



Diocese of Norwich  
Education and  
Academies Trust

## The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Anne Neary

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

20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

After very many lovely festive events and a great deal of learning, sporting and artistic opportunities, the end of term is finally here! I want to start by thanking our incredibly hard-working staff team, who have created some wonderful moments for our children. I was reflecting this morning that if you are a child in any of our schools in our Federation, this term alone, alongside learning and progressing academically, you have done the following: competed in a sporting activity, had the chance to go to a good number of clubs, listened to live music, listened to many different speakers in collective worship, had workshops on a variety of topics, had the chance to apply for a pupil role in school, taken part in three Church services, taken part in musical opportunities, been to the theatre, been out on trips and visits, had visitors into school (animal or human!), performed in either a play or singing or both, had a Christmas lunch, worn a Christmas jumper, taken part in various events organised by families, watched other children performing and sung carols. All this, and they've made super progress in their learning too!

This doesn't happen without wonderful staff who put such a huge amount of effort into providing these opportunities – every member of the Nar Valley Team goes over and above to ensure that our children enjoy their learning and achieve success in so many different ways. So a big thank you to our premises team, who work hard behind the scenes to ensure the grounds are safe and ready to use, to our office team who organise the events, to our lunchtime team who have the hardest part of the day to oversee and to every member of the teaching team.

A huge thanks are due to our really creative, hard-working and committed Parent, Teacher and Friends' associations from each school. The lovely events that they put on are raising money for outdoor equipment (I am going to enjoy that shopping over the Christmas holidays!) and also continue to subsidise travel for our trips, making it possible for children to continue going on school trips. Please do support these events – your presence makes a difference and everyone's contributions soon add up. Thank you very much to all for your contributions to our charity events, which have raised so much for some very worthy causes.

Just a reminder that if you get any new TVs over Christmas and don't know what to do with the old one, please do send it our way in the New Year, as we can use them for small group work so the children don't have to crowd round a chrome book. Thank you!

I want to take this opportunity to thank our governors who offer their time and expertise to us generously and are such a good support. Thank you also to our Vicar, Fr Richard, to Andy Mash, our lay preacher, and to the lovely Churchwardens and members of the congregation at each school who support our Church services.

On behalf of all the staff can I thank you all for your support for your children and our schools this term. I am so pleased that almost all of our children have excellent attendance of over 96% and that this means that all three of our schools are above the national average, which more importantly means that our children are

being aided to make progress. If you know that your child's attendance still needs to improve then please work hard on that next term so that your children can access all the events above as well as their teaching.

Finally, thank you to our fantastic children who have provided so many lump-forming moments this term, as they give their best and strive to embody our school values of respect, responsibility, kindness, forgiveness, hope and courage. The ancient words of God retold by the youngest voices never fails to remind me of the deeper meaning behind all the hustle and bustle of the festivities. In times where so many across the world are facing the tragedy of war, we need the simple, the good and the wholesome to remind us that there is hope and that through our shared faith we can pray for peace in the world. Have a wonderful time over Christmas everyone and come back safely and ready for a busy Spring term in January.

We need to say a goodbye and thank you to Mrs Keeler for teaching our Rowan class whilst Mrs Bramley was on maternity leave, and we thank her for all she has done and the huge time and effort she has put in for our children. We're very pleased to be continuing to work with Mrs Keeler elsewhere in the Federation and to be welcoming Mrs Bramley back.

From Mrs Spaul and myself, may I take the opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. We will look forward to seeing all our children back on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

With very best wishes and hope for a peaceful and happy 2024;

Mrs Anne Neary and Mrs Emma Spaul



Head of School  
Castle Acre CE Primary Academy



Executive Head Teacher  
The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies  
Castle Acre, Narborough and Sporle



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