



Diocese of Norwich  
Education and  
Academies Trust

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## The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Anne Neary

Web: [www.narvalleyfederation.co.uk](http://www.narvalleyfederation.co.uk)

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after your half term break. We hope you had a restful and relaxing time and were able to enjoy the few sunny days. Following some slightly milder weather, it has taken a chilly turn over the last couple of days. We are watching the weather forecasts carefully with the prediction of some snow in the coming week/fortnight. I am sure that it will pass with nothing, or a simple light dusting at the most, but if the weather does turn, please familiarise yourselves with our bad weather procedures.

This week seems to have gone by in a bit of a blur and all of a sudden it is Friday. It is lovely to see the new topics being discussed and explored. I have particularly enjoyed listening in on discussions about rivers in Whitebeam as they found as many different facts they could about them. A couple of children were finding out animals found in rivers and were very taken by the otters. Oak Class completed an experiment on water resistance. I think they enjoyed exploring the water as they did doing the actual experiment! I joined Rowan Class for a part of their phonics session and I cannot believe how much they have absorbed since the beginning of the year. We are super impressed with Toby for learning how to spell some really tricky words like eucalyptus by reading bottles and packets at home!

We have had our Parents Evening this week and it was lovely to see you there. They are long evenings for us but we do enjoy sharing your child's successes. If you were unable to make your appointment then please do get in contact and re-book. Thank you for all your lovely comments too, they really are good to hear!

### Staffing Update

We are sad to say we will be saying goodbye to Miss Bix at the end of next week, as she leaves us to seek the opportunity of a new career outside teaching.

We are highly fortunate that we have excellent support staff at Castle Acre, and that Miss Watkins and Miss Everett know the children, curriculum, teaching style and routines extremely well. Miss Watkins has completed her Early Childhood studies degree and in September begins her final year of teacher training with us. Miss Watkins, ably supported by Miss Everett will run the class going forward.

We wish Miss Bix the best of luck with her new ventures and thank her for her time at Castle Acre Primary.

### 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 the academic year

Oak Class – 98.21% / 93.46%

Whitebeam Class – 92.86% / 94.46%

Rowan Class – 100% / 94.06%

Whole School – 97.54% / 93.87%

CONGRATULATIONS **ROWAN** CLASS THIS WEEK – YOU WON THE ATTENDANCE – **100%!!!!**  
WELL DONE OAK – YOU EXCEEDED 96%!

WELL DONE CASTLE ACRE SCHOOL – WE EXCEEDED 96%!

### **Dates**

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

### **Book Day**

National Book Day is Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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 next week.

### **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. **This also includes trading cards such as football or Pokemon cards.** 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!

### **Meet the SENDCo**

I will be putting in some dates week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> of March for a 'come and chat with the SENDCo' so watch this space. You will not need to have an appointment, just drop in and I will have the kettle on and biscuits ready to discuss any questions or queries relating to your child and how they are getting on at school. Your child does not already need to be identified as having SEN to come along. I look forward to seeing you there.

Emma Spaul, Federation SENDCo. Please contact me at Castle Acre on 01760 755305 if you have any queries.

### News from our Classes

#### Rowan

**Mathematician of the Week** – Ella, for working incredibly hard in subtraction this week, using lots of different methods confidently, well done.

**Reader of the Week** – Isla B, for working really hard in her phonics and challenging herself in front of the class, well done.

**Writer of the Week** – Isla P, for working so hard with her sounds in phonics this week and learning some really tricky split digraphs, well done.

**Shining Lights of the Week (Reception)** – Skyla, for going out of her way to help others in the classroom and always following our class promises.

**Shining Lights of the Week (Year 1)** – Oscar, for consistently demonstrating an excellent learning attitude on the carpet and working incredibly hard in his writing. Etta, for showing an incredible learning attitude and overcoming some of her nerves by performing a dance routine independently, well done!

And just like that, the first week of spring term two is complete! It has been so lovely to see the children again after the half-term, especially since they have all been coming in with beaming smiles and have said 'good morning' to each adult, it has made our week. We are sure they've all grown an inch! This week we have started a new English topic and have begun looking at diary entries. We read Oliver's Vegetables, spoke about the days of the week and also looked at past-tense verbs using the '-ed' suffix. In RE, we looked at miracles, what they are and ways in which Christians believe Jesus performed them. In history, we are looking at farming through the ages and completed an activity where we compared old methods to new methods. I would like to thank everyone who came to parents' evening this week, it was lovely to see you all and be able to share with you the wonderful learning that is taking place in Rowan class. I hope you have a lovely weekend.

#### Whitebeam

**Mathematician of the Week** – Logan for independently choosing resources to help him if necessary.

**Reader of the Week** – Fletcher for reading with greater fluency.

**Writer of the Week** – Mason F for joining his writing.

**Shining Lights of the Week (Year 2)** - Carter for being a polite and caring member of the class.

**Shining Lights of the Week (Year 3)** - Max for demonstrating kindness to others.

It was great to see all the children return to Whitebeam after the half term break and to hear about the different adventures they had had during the week. The children have now finished their Great Wave paintings which look great and have started their new topic on rivers in geography. They have been learning about fractions using practical apparatus and pictures and have made links between fractions and division in maths. In English we are looking at stories that contain suspense and tension and how authors can create this. They had lots of fun exploring making music on Chrome Music Lab and learning a new song in music. Next week we will start our new unit in RE which is 'how do Jews celebrate Passover?' In DT we will look at designing and making a 3D fish from newspaper and modroc and in science our focus is 'how does a human successfully grow?' Well done Whitebeam.

#### Oak

**Mathematician of the Week** – Pearl for always being keen to answer questions in class and presenting her book work so neatly.

**Reader of the Week** – Aleashia for completing so much reading at home this week.

**Writer of the Week** – Erin for her excellent contributions in our writing lessons this week.

**Shining Light of the Week (Year 4)** – Lola for her amazing attitude to her work, for always trying to be helpful in the classroom and for helping others.

**Shining Light of the Week (Year 5)** – Izzy for her perseverance and determination with her learning whilst having her arm in a cast!

**Shining Light of the Week (Year 6)** – Ellie-Mai for her hard work this week and her keen attitude to answering questions in class.

Oak class have begun their history learning for this term, which is based upon the Ancient Greeks and their achievements. This week was our last PE session based on dance and will change to a one-off lesson on netball next week, and moving on to yoga for the rest of this half term. In maths, we have been consolidating our understanding of fractions as decimals, with some children extending their learning through relating this to percentages. We have also completed some more work on ratio. In science we learnt about water resistance and Oak pupils enjoyed a practical experiment to investigate how the shape of an object affects the ease with which it can move through water. In English we have been looking at proverbs and sayings and we rewrote some for a modern audience and practised our inference skills. In computing we have started to learn about how computers share information through networks and why it is important to protect a computer network. Well done Oak class for all of your hard work this week.

### **Message from Executive Headteacher**

#### **Parents/Carers' Forums**

These are coming up for each Academy; please do book on, it is always good to sit down with our families and chat, and your views matter. We look forward to seeing you.

#### **Strikes**

As you may be aware March 1<sup>st</sup> is a strike day for our region unless these are called off by the union after Government engagement in talks over the weekend. As before, I do not necessarily know until sometimes the morning of the strikes who is striking or not. As before however, I do have an excellent team who communicate well. We will endeavour to give you as much notice as possible if there is to be any change to the normal school day for your child. It is likely that school will be open as normal for all children.

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

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