



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 4th April 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we finish the Spring term in glorious sunshine, we're all reflecting on this term and looking forward to a Summer term filled with residential, sports days, trips and visitors, exciting lessons and of course assessments of our children's excellent learning. Our end of term assessments have shown that the children are all doing very well. The children who do the best in their learning, have the most success and gain the most confidence, are generally the children whose families do two things. The first is to ensure that the children are in school every possible day and the second is to support their learning by doing the homework - that is reading with them or discussing their understanding of their book every day, just for 5 minutes, helping the children learn their number bonds or multiplication tables, and supporting their phonics learning (sounds) or their spelling.

To do this, you have access to the Read, Write, Inc videos if your child is learning phonics or Spelling Frame if your child has completed this. If you don't know your child's log in details for Spelling Frame, please Dojo their teacher. For number bonds (knowing all the combinations of two numbers that add together to make 10 or 20) you have the White Rose 1 Minute Maths App (free to download and good fun!) and the Tackling Tables log in. Again, if you are unsure of the log-in for this, do contact your child's teacher.

Attendance-wise, the picture is very positive for all three of our schools, and Ofsted recognised that our work in this area is worthy of note and strong in two successive inspections, so thank you families for your teamwork in this area. Across our Federation, out of our 237 children, 70% have strong attendance, which is above the national average and superb. Most of the other children are rising towards the 96% target, and this is a result of illness such as chicken pox or norovirus etc. However there are still 17 families whose children do not have good attendance and we are having meetings with these families to look at what we can do to support them, as we want every single one of our children to have strong attendance.

Many thanks to those of you who filled in our survey about online safety, we really appreciate it. It is very clear that many of you are taking time to talk to your child about this vital area. I intend to watch the fictional but clearly very relevant drama "Adolescence" over Easter which I anticipate will be a worrying watch as a Mum of a little boy, but I feel the more clued up we are as adults as to what is out there, the better we can support our children to handle this. There is also the national group, which has regional groups, called 'The Smartphone Free Childhood'. There is a Norfolk group, and indeed local schools are forming groups. The groups are where you can access a lot of information about this which is helpful to stay up to date. If you search 'Smartphone free childhood Norfolk' it takes you to the Parent Pact page (which you don't have to sign) and then scroll down and choose a relevant school (Sporle is on there so you could choose that - it actually doesn't matter as you're not connecting with that school particularly) and then scroll down again to 'Find my region's SFC Whatsapp' then you can click on that, fill in a form and join the Norfolk group, or the Sporle group, or the

Castle Acre group. Currently there is not a Narborough group, but you could start one! I will send through the results of our online survey in a separate letter.

We have some sad “goodbye and thank yous” to say at the end of this term, with two of our lovely staff having retired, and one moved on to new ventures. Mrs Fenn and Miss Clifton are retiring. Mrs Fenn has brightened our Narborough office with her cheerful greetings and has been someone who will do all they can to help anyone who visits. We will miss her humour and her hard work for our children and families and wish her a very happy early retirement filled with travel, fun and joyful times in her garden. We know that Miss Smith, who currently job shares in our office at Sporle, and has been at Narborough for some time on a Wednesday, will do an admirable job of being full time secretary. We also want to thank Miss Cawkill for upping her hours to be nearly full time at Sporle.

Miss Clifton’s dedication to the Federation with twelve years of service must be recognised and we are very grateful to her for this and her unswerving commitment to ensuring our children’s musical education has been second to none, recognised in three Ofsted inspections over this time. We wish her a wonderful retirement, full of lovely walks, time to explore history and her beloved cats. Mrs Honhold recently left Sporle for new pastures outside education, and we thank her very much for her contribution to our children’s learning, residentials and after school fun.

At the beginning of next term we look forward to sharing our report from our Ofsted inspection at Castle Acre with you, which will recognise the hard work of the whole Federation team. I am incredibly lucky to work with fabulous colleagues who give their all to ensure the children have an excellent primary career. Thank you to them, to our Friends/PTFA groups who also work hard to raise valuable funds in these challenging times, and to our children for all their contributions this term. We wish you all a lovely Easter and look forward to seeing everyone back on **Wednesday 23rd April**.

With very best wishes,



Mrs Anne Neary