



## Castle Acre Newsletter for week ending 16th January 2026

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Anne Neary  
Web: [www.narvalleyfederation.co.uk](http://www.narvalleyfederation.co.uk)

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I think I have shared that with everyone but in case I have missed you. It has been a long time since we have been in school when there has been snow and it was great to see the children enjoying it. We know that this half term particularly is unpredictable with the weather so please make sure your child had appropriate clothing - coat, gloves hat and wellies.

We have had an amazing start back! We are working really hard on our attendance at the moment. For the first time ever, we are not above national. Non-attendance can have a really negative impact on a child's confidence and positivity around school. We know children get ill but they often perk up once in school and we will look after them and call you if they are not well enough to be here. We will administer medicines (prescribed and pharmaceutical) in school which is also often enough to keep them going. Let's work together to improve our attendance again.

Many thanks for your continued support,  
Emma Spaul

### Upcoming Events

See Diary Dates for details.....

**Monday 19th January** - KS1 Active Kids Festival at Lynnsport. Team of 14 pupils from Y1/Y2 attending. Please come to school in PE Kit if part of the team.

**Tuesday 3rd February** - Year 5 pupils from Castle Acre and Sporle to Narborough Primary for Benedictine Project Day with Narborough Year 5 pupils. Many thanks to The Friends of Castle Acre and Narborough for funding the coach transport.

**Friday 13th February** - Oak Class trip to West Stow, with Otters and Kingfishers Classes from Sporle and Narborough. Further details to follow.



### Reminders and Information.....



#### Valentines Quiz & Supper Fundraiser - Appeal for Raffle Prizes

The next fundraiser organised by our wonderful Friends of Castle Acre School is a Valentines Quiz and Supper to be held at Castle Acre Village Hall on Friday 13th February. Please see the posters for full details, it would be lovely to see parents/carers at the quiz.

The Friends would be grateful for donations of prizes for the raffle to be held at this event. Donations can either be dropped off at the school office or given to Libby Firth (parent and Chair of Friends), Tel: 07825229348

#### 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 16/1/2026

Class	%
Rowan	86.13
Whitebeam	91.43
Oak	98.88

Attendance was very low this week in every class. We hope it will improve significantly next week.





# AWARDS



The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

**Rowan Class**

Award	Goes to...	For..... 
<b>Reader of the week</b> 	Archie E	for trying really hard during reading and some great partner work.
<b>Writer of the week</b>	Indie	for always working hard in phonics and some great Fred talk to spell. 
<b>Mathematician of the week</b>	Lexi	for working really hard in maths this week and for working independently.
<b>Shining Light</b>	Frederick Mia	a wonderful week, demonstrating responsibility and respect. Well done Freddie! for demonstrating our school value of kindness by helping others and always offering to help the adults.

## Our week in Class

This week in maths we have been learning how to use a number line, focussing on 1 more and 1 less. In Literacy, we have read Vlad and The Great Fire of London, we have also explored the features of a diary. In science, we have learnt what plants and trees need to survive and in RE we are beginning to learn about Shabbat.



# AWARDS



The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Whitebeam Class

Award	Goes to...	For.....
Reader of the week	Mila	for great focus during reading sessions
Writer of the week	Florence	for the amazing time travel story she wrote at home
Mathematician of the week	Isla P	for using her knowledge of times tables to help her solve multiplication problems
Shining Light	Olivia-Rose Skyla	for always demonstrating our school values for demonstrating our value of kindness and responsibility in particular by helping others
Tackling Tables	Stanley Barker  Ella Toby Sklya Lewis Nalah	Blue missing numbers mini test & multiplication mini-t Orange adding & subtracting decimals, blue multiples and green unit fraction of amounts Green unit fraction of amounts Blue division mini-test Blue divide by 5 and multiply by 5 Blue phase multiplication
Reads at home	Indy Skyla Florence	25 reads 25 reads 50 reads

## Our week in Class

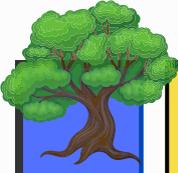
This week in science we have been exploring natural and man-made materials and which materials can be both! During RE we learnt that the church can be a group of people as well as a place of worship for Christians and in history we placed dates linked to railways in chronological order on a timeline. In art we looked at Cotman's painting 'Chirk aqueduct' and watched a video of how it looks today before we make sketches of it.



# AWARDS



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Oak Class

Award	Goes to...	For.....
Reader of the week	Brianna	her clear, thoughtful answers in our reading lessons.
Writer of the week 	Hollie C	working with great determination to master punctuation in dialogue.
Mathematician of the week	Mason	his work with 2 and 5 times tables with Mr Conway, and his focus during maths with Miss Taylor. 
Shining Light 	Etta Harry W Teddy	her wonderful research outside of class, taking responsibility for her learning. always being a respectful member of our class. being such a kind and gentle friend.
Tackling Tables	Finlay Oliver P Tia Lazenby Libby Harry W Sybil Leon	Purple - missing numbers Green - unit fractions of amounts Orange - adding and subtracting decimals. Blue - divide by 10 and Red - MTC taster 1 Orange - adding and subtracting decimals. Red - MTC taster 1 Yellow - applying number bonds. Blue - times 10.

## Our week in Class

This week, Oak class has been tackling mixed numbers and improper fractions in Maths. Our hard work with times tables is really paying off - the children have so much more confidence!

In English, we have been studying speech all week. The punctuation of speech can be challenging, and I've been blown away by how quickly the class has taken to it. We will revisit this throughout the year. Yesterday and today, children have been creating comic strips about Beowulf!

Thank you so much for your support with reading this week - Reading Credits are rolling in!



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## Safeguarding.....

### Roblox tips:

There is no fixed minimum age to play Roblox, and children often share games and social spaces with much older users. This mix of ages, combined with user-generated content and social features such as chat and voice chat, means children's experiences can vary widely.

### Things to check:

- What games are they accessing, and are they age-appropriate?
- Is chat enabled, and who can message them?
- Have they come across anything violent, hateful or worrying? Are they using private servers or public spaces?
- Are parental controls or age settings in place and actively used?
- Do you as a parent feel confident managing the platform?
- What helps most in practice includes:
  - Regular, interested conversations about what children enjoy playing, who they play with, and what they notice online
  - Adults showing curiosity, including watching or playing alongside children, so games are not treated as a secret or separate world
  - A clear understanding of personal information, including why chats should stay about the game and when to tell an adult
  - Agreed rules around spending, with children knowing when real money is involved and when permission is needed
  - Reassurance that worries should be shared, including exposure to upsetting content, mean behaviour or hate-based language
  - Confidence using block and report tools, so concerns can be addressed calmly and practically
  - Active use of safety settings, including age-appropriate controls, chat restrictions and parent account oversight

More information can be found [here](#)

Download an editable table of settings [here](#)

## 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....

Just a reminder about Homework. We believe Homework is about regular practise of key skills that support your children's success in learning. Homework should not be a source of stress for families or children, it should be fun and easy to fit in to busy lives! Each day, children should do the following:

### Key Stage One (Reception to Year Two)

- \* Read their book and answer questions to show their understanding
- \* Do their phonics practise (either online using the videos or using the little phonics home book or any other resources you've been given in their book bags)
- \* Practise number bonds to 10 and 20 (eg 3 + 7, 5+5, 19+1 etc. and also the inverse - the other way round)

### Key Stage Two (Year Three to Year Six)

- \* Read their book and answer comprehension questions or re-tell the story to you or explain a paragraph
- \* Practice their spellings on Spelling Frame (if you don't have log-in details, please call the office)
- \* Practise their Multiplication and Division Tables on Tackling Tables (again, call the office if you don't have their log-in details)

If you need any help or support, please do ask - we're always happy to help.

Oak class Pupil Voice follow up: we talked to the children about how they are feeling in class and school and asked them to write this down. They have written some - very clear - feedback, and we are very pleased to report that it is very positive, with obvious enjoyment of school. Some of their comments made us chuckle!

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

Our Valentines Quiz & Supper is on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February at Castle Acre Village Hall. Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start. £13 per head includes Quiz plus local Fish and Chip supper or £11 for quiz plus Sausage or Veg Spring Roll and Chips, or £6 for Quiz with no supper. We hope you can join us for this fun event!

Libby - Chair of Friends, Tel: 07825229348 for further info.

## Prayer for the Week.....

Dear God

Thank you for nature, friends, family and especially life.

Amen

By: Sybil

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/>***