



# Castle Acre Newsletter for week ending 28th November 2025

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Anne Neary  
Web: www.narvalleyfederation.co.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a lovely week with some really great learning and some super caring and kindness being displayed by our pupils. I would like to start with a huge thank you to Mr Sandford. He has a niece in Maple and did some fundraising for our Maple provision, raising an amazing total of £3000 so they can install an Interactive Whiteboard. He came and presented the cheque earlier in the week. The whole school was astounded by the total. I have now challenged the school to see if, as a collective, they can match it with smaller fundraising events. They are already on the case! As the weather has now completely turned, can you please make sure your child comes to school with a winter coat and wellies. We are out as much as we can be and our field gets very squelchy. Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you at all the upcoming Christmas events.

Emma Spaul  
Extra note from Mrs Neary - we have £200 for playground equipment, which is what our children said they'd like more of, so we're going to ask School Council to gather views on what to have.

## Upcoming Events

See Diary Dates for details.....

**Tuesday 2nd December** - Flu Immunisation session 2 for those who missed the previous session

**Wednesday 3rd December** - Rudolph Run - please collect sponsorship and return sponsor form to school ASAP, in support of Tapping House, thank you!

**Friday 5th December** - 1.30pm Christmas Craft Cafe for all classes, Parents/Carers invited, followed by: Singing Around the Tree from 2.30pm outside front of school, all invited.

**Monday 8th December** - Sporthall Athletics for Years 5 and 6 - please complete the form to give consent, thank you

**Tuesday 16th December** - Jack & the Beanstalk Pantomime

email reminder sent for consent & please log on to your Arbor and make the payment due. Thank you



## Reminders and Information.....



This year, Christmas jumper day will be on the same day as Christmas Lunch. Please complete the form indicating your child's choice as soon as possible as we have to put orders in to the kitchen before 11th December, thank you.

Rowan and Maple Rec/Y1 'Away in a Manger' Nativity 9th December at 6pm and 10th December at 2pm Please complete the form which was emailed to book your seats, thank you.

Jack and the Beanstalk Panto Trip - 16th December Please note, the coach will not return to school until around 6pm due to the performance time. We will keep you updated through Arbor messaging throughout the afternoon

### PE DAYS

On your child's PE day, please send them to school WEARING their FULL PE kit, including trainers. Please send their school shoes and jumper/cardigan in a separate bag to change into afterwards.

Before School Care is available Mon - Fri from 8am to 8.40am at £2 per session.

After School Care is available Mon - Fri 3.10pm to 4.30pm at £6 per session.

Tuck Shop is available Wednesday and Friday morning break - 40p per day.

### Military families.....

Military Club with Mrs Jary is every Thursday lunchtime at Narborough Primary. Come along, eat your lunch, bring a friend and chat! In future we will be 'meeting' online with our other service children at Castle Acre and Sporle.

We're proud of our Service personnel and proud to support our service families. We have strong links with the RAF base and look forward to our involvement in events.

## Attendance Awards w/e 28/11/2025

Class	%
Rowan	86.13
Whitebeam	94.29
Oak	92.94

We recognise that there has been a lot of illness and look forward to our attendance returning to at least 96% next week.





# AWARDS



## The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

**Rowan Class**

Award	Goes to...	For.....
Reader of the week 	Reggie	Super speedy reading in phonics.
Writer of the week	Ivy	Working hard at improving her letter formation. 
Mathematician of the week	Freya	Super focus in maths and using our stem sentences.
Shining Light	Ronnie Wilbur	Making fantastic choices and and making us all very proud. Being a great friend and role model.

**Whitebeam Class**

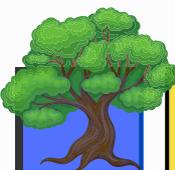
Award	Goes to...	For.....
Reader of the week	Ivar	for his willingness and enthusiasm to read each day
Writer of the week 	Florence	for thinking carefully about the features she needs to include in her writing
Mathematician of the week 	Nalah	for her enthusiasm to answer questions and choosing to complete maths challenges
Shining Light	Lukas Ivy	for his super attitude towards learning for always demonstrating all of our school values
Tackling Tables 	Gracie-Mae Florence Stanley Barker Ella	purple mixed addition and subtraction purple addition missing numbers, blue multiplication mini test blue divide by 2 yellow addition 
Reads at home		



# AWARDS



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Oak Class

Award	Goes to...	For..... 
Reader of the week	Brianna	working very hard with phonics.
Writer of the week 	Harry C	fantastic improvement in his writing, using fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases.
Mathematician of the week	Faye	always looking to challenge herself with tricky maths questions. 
Shining Light 	Crimson Harry W Holly D	being wonderfully friendly and helpful every day. his maturity and sensible decisions to improve his learning. working to the highest standard in every lesson, always striving to improve her work.
Reading Stars	Lola Darcy C Harry C Lazenby Holly D Sybil Oliver P	10 reads - blue star 10 reads - blue star 10 reads - blue star 50 reads - bronze star 75 reads - silver star 75 reads - silver star 75 reads - silver star
Tackling Tables	Tia Oliver	Red - multiplication mini test Yellow - mixed addition subtraction



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## Safeguarding.....

Each week I get an update from the company that monitors school children and young people's online use nationally. This week they have seen and increase in:

- Use of Canva and Google Docs as informal instant messaging tools; be aware these platforms can do that!.
- instances of unkind or bullying language being sent through Microsoft Teams messages. It is a really important message for children to understand that they need to be as respectful in digital learning environments as they are in person.
- an increase in Searches for 'Childline'

there has been a slight rise in searches for "Childline." This could be positive, in terms of young people seeking support, but could also be a good reminder for us to check in with our children and young people - how are they feeling? do they have trusted adults to talk to and do they?.

- use of AI Image Generators for Sexualised Content

The company have observed children experimenting with AI image generation tools to create sexualised content. This raises significant safeguarding concerns, particularly around exposure to inappropriate material and potential misuse of technology. Do we know what our children are doing when they are online? Are we supervising?

## Healthy mind, healthy body

Tips this week from Castle Acre children:

- "I eat an apple a day!"
- "I do Maths to help my mind - if you find it fun, you enjoy doing it to give yourself a challenge"
- "If I'm sad, I go in a dark room - there are no distractions and it's good for sleeping"
- "I stop looking at devices an hour before I go to sleep...I try to!"
- "If I need a break, I go for a walk to get some fresh air"
- "I can just sit and take a break"
- "I can do some drawing to give my mind a break"

## Message from the Executive Headteacher....

These are some of the things our children said when we asked them about how school was for them:

- "I am happy in school" Ivy
  - "I would everyone to listen to teachers ALL the time" Lexi
  - "School is fun - more history would make things better" Skyla
  - "I like all the children at school" Oliver
  - "I like 'ho ho ho'" (the song we sing in rhyme time about elves) Lilly
  - "The teachers are very good at teaching and are the best - nothing can make school better because it is really good" Gracie-Mae
  - "Maths is going well - Sushi for dinner would make school better" Indy
  - "It's been really good moving up to Whitebeam class and what is working well is staying together"
  - "We are learning about Ancient Egypt and this is just what I want to learn about" Arly
  - "All of us are nice kids and we have a our big field to play on" Rowan
  - "I would change nothing!" Etta
  - "I like all of the teachers and I think everyone is really kind" Darcy
- Quite a few children in Oak class mentioned having lots of teachers, and feeling anxious at the beginning and lots of them talked about liking getting more help now, enjoying having their teacher, and having nothing they felt should change because it is a good school, so we're pleased that slowly the children are starting to feel better after a difficult time. We will keep checking in with Oak class as the year progresses.

One of the other things we've been working hard on is ensuring that all new children are helped to settle really well, and working hard if there are any teething problems, as well as supporting our staff wellbeing. Mr Payne (our Academy Group Executive Principal from the Trust who some of you will have seen in school or emt, myself and Mrs Spaul have met and discussed what we can do to ensure our super staff team are well looked after, and feel happy, as this job very busy and ! We've carried out a number of actions and our staff surveys will let us know how those are impacting.

## Friends of Castle Acre School (FOCAS).....

Christmas Cards:

The Friends have asked the children to design their own Christmas cards, which have done beautifully! You now have the opportunity to order some and 30% of the funds will go to back to us be spent on the children! Your personal order form will be sent home in your child's bag this week so please do keep an eye out for it. The company taking the orders will close the ordering by December 8th so don't wait!

## Prayer for the Week....

Dear God

Thank you for the sweet fruit that grows on the trees, thank you for letting this world be as free as can be, thank you for the food I receive, thank you for the fresh water I drink, thank you for everything.

Amen

By: Libby, Oak Class

Thank you as always for your support and partnership,

Head of School  
Castle Acre C of E Primary Academy

Executive Headteacher  
Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies  
Castle Acre, Narborough and Sporle C of E Primary Academy



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## Help with online safety::



The CEOP website, run by the National Crime Prevention agency, gives helpful advice about when and how to report your concern.

**<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Get-help/Reporting-an-incident/>**



See these links for further information, games and tips:

[https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/4\\_7/](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/4_7/)  
[https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8\\_10/](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8_10/)  
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>