



Castle Acre Newsletter for week ending 30th January 2026

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

I cannot believe that we are in February already! In the next couple of weeks we will be half way through the academic year. For me it has been a strange week as, between training and monitoring in other schools, I have only spent a couple of days here. However, what I felt today was that it was like coming home. I really enjoyed how many of the children greeted me and came to tell me what they had been up to during the days I have been away. It is times like this that I am reminded of what a lovely school community we are where we have enthusiastic learners who understand their learning is important and that they are important members of society where they have much to contribute.

You will remember that we completed our Reindeer Run in December to raise money for Tapping House. We were really pleased to welcome them in to present them with the money raised which was an amazing total of £762.00!

Have a lovely weekend and thank you for your continued support.

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. Please make payment of £9.65 via Arbor once you have given permission for your child to participate via the trip form.

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. Eat your lunch, bring a friend and chat! Each week we meet 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 30/1/2026

Class	%
Rowan	85.48
Whitebeam	98.1
Oak	92.94

Well done to Whitebeam Class for excellent attendance and they are winners of the Attendance Award this week. We hope attendance for Rowan and Oak Class is greatly improved next week.





AWARDS



The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Rowan Class

Award	Goes to...	For..... 
Reader of the week 	Freya	Fabulous reading during phonics and great partner work.
Writer of the week	Noel	great presentation and diary entry. 
Mathematician of the week	Bonnie	Well done for working independently.
Shining Light	Lukas Charlotte	Settling in well in Rowan class. Demonstrating our values of respect and responsibility.
Reads at Home	None this week	

Our week in Class



This week, year 1 children have completed their independent write. With some fabulous diary entries. Reception children have continued with drawing club and focussing on applying capital letters and full stops. In maths, year 1 have been using number bonds to 10 and 20 to answer questions and using a number line to subtract. Reception children have been subitising to 5 and forming numbers 5 and 6.



AWARDS



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Whitebeam Class

Award	Goes to...	For.....
Reader of the week	Ivy	for super reading comprehension work
Writer of the week	Willem	for great focus and thinking carefully about what he wants to include in his time travel story
Mathematician of the week	Skyla	for great work in maths generally but especially for knowing the 8 times tables
Shining Light	Ivar Lukas	for working well with an adult to write his time travel story and for his perseverance for demonstrating our school values whilst working in Rowan Class
Tackling Tables	Ella Stan Black Toby	green superstar blue multiplication mini-test blue multiplication mini-test
Reads at home	Olivia-Rose	10 reads

Our week in Class

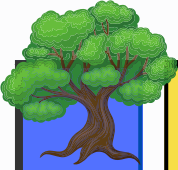
Well done Whitebeam for all your hard work this week, especially whilst Miss Taylor has been off. In history we compared pictures of what Manchester looked like before and after the introduction of trains and in science predicted what would happen to different materials when they are squashed, bent, stretched and twisted. We will be testing your predictions next week! In English, our time travel stories are nearly completed and then we will look at editing them to make them even better before we share them with the class. In maths we have been working on identifying fractions and how to write them and have started using the vocabulary denominator and numerator.






AWARDS



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Oak Class

Award	Goes to...	For.....
Reader of the week	Teddy	his wonderful prosody when reading out loud, really telling the story with expression.
Writer of the week 	Harry W	working hard to improve both the quality and quantity of his writing.
Mathematician of the week	Fletcher	helping Mrs Harris with some very tricky questions in our maths after school sessions. 
Shining Light 	Brianna Faye Brody	her boundless enthusiasm for all aspects of school life, and being able to recall all her square numbers. taking responsibility for her learning, always pushing herself to tackle the hardest questions. taking more pride in his work, such as his formal writing and his fractions in maths.
Reads at Home	Oscar Bobbi Etta Darcy B Darcy C Tyler Fletcher Lola Brianna Faye Alexander	10 reads - blue star 10 reads - blue star 25 reads - red star 25 reads - red star 25 reads - red star 25 reads - red star 25 reads - red star 25 reads - red star 25 reads - red star 25 reads - red star 50 reads - bronze star 75 reads - silver star
Tackling Tables	Oliver P Finlay Rowan Harry C Rosanna F Alexander	Green - division with remainders Blue - superstar Red - MTC taster1 Red - adding and subtracting decimals Red - adding and subtracting decimals Green - time facts

Our week in Class



In Maths, we've been pushing our fractions skills. The children have really taken to it, and I'm so pleased with the progress. Today we were looking at adding mixed numbers to both integers and fractions... exciting stuff!

In English, we are building up to writing a newspaper report. This week, we have focused on formal writing, considering how we can select words for different purposes and effect. The children wrote some instructions for a monster slayer using a formal tone, inspired by Beowulf.

The children have also worked INCREDIBLY hard on their PiXls - well done, everyone! I've never enjoyed marking test papers so much: seeing their successes and improvements is wonderful. Everything is moving in the right direction. Year 6 - you've done all your PiXls for this half term, well done! Year 4 and 5 - Maths next week!



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Safeguarding.....

Our Online Survey is being launched next week for families; please take the time to fill it in, as it helps us shape our curriculum and ensure that children are being taught about what they need to keep them safe.

Parents/Carers' online safety workshop

Monday 9th February 6pm at school:
Please book via the letter that will come out.

Parents/Carers' Mental Health Day is today - 30 January.

As you know, we are working on a strategy for mental health, called 'Healthy mind, healthy body'

The Parents/Carers part of this is as follows:

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.

I would be incredibly grateful if any of you could take 2 minutes to read the above and give me some feedback on the wording - does it say what we do, does it make it clear we care and does it make you feel that families are important to us? thank you in hopeful anticipation....

Healthy mind, healthy body

Our Wellbeing group met yesterday, and the actions we are working on for the children are three strategies for helping yourself to feel calm, as well as having a quiet space to go to in school if you need it. More on that during Children's Mental Health week, which is in February (the same week as Online safety week)

Message from the Executive Headteacher....

Smartphones in schools;

You will have seen a lot of coverage in the media about the above and the growing call to ensure children do not have access to smartphones.

As you know, our policy as a school is that smartphones are NOT allowed in school and we do not allow children to travel with them and hand them in when they arrive, and we do not look after smartphones. Should a child ever have a smartphone in school, we would ask you to come and collect it. We began this policy last Summer, after a consultation with Parents/Carers which voted overwhelmingly in favour of this. Happily, I am pleased to be able to say that we have had no issues with this at all and every family has been incredibly supportive of this. If your child is going to be walking to and from school by themselves, we would be happy to look after SMS and call only phones - non-smartphones with them being handed in at the office each day. Thank you for your understanding and support with this policy to keep our children safe online.

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

Thank you for the world and the food and drink and all the beautiful creatures.

Amen

By: Oliver P

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/>