



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 21st April 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful break and, although the weather was very mixed, you managed to enjoy some days outside. We have been incredibly lucky since returning and blessed with some glorious sunshine. It has definitely lifted everyone's mood and there is great enthusiasm from all to get outside and make the most of the brighter weather. I have noticed shorts and summer dresses making an appearance. Please do remember to send your child in with a sun hat, even though it seems a little chilly. We ask that you also send them in with sun cream. Whilst we cannot apply this to your child, we will supervise and help them and our lunchtime staff always ensure there is time to put it on before going outside.

The children have returned ready and raring to go! There is a definite buzz around school with lots of enthusiasm for learning. They all suddenly seem to have grown up and are getting ready to take their next step in their learning journey. I have had some marvellous conversations with children this week about their learning. They have been eager to explain how different skills they acquire link together and how they can use these skills to gain further knowledge. Their thirst for learning and desire to want to know just that little bit more amazes me and the things they find out do, at times, blow my mind! I think my favourite conversation of the week has to be with Alex in Year 5 who started a discussion with me about whether we could possibly class a virus as an animal. Whilst I am not sure he can convince or prove to me that it can be, throughout the day he found out little nuggets of information about viruses, organisms and animals that I never knew. As Mrs Neary says, every day is a school day, even for the adults. I do have a feeling that Alex is not going to let this one rest and I expect more little nuggets of information and I say good for him and to keep investigating. This is one of the many reasons why I love my job!

Out of School Success

We would like to congratulate Ella in Year 6 who took part in a gymnastics competition in Norwich over the Easter holidays. Out of 35 girls, Ella came 3rd on Floor and has now qualified to go to Ipswich to compete regionally. We are very proud, well done Ella!

Welcome Mrs Nevill

We would like to welcome Mrs Nevill to the Castle Acre Primary Academy family. She will be teaching Oak Class on a Thursday and Friday until the end of the summer term. She joined us for the first day yesterday and had a lovely time with the children.

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. Thank you to the families who have sold their ducks and returned their duck sheet and in some cases asked for more ducks! If you have not yet sold your ducks please could we ask that you try to sell them to friends and family during this week? 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 by Friday 28th May. 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!

Attendance

Before the Easter holidays, we sent your child's attendance record home for this academic year. If you received a letter asking you to book an appointment to see Mrs Spaul, please call the school office and book this in.

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.

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!

News from our Classes

Rowan

Mathematician of the Week – Oliver P for great problem solving when learning about equal groups.

Reader of the Week – Ivy for consistently using Fred in your head when reading in phonics.

Writer of the Week – Oliver L for a super sentence during morning work including common exception word 'the'.

Shining Lights of the Week (Reception) Isla P for super determination during a maths lesson and taking a great amount of care.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 1) – Brianna for a showing such a super learning attitude and great determination in all of her work this week.

Well done Rowan class for a fantastic start to our new term. The children have returned refreshed and eager to learn, the sunshine has been a huge boost and has aided our amount of outside learning this week. We have identified some human and physical features in geography within our environment. Next week we look forward to our village walk where we will extend our knowledge on geographical features in our local community. In science we have begun to look at vertebrates and invertebrates and our particular focus of bees, starting to think about why bees are important to us.

Whitebeam

Mathematician of the Week – Molly for her perseverance in Tackling Tables and obtaining a certificate.

Reader of the Week – Alexander for his reading and answering questions in Read, Write Inc.

Writer of the Week – Mason F for his beautiful handwriting and taking care over the presentation of his work.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 2) - Logan for being a polite and responsible member of the class.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 3) - Fletcher for super partner work.

The children have had a super week settling back into school after the Easter break. In science they have been learning about different food groups and what makes a healthy meal. In music they have started a new unit where the focus is on rock music and have been listening to and moving to the pulse of music. They have also started to play the glockenspiel which is our instrument for this half term. In geography they have identified the River Ouse and looked at maps to see its journey from its source to the sea. They have also used grid references to locate different physical features on a map. In English we are looking at different explanation texts before we write our own and in art we have evaluated our Modroc fish sculptures. In maths the children have been busy measuring the length and height of different objects using cm, mm and m and they have been solving problems involving measuring. Well done Whitebeam.

Oak

Mathematician of the Week – Esther for becoming more and more confident in raising her hand to offer her thoughts in maths.

Reader of the Week – Lola for enthusiasm in reading 'The Hobbit'.

Writer of the Week - Maddie for independently using a dictionary to support her spelling within her narrative.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 4) – Leo for making brilliant choices in his learning behaviours this week.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 5) – Aleashia for putting in a huge effort with her learning.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 6) – Josh for a huge improvement in his attitude towards his learning and an excellent piece of narrative writing.

This week, Oak class have settled in wonderfully after the Easter holidays. The children started the week off by refining their narrative work based on 'Prisoner 42'. We focused on including modal verbs and played a game to support our learning on active and passive voice; the children behaved brilliant during the game with each group being on task and engaged with their learning. In maths, we have consolidated our learning of area and perimeter and dividing decimal numbers by 10, 100 and 1,000. Some children extended their learning by calculating the mean of a set of data. In our reading, many children have shown an interest in the text 'The Hobbit', so we have begun to read this in our guided session - making inferences, unpicking the vocabulary and discussing the genre. Our history learning is drawing to a close, as we finish off our learning about the Ancient Greeks and what their lasting legacy was. Great work this week, Oak class.

Message from Executive Headteacher

It has been lovely to see everyone again this week and we are looking forward to a busy Summer term with some super trips and opportunities for our children, including sporting, dramatic and artistic.

Teacher strikes

As you know, the situation has not yet been resolved and strikes continue. We will confirm for you by Monday at the latest the situation for each class but so that you can make arrangements, please note: It is highly likely that Oak class will be closed. Rowan and Whitebeam will be open as usual.

Scabies

Please be aware that Scabies is prevalent in Norfolk currently.

Scabies is a contagious skin condition caused by tiny mites that burrow into the skin. The main symptom of scabies is intense [itching](#) that's worse at night. It also causes a skin rash on areas where the mites have burrowed.

The main symptoms of scabies are intense itching and a rash in areas of the body where the mites have burrowed.

The [itching](#) is often worse at night, when your skin is warmer. It may take 4 to 6 weeks before the itching starts because this is how long it takes for the body to react to mite droppings.

Symptoms will start within 1 to 2 days if you've had a scabies infection in the past. This is because your immune system will have learned to respond to a scabies infection.

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