



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 23rd June 2023

Dear Parents,

We have erected the large gazebo and it is beside the race track ready for Sports Day. You might wonder why this is worth mentioning but it takes a monumental effort every year to put it up. It involves lots of heaving, shuffling, a trip in a Land Rover, almost every member of staff and generally about 20 minutes of grunting and groaning from us all. We now believe that this should be the Castle Acre staff team race to start off Sports Day – from next year we will time ourselves! I am writing this Thursday night so I am praying and have every finger and toe crossed that it does not blow away overnight, I do not fancy spending my Friday morning having to retrieve it from a neighbouring field! The weather is looking kind – neither a scorcher, nor a downpour and by the time you read this, we will have exhausted all the children!

As we keep learning and working hard right up until the end of term, we are still finishing the last of the assessments. Year 4s have completed their Multiplication Tables Check and did well. They had to answer 25 questions and were given just 6 seconds per question to answer it and input the result – trust me, that is fast. All the work through Tackling Tables definitely helped many of them.

Our Year 6s completed their last swimming lesson of their time at Castle Acre yesterday. They were practising life-saving skills which we all know are vitally important. Mrs Bridgeman said they engaged well and have learnt some crucial skills.

Reception and Year 1 - Fun Space Day

On Monday 3rd July the Reception and Year 1 classes across the Federation will be joining together at Narborough Primary for a Fun Space Day. We will be taking part in a variety of fun space activities throughout the day and are looking forward to working with our friends from Narborough and Sporle. All Reception and Year 1 children will need to bring a packed lunch on that day, so that they can enjoy a picnic style lunch together. An information and permission form will be coming out soon with the option to book a school packed lunch.

Year 6 Leavers' Service and Performance – Thursday 19th July at 1:30pm, school hall – Oak Class Parents invited

We appreciate you bearing with us over the date for the Year 6 Service and Performance. We can now confirm that this will be held on the afternoon of the 12th of July in the school hall. We will start the afternoon with the whole of Oak Class performing Alice in Wonderland with Year 6's taking the key roles. Following this, we will share memories and make presentations to the Year 6's. We invite all of Oak Class Parents to join us for the afternoon.

Following the performance and presentation, we will be inviting the whole Castle Acre Primary Academy family to join us for a family picnic detailed below.

Castle Acre Primary Academy Family Picnic- Thursday 19th July from 3:10 on the school field – all families welcome

Following the Year 6s Leavers' Service and Performance, we would like all families to join us after school on the field for a family picnic. We will have games and activities for people to join in with and are trying to arrange for a BBQ. More details will be shared as soon as possible but save the date in your diaries – it is always lovely when all our families come together.

Tuck Shop

Tuck Shop is going well and we are being eaten out of house and home. We are increasing the variety of products on sale as we learn what the children like. Please do ask about allergens.

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.

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.

Dates

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

News from our Classes

Rowan

What a busy week in Rowan class, we have been doing lots of sports day practice which has been great fun!. The dressing up race is by far the favourite I am sure you will all agree. We have been amazed by the children's sportsmanship with each other, the perseverance, determination and confidence they have shown. In maths this week reception have been exploring different ways to double using dice, Numicon and using their hands. Year 1 has been comparing numbers to 100 by partitioning tens and ones. In science we have been learning about different types of weather we have in each season. Well done Rowan class!

Whitebeam

In Whitebeam Class this week the children have been continuing to plan their own journey adventure in English and have concentrated on character and setting descriptions. In maths the Y2 children have been learning about temperature (very topical or should I say tropical!) and the Y3 children have started their summer PiXL

assessments. In science we have looked at the major organs in the body and what they do and in music their playing in time to a piece of music on the glockenspiels is definitely improving. The children have also had the opportunity to research a topic of interest to them with a friend and have used the Chromebooks to help them produce a poster to share with others. We have also managed to fit in practises for sports day. Well done Whitebeam.

Oak

This week, Oak class have been rather excited by the news of the upcoming performance of Alice in Wonderland. We have spent some time researching props and set design, and even auditioned for different roles. In our writing, we created some instructions on how to make a solar-powered pizza oven, based on last week's activity. We have also applied our computing skills to our writing, by typing up and laying out our newspaper reports. We had a lovely afternoon on Monday and enjoyed some painting outside in the shade. In maths, we are now beginning to look at properties of shape.

Message from Executive Headteacher

This time of year, as we move into the last four weeks of the school year, is always a fantastic time. The children's end of year results start to come in, as well as their wider achievements becoming apparent, and notice and realise how much the children have grown since their photos at the beginning of the school year! As well as physically, our children have grown emotionally and are really demonstrating the resilience and determination needed to progress. What we as Parents/Carers can do for our children to aid their success is help them to be independent, encourage them to find things out for themselves, to consider each day what they have achieved and what they are grateful for. Thank you to all of our families who work hard to hear their children read, ask them questions about their book, make sure that they know their numbers and their multiplication tables and make sure they come to school ready for learning. I also would like to thank the staff who work very hard towards the end of term to put on the various activities, Sports Days etc., that take place.

Keeping everyone safe

This is a useful page that has tips for tricky topics.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/talking-about-difficult-topics/>

Thank you as always for your support and partnership,

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