



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 5th May 2023

Dear Parents,

If I had written this yesterday, I would have said how glorious the weather has been and how much we have enjoyed being outside and how much lighter we feel without the thick jumpers and heavy coats! However, the rain is now absolutely hammering down (with the sun still trying to break through). As break time arrives, we will get to see how many children say 'I haven't got a coat...it wasn't raining when I left!' Please do ensure that your child brings a raincoat with them, we do try and get them outside as much as possible and they are not keen on having to stay in if their friends are out.

We have had a fantastic couple of days with visits to the theatre which the children enjoyed. We changed the performance to Boudicca at the last minute for Rowan and Whitebeam as it was felt that there was a lot of story-telling that might not be interactive enough for the younger children. They thoroughly enjoyed it & well done to the children who were brave enough to go on stage and shout 'Hail Caesar!'

We have also been completing activities around the Coronation. Can I thank Mrs O'Connor for putting the flag and bunting up outside, rather precariously at the top of a ladder! The children have been busy painting, sticking and researching for our showcase event that we are looking forward to later. My car boot is full of edible goodies for you all to enjoy! We are very much looking forward to our second bank holiday in a row – my only concern is that I am not sure we are going to manage a full week! I think by Friday we will all be tired and confused! Whatever your plans and whatever the weather, have an enjoyable weekend and Year 6, please do try and get some rest and no late night on Monday!!

Outdoor Space

I will be working with the children over the rest of the Summer Term to work on our outdoor space. We are incredibly fortunate to be in the location we are and have the space we do and we want to maximise the use of it. Miss George is working hard on developing the Forest School area and that is really taking shape now. I don't want to give too much away as I want the children to have their input and take some ownership over it but I will look forward to sharing their thoughts and ideas with you over the coming weeks. If you have any ideas you would like to share or think you may be able to help with resources, equipment or time as we develop this then please let us know. Thank you in advance.

End KS2 SATS – next week

Next week is end of KS2 SATS 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. I think there is a little treat planned for you on the Friday after the final test.

Miss George will be in all week to administer the assessments with Mrs Bridgeman and I will be teaching the Year 4s and 5s on Tuesday and Wednesday morning while they do this.

End KS1 SATs – w/b 15/05/2023

Whilst these tests are not sat as formally as end of KS2, our Year 2 children still sit SATs paper and, along with teacher assessment, make up their final assessment score at the end of the key stage to show us what they can do, what they find tricky and how much progress they have made since the end of their Reception Year. We do not have to do these at a specific time, just as long as we complete them in May. We will be completing most of ours during the week beginning 15th May. Whilst we keep everything as informal as we can, it is really helpful if you can spend some time at home with your child practising their spellings, number bonds and times tables and reading with them daily. Thank you for your support and if you have any questions then please see Miss Taylor or myself.

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

For the last few years, Year 4 have been required to complete a Multiplication Tables Check. This is a short test online and is to be completed between the 5th June and 16th June. Please encourage your child to practice their tables every night, the speedier the better! Thank you for your support and if you have any questions then please see Miss George or myself.

Attendance

We are really pleased with our attendance at the moment – we are always striving for 100% but anything 96% or above we are happy with. We thank you for all your support in keeping the children in school, especially as we have been battling the summer colds. It really does make a difference them being here!

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

We thank you for working with us to book holidays out of term time. We completely understand the savings that can be made and know it can be really tempting, especially this time of year, to think that a few days out will not make any difference. However, there are lots of assessments that happen this term which help us and High Schools to tailor teaching for next year so your child can make the progress they are capable of. They will have to complete these regardless of whether they are here during the assessment period or not and it is much nicer for them to do them with their peers rather than when their peers are doing other projects. We also have lots of activities and events coming up that we know the children will love to be part of and it can be hard for them to hear their friends talk about these.

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.

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.

Dates

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

Congratulations to Sporle

Just to say a big well done to Sporle for their appearance on Good Morning Britain this morning. Whilst I didn't see it as I was on my journey to school, I hear that the children were fabulous, especially as it was a very early start. I look forward to watching it on Catch Up. It is nice to see the successes of our wider Federation Family.

News from our Classes

Rowan

Mathematician of the Week – Finlay for challenging himself when finding half of different shapes.

Reader of the Week – Bobbi for some fantastic reading in his new phonics group.

Writer of the Week – Florence for a fantastic illustration of some blossom and great use of adjectives.

Shining Lights of the Week (Reception) Ella for having a great learning attitude this week including some brilliant knowledge about The Coronation.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 1) – Oscar for continuing with some learning during choosing time and showing all of our class promises.

Another brilliant week in Rowan class! We really enjoyed our trip to the theatre to watch Boudicca. I think my favourite moment was hearing and seeing all of the giggles and smiles from all of the children. This week we have learnt lots about King Charles III and prepared for our celebration of the Coronation. We have made flags, crowns and even sketched a portrait of King Charles III himself. In English we have looked for signs of spring and came up with some fantastic adjectives to describe our chosen objects. Next week we will be writing our information text about bees.

Well done Rowan class.

Whitebeam

Mathematician of the Week – Logan for working really well this week in his maths.

Reader of the Week – Tyler for super reading and increasing fluency.

Writer of the Week – Max for his independent writing and super scores in his spelling tests.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 2) - Elarni for always demonstrating super manners.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 3) - Brody and Tyler for demonstrating courage as they volunteered and went on the stage to help during the performance of Boudicca.

In Whitebeam Class this week we have had many different and exciting experiences. On Wednesday we went to see Boudicca at West Acre Theatre and thoroughly enjoyed it. It was very interactive and it was fantastic to see children from each class and school volunteering to go on stage and help! On Thursday morning we split into 3 groups of mixed ages and rotated around each class which had different art and craft activities associated with the coronation of King Charles. Throughout the week we have also been learning more about King Charles and his life. In English we have thought about suitable titles for our explanation texts about trebuchets and have started to write our introductions. In maths we have been learning about mass and have been using scales to help us weigh and compare different objects and in RE we have been thinking about our enquiry question 'should we look after the world?' Our focus this half term in PE is rounders and the children have been working enthusiastically whilst learning new skills. Well done Whitebeam.

Oak

Mathematician of the Week – Josh for demonstrating an excellent understanding of interpreting line graphs.

Reader of the Week – Alex for using his knowledge of synonyms to support his understanding of a text.

Writer of the Week - Mason for taking much care in his double-page spread about the Ancient Greeks.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 4) – Isla for taking such pride in her writing and presentation.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 5) – Freya for continuously upholding the school values and always being ready to learn.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 6) – Ellie-Mai for taking responsibility of her learning by revising as much as she possibly can during school.

This week had been a very busy week for Oak class, with all children knuckling down for some revision lessons and supporting the year 6s with their upcoming SATs assessments. We have finished our double page spreads

based on the Ancient Greeks, read and interpreted line graphs, calculated missing internal angles of triangles, converted different units of measure and have written a diary entry as if we were a witness to the incidents of 'Tuesday', by David Wiesner. The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the West Acre theatre and embraced the activities for the King's coronation.

Message from Executive Headteacher

School day

As you know, we like children to arrive at school for 8.40am. This is to make you aware that by September 2024, this will be our compulsory start time with our finish time of 3.10.

Attendance Policy

Please read our attendance policy and in particular note the section that is clear that from September we will have the option to fine families for poor attendance. Circumstances in which we will consider fining could be repeated term time holidays, so please do bear this in mind for next year and avoid booking these. Every day really genuinely does count for our children's learning, experience, social and emotional growth. Thank you for your support.

A big thank you to all our staff for organising various activities to celebrate the Coronation weekend, and a special congratulations to our Sporle children who were on Good Morning Britain this morning! Have a lovely Bank holiday weekend and see you all on Tuesday.

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