



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 March 2023

Dear Parents,

Unfortunately, poor Mrs Spaul is still ill; she had hoped to be back with us today but is not yet well enough. She is really hoping to be back next week. This week, I have been incredibly proud of Brody, who heard something in school from another child that made him feel uncomfortable, so he did exactly what he should and told a trusted adult, so Brody is my Shining Light this week and gained a ten team point token for his team Beagle. Well done Brody!

Many thanks to all our families today for your support with the closure. We are sorry this happened; we do not like having to be closed but can't operate without power, heating or hot water. We'll look forward to being back open as usual on Monday!

Goodbye Miss Bix

I must correct an error and do apologise to Miss Bix for not saying our goodbye to her in last week's newsletter. We wish her all the very best for her future ventures and thank her for all she has done during her time with us.

Parents/Carers' Forum

Please do come along to these, either at 3.30pm or 6.00pm, both in person and both on a link to book into on 16th March (next Thursday). A Forum is simply a grand word to mean a cup of tea and a chat and a chance to share views, ask questions and give ideas. We'd love to see you there and promise a biscuit too!

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 – **96.43%** / 93.83%

Whitebeam Class – 95.54% / 95.11%

Rowan Class – 91.45% / 94.16%

Whole School – 94.67% / 94.22%

CONGRATULATIONS **OAK CLASS THIS WEEK – YOU WON THE ATTENDANCE – 96.43%**

Dates

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

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

Mrs Spaul will be putting in some dates week beginning 20th 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.

Emma Spaul, Federation SENDCo. Contact via Castle Acre on 01760 755305 if you have any queries.

News from our Classes

Rowan

Mathematician of the Week – Leon for spotting patterns to help with his addition calculations.

Reader of the Week – Ella for a fantastic prediction during a guided reading session.

Writer of the Week – Isla B for having a super attitude when writing about Oliver's vegetables, including a time adverb, past tense verb and lots of detail.

Shining Lights of the Week (Reception) – Florence for putting so much effort into her learning, especially her diary plan of Oliver's vegetables.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 1) – Brianna for her amazing determination and input during an RE lesson.

We have had another super busy week in Rowan Class, the children have shown a fantastic learning attitude and have worked so incredibly hard. We were super excited to see some snow for the first time this year and went straight out to explore! Lots of investigations and predictions were discussed. This week we have been continuing to look at Oliver's vegetables in English, Reception have drawn their diaries as if they were Oliver and year 1s have written their own using all of the diary features we have learnt, some fantastic ideas!. In maths, reception have been looking at 2D and 3D shapes in the environment and creating their own pictures using 3D faces. Year 1s have learnt about measurement, ordering objects from shortest to longest and shortest to tallest. They have used unifix cubes to measure objects in the classroom and

were introduced to measuring with a ruler. In science we have been classifying animals into their groups and discussing the similarities and differences of each group. Well done Rowan class for another brilliant week.

Whitebeam

Mathematician of the Week – Alexander for working well in the maths PiXL assessments.

Reader of the Week – Elarni for working well in the reading assessment.

Writer of the Week – Molly for working well in the spelling PiXL assessment.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 2) - Rowan for being a good friend and always demonstrating kindness.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 3) - Brody for responsibility in relation to internet safety.

Children's worship - Florence, Molly, Leo and Ella

In Whitebeam Class the children have loved looking at aerial views of Castle Acre and surrounding villages as part of our learning in geography. They have recognised and located many features of Castle Acre and thought about the difference in land height between Castle Acre and the coast. In science we looked at the life cycle of a human and compared it to different animals and in music/ICT they have looked at notes and tempo as they created musical patterns on the Chromebooks. They explored using different instruments and discovered they could write their names and it would play as a tune! Today they have written a descriptive story based on a lighthouse keeper thinking about how to include suspense and tension and in maths we have come to the end of our focus on fractions. Next week we will be looking at statistics. It has been very exciting to see the snow this week and we were all surprised by the size of some of the snowflakes we have seen! Well done Whitebeam.

Oak

Mathematician of the Week – Sammy for his exceptional performance in our Year 6 assessments this week.

Reader of the Week – Elliot for being fully engaged, enthused and hooked on the class text based around 'Who let the gods out?'

Writer of the Week - Roxanne for her enthusiasm and passion when writing her setting description.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 4) – Marley for his huge effort with his handwriting and spelling this week.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 5) – Freya for her enthusiastic approach to her learning and her consistent participation in class discussion. Her contributions are always valued!

Shining Light of the Week (Year 6) – Didier for his obvious delight and enthusiasm for how well he performed with some of his assessments this week.

Oak class have gone back in time to examine and compare the differences between some city states in Ancient Greece, including the role of women and children. In our writing, we have been considering different ways to create a setting description, as we will be working towards writing a narrative based upon chapter 7 of 'Who Let The God's Out?'. In maths we have continued with our work on decimals and percentages and also have started learning about perimeter. Oak class have taken the opportunity for some relaxation in their yoga lessons in PE and we all really enjoyed this. In science we have learnt about levers, gear and pulleys and our children were very enthusiastic when designing their own Rube Goldberg machines. We have a slightly longer weekend due to the power cuts but we look forward to seeing our children back with us again on Monday. Our year 6 children have been incredibly resilient in their attitude towards their mock SATs this week, which will continue into next week. Well done to all of you!

Message from Executive Headteacher

Easter Services

We look forward to seeing you all at these; you are most welcome.

Crucial Crew

I wanted to thank our excellent Y6 children from across the Federation for representing NVF so well with their super behaviour and engagement on the Crucial Crew trip. They were a pleasure to be with. Well done Y6!

School Meal Prices Increase

Aspens have let us know that a pupil school meal will be £2.59 a day from 18th April 2023 (start of the summer term).

Volunteers

I just wanted to give a huge and heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers across the Federation. These are difficult times for education and we cannot do what we do without you all at the moment, so thank you so much for all your time.

National Strikes

Castle Acre: It is highly likely that Castle Acre will not be affected by these.

Many thanks for your support. All of us really do hope that talks can take place, solutions can be found and these strikes can be averted.

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