



# Castle Acre Newsletter for week ending 12th December 2025

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well we have arrived - just one week to go! Firstly, I would like to say a huge congratulations to Rowan Class for their wonderful Nativity. They did such a wonderful job, especially as many of them were feeling under the weather.

A big thank you has to go to the Patrick Family for donating and lighting our tree again this year. As we stood around the tree singing carols, it struck me what a wonderful community we are. A Trustee from DNEAT came and she spoke to me about there being such a family feel and I couldn't agree with her more. So thank you to you all for being part of the family.

My final thank you of 2025 goes to the staff and the children. I have worked in many schools in my 23 years and I am grateful every day for the amazing group of people that I work with here. It is sad that you can never see what goes on during the day but I can only say they go above and beyond every single day. And our children are just amazing - they make my day every day.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes, Emma Spaul



## Upcoming Events

See Diary Dates for details.....

**Tuesday 16th December** - Jack & the Beanstalk Pantomime, please make payment via Arbor before the date of the trip, £5 installments if you prefer.

**Thursday 18th December** - Maple Group trip to Church Farm, Stow Bardolph, please complete consent via the link and make payment via Arbor before the date of the trip.

**Friday 19th December** - Christmas service at Castle Acre church, 1.45pm all welcome. Last day of term.

**Tuesday 6th January** - School re-opens for Spring Term 2026.

## Reminders and Information.....



### Jack and the Beanstalk Panto Trip - 16th December

Please ensure to make payment of £15 per child for this trip via Arbor by Monday 15th December. If you would like to request support from the school, please contact the school office, or Mrs Spaul, thank you.

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 in the afternoon.

#### Polite payment reminder

We appreciate it is an extremely busy and expensive time of the year but please ensure payments are made in time for trips, events and clubs. Failure to do so may prevent further events in school.

### 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 12/12/2025

Class	%
Rowan	81.61
Whitebeam	93.81
Oak	94.71

We hope to see better attendance next week, each class needs to aim for 96% and above.

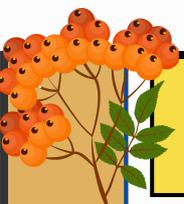




# AWARDS

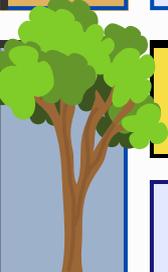


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## Rowan Class

Award	Goes to...	For..... 
<b>Reader of the week</b> 	Mia	Super Fred Talk during phonics and for trying really hard to read her sound blending book.
<b>Writer of the week</b>	Bonnie	Always challenging herself to write more and for working hard on her presentation. 
<b>Mathematician of the week</b>	Indie	Always contributing during maths inputs, and for fabulous knowledge of numbers within 5.
<b>Shining Light</b>	Charlotte Nathan	For demonstrating our school value of courage during Rowan Class performance. For demonstrating our school value of courage during Rowan Class performance.



## Whitebeam Class

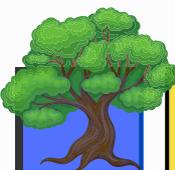
Award	Goes to...	For.....
<b>Reader of the week</b>	Lewis	for demonstrating great progress with his reading
<b>Writer of the week</b> 	Ava	for demonstrating perseverance especially following research about what the Ancient Egyptians developed and invented
<b>Mathematician of the week</b> 	Stanley Barker	for coming 2 <sup>nd</sup> in the national round of Tackling Tables competition
<b>Shining Light</b>	Toby Arly	for demonstrating kindness and responsibility especially when supporting younger children for demonstrating courage and responsibility when entering and winning a recent dance competition
<b>Tackling Tables</b> 		
<b>Reads at home</b>		



# AWARDS



## The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies



Oak Class



Award	Goes to...	For.....
Reader of the week	Tia	giving clear, detailed answers in Reading lessons.
Writer of the week 	Hollie C	showing great enthusiasm and improvement in her writing.
Mathematician of the week	Finlay	tackling very difficult fractions and having great confidence with his multiplication tables. 
Shining Light 	Leon Logan Brody	trying his best to have a tidy, uncluttered desk and manage distractions. doing his best in all lessons, showing great resilience and not giving up. coming to school ready to do his best and being sensible and mature.
Reading Stars	Crimson Oliver L Mason Faye Rowan Alexander Rosanna	10 reads - blue star & 25 reads - red star 10 reads - blue star 25 reads - red star 25 reads - red star 50 reads - bronze star 50 reads - bronze star 100 reads - gold star
Tackling Tables	Sybil Isla Oliver P Oscar Hollie C Logan Molly Brody Rosanna Teddy Tyler	Green - time facts Blue - mixed mini test and divide by 5 Green - multiplication mini test Red - adding & subtracting decimals and Blue - times by 5 Blue - multiplication mini test Blue - times by 2 and divide by 2 Green - applying number bonds Blue - superstar Green - multiplication mini test and Red - MTC taster 2 Blue - addition Red - adding & subtraction decimals



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## Safeguarding.....

An article on some positive steps taken by Roblox: Roblox Security Changes - South West Grid for Learning

The introduction of the Online Safety Bill earlier this year (is important in online) safeguarding). The risks have become unmistakable. Adults now face increasingly sophisticated attacks from hackers and scammers, while children remain acutely vulnerable to online predators.

For children, one of the most persistent avenues for predatory behaviour has been online video games. These are spaces where young users gather, communicate, and interact, often with limited verification or oversight.

Roblox, a platform widely associated with younger players, is now beginning to address this by introducing facial analysis age checks and optional ID verification for users over 13. These real-world verification measures are designed to confirm a user's age more accurately and to restrict interactions that could place children at risk. In practice, they signal an important shift in how major platforms are starting to manage online safety and respond to the expectations set out in the Bill.

Please be aware - Roblox is rated T for Teen, suitable for ages 13 and up due to the fact that anyone can create content on it for all to access. You can read more about these checks on the SWGfL website: <https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/roblox-announces-facial-age-checks-for-chat-features/>

## Healthy mind, healthy body

Here is our draft vision for the above for children and families - please let us know your thoughts.

For our children, we work hard to model and talk about how to keep ourselves healthy in body and mind, without necessarily using the term 'mental health'. We share ideas about how to feel positive, how to recognise and change emotions, and how to regulate ourselves. We teach breathing in and out using the hand model, offer safe spaces to go to in order to calm down if needed and ask how our children are. We ask all our children if they have a trusted adult in school and home so that we know they have someone they can go to. We celebrate excellent examples of children taking positive steps for their wellbeing.

For our families, we have an open door culture and we ask with genuine care if families are alright if we can see a change. We listen without judgement and we promote seeking support and signpost to services.

## Message from the Executive Headteacher....

Well done to our Reception and Year One children for their fantastic Nativity performances this week. They were wonderful, telling the story with enthusiasm and bounce and courageously performing in front of so many people.

In our Pupil Voice surveys, lots of children mentioned new playground equipment, and so we are setting aside a £200 donation that we received for School Council to choose a piece of playground equipment to purchase. In terms of what's going well, children in all classes were very enthusiastic about their learning and enjoying it. They were also complimentary about our staff!

For what could be even better, the children made suggestions mostly based around having animals in school! There was also a gentle suggestion that we get on with the bus which I will take as a helpful reminder to do the task that I have from our Bus working party and get on with it!

We are planning a check-in again with Oak class before the end of term.

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

Thank you to everyone that has taken part in ordering their child's wonderful artwork for Christmas cards. We really appreciate the support. We welcome all feedback if you think there is a better way to do this for next year...

Looking to 2026 we only have a couple of fundraising events, A Feb Valentine's Quiz, The May Duck Race and an Autumn Quiz so if you have any ideas or would like to run a one off let us know! We'd love to help support your idea.

## Prayer for the Week.....

Dear God

Thank you for the animals we have, thank you for a wonderful world. Amen

By: Molly (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/>