



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 17th March 2023

Dear Parents,

It seems an age since I last wrote the newsletter. I have missed being here and thank you all for your kind messages on my return. It was lovely to return on Tuesday and walk into classrooms to be met by smiling faces with some eager to show me their work and tell me how well they had been doing over the previous couple of weeks. It reminds me of what a special place Castle Acre truly is.

Clearly the staff and children have been working extremely hard in my absence. There is a beautiful display of rolling waves artwork in the corridor outside Whitebeam class. I have found out some amazing information about biodegradation and decomposition. Rowan class are clearly continuing with their work on fairy tales and they looked amazing in their princess dresses. They were working hard on writing words with split digraphs in and refused to even look up from their work when I popped in – such good work ethic for such young children. Oak class displayed some really great team work in their PE lesson yesterday. I popped out a few times and was encouraged to see the encouragement happening between them. They have also been looking forward to their trip to Norwich Castle all week, although I am not sure if they are quite as excited as Mrs Neary!

We are now coming into our final 2 weeks of the term. We have chosen not to hold an Easter Fayre this year but instead will be putting on an event for the King's Coronation which we will send details out next week. We do have our Easter service on 31st March at 1:45 in St. James' church where we would love to see you all there.

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%** / 93.93%

Whitebeam Class – **99.21%** / 95.28%

Rowan Class – 95.91% / 94.23%

Whole School – **96.9%** / 94.33%

CONGRATULATIONS **WHITEBEAM** CLASS THIS WEEK – YOU WON THE ATTENDANCE – **99.21%**
WELL DONE OAK – YOU EXCEEDED 96%

WELL DONE CASTLE ACRE SCHOOL – WE EXCEEDED 96%!

Dates

I would just like to apologise for some events being announced very close to their actual date but with me being off it hasn't been possible for these to get in the newsletter in good time. It is always our intention to give you at least 2 weeks' notice. Please keep an eye on the date sheet for any upcoming dates.

Thank you!

We would like to say thank you to Mark and Ana who have a child in Year 3 for donating their piano to the school. Music is always a wonderful resource to have and can help us all in many different ways. We will make sure the piano is put to good use. I think Chopsticks is the most recognisable tune I have heard so far!

Medicines.

We understand that there will be times when your child needs medication if they are poorly. Our policy is that where prescribed medications are concerned, we will administer them in accordance with the direction from the doctor. We also know that there are times your child may need medication that is not prescribed, such as paracetamol. We are happy to administer this medication but our policy states that we are only able to give one dose. If, after that does, your child's symptoms do not ease or improve then we will call you but we cannot administer any further doses. All medication must be handed into the school office and you will need to fill in a form. Medication must be in its original box or container. If you wish to see our policy for administering medicines it is available on the website or available from the school office.

The Friends' Annual Duck Race Fundraiser – Sunday 14th May, 3pm start

The Friends of Castle Acre Primary are busy organising their Annual Duck Race fundraiser. Further details will be sent home today with a Duck Race sheet for each of our families with 10 duck numbers. The Friends would be very grateful if you could sell your duck numbers to family and friends and then return the sheet to school with the monies collected. If you want another sheet of numbers, please just ask Miss Howman in the office. If you aren't able to sell all 10, just return the sheet with the money for however many you have sold and we will sell the remainder elsewhere via local shops in the run up to race day. Any unwanted sheets should also be returned to the school office please. This is The Friends' biggest fundraiser of the year and a lovely afternoon for families to enjoy following the race along the river and the refreshments at The Friends stall at South Acre ford. If you would like to donate a prize, please speak with Chair, Libby Firth or Miss Howman. Donations of refreshments on the Friday before the race (12th May) or on the day at the ford would be gratefully received. We hope to see you there!

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

Thank you for your co-operation in the matter of not bringing in toys from home into school unless pre-arranged with the teacher or for show and tell if your child is Child of the Day.

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 - due to sickness, this will now be postponed to week beginning 17th April

I will be putting in some dates week beginning 17th April 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 – Florence for creating a fantastic 3 part repeating pattern.

Reader of the Week – Isla P for reading lots of split diagraph a-e words using fred talk.

Writer of the Week – Bobbi for some fantastic adjectives when describing some vegetables for his poem.

Shining Lights of the Week (Reception) Ivy for always demonstrating our class promises particularly with putting her hand up on the carpet.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 1) – Tia for consistently showing the right choices and representing our school values in all areas of learning.

We have had a fantastic week in Rowan Class. In English we have started to look at poetry and have been working towards writing our own vegetable poems. We planned the vegetables we want to include within our poems and came up with some fantastic adjectives to describe them. Next week we will be writing our poems and performing them to each other. In Maths Year one have been continuing with measurement. We have learnt how to measure accurately to the nearest centimetre using a ruler and compared two measurements using addition and subtraction. Reception have created their own 3 and 4 part repeating patterns! We had some brilliant ones! We have continued to think about the Easter story in RE and created a cross using lots of different craft materials. In PE we have enjoyed learning lots of new skills including dribbling, attacking and defending. Well done Rowan class!.

Whitebeam

Mathematician of the Week – Molly for her maths work on statistics.

Reader of the Week – Max for reading in front of the class.

Writer of the Week – Elarni for her story writing.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 2) - Jasper for demonstrating good learning behaviours this week.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 3) - Fletcher for demonstrating good learning behaviours.

Children's worship - Freya, Holly, Sybil and Aleashia

This week in Whitebeam we have started looking at persuasive texts in English and we have made a list of their key features and searched for them in a variety of texts. In maths we have looked at tally charts, pictograms and bar graphs and have interpreted the data by answering questions about them. In art we have now made the basis of our fish sculptures with the next step covering them in modroc! The class have been thinking about others as we celebrate Red Nose Day and Mothers' Day this week and in PSHE we have read and discussed the book Feelings by Richard Jones and Libby Walden. In RE we have been learning about Passover and the significance of the Seder plate and what the different foods symbolise. Well done Whitebeam.

Oak

Mathematician of the Week – Esther for displaying a keen and enthusiastic attitude recently towards all areas of her maths learning.

Reader of the Week – Finley for some really fluent reading out loud during our comprehension lessons this week.

Writer of the Week - Ruby for some brilliant descriptive sentences in her writing based on 'Who Let the Gods Out.'

Shining Light of the Week (Year 4) – Pearl for taking obvious pride in her work across all subjects this week and for being a good friend to others.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 5) – Seth & Riley for displaying artistic talent and a huge interest in Ancient Greek Gods and Goddesses.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 6) – Erin for always being conscientious and trying her absolute best in all areas of school life.

This week in Oak class we have displayed some great learning behaviours in all areas. In our writing this week, we have learned different ways to vary our sentences and how to refer to different characters, rather than just

calling them by their name. We have developed our descriptive writing and learned the rules for dialogue and speech. In maths we have been looking at area and have considered how to calculate the area of compound shapes. In our DT learning, we built our own slingshot cars and will be testing out their streamline, strength and ability to travel far next week. In PE, we carried on our unit based on yoga and selected different poses to create our own yoga flows. As part of our history learning, we considered how different artefacts can be used as an historical source and give us information about an early civilisation. Of course, our history learning was really brought to life through our fantastic trip to Norwich Castle Museum where we took part in some fun activities relating to ancient civilisations. Well done to all of our children who engaged well and behaved beautifully during our trip out today.

Message from Executive Headteacher

A huge thank you to our Friends group for their contributions to our trips, as these are incredibly valuable for the children's enrichment and without the fundraising they would not be able to go ahead. The Y4/5/6 Castle Museum trip was fantastic and a brilliant example. Please continue to support all our events. We look forward to seeing you at our end of term events, be they Easter Egg hunting or Church services!

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