



Castle Acre Newsletter for week ending 9th October 2026

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well Autumn has certainly announced itself this week! Please remember to send your child with wellies and a suitable coat so that they can get as much playtime outside as possible. Many thanks.

We are very pleased to be able to let you know that we have appointed a new teaching assistant for our Reception/Year 1 Rowan class, to work alongside Mrs Henderson. Her name is Mrs Suzie Abramian and she joins us from experiences in Early Years and working for a local Church. We are delighted to welcome her to our team! Mrs Abramian is with us for some days before half-term but starts officially after half-term. This means that our staff who have moved around to cover the absence in Rowan class and sometimes Maple group can return to their usual roles. Thank you to everyone, but especially Mrs Girdler for her flexibility. This means that we are delighted to have more of Mrs Girdler's time in Oak class with our 32 children in the morning, and 34 children in the afternoon.

We're trying out a new system of Parents'/Carers evenings for Y6, giving you really clear information about exactly which areas of each subject your child is strong in as well as the areas they still need to strengthen. Please don't worry if there are areas to work on, as the assessments are looking at the end of year SATS expectations and it is October. As a general guide, if your child has secured around 50% of the objectives and is learning well, they are nicely on track for the expected level at the end of the year. If you have any further questions after Parents'/Carers' evenings, please don't hesitate to ask Mr Conway, Mrs Spaul or myself. We hope these will enable you to support your child and give them plenty of confidence in their final year at primary school. We're delighted with the strong start Y6 have made and we are confident on their behalf!

Anne Neary, Executive Headteacher

Upcoming Events

See Diary Dates for details.....

Monday 12th October - 9.30am Harvest Festival Service at Castle Acre Church, all welcome.

Friday 16th October - from 8.45am Pupil Individual Photographs with Tempest. Younger siblings can have their photo taken individually or with siblings at school, please contact the school office to book, thank you.



Monday 19th October - Open Day from 9.45 - 2.45pm by appointment with the school office for Parents'/Carers of children due to start school from September 2027.

Thursday 22nd October - Y4/5/6 Cross Country at TNHA.

Friday 23rd October - School Closed for Inset Day, followed by Half term Break. School re-opens on Monday 2nd November.

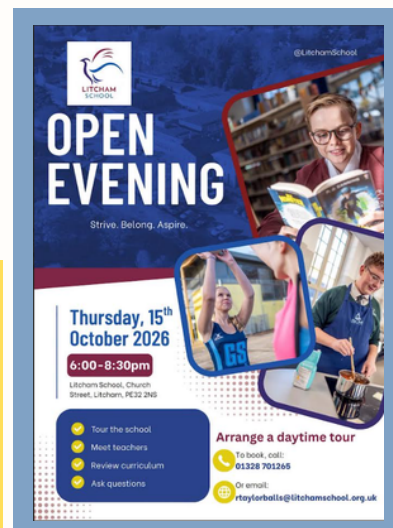
Tuesday 3rd November - 3.30 to 7pm Parents Consultations.

Thursday 5th November - 3.30 to 5.30pm Parents Consultations.

Reminders and Information.....

Celebration Worship

Celebration Worship on a Friday: every Parents'/Carer is welcome to our Celebration worship at 2.45pm each week whether your child is receiving a certificate or not - you are very welcome to come and be spiritually uplifted by the joy of our children's achievements and we'll always be delighted to see you!



Attendance Awards w/e 9/10/26

Class	%
Rowan	94.29
Whitebeam	97.6
Oak	93.13

The winners of the Attendance Award this week are Whitebeam, well done! We hope for better attendance next week in Oak and Rowan Classes.



Ted the Bear will be joining Whitebeam Class this week!

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/>

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	Amelie	always trying your best and working so hard on your blending.
Writer of the week	Freya	fabulous presentation and always listening to the adults advice to improve.
Mathematician of the week	Ethan	working really hard during maths lessons and always trying your best.
Shining Light	Archie Esca	being such a super star! You always demonstrate our value of kindness. trying really hard to follow the classroom rules and for sharing with your friends.
Reads at Home	Archie	10

Our week in Class

What a wonderful week in Rowan class!

The children have been working so hard.

In science this week we completed an experiment - we tested various materials to check if they were waterproof or not. The children had lots of fun trying to keep the teddies dry.

Have a fabulous weekend!



AWARDS

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Whitebeam Class

Award	Goes to...	For.....
Reader of the week	Nathan	for super reading with expression and for always being willing to answer questions during reading sessions
Writer of the week	Lukas	for his increasing independence when writing
Mathematician of the week	Amelia Mia G	for working well on her number bonds to 20 and always being willing to answer questions during maths lessons for exceptional maths work and working independently
Shining Light Letting your light shine	Arly Freddie	for demonstrating our school values especially responsibility and kindness for demonstrating our value of responsibility this week especially in phonics
Tackling Tables	Nathan	Blue phase multiplication mini-test
Reads at home	Freddie Lexi Nathan	10 reads 10 reads 25 reads

Our week in Class

This week in Whitebeam Class we have been researching information to put into our fact files about castles and the children have started to make their booklets. In maths our current focus is addition and subtraction and we have been exploring number bonds. In computing the children worked with a partner to design a digital device and had lots of interesting ideas! We have also been busy rehearsing for our Harvest Festival Service on Monday. Well done Whitebeam.

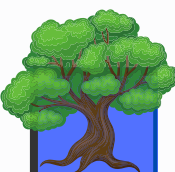




AWARDS



The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies



Oak Class

Award	Goes to...	For.....
Reader of the week	Hollie	Her clear, careful and expressive echo reading in class.
Writer of the week	Etta	Working so hard on the accuracy of her writing.
Mathematician of the week	Indy	Trying his best with some very tricky Year 4 Maths.
Shining Light	Harry Finn Isla B Ivy	His ambition to be a role model for the whole school. Making his debut at West Acre Theatre. Her brilliant ambition, always wanting to do her best with her work. Her brilliant emotional maturity and awareness.
Reads at home	Brianna Alexander Indy	
Tackling Tables	Florence Finlay Darcy Tia	Green - yellow mixed addition and subtraction. Blue - multiples. Blue - multiples. Green - superstar.

Our week in Class



This week, we have been working towards our instructional writing in English. The children have been exploring other instructions and identifying their features.

In Maths, we have been looking at subtraction, mental methods for more complicated calculations and investigating polygons.

In our afternoons, we have sketched a range of habitats in Science, played the glockenspiels in Music and finished our one point perspective landscapes in Art.





Safeguarding.....

If you are interested in a free webinar regarding learning about Technology-Assisted Sexual Abuse of children please contact Mrs Neary

Healthy mind, healthy body

Our vision is that mental health and wellbeing is understood as 'healthy body, healthy mind' and that proactively looking after your mental health is seen both as a strength and a necessity and that seeking support is stigma-free. As a Christian and values-led Federation, this is what we want for our staff team, our children and our families:

Our approach for our staff team is having a culture of vigilance - knowing your colleagues and watching out for changes to their usual self, checking for a pattern, reminding people that the support is there, reminding people that it is ok to have time out, time to talk, or just time for a cup of tea if the going has been tough. It is our pledge to be honest and put real meaning behind the question 'How are you?' rather than it being a greeting. We actively sign up to genuinely caring about colleagues. We regularly have a week where we focus on proactively asking our wellbeing buddies 'are you ok?' and we focus on being aware of colleagues if they act differently. For our children, we work hard to model and talk about how to keep ourselves healthy in body and mind, without necessarily using the term 'mental health'. We share ideas about how to feel positive, how to recognise and change emotions, and how to regulate ourselves. We teach breathing in and out using the hand model, offer safe spaces to go to in order to calm down if needed and ask how our children are. We ask all our children if they have a trusted adult in school and home so that we know they have someone they can go to. We celebrate excellent examples of children taking positive steps for their wellbeing. 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. Each year we have an action plan and this year our focus is: to ensure that our children understand the language of mental health as 'healthy body, healthy mind' and that they can all name a Trusted Adult, and know our breathing techniques for wellbeing.

Message from the Executive Headteacher....

Next week you will be getting your letters regarding your child's attendance. I am delighted to say that almost everyone will be getting a 'well done' email, as your children's attendance is 96%+. Fantastic! At all 3 schools we are currently above the national attendance, which is 95.93%.

At Castle Acre, our attendance is 96.1%, with 9 children who are Persistently Absent at this time and 10 who need to improve to 96%+
At Narborough, our attendance is 95.9% with 16 children who are Persistently Absent at this time and 11 who need to improve to 96%+
At Sporle, our attendance is 96.5% with 3 children who are Persistently Absent at this time and 15 who need to improve to 96%+
Sometimes there are excellent reasons for such absence, such as an operation or a childhood illness. Unfortunately, some children are PA because of a family holiday, which really does not support a strong and settled start to the year.

Well done to the families of the 59 children at CA, 73 children at Narb and 60 children at Sporle who have fabulous attendance! Everyone else, please work hard to ensure your children reach this goal too, as it really does support their learning, social relationships, ability to settle and be secure in school and their well being. A huge congratulations to all our families as there is a really strong punctuality across NVF, which is wonderful. Please try to arrive at 8.35am, so that your child benefits from the full 25 minutes of early work. School starts straight away at 8.35 - don't miss out!

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

The Friends invite you to come to their Autumn Quiz fundraiser, Save the Date: evening of Friday 13th November.

Here is the link to our latest Friends' Newsletter:
<https://canva.link/2yf4u6z00scvwo>

Libby Firth, Chair of Friends, Tel: 07825 229345

Prayer for the Week....

Dear Lord,

We are thankful for friends and family and the people that support us. Thank you for food and water and the nature that surrounds us.

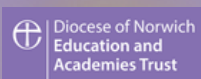
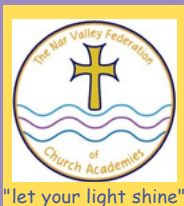
Amen

By: Ella and Sybil

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



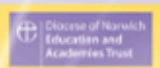
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Healthy Body, Healthy Mind





Healthy Body Healthy Mind 😊

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