



Diocese of Norwich  
Education and  
Academies Trust

## The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Anne Neary

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

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Parents,

Firstly, where has the week gone and secondly where has April gone! Somehow this has all rushed past me and we are at the end of another week and 4 months through the year.

It's been a strange week for me as, due to various things, I haven't been in classrooms as much as I normally am but yesterday we had a visit from someone to come and support our phonics teaching. Whilst welcoming in outside professionals can lead to a little anxiety for the staffing team (we all just want to do our absolute best), it is a real pleasure for me to be able to show other professionals what a wonderful group of people I work with and also what amazing children we have. Despite the fact that Mrs Neary and I were supposed to be monitoring too, we couldn't help but be distracted by our amazing children and what confident and resilient learners we have. We were blown away by Ella who talked about loving tricky work and Bobbi who said he loves a challenge. We were incredibly impressed by those in Blue Group and the level of participation – every single child joined in, even those who were not so confident (it can be a bit scary when adults you don't know descend on your lesson). And the children in Reception were just very enthusiastic and keen to show their phonic knowledge. To be clear, the visitor thought exactly the same as I did and complimented our staff on their phonic knowledge and on our children for their excellent learning behaviours. She left us with some great advice that will enable us to develop our provision even further.

### Head of School Shining Light

Every now and again, I have the pleasure of awarding a Shining Light to a pupil. They have to have worked incredibly hard to receive this! This week, I would like to award one to Fletcher in Year 3. Whilst it is vitally important that we educate our children in academic skills such as reading, writing and calculating, we also know how crucial it is that we foster skills and values in our children that will help them to become life-long learners and be able to meet any challenge with confidence, determination and a belief that they can succeed. There are times that we gently encourage our children to step out of their comfort zone and that is exactly what I did with Fletcher this week. He completely and utterly rose to the challenge and displayed incredible levels of resilience and perseverance for which he should feel very proud. Well done Fletcher and I am pleased to be able to award you a Shining Light from me.

### King's Coronation

On Friday May 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating the King's Coronation in school. **This is a non-uniform day and pupils are invited to come to school wearing red, white and blue.** 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.

### **End KS2 SATS**

The week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> May is end of KS2 SATS week. There will be a letter coming home today that will confirm the timetable and other arrangements for this week. We know our Year 6 children will be brilliant and will try their very best, which is all we can ever ask. Nevertheless, we wish them all the very best of luck.

### **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.

### **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** – Sybil for good knowledge of doubles with numbers up to 20.

**Readers of the Week** – Isla B for applying her phonics knowledge during reading and English. Mason H for consistently sounding out and blending and for a great discussion about his reading book

**Writer of the Week** – Skyla for applying finger spaces, capital letters, and full stops when writing weekend news for morning work.

**Shining Lights of the Week (Reception)** Florence for showing great persistence when completing a tricky task of representing number 11-20.

**Shining Lights of the Week (Year 1)** – Oliver L for showing kindness and helpfulness to another member of the class.

Rowan class has worked incredibly hard this week, they have been doing some superb learning. Our week began with a very special visit from 'Rowan the Lamb'. In English, we began to look at a new book called 'Bees' which sparked some fantastic discussions and previous knowledge of what we already know about bees! In maths, reception continued to explore numbers up to 20, and year one has been learning about doubles and equal grouping. We enjoyed our walk around the village and identified many human and physical features, following this the children created a map of our journey using different materials. Well done Rowan class.

### **Whitebeam**

**Mathematician of the Week** – Brody for working well in all areas of maths.

**Reader of the Week** – Rowan for working well with his reading and achieving 100 reads.

**Writers of the Week** – Holly for her writing about life in a motte and bailey castle and Fletcher for the presentation of his writing.

**Shining Lights of the Week (Year 2)** - Alexander for playing nicely with others.

**Shining Lights of the Week (Year 3)** - Holly for extending her learning at home by making a trebuchet.

**Children's worship** - Esther, Molly, Etta, Bobbi, Izzy

In Whitebeam Class we had a great start to the week (along with Rowan Class) as we were able to meet Rowan the lamb who came to visit on Monday afternoon. The children had lots of questions and loved how soft he was. We have started some new units of learning, in history we are learning about castles, kings and queens and we have placed some important kings and queens in chronological order on a timeline and will be learning about what makes them important over the coming weeks. We have also looked at what a trebuchet is and how it works and we will be making our own in DT and also using these to write about in our explanation texts. We have drawn, painted and labelled a motte and bailey castle and written about what it might have been like to visit one. We also recognised that we have the remains of one very close to us! In science we discussed and designed a picnic plate that could be eaten at a coronation picnic with the focus being on a balanced diet and recalling the different food groups. Well done Whitebeam for another super week.

### **Oak**

**Mathematician of the Week** – Freya for always persevering and not being afraid to speak up and ask for help.

**Reader of the Week** – Elliot for being able to define new vocabulary, such as 'unconquerable'.

**Writer of the Week** - Marley for putting in his best effort with his writing recently.

**Shining Light of the Week (Year 4)** – Lola for always trying to challenge herself in her learning

Reading: Elliot for being able to define new vocabulary, such as 'unconquerable'.

**Shining Light of the Week (Year 5)** – Izzy for demonstrating confidence and resilience during children's worship.

**Shining Light of the Week (Year 6)** – Erin for consistently demonstrating school values and high expectations of herself.

This week, Oak class have initiated their newspaper writing, based on a picture book called 'Tuesday'. The children have already begun to consider all of the necessary organisational and language features necessary for writing a report. In our maths learning, we have spent some time revisiting and revising the four operations; particularly methods of division and multiplication. We have enjoyed learning a poem called Invictus, written by William Ernest Henley, and have explored all of the different language choices and suggested meaning. We have spent some time presenting all of our learning on the Ancient Greeks and collating it together as an informative double-page spread.

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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