



The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Anne Neary

Web: www.narvalleyfederation.co.uk

Friday 16th December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

The end of term is finally here! There have been some truly lovely festive events and after a lot of hard work and enjoyment, we have many thanks to say.

Thank you so much to our Parent, Teacher and Friends' associations at each school for their tireless work to raise some fantastic amounts for each of our schools. The monies raised will help support our children to continue to have trips and visitors in quite a bleak climate of educational funding. The Friends' groups of course will help choose what we buy, and our children have some strong opinions too!

Could I also ask a favour; we are trying to create more spaces where children can be worked with on an individual or small group basis, for which we need screens so that they don't have to crowd round a Chromebook! If you get any new TVs over Christmas and don't know what to do with the old one, please do send it our way in the New Year. Thank you!

I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to our staff who have worked so hard this term; we've had so much fun, a great deal of fantastic learning and some lovely Christmas performances and parties to name just a few activities. Thanks also to our governors for their generous support and to our Vicars, Fr Richard, and Rev Janet and Rev Tori for their ongoing support and partnership working. Please see a message below from Bruce Gordon, our Chair of Governors:

Dear Parents and Carers

I write at the end of another busy term for our schools.

Autumn term is always the busiest and most challenging in the school year, and I wish to record my gratitude to all of the staff for the enormous hard work they have put in this term. I have seen first-hand, through my regular visits with Mrs Neary just how professional and dedicated a team we have in our three schools. Particular mention must go to the three Heads of School, Mrs Spaul, Miss Behan and Mrs Dunkley

I would also like to record my thanks to Carolyn Watts, who has been a parent governor with us for the last four years, for the excellent work she has put in over that time. Carolyn decided to step down in October, and it was sad to see her leave us.

Thanks are also due to all of you for helping our team in supporting your children – for ensuring they are at school on time, and that they are only absent when it is absolutely necessary. It makes an enormous difference to their education when they have such a good attendance rate. I am pleased to read that attendance in our schools has been very good this term, and hope to see it improve even more over the rest of the year.

May I take the opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully

Bruce Gordon, Chair of Governors, The Nar Valley Federation

During the winter times and in these current times there are many challenges for us all. Please do have a look at the letter from Norfolk County Council 'Help and Support with Living Costs' that we sent with last week's newsletter, the link to which is:

<https://www.castleacre.norfolk.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=9783&type=pdf> as it details various places you can go for support.

Winning Team – Congratulations to Endurance Team

Endurance 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 red on the first day back after half term, Wednesday 4th January.

It was very close with	Beagle	359 team points
	Castorama	378 team points
	Endurance	438 team points
	Britannia	418 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.

News from our Classes

Rowan

Mathematician of the Week – Crimson, for identifying lots of 2d shapes and remembering a rhombus from his learning last year, well done!

Reader of the Week – Sybil, for writing a short story and then reading it to the adults in the class, well done!

Writer of the Week – Oscar, for his beautiful writing about the fox and the mouse, well done.

Shining Lights of the Week (Reception) – Toby, for inventing a fantastic dice game and using lots of mathematical skills.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 1) - Etta, for showing such courage as a robin in our Christmas performance, well done!

What a final week for Rowan class! I cannot believe that a whole term has gone by so quickly. Firstly, I want to congratulate the children in both Rowan and Whitebeam on their spectacular performance of Away in a Manger at the beginning of the week. They made us proud and have worked so hard, it really came together and we would like to thank everyone who came to see it and hope you enjoyed it. On Wednesday afternoon, the children had a class Christmas party where they ate snacks, played games and had a very fun, festive time! On Friday afternoon, the children walked to the church to sing Christmas carols and support Oak class whilst they read their festive poems and shared their Christmas art. Finally, I hope you all have a lovely (and well-deserved) Christmas break. Stay safe and I will see you in the New Year!

Whitebeam

Mathematician of the Week – Jasper for his work on 2D shapes and his Christmas maths challenges

Reader of the Week – Carter for reading instructions when he starts an activity.

Writer of the Week – Rowan for taking care over his writing and presentation.

Shining Lights of the Week - Brody for showing courage by choosing to read in our Nativity play.

Well we have made it to the end of another busy half term. As I look back I can see the progress that the children are making in so many areas. They are more confident as clearly demonstrated during our Nativity performance. They are making links between their learning - 'oh we thought about the word opaque when we were learning about light' used when we were looking at different materials in science and again the link between light in science and light and dark in RE. They persevere as demonstrated when building our pyramids from the clay bricks we had made - not easy if your bricks are not flat! We have been out on trips to the Fitzwilliam Museum and to Westacre Theatre and have had visitors in school playing different instruments along with zoom music recitals. Well done Whitebeam for all you have achieved over the past term and I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas break.

Oak

Mathematician of the Week – Joshua for his hard work with his times tables this week.

Reader of the Week – Elliot for his consistently enthusiastic approach to reading and for reading so well during our rehearsals this week.

Writer of the Week - Finlay for his excellent effort at writing a letter relating to our work on The Christmas Truce.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 4) – Isla for always demonstrating our values, for her beautiful manners and her hard work this week.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 5) – Esther-Rae for volunteering to read at our Christmas service (something that she would normally be very nervous about).

Shining Light of the Week (Year 6) – Maddie for being so helpful this week to all of the adults in Oak class and for her consistent hard work.

We have had a very busy but fun week this week in Oak class. All of the children have been working hard on rehearsals for our Christmas service and we were delighted with how well they all performed in front of our school community - something that many of our children find very nerve wracking!

We have completed a range of maths and English activities with a Christmas theme including code breaking which the children enjoyed. In our science learning we consolidated our work on food chains and in Spanish we enjoyed learning some Christmas vocabulary and singing some Christmas songs. We rounded off our week with a quiz looking back at the events of 2022 and were very impressed with the knowledge our children were able to demonstrate about current affairs. Well done to everyone for their hard work this week! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

On behalf of all the staff can I thank you all for your support for your children and our schools this term. Finally, thank you to our fantastic children. Over the course of three services and productions there have been many beautiful moments; Toby's dancing during Calypso Carol, the unbridled joy of Florence being a mouse in the stable on that first Christmas Eve and the confident leading of our Christmas service by Oak Class pupils this afternoon. Our children never fail to remind us of the real meaning of Christmas, as one child from our Federation said in his prayer so perfectly, which is that the simple peace and joy coming from being the best people that we can be, and helping one another and listening to the message from God, which has never felt more needed in these times.

From Mrs Spaul and myself and the Castle Acre Team, we wish you a peaceful, safe and joyous Christmas and we look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday 4th January 2023.

With hope and prayers for a happy year;

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