

Castle Acre Newsletter for week ending 15th May 2026

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a week with the weather! I think we have been through every weather system available and thank you to whichever power decided to launch the hailstorm in the Maths SATs test! It just goes to prove why we need a waterproof jacket with us at all times.

A massive thank you to the Friends for another successful Duck Race. They raised a whopping £1421.50. I unfortunately couldn't make it but I hear it was a lovely event and apologies to Laura who got very wet! A special mention to Neil for heroic duck herding in the cold water. A memorable Duck Race for them both!

A very big well done to our Year 6s for this week, they have worked their absolute socks off and really have let their light shine. We could not be more proud of them and they truly deserve a lovely weekend.

Don't forget Federation Day on Wednesday. It's going to be so much fun. Thank you for organising transport for the day; if you are having difficulty getting there then please let us know if you haven't already.

Emma Spaul Head of School

Upcoming Events

See Diary Dates for details.....

Tuesday 19th May - Whitebeam Class Trip to Thetford Museum.

Wednesday 20th May - Forest School Federation Day at Narborough Primary for whole school.

Thursday 21st May - Special Harry Potter Themed Lunch Menu (Margherita Pizza or Loaded Bean Wedges).

Friday 22nd May - 3.30pm, Year 4 Residential Parents/Carers meeting at Narborough Primary with Mrs Neary.

25th - 29th May - School Closed for Half Term

Monday 1st - Tuesday 2nd June - Level 1 and Level 2 Bikeability training for Year 6 pupils. **NB: Cycles and helmets will be needed at school on both days for this training.**

Attendance Awards w/e 15/5/26

Class	%
Rowan	93.67
Whitebeam	96.67
Oak	96.25

Well done to Whitebeam and Oak for attendance over 96% this week, it was close but Whitebeam are the winners of the Attendance Award this week. We hope Rowan Class attendance will improve next week.



Reminders and Information.....

**Year 6 Horstead Residential
6 - 8 July 2026**

It is not too late for your child to go. It really is an amazing experience and what better way to make memories from their time at Castle Acre!

See [here](#) for details about the venue.



**Sports Day
Wednesday
24th June
Picnic 12pm
Races 1.15pm**

22nd May
3:30pm

Year 4 Residential Meeting for Parents and Carers at NARBOROUGH Primary

11th June
3:30pm

Year 5 Residential Meeting and demonstration by Inside Out for Parents and Carers at CASTLE ACRE Primary

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, £2 per session.

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

Tuck Shop is available first thing on Wed and Fri mornings - 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.



AWARDS



The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Rowan Class

Award	Goes to...	For..... 
Reader of the week 	Tyler	trying really hard in phonics and for being a super reading partner.
Writer of the week	Mia	writing a great independent sentence in drawing club. 
Mathematician of the week	Percy	super ordering of numbers to 15.
Shining Light	Archie .S Lukas	always looking after our classroom. being a helpful, kind, and responsible member of Rowan Class.
Reads at Home		

Our week in Class



Well done Rowan Class for another great week of learning!

Year 1 children are demonstrating great confidence when using a keyboard. Their knowledge of the keys and being able to alter and amend words on a word document is super!

Reception children have enjoyed drawing and writing about the story Rumble in the Jungle. They are also growing in confidence with their knowledge of numbers to 20.



AWARDS

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Whitebeam Class

Award	Goes to...	For.....
Reader of the week	Stanley Barker	for his increased enthusiasm for reading
Writer of the week	Ivy	for making a super fact file booklet about Elizabeth 1
Mathematician of the week	Ava	for working super hard on Tackling Tables and achieving 5 certificates this week
Shining Light	Nalah StanBlack	for being a great model and demonstrating our school values for demonstrating our school values and always being ready to help others
Tackling Tables	Ivy, Indy, Florence, Skyla, Arly, Ava, Olivia- Rose, Mila, Stanley Barker, Gracie-Mae, Nalah,	37 certificates achieved this week across blue, green, red, yellow and purple phases Fanastic work Whitebeam
Reads at home	Ivy	150 reads

Our week in Class

Well done Whitebeam Class for another super week of learning. It is wonderful to see that 37 Tackling Table certificates have been given out today during Collective Worship ranging from blue level through to red as the children are challenging themselves. In English they have explored different newspapers to add to a class list of the features of a newspaper report and today they thought of super headlines they could use. We linked this with ICT as they experimented changing the colour of their headlines, size and font. They also researched pictures and chose one to insert into their document.

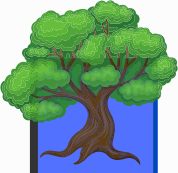






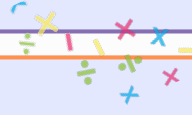

AWARDS



The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies



Oak Class

Award	Goes to...	For..... 
Reader of the week	Darcy C	always working hard in reading lessons.
Writer of the week 	Lola	her consistently high standard of writing.
Mathematician of the week	Finn	working hard with his mental maths. 
Shining Light 	Oscar Rowan	his brilliant confidence and skills in tennis. his clear and consistent maturity at all times.
Reads at Home	Oscar Libby	50 reads - Bronze star 150 reads - Shield
Tackling Tables	Logan	Red - mixed mini test.

Our week in Class

Hello everyone,

Firstly, well done to Year 6! You have all worked brilliantly. Have a lovely, restful weekend.

It's been a bit of a different week, due to SATs. Year 4 and 5 have been working on a project all week, designing board games. From what I've heard, they've worked brilliantly with Mrs Girdler.

Year 6 have worked incredibly hard in the build up to their SATs. I'm so proud of them!

Today, Year 6 went on a trip to Wells. We played on the beach, in the woods, and ate ice cream! The rain held off, and the children had a lovely time.





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Safeguarding.....

No Smartphones in school - Could I remind you please that we do not condone children having smartphones and therefore do not accept them into school, in-line with Government recommendations. Your child is welcome to bring a non-smart mobile phone if they travel by themselves, but we will not accept smartphones and will telephone you to come and collect the phone should one be brought in. Thank you for supporting this policy, which we introduced after a parental consultation that was in favour of a smartphone ban.

Healthy mind, healthy body

Whitebeam Class	Internet Safety Tip	Healthy Body, Healthy Mind
Ella	Only watch appropriate things or things you are allowed on	Learn more
Ivy	Ask a trusted adult before going on something you don't know	Exercise
Isla P	Do not answer a stranger's message	You should exercise
Florence	If you see something bad online tell a trusted adult	Learn more things
Lewis	Only talk to a person you know	Do more reading
Skyla	If someone is bullying you online, tell a trusted adult	Eat healthy food
Toby	Do not press yes on notifications, it might be a scam	exercise
Nalah	Don't talk to strangers on the computer	Drink water
Gracie-Mae	If you see a random app, please tell a trusted adult because you don't know what's on it	Drink water, exercise and keep learning
Olivia-Rose	If you see something scary online tell a trusted adult	Exercise and run around
Arly	If you are on your mum and dad's phone, ask your mum or dad ask them before you go on it because you don't know what's on it	Dance and drink water

Message from the Executive Headteacher...

BBC News - Click [here](#)

It seems to be a week where there is a lot to consider in terms of children's online safety. Thank you firstly to children at Castle Acre for their excellent tips about staying safe online and keeping our minds and bodies healthy - how wise our children are!

The above link is to a news article which I thought worth sharing as it concerns Whatsapp, which a lot of children are now on. Each week, I get an email from the company who monitors what children try and search for online across many schools nationally, and there is a clear trend of children (not at our school) trying to talk to AI Chatbots, being unable to understand that these bots are not people, and being influenced by what they tell them to do. The article is that Whatsapp's Chatbot can now be conversed with completely privately and the conversation will disappear, which means that you as parents/Carers will not be able to monitor what your children are talking about with the bots. Chatbots recently have told young people incorrect or dangerous information and have indeed turned the conversation to a sexual nature. **Children should not be on Whatsapp under 13**, and no-one would want a child to be exposed to dangerous and harmful content. Please consider removing whatsapp from your child and encouraging them to have face to face contact with friends, or old-fashioned telephone conversations instead.

Duck Race: An enormous thank you to the Friends of Castle Acre for another wonderful Duck Race that was not only a real joy to attend but raised a wonderful £1,421.50. Delicious food and excellent commentary topped off a great afternoon's entertainment. Thank you all for attending and supporting our Friends and our school.

Congratulations to our Y6 children for doing so well in their SATS and hopefully learning that a few nerves are useful, but tests are nothing to worry about and doing your best is what matters. Well done Year Six and I know you all enjoyed the beach trip today!

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

Huge thanks to everyone that contributed to this year's Duck Race. Congratulations to the winners. We are so lucky to have such a fun event to raise funds from. Long live the Duck Race! If you want to be more involved next year or have some new ideas we can try, please get in touch.

Libby Firth, Chair of Friends, Tel: 07825 229345

Prayer for the Week.....

Dear Lord

Please help us to see that all we take for granted is not given to everyone.

Amen

By: Alexander

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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Healthy Body, Healthy Mind



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Healthy Body 🍌 Healthy Mind 😊

🚫 Healthy Body ✓

To have a healthy body you could exercise and workout regularly.



Eating fruit and veges are another form of having a healthy body.

Sweets are very unhealthy because they are full of sugar.



📖 Healthy Mind 🚫

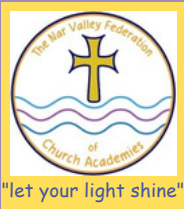
Reading helps with your spelling as well as your mind.



Education is also a good thing for your mind.

Video games aren't very good for your mind.





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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/>