



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 6th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year and I hope that everyone enjoyed time together as families over Christmas. It is good to be back in some milder temperatures! Whilst the weather is mild, clearly there are many people who have coughs, colds, flu etc. Please be aware that Strep A and other bugs are still circulating; if your child has a fever, please do keep them off school. Whilst we want strong attendance from all children, that doesn't mean they should be in when they are too ill to be in school. For most children it has been a strong start to the term for attendance; please keep this up as it helps them so much. This term is likely to be challenging in terms of staff absence but we will of course keep you informed. **NARBOROUGH ONLY:** Unfortunately, Mrs Smith is not in Hedgehogs at the moment as she is still very poorly. We wish her all the best for her recovery and hope she is back with us soon. Various staff from other classes and the Federation are helping out Hedgehogs in the meantime.

After School Club opportunity; we very much want to set this up to support working families or anyone who needs chargeable care for their children after school. If anyone would be interested in a paid position to run our After School Club (like Breakfast Club but after school), please do contact me via the school office.

There is plenty to look forward to this term, including trips, a classical music zoom, sporting events such as an agility festival for Reception to Year Two and of course our exciting curriculum. Curriculum newsletters will be coming out next week, so that you know what your children are learning this half-term. There is Safer Internet Day on February 8th – please look out for details of a Parents/Carers' workshop. Our survey for Parents/Carers is coming this half-term, with Forums in the second half-term. Thanks for filling these in, as they really do help us shape our school. We will have Easter services to share together and plenty of events from our lovely Friends' groups.

Don't forget to check and use Class Dojo for communication with your child's class teacher, or to pop in and see us if you need anything.

News from our Classes

Rowan

Mathematician of the Week – Bobbi, for superb mental maths in adding ten on, well done!

Reader of the Week – Finn, for choosing to read one of our class books this morning and doing so with fluency, well done.

Writer of the Week – Ella for persisting and wanting to extend her writing. Well done!

Shining Lights of the Week (Reception) – Skyla for showing resilience in sounding out and writing an incredibly long word, well done!

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 1) - Oliver P, for using his initiative in morning work to figure out the task rather than instantly asking for help, well done!

Firstly, I would like to say Happy New Year from Rowan class! We hope you had a lovely, restful break and are glad to see everyone back. Though it has been a very short week, we have got straight into our 2023 learning! This term in English we are looking at fairy tales, so we have explored different fairy tales that we have heard and explored what the features of them are. We also had our first music lesson where we took it in turns to sing different verses and learnt about what a chorus is. Next week, we will begin this term's topic, which is all about growth and plants. We are very excited to begin it!

Whitebeam

Mathematician of the Week – Jasper for challenging himself when playing with the tackling tables cards.

Reader of the Week – Tyler for finding smaller words within a larger word.

Writer of the Week – Brody for his perseverance writing his superhero story!

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 2) - Carter for knowing when a friend was upset and telling an adult.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 3) - Holly for always being polite and showing respect.

Happy New Year from all in Whitebeam. It has been wonderful to see the children return to school after the break with lots of news to share and ready for the term ahead. We have been recapping some of our learning from last half term and it has been great to see how much the children have remembered. We will start our new units of learning next week. Our enquiry question for history is 'Why do we need the RNLI?' for RE 'How do Christians belong to their faith family?' and for science 'What are living things and their habitats. In English we will be writing a newspaper article about Grace Darling and in maths our focus will be on multiplication and division.

Oak

Mathematician of the Week – Maddie for working really hard with her division questions this week and taking pride in her successes.

Reader of the Week – Esther for showing exceptional enthusiasm for reading for pleasure this week.

Writer of the Week - Marley has shown exceptional progress in his writing this week and has pleasantly surprised all of us with the quality of his work.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 4) – Pearl for consistently showing determination with her work and always demonstrating our values.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 5) – Aleashia for persevering with her work this week, even when she found it very challenging, and for helping others.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 6) – Sammy for consistently taking pride in his work and offering excellent and thoughtful answers during our class discussions.

All children have returned to school this week demonstrating hard work and a positive attitude. In maths we have been learning about division and in English we have started a new piece of work involving a very spooky poem called The Spider and the Fly. Children have been learning how to offer different interpretations of the poem using modern language and have successfully recounted this through the use of a comic strip. In PSHE we have been looking at celebrating difference and in Science we made a start on our new unit of work about forces. In computing we have been looking at screen time and have discussed the pros and cons of using devices. We then used this as the basis of beginning our own investigation into screen time at home and are writing our own questionnaires. In Spanish we have learnt how to introduce ourselves with our age and name and to discuss how we are feeling. Well done to all children for settling so well back into our new term.

Best wishes and please do contact either Mrs Spaul or myself if you have any queries. We look forward to working together again this term and some great fun and learning.

Emma Spaul and Anne Neary



Head of School
Castle Acre CE Primary Academy



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