



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 13th January 2023

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a lovely break, although I do know many people suffered with the horrible cold flu virus

The atmosphere in school since returning has been lovely. The children are showing excellent learning behaviours and there is a great work ethic. I had the pleasure of getting involved in a conversation about plants and trees in Rowan Class yesterday and they were using the most fantastic vocabulary about evergreen and deciduous trees. There was then a debate as to whether holly was a bush or a tree. Leon went off to find out and it is indeed a tree. Whitebeam Class were doing some lovely singing yesterday, learning about different musical patterns and saying how the music made them feel. There are some beautiful choristers in the class. Oak Class were having some scientific discussions about forces and what different types of forces there were and when a force was being used and when not. I look forward to seeing their learning progress over the next few weeks and what knowledge they have gained and developed over that time.

This term is a short one, just 4 weeks left. However, there are many events happening with school trips, sports competitions and class cafes. Please keep your eye on the dates sheet that comes out as well as messages from the school about upcoming events.

Coming up this week we have Whitebeam visiting St. James Church on Friday morning.

Attendance

We are working hard this year to ensure that we reach the best attendance we can. **96%** is considered strong attendance and 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.

Attendance this week/since beginning of term

Oak Class – 92.49% / 92.53%

Whitebeam Class – 97.44% / 93.84%

Rowan Class – 94.12% / 93.96%

Whole School – 94.07% / 93.26%

CONGRATULATIONS WHITEBEAM CLASS THIS WEEK – YOU HAVE EXCEEDED 96%!

PE Kits

Please can I remind you that your child needs to have their PE kits in school from Monday to Friday and it needs to include a separate sweatshirt or jumper from their school one. We try and go outside as much as possible, especially the older children, and if they fall over wearing their school one it can become wet or dirty. If your child's kit becomes particularly wet or dirty then we will send it home!

Toys In School

Please can we remind you that children should not be bringing in toys from home into school unless pre-arranged with the teacher or if they are Child of the Day for show and tell. If this is the case, then they will be asked to put it in the teacher's cupboard until they show it at the end of the day. We are noticing an increase in toys coming in and there is the possibility that they will get lost or broken and they do cause a distraction from working. We appreciate your co-operation with this matter.

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 – Ivy, for working out a subtraction question and reading her number sentence out loud.

Reader of the Week – Oliver P, for consistently reading at home and linking his reading to our learning, for example, by telling the class what a 'quill' is after reading about one in one of his books.

Writer of the Week – Tia, for her excellent story about the girl who visits the dentist.

Shining Lights of the Week (Reception) – Skyla for showing such enthusiasm for her learning and working super hard.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 1) - Isla B for trying really hard in her learning and showing excellent manners.

We have had a very exciting week in Rowan class this week, immersing ourselves into our English topic about fairy tales. On Monday morning, we were surprised to find a little door had appeared in our classroom with a letter addressed to Rowan class. It was from a fairy tale character who was living behind the door. They gave us some clues about themselves and we all had to draw and write our predictions as to who it could be. On Tuesday morning when we arrived, a beanstalk had grown in the classroom and there were some beans and a cow! Many of the children had guessed correctly. It was Jack from Jack and the beanstalk! In science, we have started looking at plants. On Wednesday we had a bunch of flowers in the classroom and we looked at the parts of the plant and talked about what we already know about them. In PE, we started our new way of moving, which is yoga. We have learned that yoga is from India and that it is exercise for both our mind and body.

Whitebeam

Mathematician of the Week – Fletcher for using his knowledge of multiplication to help him solve word problems

Reader of the Week – Olivia for moving up a colour band in her reading.

Writer of the Week – Logan for using Fred Fingers phonics when writing.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 2) - Elarni for always doing her best and Y3 Tyler for always showing respect by being polite.

Children's Worship - Alexander, Olivia, Isla, Ella and Jess.

What a busy week we have had in Whitebeam Class. We have started our new science unit of learning and have been exploring microhabitats around the school. We have been learning about Grace Darling and the amazing rescue she made and we have been newspaper reporters as part of our English and have reported on the rescue Grace made. In maths our focus has been on multiplication this week which has included solving multiplication word problems and it has been great to see several children achieve their Tackling Tables certificates. The children enjoyed the new unit in music and are looking forward to playing the ukuleles during our next music lesson. We have made a timeline in history ranging from the dinosaurs to the present day and the children have identified significant periods of history in chronological order and they have started to think about what life was like during the Victorian era. Well done Whitebeam for a super week.

Oak

Mathematician of the Week – Ella for working really well in our small group interventions this week and completing extra practice at home.

Reader of the Week – Leo for trying really hard with his tasks in reading lessons this week.

Writer of the Week - Ruby Goodson for persevering with her writing this week and aiming to write longer responses to tasks.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 4) – Roxanne for always trying her best with her work, taking pride in everything she creates and always asking for help when she needs to.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 5) – Freya for consistently demonstrating our school values and trying her best with everything she does.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 6) – Erin for always doing her best to help others and always approaching every task with an enthusiastic attitude.

We have enjoyed a fun and successful week in Oak class. In English we have continued our work with the poem The Spider and the Fly and the children have really impressed us with their use of vocabulary to convey character. Children have been tasked with rewriting sections of the poem for different audiences and different purposes and they have performed really well with this. In maths we have continued our learning regarding fractions and have also completed some small group interventions for multiplication and division. In science we are now learning about forces and this week we explored the different types of push and pull force we might see in action. In computing we have been learning about spreadsheets and have started to input the results from our surveys on screen time. In geography we have started learning about the structure of the earth and have been learning to label diagrams with the correct vocabulary. In RE we have explored the concepts of truth vs belief and have discussed how beliefs can change over time.

Message from Executive Headteacher

School Reception places Sept 23

If you know of anyone who has not yet filled in an application form, please remind them that the deadline for these is 15th January and so these need completing urgently. Many thanks for your help.

Pupil Voice from the Autumn

As you know, each half-term we talk to our children about their time in school and ask their opinions.

Last term we asked about learning, about how much they enjoy reading, about bullying and mean moments and about whether the children felt safe in school.

We had super responses, which really gave us a good knowledge of our children's views and feelings.

Our children said that they felt challenged by their learning and that they were really enjoying it. One Y6 child said 'I'm enjoying my learning because our work seems very interesting and enjoyable', with a child lower down the school observing 'I'm enjoying learning because it makes you smarter'

All bar 2 of the children in the school enjoy reading, with comments such as

'I love reading; you can go into another world' and a lovely one from Y1 - 'I like reading because I get to grow my brain bigger and I can hear from the teachers'

Nearly every child said that they never felt disrespected or discriminated but if anything happened they would tell a teacher. Likewise when we talked about bullying, the children all said that there wasn't but if anything ever happened they told someone and it got sorted out.

All children bar 2 said they felt safe in school because there were adults to keep them safe. The children who didn't said there were too many fire alarms (we'd just had an unplanned one due to a smoke alarm going off and so the children knew it wasn't a planned drill).

Overall, this was an incredibly positive and pleasing survey. There were one or two individual things to follow up, such as helping the two children who don't currently like reading, which staff are working on.

This term, we will be talking about online safety as we approach Safer Internet Day in February.

Keeping children safe online

This can be such a daunting task and one that worries all parents I talk to about it and me too.

Top Tips from the NSPCC include:

Listen to what they have to say and show an interest. They could give you a demo of their favourite app or show you their favourite YouTube or TikTok account.

They will probably be able to teach you things you don't know! This will also give you an opportunity to chat about any safety settings they might already have in place.

Regular conversations with your child will encourage them to come to you if they ever need support or advice.

If your child asks you a question you don't know the answer to, or speaks to you about a negative experience they had online, here are some of things you could do:

Visit the NSPCC online safety hub: [nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety)

Call the NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5000 to speak to an advisor

There are some excellent resources to help with this here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>



[Teaching Your Child about Internet & Online Safety | NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/)

Starting the conversation. Talking regularly with your child is the greatest tool to help keep them safe online. Talking regularly and making it part of daily conversation, like you would about their day at school, will help your child feel relaxed.

www.nspcc.org.uk

Parents/ Carers' Survey

This term it is your turn to give your views, so please watch out for this coming out soon. Your views are really important to us and help shape the work of the leadership of the school, so please do fill it in. Many thanks.

After School Club

If you would be interested in running the After School Club, much as we do Breakfast Club, then please do get in touch, many thanks.

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