



## The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Anne Neary

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

20th December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we complete the first term of the year, I am feeling very proud of our Federation team of staff and children, and am grateful for the support of families and Governors and our wider communities. I also know how lucky we are to have fantastic Friends/PTFA groups who put on so many events for our children and families to enjoy, and who help to ensure we can keep going on so many trips and keeping the cost low. I look back at the calendar and realise just how many sporting competitions and events, trips to enrich our curriculum, plays, concerts, Church services and community events we have taken part in, all organised by our fantastic staff team. Our children's wonderful learning and behaviour has been recognised several times over, by visits from our Trust, the Statutory Inspectorate of Anglican and Methodist Schools and by Ofsted. We have shared our SIAMS report and look forward to our Ofsted report being published.

I am also very pleased that our attendance is so strong. I wrote at the beginning of term and asked families to ensure that our children have excellent attendance and wonderfully the majority of families across the Federation have done so. Thank you to the majority of families who have understood that if any family takes a term time holiday it is likely that we will have no choice but to issue a fine. We really do not want to have to be in that position and so again ask please do not book these, but if you feel you have no choice but to do so, then please come and talk to us before booking, so that we can look at how to minimise the absence and therefore impact and potentially avoid a fine. Our attendance across all three school is above the national average and most importantly that means that the vast majority of our children are receiving the best chances of doing well in their learning, feeling confident and accessing all the opportunities we can offer. A child may be very able and ahead with their learning, but you can't be the lead in the school play or sing in Church or meet the King or run in a race if you are away from school. Holiday experiences are wonderful, but there are 175 days in the calendar year that these should be taken. We are delighted to say that we have had very few families failing to ensure that their child attends school when they should do, and it is very clear from our children's excellent learning and progress that this is positively impacting them.

We have made a strong start to our School Development priorities this year, which are as follows:

- 1) Curriculum; strengthening our Grammar and Spelling, early understanding of Number and Writing
- 2) Further developing our excellent early years provision
- 3) Ensuring our teachers at the earlier stages of their career are being well developed to build on their strong practice
- 4) Further developing our Christian distinctiveness as Church schools

If you want to find out more, please do contact me and I will be delighted to talk it through with you.

Across our Federation we are welcoming new staff, Mrs Julie Rose, Teaching Assistant, at Narborough, Miss Charlotte Hayes as our Oak class teacher at Castle Acre. Miss Hayes has taught for a number of years at schools in Kings Lynn and Downham Market and she is looking forward to January and continuing her career with us. We are thrilled to have with us Miss Jo Sandford, additional EYFS member of staff at Castle Acre and

Foxes class teacher on a Friday at Narborough. We are very happy to welcome back Mrs Gathercole from her maternity leave and she will be teaching Foxes class Monday to Thursday. We are also pleased to welcome Mrs Chloe Davis, Lunchtime Leader at Sporle. We are delighted that Mrs Jones remains with us as our Site team but she needs to take a little time for herself. We thank her for her many years of service at lunchtime.

Finally, may I wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas and I look forward to another exciting term in 2025!

With very best wishes;

Mrs Anne Neary and our Heads of School