

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Anne Neary

Web: www.narvalleyfederation.co.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school for the Autumn term from our team and we hope that everyone was able to enjoy some quality family time over the Summer. A very warm welcome to our new families and of course to our lovely new Reception children, who I look forward to getting to know next week. We've welcomed a new member of staff to Sporle's newest Wrens class staff and as always staff photos for each school will be coming out in next week's newsletter so that you know who everyone is and what class they are teaching in.

We received the news over the Summer that Miss Everett decided to change career. Miss Everett has been a wonderful member of staff for NVF and Castle Acre for many years, and we will miss her incredible skills, lovely support for our children and all the knowledge and value she brought to us as a colleague. We wish her all the best with her new career which we know she will be wonderful at. We are advertising for a colleague to meet this vacancy and will introduce them to you shortly.

Summer reading challenge from the library - if your children took part, congratulations and please bring in your medal to be presented in Collective worship. Congratulations to all our children who read for our Fonetti online reading challenge over the summer and again, if your child received a certificate, please bring it in or email it to the office to be printed off and presented in Collective worship. A huge congratulations to Sporle, who won the battle of the three Federation schools and thank you to everyone who took part.

Summer holiday competition; Healthy body, Healthy mind.

If you entered this competition and grew something in your garden or made something related to being outside, please bring this in next week by Friday, many thanks. This weekend is the Castle Acre Village Horticultural show, and you could bring your entry there first to see if you can win a prize! This is on Saturday 5th Sept 2.30pm in the Village Hall.

Smartphone ban in school; I'd like to remind you all that we do not accept Smartphones in school as given the ban for social media, there is little reason for children to have one. We are more than happy to look after non-smartphones for children who are travelling to and from school without their adults.

Attendance and punctuality;

Did you know that a primary school child's time in school is only 9% of their waking life? This means that if a child falls behind in their learning because they are missing parts of that 9%, they are very unlikely to catch up - in fact, if a child is behind in their learning at Key Stage 2 due to attendance, only 1 in 12 catch up to achieve passes at GCSE. We want all our children to have the best chances in their academic life and beyond, so are always very grateful to you as families for working with us to ensure your children are in school 96%+ of the time. Our attendance at Narborough and Sporle as schools is above the national with very few children below our school target, which is super; we'd like to ensure that no child is missing out and so please take this chance at the beginning of the school year to keep your child's attendance high! I'm delighted to say that punctuality

to school continues to be really excellent with only a few families who need reminders, so well done everyone else! At the end of the school year there will be a special event for every child who has attended school 96% or more of the school year. I know that every child will want to be included in this, so please everyone work hard to ensure that your child doesn't miss out.

School Development Plan;

Last year in our school development plan, we were focusing on the following priorities:

- **To improve the learning outcomes, through further developing our interventions**

Whilst we work on many other things across the year, and this aim had many sub-points, this was our prime focus. Our outcomes for the national assessment points at Early Years, Phonics, Key Stage One and Year Four were good, and it is just now continuing to focus on ensuring that the Y6 children are achieving in-line with or above national. We remain ambitious for all our children to achieve their very best learning outcomes and work hard on our new development plan for that. Our SATS results will be on our website once the national checking exercise is completed, and I will share our school development plan for this year with you over the coming week.

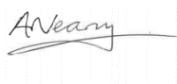
Family events across the Nar Valley Federation:

If you're looking for an event to attend, there is a lovely coffee and cake event in Sporle, the 'Lazy Sunday afternoon' from 2pm-5pm on Sunday 13th September, or there is the Castle Acre Village Fete, this Sunday also 2pm-5pm.

We will soon be publishing our dates for the year so that you are aware of all the events taking place, such as Friends/PTFA meeting dates, Parent Cafe dates, our Parents'/Carers' Forums and our termly Church Services.

As always, we look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you so that your children have a wonderful time in school and learn well. See you soon, either on the gate or at the various events mentioned above.

With very best wishes;



Mrs Anne Neary
Executive Headteacher
Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies
Castle Acre, Narborough and Sporle C of E Primary Academies



Mrs Emma Spaul
Head of School, Castle Acre CE Primary Academy