising using mental strategies to multiply numbers. In English we have written up our final drafts of our suspense stories and have been exploring how we use fronted adverbials to improve our writing. Please do encourage your children to share with you our fronted adverbial song! I am sure they would love to perform it at any given opportunity!

Message from Executive Headteacher

Half-term Competitions

A huge well done to all the children who entered our competition to design our new Forest school area. The entries were judged by myself and Mr Bruce Gordon, our Chair of Governors and there were some superb ideas, all of which are going to be considered. Our winners were as follows: Leo, Finn, Holly, Freya, Joshua and Ella P, and they will join myself and some special guests to be our Design Team. Well done children, we look forward to the results!

NSPCC Roblox Guidance

As you may remember from before half-term, our survey of our pupils indicated that many of them found difficulties with online content, and quite a few children, particularly younger ones, mentioned Roblox. This article might therefore be of use:

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/roblox/?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Is%20Roblox%20safe%20for%20my%20child%3F&utm_campaign=20221031_KIS_CASPAR_October31

Parents' Evenings

It was lovely to see everyone at these and I hope everyone felt proud of how hard their children are working and their super learning. Thank you for your support with your children's learning - those few minutes each day reading, on Spelling Frame and on Tackling Tables really do help your children succeed.

Cross Country Championships

A huge well done to all our children who performed so well at the Cross-Country before half-term. They really lived our values, and showed courage, respect and support for one another. We were so proud of everyone's efforts. A particular congratulations to the following children who made it through to the next round: Lola, Erin, Pearl, Holly, Isla T, Rory and Sammy.

Prayer - by Isla and Lola

Dear God

Thank you for creativity and your kindness for making the whole universe

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