



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 12th May 2023

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I must say a huge well done to our Year 6 children, Miss George, Mrs Bridgeman and Miss Howman (who has been keeping the papers secure and making sure they are all packaged up correctly ready for collection) for working so incredibly hard this week. It is their first taste of formal assessment and whilst we endeavour to keep everything calm and relaxed, they want to do their best and naturally find it a bit daunting. I can honestly say that they have shown themselves at their best and should feel very, very proud. Thank you to the wider staff team for all of their support and the other children who have closed doors quietly, whispered when passing a message or tiptoeing down the corridor. It is hard in a school as small as ours but they have done well. Our Year 2s have started a couple of their assessments with the majority being completed next week.

We had a really lovely end to last week with our Coronation Showcase event. It was lovely to see so many families attend and for the children to show their portraits, bunting, stained-glass windows and facts about King Charles III. We will have a few more family events coming up over the rest of the term so please keep an eye on the date sheet and we will give further details of as many of them as we can next week.

Duck Race, Sunday 14th May, 3pm

A reminder that The Friends' Annual Duck Race fundraiser is this Sunday, starting 3pm from Jubilee Bridge, Castle Acre and the ducks then race along the river through to South Acre ford. Thanks for your support so far in buying ducks, please join us on race day if you can for a lovely walk along the river, followed by refreshments for sale on The Friends' stall at South Acre ford.

Wet Weather Gear Plea!

As we develop our Forest School Area space, we are wanting to make use of it more and more. We like to be out in all weathers so if you have any spare wet weather gear (waterproof trousers, coats, all-in-ones, wellies) then we would be happy to give them a new home! Please send them to the school office or to Miss George.

Outdoor Space

We have already started working with some of the children on the garden area, tidying up a bit and getting the beds ready to grow some crops. I will be working with the children over the rest of the Summer Term to continue this and create some clear spaces. 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 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 papers 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.

Year 1 Phonics Test

At the end of Year 1, the children complete a Phonics Screening Assessment. This is done in school and is completed by Miss Watkins. We have to complete it during the week beginning 12th June and the results will be reported to you at the end of term.

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.

Parking

Please can you not park in the bus space outside the school gates, particularly at the beginning of the day. There have been a couple of near misses this week because the bus has had to park towards the front of the space and it is making the turn quite narrow. We appreciate your understanding and co-operation in this matter.

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 dose, 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. In next week's newsletter, we will clarify details of as many of the rest of the term's events as we can.

News from our Classes

Rowan

Mathematician of the Week – Isla B has shown brilliant determination in maths this week.

Reader of the Week – Sybil for independently choosing to read chapter books at home.

Writer of the Week – Skyla for putting so much effort into her writing.

Shining Lights of the Week (Reception) Florence for applying her previous learning regarding the human body and bees.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 1) – Finn for having such a fantastic learning attitude and continuing with his learning during his own time.

A fab week in Rowan class, lots of brilliant learning. We have been continuing to learn about bees. In science we have looked at the growth of a bee and in English we have started to create our own non-chronological reports about bees using some non-fiction materials. In Art we have continued to explore pop art and print with some natural materials. Next week we will be using vegetables to print using a repeating pattern.

Whitebeam

Mathematician of the Week – Jasper for working well in arithmetic.

Reader of the Week – Olivia for enthusiastic participation during reading activities.

Writer of the Week – Carter for his super effort when writing this week.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 2) - Molly for always demonstrating all of our school values.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 3) - Max for being polite and demonstrating good manners.

Well another busy four day week in Whitebeam! The children were excited to return to school and tell us about their long weekends and the different ways they had celebrated the coronation of King Charles. The children were very excited to compare three trebuchets and to use technical vocabulary including the causal conjunctions as, when and which to orally explain how they work! They have also started to make their own trebuchets in DT starting with an A-frame made from wooden lolly sticks and a glue gun! In history we have started to learn about William the Conqueror and the class have looked at images of the Bayeux Tapestry and how this can be used as a historical source. In maths our focus has been exploring different strategies that help us to answer arithmetic questions. Well done to the Y2 children who have started their KS1 SATS and to the Y3 children for their learning whilst the SATS are taking place. Well done Whitebeam.

Oak

Mathematician of the Week – Alex for explaining his answers and giving reasonable explanations to justify.

Reader of the Week – Mason D for excellent comprehension and working independently.

Writer of the Week - Aleashia for lovely presentation and effort with her writing this week.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 4) – Pearl for consistently upholding the school values.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 5) – Ruby for working independently this week.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 6) – Ellie-Mai for demonstrating perseverance and resilience every day this week.

This week, our year 6 children have made us all incredibly proud through demonstrating resilience and determination throughout the whole of SATs week (as well as demonstrating how much golden syrup a waffle

can possibly soak up). The years 4 and 5 children have been empathetic and supportive of their classmates going through this tricky time (although a little jealous of their breakfast choices, I believe!). We have had a focus on wellbeing this week and have spent some time with Miss George outside. We began a little forest school learning as we were faced with a challenge of making a painting without a paintbrush or any paint. The children made sustainable paintbrushes using sticks, twine and various leaves to create various patterns and strokes. The most common paint colour was brown (mud), but we managed to create some green and yellow through using grass and dandelions. Sadly the weather let us down on Friday, as we were going to make our own charcoal, but will ensure we do this one day next week. In maths, the children have been looking at angles and ways to measure them in different situations. With Mrs. Spaul, Oak class worked on a design project for creating a new game for cool maths games. There has been some brilliant learning taking place with Mrs. Nevill, with the children looking at the different ways to use an apostrophe in our writing.

Message from Executive Headteacher

SATS

I just wanted to acknowledge the superb behaviours, efforts and maturity shown by our Y6's this week. I've been invigilating at Sporle this year so haven't been able to get to Castle Acre and Narborough, but I know from the staff team how great everyone has been. SATS are mainly for school and are nothing to worry about, but they are something to do your best in and a good step in children's learning journey. To know that you can face something that makes you nervous and succeed by doing your best is a big step and a good confidence boost for the future. Well done Y6 children, you can handle these, you are definitely ready for your next step of Secondary school!

Nursery update re: Narborough Primary

The consultation to open our nursery at Narborough has now closed and was positive. We are now awaiting confirmation from the Department for Education that we are able to extend our age range and will of course update you when we have any further information.

Finnbar's Force

The above is a charity to support children who have cancer, and is a charity personal to a DNEAT colleague. You can learn about Finnbar here: <http://www.finnbarsforce.co.uk/about-finnbar/>

We would like our children to take part in fundraising for children who are just like them, except for the life-threatening illness they face.

Therefore on Friday 26th May, please could your child come to school wearing gold/yellow clothing, for a donation of any amount, enabling our children to let their light shine, and help others.

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