



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 9th June 2023

Dear Parents,

We have reached the final half term – now just 6 weeks to go. My diary has been busy this week and it has meant that I haven't been able to spend as much time as I would have liked at Castle Acre (a day away is a day too many!) but when I return, I am always pleased to see the great culture and enthusiasm for learning that exists in all our classes. Rowan Class have been eager to tell me all about their bees and were incredibly enthusiastic about practising for Sports Day. Whitebeam were busy with their noses stuck in books about castles, ready for their trip today. Oak Class were eager to get outside to learn about turns in maths and Marley impressed me by rising to the challenge on names of obscure shapes – great use of prior knowledge to help him work out 'nonagon'.

It is always a pleasure to show families around Castle Acre Academy and I do so with pride. We are pleased to be welcoming a new member into our family in Oak Class and I would like to say a huge thank you to all our children for making him feel welcome on his visit but particularly to Roxanne and Elliot who showed great care and kindness.

We do have a lot of events coming up over the next few weeks so please do keep your eye on the date sheet as many of the dates have been booked in and we will share details of these in due course. We are currently finalising plans for the Year 6 Leavers' service and production and will let you know more as soon as possible.

Sports Day

Our Sports Day will be held on 23rd 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.

Don't forget that there will be a parents' race and a toddlers' race to take part in too!

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 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!

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.

Dates

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

News from our Classes

Rowan

Mathematician of the Week – Oliver P for great mathematical knowledge when using a number line up to 100.

Reader of the Week – Isla P for your determination to use Fred in your head during phonics.

Writer of the Week – Oscar for a fantastic recount of your half term.

Shining Lights of the Week (Reception) Toby for your courageous effort within your independent writing.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 1) – Sybil for always being so polite and kind to all of the class and adults.

We have had a lovely week in Rowan class. In science, we have started to learn about seasonal changes and thought about the four seasons including what the weather may be like and what special events we celebrate within those seasons. Rowan class created some seasonal wheels to represent the four seasons. In maths reception have been learning to double using dominoes and Numicon and year ones have been learning about place value up to 100. We counted in 10s up to 100 and made our own number lines using chalk

Well done Rowan class

Whitebeam

Mathematician of the Week – Alexander for always working enthusiastically in maths.

Reader of the Week – Olivia for daily reading at home.

Writer of the Week – Max for his independent writing.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 2) - Carter for always being kind and thoughtful.

Shining Lights of the Week (Year 3) - Brody for always showing respect.

Welcome back after the half term break. In English this week we have been reading poetry and our writing focus has been writing haiku poems, acrostic poems and alliterative poems/sentences. In maths we have been revisiting prior learning including fractions, money, times tables and measures. The children have enjoyed our science experiments. We have been learning about the effect of sugar on our teeth and have looked at the sugar content of a variety of drinks. We have also experimented with putting eggs in different liquids to see what effect the sugar/acid has on the egg shell. We eagerly await seeing the results! In preparation for our trip we have been learning about what we might see at Castle Rising and will be thinking about the physical features of where castles are built. In PE our focus this half term is athletics and in music we will be learning to play the recorder. Well done Whitebeam.

Oak

Mathematician of the Week – Ellie-Mai for persevering with her line graph drawing.

Reader of the Week – Freya for applying her comprehension skills to a short text.

Writer of the Week - Isla for a unique, alliterative and original idea for her newspaper headline.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 4) – Roxanne for continuously following the school rules and always being kind to peers.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 5) – Elliot for demonstrating care and patience and sharing his music skills.

Shining Light of the Week (Year 6) – Didier for representing the school well in the Kwik Cricket tournament and always being a great friend.

This week, Oak class have settled back wonderfully after half term. We have moved the tables around and fully embraced opportunities to work in small groups. In our writing, we have begun our newspaper report about the incident of the flying frogs. The children have immersed themselves in the language and vocabulary of a newspaper article by using the passive voice. In our maths learning, we took a physical spin - we collected our own data for a table, exploring how heart rates increase with exercise, and populated this information on line graphs that we drew ourselves. In our science, we have compared gestation periods of different mammals and noticed how the larger the animal, the longer the gestation. In design and technology, we have designed our own product according to a brief: something that will have a positive impact upon our surrounding environment but is made entirely of recycled materials.

Message from Executive Headteacher

Welcome back to the final half-term of the school year; every year seems to go faster and faster these days! Around this time, as we start welcoming our new Reception children for next year, we begin our transition with our current children, starting by letting families and children know who will be their teaching team for next year. As some of you may know, Miss Watkins starts her teacher training with us in September, having completed her degree, which we are very proud of her for and are very excited about her year next year. She is going to work at Sporle, so that she can grow her experience of different settings. We'll miss her at Castle Acre for now!

Looking at the modelling that Norfolk County Council have done in terms of the number of children in the area going forward, which all over the country has lowered for primary age children, and looking at our numbers for September and what will be best for our children, we have made some changes to our structure, moving to a Rec/Y1/Y2 class, a Y3/4 class and a Y5/6 class.

Therefore, please find below the staff team for Castle Acre C of E Primary Academy:

Head of School: Mrs Emma Spaul (p/t)

Rowan Class: Reception/Year 1/ Year 2 - Miss Lorna Whitehead. Miss Whitehead is on maternity leave during the Autumn term after the birth of her lovely daughter Gwen and so we will let you know who is covering the class for the Autumn. (We did have someone ready but unfortunately they have now had to change their plans).

Miss Ruth Everett (TA)

Whitebeam Class: Year 3/Year 4 - Miss Sue Taylor, Mrs Tracey McGarrell (TA), 1:1 Miss Beth Gorman (p/t)

Oak Class: Year 5/Year 6 - Miss Helen George (3 days) Mrs Livvie Nevill (2 days), Mrs Carol Bridgeman (TA), 1:1 Mrs Julie Harris. We are very excited to say that Miss George is getting married over the summer holidays, so from September, her name will be Mrs Gathercole. Congratulations Miss George!

Lunchtime Team: Mrs Tracey McGarrell, Mrs Julie Harris and Miss Amy Frammingham

Site Staff: Mrs Penny O' Connor

Office Staff: Miss Karen Howman

Federation School Business Manager: Mrs Lorraine Collins

Federation SENDCO: Mrs Emma Spaul (p/t)

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Anne Neary

You will have the opportunity to discuss your child with their next teacher after our End of Year reports have gone out, during our Transition week, when your children spend the week with their staff for next year.

Incident in Oak class yesterday;

Please be aware that an incident where a child brought something inappropriate and unsafe into school yesterday has been promptly and thoroughly responded to with a package of different measures which we are secure has resolved the issue and will avoid any future repetition.

Worship and RE

We will be talking to our children about Courageous Advocacy this half-term. This means using our values to do something good for something you believe in. That could be something as simple as giving pocket money to charity, telling someone that their choices are not the right ones, or it could be something bigger, like organising an event for vulnerable people.

Special Educational Needs

A message from Mrs Spaul, our Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator:

Please find attached a link to the newsletter for families of children with special educational needs:

<https://us19.campaign-archive.com/?u=32e34d30559c96493a4986ddf&id=9370237c48>

Concert Opportunity

Sunday 2nd July, 3 pm - West Norfolk Jubilee Youth Orchestra concert at Sporle Church

WNJYO (as it is known to its friends) is a youth orchestra based in King's Lynn but whose members come from the secondary schools around West Norfolk. All between the ages of 12 and 20, these young musicians have chosen Sporle for their first concert since the pandemic. Conducted by Eddie Seales, the programme will include classics such as Handel's "The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba" and Dvorak's "Slavonic Dances". The concert is free with a retiring collection with the proceeds being split between the church and the orchestra. Tea and cake at the interval.

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