



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 31st March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a term it has been, with so much excellent learning, such wonderful trips, including to Melsop Farm for Reception/Year One, to Hunstanton to the Sealife and RNLi centres for Y2/3 and to Castle Museum for Y4/5/6. We've had live music in school for the children to listen to and play, sporting competitions against other schools, sporting festivals at The Nicholas Hammond Academy, the Crucial Crew trip and event for Y6, Red Nose day, dressed up and celebrated World Book day with stories and activities, visitors coming in to do workshops, such as Online safety, Parents/Carers' Consultations, Parents/Carers' Cafes and Forums, and we finished off with our Easter events and Church Services this week. Phew!

Covering one of our classes whilst one of teachers was off recently reminded me what challenging, skilled and professional work teaching is, with hourly requirements to assess children, change your questioning accordingly, pitch the work differently as well as supporting children's emotional needs and remembering the little things that matter as well as working hard in the evenings to answer emails, communicate with people and plan and resource the following day's learning and events. Our staff do such a brilliant job and we are very lucky to have a team who invest so much into the children. A massive thanks also go to our Parents and Friends groups across the Federation for their various Easter events and to you all for supporting them. It has also been a difficult time recently across the Federation with the tragic and unexpected death of our colleague Paula Smith, a dedicated, skilled, compassionate and kind Teaching Assistant who always put others first. We have honoured her memory in various ways and are deeply grateful for all the messages of support we have had, so thank you.

Y4/5/6 Residential Visits – Summer term

There will be a letter and meeting regarding these two visits early next term, but just to say that we expect the cost of the Y4 residential to be very small and the cost of the Y5 and Y6 residential to be just under £100 (there is a different cost for each year group, with Y5 being cheaper as they are camping). These are in July, and you will be welcome to pay in instalments.

Price of School Meals

A piece of good news that we have received from our Trust in the last couple of days is that the planned increase from Aspens for the cost of school meals has been paused and that therefore the cost of school meals will remain the same - £2.47- at present. We will let you know if we hear of any change. Feedback regarding school meals has been passed to the Trust. Many thanks.

Message from Mrs Spaul

We have arrived at the Easter Holidays – 27 working weeks of the academic year have passed already! As much as we all really enjoy being here, I feel that every single one of us (pupil, parent or staff member) has



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worked incredibly hard and it will be a well-deserved break. I do always enter this holiday with a tinge of sadness as I realise that it will not be long before our Year 6s move on and start the next part of their school journey. However, the Summer Term is always a lovely term as we get to see a little bit more sunshine and feel a little bit more warmth and we spend more time outside. We have some lovely ideas planned so hopefully we'll get to spend some really lovely times together.

We are very sorry to say that we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Blakey today. We will be sad to see her go. In just the short time Mrs Blakey has been with us, she has been an asset to Castle Acre Primary Academy and we want to thank her for all that she's done, particularly for our children. She has been a valued member of our staffing team, often making us laugh, and we will miss her. Good luck in your new venture!

On a final note, following the sad news at Sporle last week, I would just like to say a thank you to all of our families who checked in with us or shared condolences. I know it did not directly affect us here at Castle Acre Academy, however, it shows us that we are part of the wider family of the Nar Valley Federation. It was very much appreciated.

Head of School Shining Light

Very occasionally and only ever on special occasions, I award someone with a shining light certificate from me. As a school, we try hard to foster our values in all of our children and I am proud to say that many of them display them all the time. There are some children who do genuinely go the extra mile and are a real credit and asset to the school community (I often think they should go on our payroll). So I would like to award a Head of School Shining Light to Elliot, Izzy, Ella and Erin from Oak Class as these children have proven to be such good friends to members of our school, showing kindness, tolerance, respect and inclusivity. A very big well done and thank you.

Attendance

The termly attendance herringbones will be coming home today. We would like to thank you for all of your hard work in keeping your children in school – we all know how tricky it can be encouraging them from their warm beds, particularly when just a little under the weather! We all know how vitally important it is for them to be in school all of the time. We are currently sitting above national average so well done everyone! If you have received a letter saying that we would like to meet with you to discuss your child's attendance, please do not worry. We want to work with you and support you to ensure that it improves.

Holidays

Please be aware that we will not be authorising any holidays during term time unless under special circumstances. Whilst we understand the rising costs of holidays and that there is a significant difference in cost between during school holiday and out of school holiday time, any time off has a significant impact on your child's education. Any holidays taken during term time are discussed with our attendance officer in our termly meetings.



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Dates

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

King's Coronation

On Friday May 5th, we will be celebrating the King's Coronation in school. We will be having a day of events in school which will culminate in some work and activities to showcase at the end of the day. As this is a family occasion, we would love for you to join us from 2:30pm for an Afternoon Tea style event to look at our showcase as well as share in some activities and games inside and out. You can collect your child as soon as you arrive if before 3:10, or at 3:10 as normal. We will be here until about 4:30/5:00pm so do come along at any time until then and stay. We will have some refreshments but you are more than welcome to bring your own Afternoon Tea to share with your family. Parents, carers, grandparents, aunts, uncles and siblings are all welcome. We look forward to seeing you all there.

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.

PE Kits

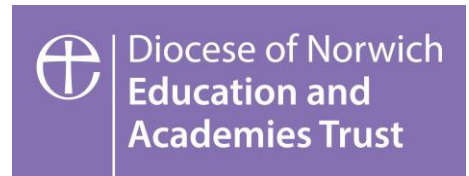
Please can I remind you that your child needs to have their PE kits in school from Monday to Friday and it needs to include a separate sweatshirt or jumper from their school one. We try and go outside as much as possible, especially the older children, and if they fall over wearing their school one it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

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 – 20th April at 9am

On 20th April drop in for a 'come and chat', with Mrs Spaul in the school hall. 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.



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News from our Classes

Rowan

Mathematician of the Week – Crimson for working out his number bonds to 10 using Numicon.

Reader of the Week – Mason F for working extremely hard with his phonics assessment.

Writer of the Week – Oscar for a fantastic recount of our school trip and including a journey map.

Shining Lights of the Week (Reception) - Florence for having a super learning attitude and independently using her phonics knowledge to write a sentence about our trip to the farm.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 1) – Bobbi for a fantastic attitude and his determination when writing his vegetable poem.

Whitebeam

Mathematician of the Week – Carter for his daily maths challenges.

Reader of the Week – Brody for having the courage to read in front of a large audience.

Writer of the Week – Holly for the quality and presentation of her writing.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 2) - Rowan always demonstrating kindness, respect and responsibility.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 3) - Max for playing well with other children.

Oak

Mathematician of the Week – Ella for her consistent improvement in maths this term and for completing lots of homework tasks to the best of her ability.

Reader of the Week – Leo for trying very hard to read more both at school and at home.

Writer of the Week - Freya for her excellent effort with her writing on Ancient Greece.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 4) – Finley H for always going the extra mile with his learning and for his beautiful manners around the school site.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 5) – Mason D for demonstrating some very polite and conscientious behaviour this week which has been noticed by other members of staff outside of our classroom. He also performed really well with his writing tasks this week.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 6) – Ellie-Mai for consistent effort with her learning and for being helpful around the classroom.

Finally, thank you to our lovely children for their super learning and behaviour. We hope you all enjoy Easter together, get to an Easter service and enjoy the odd egg or two too!

From Mrs Spaul and myself, we wish you a Happy Easter, hopefully Covid-free, with some joy and good weather and we look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday 18th April.

Best wishes,

Executive Headteacher



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Castle Acre, Narborough and Sporle C of E Primary Academy

Allergy Aware Schools – Please do not send nuts into Nar Valley Federation Academies