



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 2nd December 2022

Dear Parents,

December has arrived which means one thing - our Christmas tree is here. Thank you to the Patrick family for sourcing the tree, erecting it and lighting it. It looks spectacular and has definitely got everyone into the Christmas spirit (as if small children needed any encouragement!). The children have been busy decorating baubles and making decorations. There has been lots of singing and it is nice to have a mix of traditional and contemporary songs. Rowan and Whitebeam classes are definitely well into rehearsals and if they are anything to go by, you are all in for a real treat! We are looking forward to all of the festive events coming up and are incredibly pleased that we can be back as one family for the first time since 2019.

Last Friday saw us wear 'spotty' for Children in Need. We asked for donations to go towards the charity event and are pleased to have raised £69 including a later donation. Thank you to everyone who donated, no matter how much. It will make a difference to a child somewhere. We are certainly blessed with some very compassionate and inclusive children in school and this is often commented on by visitors to the school. I am very proud of them all.

Upcoming Dates

This is a busy time of year so do keep an eye on the date sheet. Coming up this week we have the Friends of Castle Acre School Christmas Fayre tomorrow 10-12, Reception/KS1 Theatre trip on Wednesday, Christmas Jumper day and Christmas Lunch on Thursday and KS2 Theatre trip on Friday.

Christmas Dates

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

Friends Christmas Fayre – TOMORROW - Saturday 3rd December 10-12 pm

Reception/KS1 Theatre trip to see Elves and the Shoemaker – Wednesday 7th December

Christmas Jumper day and Christmas Lunch – Thursday 8th December

KS2 Theatre trip to see Alice in Winterland – Friday 9th December

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)

Christmas Cards

We are happy if the children would like to send their friends a Christmas card this year – the post box is already out. We know that some would rather choose to send just to close friends, just one card to the whole class or choose not to send any cards at all, particularly to be eco-conscious. As a school family, we completely understand and respect your own decisions on Christmas cards.

Friends Christmas Fayre – Tomorrow!!

The Friends of Castle Acre School Christmas Fayre is TOMORROW - Saturday 3rd December 10-12 pm. The children have been busy making decorations to sell and have prepared some games to play. If you can lend a hand, it would be much appreciated, so please contact Libby Firth. If you would like to give a donation of a prize or a home baked item for the refreshments, please bring them with you to the fayre.

Attendance this week/since beginning of term

We have been hit with quite a lot of illness over the last couple of weeks. We know that it is tough when you are feeling a bit under the weather and there will be times when your child is genuinely not well enough to come to school but if they have a bit of a sniffle or a little cough then they can be in school. We will look after them and we will always call you if we feel that they are not well. Let's see if we can hit that 96% target of strong attendance by the end of term!

Oak Class – 89.66%/94.33%

Whitebeam Class – 97.44%/93.98%

Rowan Class – 96.49%/93.14%

Whole School – 93.44%/93.9%

CONGRATULATIONS WHITEBEAM CLASS THIS WEEK! KEEP IT UP!

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.

School Council

As you will know from the message sent out last week, School Council have launched their art competition. For £1 you can submit your entry of a Santa made out of anything creative from colouring to Lego. Entries to be in school on 7th December. Remember to put your name on them.

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.

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 – Oscar, for his super work in addition this week, counting on from a number in his head.

Reader of the Week – Tia, for reading her lines superbly in our practises for the Christmas performance, well done!

Writer of the Week – Isla P, for writing a superb sentence, well done!

Shining Lights of the Week (Reception) – Florence, for her excellent acting in our Christmas performance rehearsals this week!

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 1) - Sybil for singing beautifully whilst practising for our songs around the tree.

It's officially the season of advent and Rowan class aren't hiding our excitement for Christmas anymore! We have a beautiful tree in the classroom and have started opening our advent calendars! This week we have been busy with some Christmas crafts ready for both the Christmas fayre and our carols around the tree. We particularly enjoyed making our very own salt dough decorations which look fantastic! We have been singing our hearts out in our rehearsals for the Christmas production and in collective worship to practice our carols and cannot wait to perform them. In this week's topic lessons we have learned about the Indian climate and know that there is a monsoon season. In maths we have looked at addition and in English we have been writing letters as we read 'The day the crayons quit'.

Whitebeam

Mathematician of the Week – Holly for some great maths work on 2D shapes.

Reader of the Week – Olivia for spotting our spelling patterns all around her and when she is reading.

Writer of the Week – Jasper for including adverbs and exclamation marks in his independent writing.

Shining Lights of the Week - Fletcher for his enthusiasm and engagement with his learning.

This week in Whitebeam our rehearsals for our Christmas play have begun and the children are busy learning the songs and speaking parts along with Christmas carols! Our focus in maths is 2D shapes and the children have been exploring their properties practically by making shapes on a geoboard and then recording them in their books. They have also written shape riddles using mathematical vocabulary. In history we have started looking at 3 significant pharaohs, Narmer, Tutankhamun and Cleopatra and what makes them significant. In science we have been thinking about the properties of different materials and their suitability for different purposes and in RE we have read and retold the nativity story and looked at the version in the gospel of Luke. Well done Whitebeam for all your super learning this week.

Oak

Mathematician of the Week – Alex for never shying away from a challenge.

Reader of the Week – Marley for taking pride in his reading learning this week.

Writer of the Week - Ruby for a tremendous effort and approach to her independent writing of an information text.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 4) – Jess for trying her hardest in her learning and always lending others a hand if they need it.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 5) – Nataniel for being kind, considerate and always being conscientious in his learning.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 6) – Rory for demonstrating brilliant values and sportsmanship in PE this week and for having a fantastic attitude towards his learning.

This week, our year 6 children have shown resilience and determination with their approach to more practise SATs. Their progress has been impressive and they are making us all extremely proud with their mature attitude. In Oak class, we have completed a design and technology brief, creating apparatus for a playground using materials in school, considering strength, construction and adapting designs to add in reinforcement. We have written our information texts based on various ancient civilisations and have worked meticulously on fractions in maths. Well done to all children for behaving well for supply teachers, showing our school values and demonstrating flexibility.

Message from Executive Headteacher

Y6 SATS in May

Just to let you know that due to the extra Bank holiday for the Coronation of King Charles on May 8th, the timetable for SATS has changed slightly, in that everything has been pushed back by one day. Please could you support your children with these important tests by ensuring that on that Bank holiday they get to sleep early;

the children are working very hard to be able to show their best and every little advantage honestly does make a difference. Please also ensure that your children are in school every day but particularly during the actual week of the SATS tests.

Next term we will be sending home SATS workbooks for your children to work through and more information about other support measures we are putting in place for Y6 children to help them do their very best. Many thanks for your support.

Nar Valley Federation Local Governing Body

Would you like to be a Governor? Do you know of someone who might be interested? We currently have two vacancies for Trust Appointed Governors and we are nearing the end of the election process for a Parent Governor vacancy at Castle Acre (deadline to return nominations is Monday 5th December). We will shortly be sending out information about the Governor role, but if you're interested, please do contact me or our clerk Miss Karen Howman (Castle Acre Secretary) for a chat.

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