



Diocese of Norwich  
Education and  
Academies Trust

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## The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Anne Neary

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

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Dear Parents,

Here we are with another half term gone by. It is scary how quickly time passes. However, the sun is shining and we are feeling better because of it!

This half term is always a strange one as it seems to be full of assessments, breaking the normal routine of school life and busy in a very different way from normal. With the extra bank holiday as well, we have had only a few full weeks in school and those full weeks have felt long! I think everyone is looking forward to next week and quite rightly so after all the hard work and efforts. Going into this holiday is always tinged with sadness as we know that this will be the final holiday where our Year 6s return to us. They suddenly seem so very grown up and are definitely ready to take their next steps. They had a lovely day at Wells on Tuesday and Miss George is adamant that she would like to keep them and I second her in that!

Whatever your plans are for the upcoming week, have a lovely time, remember the sun cream and sunhats as I believe the big yellow circle will be making an appearance. We have a few events planned for after half term and look forward to seeing you at them.

### **Duck Race 2023**

The Friends of Castle Acre Primary Academy did an amazing job with the annual duck race. It was my first year attending with my little boy and we both had the best of fun, cheering on our 2 ducks amongst the 1000 (we had absolutely no idea which ones were ours!). There was a real family feel as everyone meandered along the pathway trying to identify their duck(s) and give them great encouragement. At South Acre ford, a group of children were doing a marvellous job of collecting the 1000 ducks with varying degrees of success and the Friends were managing the rush of customers at the refreshments stall incredibly well. A huge thanks has to go to Libby and her team of helpers for putting on such a successful event and of course to Neil and Patrick for 'driving' the ducks along the river and encouraging any strays. In the end, they raised a huge total of £1202.07. Well done and thank you to everyone who bought a duck and attended, plus local businesses who helped with selling the ducks and to those who donated prizes.

### **Sports Day**

Our Sports Day will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. As in previous years we invite families to join us for a picnic on the field from 12pm before we start the track events just after 1pm. Just some prior warning that we ask your child comes in their PE kit that day as we do field events in the morning. Please can they wear a t-shirt in their team colour. If you are not sure what team your child is in, please ask their teacher.

### **Billiards League Champions – Congratulations!**

An extra congratulations to Joshua and Aleashia from Oak class, for becoming the new West Acre Billiards Club League champions of 2022-2023!

### **Tuck Shop**

We have decided to run the tuck shop again for the Summer Term on Wednesday and Friday morning breaks. We will be selling very similar items to last year – popcorn, fruit flakes, fruit winders. We try to choose items that are low in sugar. On Fridays we do put out more treats but never sweets or chocolate bars. This is open to all year groups with each item costing 30p. The money is to be brought in in a named envelope or wallet on the day. There will be free fruit on offer too and your child can have both.

### **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 5<sup>th</sup> June and 16<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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!

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### News from our Classes

#### Rowan

**Mathematician of the Week** – Toby for a brilliant explanation of the properties of 3D shapes.

**Reader of the Week** – Oliver P for your instant recall of set 1,2 & 3 sounds in phonics.

**Writer of the Week** – Sybil for a fantastic information leaflet about Castle Acre.

**Shining Lights of the Week (Reception)** Skyla for always putting so much effort into your work and being so caring with our resources.

**Shining Lights of the Week (Year 1)** – Finlay for showing kindness to others and demonstrating such caring values when helping a bee in need.

Another fabulous week in Rowan class! I can't believe we are at another half term - time flies when you are having fun! This week we have enjoyed lots of outdoor learning which has been fantastic to see. In Geography we have written some information guides explaining the human and physical features of Castle Acre. Rowan Class have impressed me with their phonics this week and have tried exceptionally hard. In Art we have continued to explore more of Andy Warhol and we have created our own pop art using vegetables to create a repeating pattern. Well done Rowan class!

#### Whitebeam

**Mathematician of the Week** – Holly for super problem solving.

**Reader of the Week** – Tyler for perseverance in reading comprehension.

**Writer of the Week** – Molly for fantastic written facts about William the Conqueror.

**Shining Lights of the Week (Year 2)** - Rowan for getting straight back to it.

**Shining Lights of the Week (Year 3)** - Max for managing changes to the timetable with patience and calm.

We have had a lovely week in Whitebeam Class. We have been thinking particularly about gardens and our outdoor space prior to National Garden week next week. We have created our own secret gardens and continued to develop our school garden (which does need a lot of TLC). We have done lots of weeding and digging, finding a few worms and woodlice along the way. We have also thought about our whole outdoor space and how we would like to develop it. Ideas included a digging zone, a water fountain, a relaxing area with an egg chair and outdoor furniture, swings and a slide and a tree-house. An animal zone is also quite popular, although I personally am not too sure about parrots and monkeys! We have also been learning about Pentecost and Mrs McGarrell and Mrs Harris made a wonderful cross out of wire and natural items from around the school.

#### Oak

**Mathematician of the Week** – Finley for approaching his maths learning with an open-mind and always putting in his best effort.

**Reader of the Week** – Sammy for amazing us all with relevant facts about atoms that he had read and understood.

**Writer of the Week** - Isla for a great orientation detailing the 5Ws of her newspaper report.

**Shining Light of the Week (Year 4)** – Roxanne for consistently being responsible, caring and supportive to all.

**Shining Light of the Week (Year 5)** – Alex for taking on board feedback and doing his best to improve his recent test scores.

**Shining Light of the Week (Year 6)** – Maddie for outstanding behaviour and teamwork (not to mention hiding skills!) on our school trip this week.

Well done, Oak class, on making it to half term! It has been a great week for positive learning behaviours and the year 4 and 5 children have really persevered during the assessment period. In our geography learning, we have begun to look at the idea of 'sustainability', and how we can apply this to everyday life. This week, we considered different types of power stations, where they can be found in the UK and whether they impact positively or negatively upon our environment. In our writing, we have started our newspaper reports which are based on 'Tuesday' and the incident of the flying frogs. The year 6 children behaved impeccably on the school trip to Wells this week, displaying our school values at every moment possible. They worked as part of a team and even made some friends across the federation. It was such a pleasurable trip which ended with giant ice creams covered in biscoff, so a well-earned treat after the SATs.

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### **Message from Executive Headteacher**

#### **Safeguarding; Omegle**

Omegle is becoming popular again, and the lack of safeguarding for children using it is very frightening. Did you know Omegle has a 'Spy' function, where someone anonymous can hover in a conversation and view replies? They can also ask someone to tell them something posing as someone else.

A [BBC investigation](#) found sexually explicit videos and live streams involving minors as young as 7 or 8 which spread across the site during the Covid-19 pandemic. BBC alerted the relevant authorities. However, there is still a risk of users unexpectedly coming across inappropriate content including explicit materials.

Use this link to find out more and what you can do to ensure your children are not exposed to inappropriate content. <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/what-is-omegle-what-parents-need-to-know/>

#### **Half-term**

May I wish everyone a lovely and hopefully sunshine-filled week and some family time together.

#### **A prayer for a half-term**

Dear Father,

Please grant us some time as a family this coming week, time to make memories, to tell each other how much we appreciate and value each other and time to do the things that make us happy.

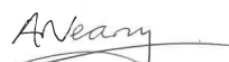
Amen

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