



Diocese of Norwich
Education and
Academies Trust

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Anne Neary

Web: www.narvalley.dneat.org

Friday 19th May 2023

Dear Parents,

Well it started as another rainy day and after a week of sunshine we are a little disappointed! It was quite obviously cold too as Mrs Neary clasped her cup of tea, warming her hands whilst chatting to families outside in the drizzle. However, standing on the gate doing my morning greeting, I briefly forgot about the rain as I was struck by what a fantastic family we have here at Castle Acre School. It is super to hear all the little snippets about how well children are doing both in and out of school and how they are 'thriving'. Someone said quite recently about how drop off and pick up has a lovely social feel and people feel included. It is lovely to hear comments like that. I can wholeheartedly say that that atmosphere continues inside of school too. Our children are fantastic and demonstrate all our values and I can only say what a pleasure it is to work with the wonderful staffing team. I remember in my teacher training (a mere 22 years ago!) that a school is not just a building, it is a community and how very true that is.

Update – the sunshine has appeared!!

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.

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.

Show and Tell Toys

As you will be aware, the children are allowed to bring in something to show and talk about when they are Child of the Day. Can we ask that these are age appropriate and are not related to computer or online games. We appreciate your understanding in this matter.

Request for Large Flower Pots

The school would be grateful for donations of any large, unwanted flower pots, so the children can use them for growing things in at school. Please can they can be brought to the school office, or left in the bike shed, thank you.

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

Thank you for your co-operation with this and not parking in the bus bay. Please continue to be careful as you come round the corner. It narrows a bit and there were some near misses this morning between cars. 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 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. 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 – Tia for great understanding of giving and following directional instructions.

Reader of the Week – Brianna for great determination and confidence when reading and writing split diagrams.

Writer of the Week – Isla P for having such confidence in independent writing.

Shining Lights of the Week (Reception) Ivy for always showing kindness to others in the class.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 1) – Crimson for putting so much effort into his learning.

Well another busy week in Rowan class. The children have been very fascinated as we have continued our learning about bees. In science we have been learning about the different types of bees and how honey is made. Following on from this, in English we have used information texts and videos about bees to help us write our own reports. Reception have been reading the very greedy bee and have drawn some brilliant illustrations and thought about how he may be feeling. In maths, year 1 have been following and giving directional instructions and reception have been working out how many objects have been added or taken away. Well done Rowan class

Whitebeam

Mathematician of the Week – Tyler for accurate programming of the Beebot.

Reader of the Week – Elarni for looking super reading with increasing expression.

Writer of the Week – Olivia for sentences using correct punctuation.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 2) - Molly for her kindness by sharing resources from home with school.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 3) - Holly for her super teamwork when testing trebuchets and programming the Beebot.

Children's Worship - Aleashia, Brody, Leo, Oscar, Isla B

Well done Whitebeam for another super week of learning. The highlight has been finishing our trebuchets and testing them out! We have seen quite a competitive streak as they have seen how far their projectiles will go! This has led to lots of discussion and adapting their projectiles to see if they could improve the distance they travelled. They even decided to record their scores which was fantastic to see and linked to our recent focus of measurement in maths. They have also now completed their explanation texts of how a trebuchet works. In history they have researched William the Conqueror and written mini fact files and we have started to make our own Bayeux Tapestry thinking about the events of the Battle of Hastings in chronological order. In maths we have looked at directions and turns and the class enjoyed having the Y6 children join them for rounders in PE on Tuesday. Well done to all the Y2 children who have now completed their SATS.

Oak

Mathematician of the Week – Marley for his determination and perseverance to get full marks in his Tackling Tables test.

Reader of the Week – Rory for his obvious enjoyment of books.

Writer of the Week - Esther for a marked improvement in effort and attitude in writing, which in turn is helping her to make brilliant progress in writing.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 4) – James for becoming much more responsible for his learning and being able to ask for help when needed.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 5) – Aleashia for demonstrating brilliant teamwork in encouraging others during 'The Daily Mile'.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 6) – Didier for always going above and beyond to support everyone in school, both peers and members of staff.

This week, Oak class have had a taste of forest school learning. On Wednesday morning, we spent some time learning about fire triangles and fire safety so that we could make our own charcoal on the school grounds.

Using willow branches, a tin and a fire pit, each child made their own charcoal, which they later had the opportunity to draw with. It turned out brilliantly and we even managed to have some toasted marshmallows. Each class member behaved sensibly and safely around the fire. In our writing learning, we have used dramatisation techniques to get in to character and consider the style of newspaper reports, including different levels of formality depending on who is reporting. In maths, we have been working on statistics (reading line graphs, in particular) and angles around a point.

Message from Executive Headteacher

Residentials

Many thanks to those who could make the Y5/6 residential meeting yesterday. Please don't worry if you couldn't make it, the information packs will be coming out soon and you are more than welcome to give me a ring or drop me an email via the office if you wanted to ask anything specific. We're looking forward to it! I wanted to reiterate that we do not want the cost to be a reason that a child does not go so if money is a difficulty, please do let me know and we will find a way forward using charity support.

Y4 Residential

There will be a meeting and information letter regarding this after half-term; in the meantime, the date is on the diary sheet and we do anticipate it being a low-cost event as was planned last year before the heatwave scuppered our plans!

Parents/Carers' Questionnaires will be coming out before half-term so please do give your views on those.

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