



## Castle Acre Newsletter for week ending 11th September 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,

**Welcome Back!** What an absolutely super, amazing start back to the year. I couldn't be more proud of every single child as they have returned with such enthusiasm, responsibility and kindness. It is a pleasure to be back. Thank you to the staff team too as it wouldn't happen without them.

We are in the process of electing children into various roles in the school but are pleased to announce our Head Pupil team....drum roll...Molly, Rowan, Lola and Darcy. Hollie and Harry are our School Business Fundraising and Community Team. It was a really tough decision and both Mrs Neary and I would like to say an enormous well done. We are excited about what they are going to do.

Just a couple of things. Good attendance is important for your child and we want our children here every day. We know logistics around appointments for family members can be tricky sometimes so please talk to us if you are having difficulties. Also, please can you drive into the road leading up to school slowly. We have had some near misses recently and we want everyone to be safe. Have a lovely weekend and remember, our door is always open and we are always ready to listen. Emma Spaul

Emma Spaul, Head of School

## Upcoming Events

See Diary Dates for details.....

**Tuesday 22nd Sept** - 7.30pm, The Friends of Castle Acre Primary AGM at The Ostrich Castle Acre (or via zoom). See The Friends section at the end of the newsletter for more information or speak with Libby Firth (Chair) or Miss Howman (School Secretary).

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September** - all day, Whitebeam Class Trip to Norwich Castle Museum.

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October** - Special Nourish Birthday Lunch, replaces usual menu choices except for jacket potatoes and school packed lunch options.

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October** - Tempest Photographer, individual pupil photographs (including pre-school age children by appointment with school office).

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October** - Open Day for Sept 2027 intake.

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October to Friday 30<sup>th</sup>** Closed for Half Term

## Reminders and Information.....

**family voice**  
norfolk  
together improving services

Please click [here](#) for Family Voice Norfolk August 2026 Newsletter

## Celebration Worship

**If your child is awarded a certificate, you will be invited to join us on a Friday afternoon via Class Dojo from your child's teacher**

Please note, you will only be invited if your child is receiving an award that week

## Attendance Awards w/e 11/9/26

| Class     | %     |
|-----------|-------|
| Rowan     | 98.57 |
| Whitebeam | 97.6  |
| Oak       | 98.44 |

Well done to all our classes for their good attendance this week. However, the winner of the Attendance Award is Rowan Class (by the smallest of margins). Please keep this up!



### PE DAYS



Rowan  
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

Whitebeam  
TUESDAY & THURSDAY

Oak  
TUESDAY & THURSDAY

Maple  
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

Please make sure the children come to school in PE Kit on these days.

## 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        | Reggie         | trying really hard in phonics and becoming more confident at recognising and saying the sounds.                                                                                                                                                      |
| Writer of the week        | Keegan         | trying really hard with the fine motor activities and letter formation.                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Mathematician of the week | Amelie         | demonstrating great determination when solving problems and for being super independent.                                                                                                                                                             |
| Shining Light             | Sissy<br>Freya | settling into school beautifully and for always trying your best, following the school rules and for being a kind member of Rowan Class.<br>being such a wonderful role model in our classroom and for consistently demonstrating our school values. |
| Reads at Home             |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

## Our week in Class

What a fabulous week in Rowan Class!  
We have continued to settle in this week and learn new routines.  
The Year 1's and Reception children have been working hard in phonics.  
This week in English, we have been reading The Colour Monster.  
In maths, the children are completing mastering number, they have really impressed me with their number knowledge.

Well done Rowan class, I am super proud of you all.





# AWARDS

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Whitebeam Class

| Award                     | Goes to...     | For.....                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Reader of the week        | Eliza          | for fluent reading with great expression                                                                                                                                                        |
| Writer of the week        | Arly           | for remembering and using a range of punctuation in her writing including an apostrophe for possession!                                                                                         |
| Mathematician of the week | Archie         | for his super attitude towards maths and working well in all areas of maths this week                                                                                                           |
| Shining Light             | Nathan<br>Mila | for demonstrating all of our school values and having a fantastic attitude towards learning<br>for demonstrating all of our school values and being a kind and caring member of Whitebeam Class |
| Tackling Tables           |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Reads at home             |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

## Our week in Class

What a great start to the new school year Whitebeam. You have all settled in well and are quickly learning the new routines. We have started learning about the Battle of Hastings and have added actions to help us remember the associated vocabulary. In maths we have been working on place value and in history, have made a timeline sequencing key historical events that you are already familiar with. I think the highlight though, has been watching how our class caterpillars have been changing and are now at the pupa stage and are silently changing within their cocoons. I wonder how long we will have to wait to see them emerge as beautiful butterflies?



# AWARDS

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies



Oak Class

| Award                     | Goes to...                 | For.....                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Reader of the week        | Etta                       | her great determination to persevere with her reading.                                                            |
| Writer of the week        | Alexander                  | his incredible focus to make quick improvements in his handwriting.                                               |
| Mathematician of the week | Skyla                      | her incredible ambition to answer difficult y5/6 questions in Oak Class.                                          |
| Shining Light             | Josie<br>Brianna<br>Rowan  | her wonderfully positive attitude to everything.<br>being courageous.<br>his incredible maturity starting year 6. |
| Reads at home             |                            | none this week.                                                                                                   |
| Tackling Tables           | Isla P<br>Finley<br>Isla B | Blue - divide by 5<br>Blue - missing numbers.<br>Red - MTC 2 and MTC 3.                                           |

## Our week in Class

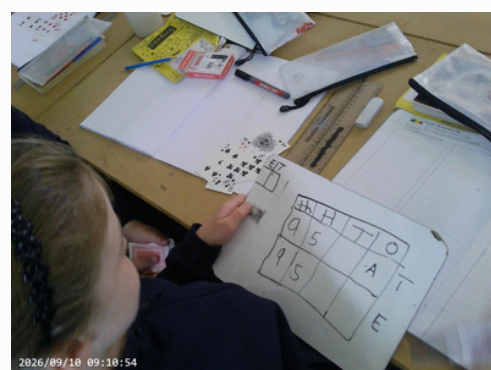


It's been such a lovely first week back! A big well done to all of Year 4 for settling into Oak Class so well - it's an absolute pleasure to have you.

In English this week, we've been starting our class text: Clockwork by Phillip Pullman. It's a short book filled with interesting vocabulary. We've been honing our sentence crafting skills, starting with learning the features of a complete sentence, then adding in expanded noun phrases and similes.

With our Maths, we've been looking at a range of different topics, starting with place value. Children are learning the value of different digits in large numbers, going up to millions. We have also been working hard on our Times tables - thanks so much to all the parents who have been supporting us at home!

We have been looking at fitness and tag rugby in PE, one point perspective skills in Art and European countries and their capitals in Geography.





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### Safeguarding.....

Are you aware of the Smartphone Free Childhood campaign? Would you like to be our Parent Ambassador for this and work together with a parent from each of the Nar Valley schools to encourage our families to sign the Parent Pact? It won't be a lot of work but would be an exciting way to keep our children safe. Please contact me if you are interested.

### Healthy mind, healthy body

This Sunday is the Sporle Lazy Sunday afternoon - 2pm-4pm. Come along, sit in (hopefully) some sunshine outside the Church and find some plants, tea or cake to keep you feeling relaxed and peaceful of mind! It would be great to see some competition entries - we've extended this to be a picture or model of something you did over the Summer holidays that was healthy for your mind. Entries to be in by half-term. Good luck!

### Message from the Executive Headteacher....

#### School Uniform;

As you know, the Government is keen to ensure that there is choice in suppliers of uniform, that there are not too many branded items of uniform, and that there are options to make it more affordable.

We now have two uniform stockists, **Birds of Dereham** and **Stratfords** in Kings Lynn. On the Birds website we are listed as our individual schools here and on Stratfords we come under Nar Valley Federation, here: There are differences in price so do check.

We have many items of 'Nearly new' uniform at school, which can be bought for 50p per item, or more if you wish! You can also bring an item to swap.

We want all our children to access the branded uniform so that they can feel part of the team. ***Our compulsory branded items are the sweatshirt or cardigan, polo shirt and jumper.*** A PE hoody is an optional branded item. If you currently have plain ones that is fine to keep wearing those until you purchase new ones, when you should ensure you purchase branded ones, either from our Nearly New at school (50p) or from Birds or Stratfords.

Many thanks for supporting our children to feel part of our school and Federation team.

#### Attendance;

At Nar Valley, we've had a super start, with all three schools above the national average! Well done everyone and keep it up. Did you know 55% of children who miss the some of the first few days go on to be persistently absent and to drop at least one grade at GCSE? They also miss out on relationship forming with new teachers or children in their class, so it is so important to be in school.

Each week going forward, I will check that every child is on track to be able to attend the Attendance Reward evening at the end of the year. To help you going forward, there is some very clear guidance from the NHS on when or when not to keep your child off school here

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

Parents/Carers of Castle Acre pupils are invited to come along to our AGM which is on Tuesday 22nd September, 7.30pm at The Ostrich in Castle Acre. Please see Libby Firth (Chair of Friends) or Miss Howman (School Secretary) if you would like any further information. If you are unable to attend in person but would like to join via zoom, please let us know ASAP. We hope to see you there, it doesn't mean you have joined The Friends committee if you attend but we will be voting in the committee for the coming year if you would like to join The Friends more formally. Thank you.  
**Libby Firth, Chair of Friends, Tel: 07825 229345**

### Prayer for the Week.....

Dear Lord,

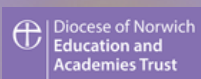
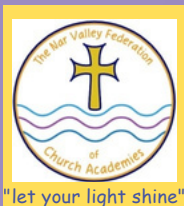
Thank you for school and thank you for everyone for being kind and helpful!  
Amen

By: Isla B

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



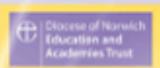
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# Healthy Body, Healthy Mind





## Healthy Body Healthy Mind 😊

|  Healthy Body  |  Healthy Mind  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>To have a healthy body you could exercise and workout regularly.</p>                           | <p>Reading helps with your spelling as well as your mind.</p>                                     |
|  <p>Eating fruit and veges are another form of having a healthy body.</p>                         |  <p>Education is also a good thing for your mind.</p>                                              |
| <p>Sweets are very unhealthy because they are full of sugar.</p>                                  | <p>Video games aren't very good for your mind.</p>                                                |



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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/>**