

Castle Acre Newsletter for week ending 23rd January 2026

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

We've had a great week here with some real successes. Some of our Y1 and 2 children attended LynnSport for an Active Kids Festival. They did amazingly and, as always, we were complimented on the behaviour and attitude of our children. As I have moved around classes, I have seen some fantastic learning and a particular attention from many children with getting the fundamentals such as presentation and key skills right which gives them the best chance of success in other learning. I am impressed with the number of children who are trying their best and willing to make their work even better. We know that the best thing that we can do for our children is to ensure they attend school every day and we thank those of you who are. I appreciate all of you who work closely with us to find solutions where we need to and improve the outcomes for your children.

The safety of children is always paramount. Please can you make sure that your child is in a car seat if required in accordance with the law (on the Government website) and remains in that seat until you are stopped and parked. This is not our rule; it is the law.

Have a lovely weekend, Emma Spaul



Upcoming Events

See Diary Dates for details.....

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.

Monday 9th - Friday 13th February - Online Safety Week

Monday 16th - Friday 20th February - Half Term

Thursday 26th February - Chinese New Year Special Lunch

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



Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership

Start for Life Conference:
See attached leaflet for details
Working effectively with fathers to improve outcomes for children
26th March 2026
10:00am - 3.30pm

Polite payment reminder
We appreciate it that things are easily overlooked, 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 23/1/2026

Class	%
Rowan	83.87
Whitebeam	95.24
Oak	91.18

Well done to Whitebeam class, clear winners of the Attendance Award this week - nearly 96%. Attendance was very low in Rowan and Oak again. We hope it will improve significantly next week.







AWARDS



The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Rowan Class

Award	Goes to...	For..... 
Reader of the week 	Ethan	for fantastic Fred talk and partner work during phonics lessons.
Writer of the week	Wilbur	for amazing writing in drawing club, using capital letters and full stops. 
Mathematician of the week	Ronnie	For super work during maths this week and for challenging himself.
Shining Light	Tobias Amelie	for demonstrating kindness to adults and children in Rowan Class. for being a responsible member of Rowan Class, always helping keep our classroom tidy.
Reads at Home		

Our week in Class



This week we have been continuing to learn all about The Great Fire of London. The Year 1 children are beginning to plan their diary entry. In maths, we have been ordering numbers within 20. We have learnt even more about what plants and trees need to be healthy, and in RE we have sequenced the events during Shabbat.



AWARDS



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Whitebeam Class

Award	Goes to...	For.....
Reader of the week	Arly	for participating well in our reading sessions and always being willing to read out loud and answer questions
Writer of the week	Lewis	for his positive attitude towards writing and taking care over the presentation of his written work
Mathematician of the week	Ivy	for working well independently and with a partner in maths and for always being willing to answer questions and explain her method of working
Shining Light	Nalah Stan Black	for always demonstrating our school values and especially for sharing with the class, work that she has done at home linked to our learning in class for his increased focus and participation in lessons
Tackling Tables	Ella Lewis Toby	green multiples mini-test, red MTC Taster 1, 2 and 3, purple addition division mini-test
Reads at home	Stanley Barker Nalah	10 reads 10 reads

Our week in Class

This week in English we have been recapping co-ordinating and subordinating conjunctions in readiness for writing our time travel stories. In maths we have started to learn about fractions and today in art, the children have mixed tints and shades of different colours using watercolours. Our theme in dance has now changed to The Circus and they were able to clearly show me which character they were from their dance moves.


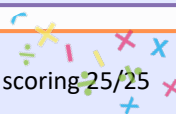



AWARDS



The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Oak Class

Award	Goes to...	For.....
Reader of the week	Mason	reading at home, every single day!
Writer of the week 	Henry	his wonderful, independent writing, describing a setting.
Mathematician of the week	Lazenby	for s brilliant improvement in his arithmetic and scoring 25/25 in a practice times table check. 
Shining Light 	Crimson Rowan Tyler	his amazing, creative dance moves in PE. always treating adults and his friends with great respect. for taking great responsibility for his learning - planning his English work at home, and improving his arithmetic score by 9 marks.
Reads at Home	Leon Oliver L CRimson Molly Finlay	10 reads - blue star 25 reads - red star 50 reads - bronze star 50 reads - bronze star 75 reads - silver star
Tackling Tables	Rowan Lazenby Tyler	Green - Time facts Red - MTC taster 3 Red - mixed mini test and division

Our week in Class

What a lovely week! The headlines are definitely Year 6's amazing arithmetic scores. Improvements all round! Well done, Year 6. I think they all deserve a treat this weekend!

In Maths, we have been tackling fractions again. It's definitely a challenge, but we're making good progress. We will get there!

In English, we have been narrating action through dialogue. All children now have a pretty good understanding of our speech punctuation, which is wonderful.

As scientists, we carried out an experiment into gravity. In History, we have been explaining what happened in Britain after the Romans left.



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Safeguarding.....

National Online Safety Week - February 9th-13th

We are going to run a workshop for families on Monday 9th February. During this, we will look at some local and national issues, and find out what things cause families issues, and share some resources that may help. We can run this either in person or online, so please sign up to the letter with your preferred option by the end of next week. Many thanks.



Healthy mind, healthy body

You may remember our Summer holiday competition to design a poster to promote the idea of having a healthy mind and a healthy body. Please see the attached winning poster to launch our campaign; a HUGE well done to Ethan, Annie and Rosie from Sporle, whose designs were so good we asked them to amalgamate theirs into one. This poster will be displayed across all our schools, and the launch of our campaign is during Children's mental health week 9th-13th February, so look out for it then!

Message from the Executive Headteacher....

Term-time absence;

As many people's thoughts turn to booking a holiday to look forward to, firstly can I remind you that there are 13 non-school weeks in the year when you can have a holiday. I know that there are some people who can't during this time, so if you absolutely must request leave of absence from school, please do the following:

- 1) try to minimise the number of days, and try to split them so that the children miss the end of one week and the beginning of another, rather than a full week.
- 2) certainly we cannot authorise anything that is more than one school week; such a length of absence would be likely to drop your child's attendance below the expected level and this can have a very detrimental affect on them, particularly if they are receiving booster sessions, one to one tuition or other support to get their learning to the expected level.
- 3) please come and talk to your child's teacher about the best time before you book, so that you can minimise disruption for your child. For example, it is far better if your child has strong attendance (96%+) to take a few days before a school holiday.
- 4) Finally, a plea. Please do not take them away on holiday and not tell us. There have been cases in the local authority of people falsely reporting the children as ill. Remember we have to call every day if you do not call us on each day of absence. It is also awkward if a child is put in a position where they are having to lie. Happily, I'm sure none of our families would do this to their children.

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

Our **Valentines Quiz & Supper** is on Friday 13th 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

Keep us safe when it is tough or when you just need a hug.
Amen

By: Tia

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/8_10/
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>