



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 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Parents,

We have had a week of thought and reflection, starting with our Remembrance service on Friday. We were proud to be able to join members of the village community around the war memorial for a time of thanks, prayer and remembering. We began our silence with the playing of the Last Post and the respectful lowering of the British Legion flag and ended with the Reveille and raising of the flag. The children then laid their pilgrimage stones around the war memorial and Sammy and Ella (our Head Pupils) laid a sign and a posy of Poppies. Afterwards we invited families and members of the community back to school of refreshments. It was lovely to see those of you who joined us. On Sunday, Ella and Maddie read out names of people who served and died in active service. It was lovely to receive a letter from the Royal British Legion to say how well they had read.

We have been carrying out pupil voice this week and here is some of their feedback.

*Everything about this school is good – what we learn and what we do.*

*I like that our school is very peaceful and small and we have Child of the Day and staff are very helpful*

*It hasps us to learn and it helps people*

It would be even better if...

*We have a slide*

*We have a trampoline*

*We have a compost bin*

### **Children in Need**

As you may be aware, Children in Need should have been today. This coincided with our school Open Day for September 2023 starters. Therefore, we have decided to postpone our awareness day until next Friday, the 25<sup>th</sup> November. We invite all children to wear something spotty (as much or as little as you like) and give any donation you feel able to.

### **Eco- Council**

Eco-Council are working hard to transform the school into being even more eco-friendly as we are fortunate to be in an eco-friendly building. They have been busy brainstorming, and have reinstated collecting crisp packets as their first action. The children are passionate that we Terracycle these items and have decided to keep a tally so we can be aware of our impact on the planet. So far we have prevented 76 packets (and counting!) going to landfill which is a great start!

The children would really like to get 2 large compost bins so we can compost all our fruit waste from snack and lunch time, so if anyone has any they no longer want or need, they would be greatly appreciated. They were

also very eager to have some litter pickers, so again, if anyone has a spare litter picker or two that are no longer needed, the Eco Council team would be very happy! If you would like to bring crisp packets from home into school, we can facilitate these being Terracycled too!

### **Upcoming Dates**

Please see the attached sheet.

### **Parent/Carer Forum**

We will be holding our parent/carers forum on November 24<sup>th</sup> 3:30 -4:30 and then 6:00 – 7:00. We look forward to having a chat with you over a cuppa.

### **Christmas Dates**

Carols around the Tree – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2:30pm

Friends Christmas Fayre – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 10-12 pm

Reception/KS1 Theatre trip – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December

KS2 Theatre trip – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Jumper day and Christmas Lunch – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December

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

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

### **Friends Christmas Fayre**

The Friends of Castle Acre School Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 10-12 pm. The children will be busy making decorations to sell and will be preparing some games to play. If you can lend a hand, it would be much appreciated so please come to the school office or see Libby Firth. If you would like to give a donation for prizes e.g. bottles, smellies, toys/games then please leave them in the box outside school.

### **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 – 95.86% / 94.86%

Whitebeam Class – 79.23% / 94.31%

Rowan Class – 84.74% / 92.64%

Whole School – 88.85% / 94.07%

**CONGRATULATIONS OAK CLASS 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.

### **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** – Oliver P for his excellent ability to find 'fact families' using the part whole model.

**Reader of the Week** – Toby R for his superb work in phonics this week.

**Writer of the Week** – Isla B for applying her phonics knowledge in morning work and for improving her attitude to learning, well done!

**Shining Lights of the Week (Reception)** – Skyla for always demonstrating the class promises and showing respect for her learning environment.

**Shining Lights of the Week (Year 1)** - Sybil for putting so much effort into practicing our christmas songs.

Rowan class have well and truly started getting into the Christmas spirit this week by beginning to practice songs for their Christmas performance. They have already learned so many lyrics and actions and Miss Everett, Miss Watkins and I are incredibly proud and cannot wait to see them perform in a few weeks' time! In geography this week we looked at the seven continents and discovered that the UK is in Europe! As our topic is focused on India, we found it on the map and discovered that it is in Asia. In DT, we carried out some research on the computer to find pictures of Diya lamps as we will soon be designing and making our very own out of clay!

### Whitebeam

As Whitebeam class are on their trip today, we are saving their certificates until next week.

In Whitebeam this week we have been looking at what needs to be included when writing a biography and we have put facts about Howard Carter into chronological order and have started to identify time openers (fronted adverbials). The children have explored handling clay in art and using different techniques and they have made a small sculpture. We need to work on how to securely join pieces of clay together though! In maths we continue to look at addition and subtraction and have been working on the expanded column method and using base 10 to help us. We have also looked at bar models and finding totals using coins. In history we have made different timelines, for example, one from the dinosaurs to the present day and we have then looked at where a timeline of Ancient Egypt would match and compare the dates. In PSHE we have thought about bullying as this links with national anti-bullying week. At the time of writing this we are very much looking forward to our trip to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. Hopefully we can tell you all about next week!

### Oak

**Mathematician of the Week** – Marley for working well with some one-to-one support with Mrs Harris and trying his best.

**Reader of the Week** – Esther for her recent enthusiasm with her new book and for being able to articulate so brilliantly why she is finding it so enjoyable.

**Writer of the Week** - Isla for researching our topic thoroughly to enable her to write with accuracy and with vivid descriptions.

**Shining Light of the Week** – Didier for showing kindness towards many members of our class this week and for helping others as well as always demonstrating good manners and a helpful attitude with members of staff.

**Pen licences** - for Izzy, Ellie-Mai, Esther, Seth and Riley.

This week in Oak class we have continued exploring early civilisations within our History work. The children have enthusiastically delved into some quality information texts and have been inspired by the range of techniques used to convey facts. We have learnt that texts can sometimes present the information in quite quirky ways and yet still be historically accurate and informative. We have then used this as inspiration for our own writing.

In maths we have continued our work on multiplication, learning about the short multiplication method and expanded method to help us solve a range of questions. We have drawn on our existing knowledge of place value and rounding to help us quickly check if our answers are correct. Some of our more able mathematicians have been provided with some stretch and challenge questions to help them deepen their understanding. We have learnt some fantastic new vocabulary this week through our current reading text (Beetle Boy) and children have enjoyed sharing definitions with the class.

We will soon be coming to the end of our swimming lessons (our last lesson is on 1st December) and it has been such a joy to see some of our children who were previously quite anxious in the water now demonstrating such confidence and resilience in our weekly lessons.

It was anti-bullying week this week and we explored not only how we can recognise and respond to bullying but also how we can build strong friendships with others.

### **Out of School Success**

Congratulations to Etta from Rowan Class for her out of school success in cycling, coming 3<sup>rd</sup> (twice) in the U8's Muddy Monster's Race Event organised by Cycle Club Velouse Flyers. Here is a photograph of Etta in action:



### **Message from Executive Headteacher**

Remembrance Sunday Service - I was very proud of our Head and Deputy Pupils Ella and Maddie, who came to Remembrance Sunday at St James' Castle Acre and read beautifully the names of the fallen soldiers of the parish. They were smart, respectful and dedicated and represented our school beautifully. Well done girls, and thank you for your time. Thank you too Mums for getting them there.

Curriculum newsletters will be coming out next week so that you can see what your children have been learning and continue to learn. Please don't forget to support them by helping them do their Tackling Tables and Spelling Frame, both online at home, and by ensuring they read every night.

The boost this provides to their learning is huge. We provide our Homework in this way so that it is accessible for everyone and fun to do. If you need your log in, speak to the class teacher or if you do not have Wi-Fi access or any devices, we can support with this too - please do speak to me via the school office. Many thanks.

Prayer - Sammy, Rory and Josh

Dear God,

Thank you for creating the world we live in. We promise to look after it, care for it and not pollute it.

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