



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 10th February 2023

Dear Parents,

Well here we are – half way through the year. I cannot believe it and it has just flown by. It's been a funny week for me with 2 training courses booked at the beginning of the week which meant my first day in school was yesterday. It felt very odd to not be in and even though it was just a couple of days, I did miss everyone; children, families and staff. However, I had a lovely welcome on my return with some enthusiastic and smiley children.

Our children in Oak Class had a visit from the police yesterday. They came to talk to them about how to keep themselves safe online. The online world, although a crucial part of our daily lives (I'm not sure how we ever managed without it sometimes), can be a bit of a minefield. I hope that your child came home with something they had learnt and could share with you. If you have a child in Whitebeam or Rowan, we are working with them to help them to understand how to keep themselves safe online. If you feel you would like more support then please do come in and speak with us.

I wish you all a really lovely break with lots of fun and rest! Hopefully it won't be too cold.

Attendance

We would just like to say a huge thank you for your support in working towards good attendance at Castle Acre. Our weekly attendance has been improving and we have been in line with national average this term so let's keep going and see if we can raise our overall attendance to 96%.

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 the academic year

Oak Class – **97.5%** / 93.19%

Whitebeam Class – **96.43%** / 94.57%

Rowan Class – 95.79% / 93.8%

Whole School – 96.72% / 93.68%

CONGRATULATIONS **OAK CLASS THIS WEEK – YOU WON THE ATTENDANCE!**

WELL DONE WHITEBEAM – YOU EXCEEDED 96%!

WELL DONE CASTLE ACRE SCHOOL – WE EXCEEDED 96%!

Dates

Please keep an eye on the date sheet for any upcoming dates.

Parents Consultation

The dates for our Parent Consultation Evenings are Tuesday 21st February (3.30 – 5.30pm/6pm for Oak Class) and Wednesday 22nd February (3.30 – 7pm). The teachers have been out at the gate with time sheets for you to choose a slot, but please phone the office if you have not yet booked a slot. Please can we remind you that these slots are 10 minutes long and are to chat about your child's learning. If there is anything else you wish to discuss then you will need to make another appointment.

If you have a child with additional needs then we will offer you either a longer time slot on one of our allocated dates or a time in the week before half term. This is to ensure that you have enough time to discuss how they are getting on with their learning and also the provision that is in place for them.

Where you have more than one child in school, we do work really hard to ensure that the appointments are as close together as possible but there is a possibility that there may be a little gap between them. We look forward to being able to share your child's successes and next steps with you.

Book Day

World Book Day is Thursday March 2nd. We invite all the children to come dressed up as their favourite book character and bring the book the character is from in to school with them (please put their name in it). Like last year, we would really like to focus on stories that started as a book eg The BFG, The Gruffalo, Harry Potter, Cinderella, rather than books that have come from films. I doubt whether this year's book day will be quite as eventful as last year's when we had the Air Ambulance landing on our field but you never know! We look forward to seeing the children (and staff) in all their wonderful costumes.

Tuck Shop

We took a little break from running tuck shop last term but our eager team of Year 5s and 6s would like to get it up and running again. They would very much like to hear your point of view on whether you would like a tuck shop and if so, some of your thoughts about frequency, stock and prices. There will be a survey coming out just after half term.

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!

News from our Classes

Rowan

Mathematician of the Week – Ella, for writing some super number sentences using dominoes in our maths parent cafe on Tuesday.

Reader of the Week – Oscar, for persisting and trying really hard in a very tricky phonics assessment, well done!

Writer of the Week – Toby, for remembering to use a capital letter when writing a name and for remembering how to spell some super tricky words!

Shining Lights of the Week (Reception) – Isla P, for trying so hard in your work this week and making better choices for your learning.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 1) – Mason H, for being incredibly helpful and showing so much kindness to all of the adults in Rowan this week, we are very proud of you.

Wow, how quickly did that term go by? It seems only a week ago that we were all festive in Rowan class and now we are very much preparing ourselves for the spring! The children have worked incredibly hard this term, particularly, we have noticed, in their writing. They should be very proud of themselves. The adults in Rowan class also wanted to say another thank you to parents who were able to come along and join in with our maths themed parent cafe on Tuesday. We know it can be incredibly difficult to take some time out of work and completely understand that for many parents, it is difficult to attend, so thank you. The children thoroughly enjoyed the cafe and we hope that it demonstrated some of the practical and fun ways in which early number sense can be developed. We hope you all have a lovely half-term break.

Whitebeam

Mathematician of the Week – Olivia for her great attitude in maths and for always being willing to help others.

Reader of the Week – Logan for his work in phonics.

Writer of the Week – Rowan for his descriptive writing about Grace Darling.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 2) - Alexander for being a very kind and polite member of the class.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 3) - Holly for always being prepared to challenge herself.

Children's Worship - Ella, Sybil, Brianna, Finley, Izzy

We had a great start to the week in Whitebeam as we had our trip to the Sealife Centre in Hunstanton, followed by a visit to the RNLI station at Old Hunstanton. We were amazed by the size of some of the fish and by a huge turtle at the Sealife Centre and learnt more about rock pools during our lesson in the education room. I wonder if the children can tell you about what happens if a starfish loses a leg and what might happen to that leg? The RNLI really looked after us and brought the boat out pulled by a very special tractor for the children to see and they inflated the hovercraft too! We had lots of questions which were answered by an actual lifeboat crew! Other highlights this week have been our Maths Cafe and we had lots of fun solving mathematical problems and being involved in a range of maths activities and we all enjoyed looking at Victorian artefacts in history and trying to work out what they might have been used for. In science we explored food chains and have learnt some new vocabulary including producer and consumer. Well done Whitebeam, wishing you all a relaxing and well-earned half term break.

Oak

Mathematician of the Week – Rory for some great work calculating the average temperature of a mountain's climate.

Reader of the Week – Roxanne for some excellent contributions and inferences in our focus text, 'Matilda'.

Writer of the Week – Mason D for some fantastic ideas and contributions as to 'How fold mountains are formed'.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 4) – Jess for continuously upholding high values and always being a really helpful and cheerful member of our class.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 5) – Nataniel for his effort and progress in PE.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 6) – Joshua for acting on feedback and implementing it within his writing.

This week Oak class had an informative visit from Hazel, a local police officer. She spoke to the class about all of the different ways that children can ensure they are staying safe online. In our writing, we have been researching and collating information on 'How fold mountains are formed', so that we can write an informative and accurate explanation text. In Maths, we completed some cross-curricular learning by looking at the

different temperatures at Mount Everest. We have also continued our work on ratio as well as lots of times tables practice. In our dance, we have all taken part in some Bhangra choreography and given each other positive feedback. In music, we were treated to a live classical music concert via Zoom. For our art learning, Oak class marked out their own design on polystyrene squares, which they rolled and printed. It has been a brilliant end to this half-term - well done, Oak class!

Message from Executive Headteacher

Children's Mental Health Week 6-12 February 2023

This year's theme is Let's Connect. These free resources for [primary age](#) and [secondary age](#) children and young people will help you take part in the week. The activities and resources are designed to encourage children (and adults) to consider how we can make meaningful connections that support our mental health.

<https://csapps.norfolk.gov.uk/csshared/ecourier2/misheet.asp?misheetid=61622>

Signposting to support (pupils)

[Childline](#)

[YoungMinds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People | YoungMinds On My Mind | Resources for Young People | Anna Freud Centre](#)

[Kooth](#) (11-25 years)

Chat Health 07480 635060 (11-19 years)

Signposting to support (families)

[Mental Health advice and support for 0- 25yrs](#)

[Emotional health support and guidance](#)

[Just One Norfolk advice and resources for families](#)

[Parents and Careers | Advice and Guidance | Anna Freud Centre](#)

Norfolk SENDIASS training for parents/carers and professionals

We are running some free online and face to face training for parents/carers and professionals.

- **Professionals only - Understanding SEND disagreement resolution and mediation** across education, health, and social care, run by Norfolk SENDIASS and KIDS Mediation Service.
- **For parents & carers - How to appeal a final EHCP training** for those wanting to know more about the process of appealing a final Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), focusing specifically on appealing needs (section B), provision (section F) and placement (section I). To help us deliver our support as widely as possible **please share this information** with all parents/carers and young people with SEND.

[To find out more and book a place for both courses please visit our website](#) (click on link) or <https://www.norfolksendiass.org.uk/training-and-info-sessions/training-sessions/>

We wish you a lovely half-term and hope you get some family time together.

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