"let your light shine"

Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust

Castle Acre Newsletter for week ending 6th November 2026

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well done for surviving the first week of dark mornings and afternoons; the mornings especially are a struggle! The weather has definitely turned too. With that in mind, please can you ensure that your child has appropriate clothing in school including wellies. The children will only be allowed in school if they have a pair of wellies to change into. We know football can be tricky to play with wellies on but we ask that you do not send football boots in school as they have studs on which can cause injury to others. A huge thank you for your support for our Non-uniform Day and Cake Raffle which has raised £119.10 so far! Contratulation to Amelie, who won the cake raffle.

Next week is a busy week. We have federation days where the children will be going to Sporle with both Sporle and Narborough and taking part in a variety of fun sports activities. Oak Class will attend on Monday and Maple Group, Whitebeam and Rowan on Thursday. Please check the email sent earlier this week regarding times and parking arrangements. A big thank you to Mr West and the team at Sporle for hosting us.
Just a polite reminder that the car park is for staff only, unless by prior arrangement with us. We know that parking is tricky but when all our staff are here, there are no spaces left. The gates need to be left clear at all times too. We thank you for your support in this matter. Emma Spaul, Head of School

Upcoming Events

See Diary Dates for details.....

From 2nd November 2026 - Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal items for sale at the end of day.

Monday 9th November - Federation Day at Sporle Primary for Oak Class (Y4/5/6). See further info on Headteacher's page of this newsletter.

Cross Country Finals at Lynnsport for our finalists AM

Thursday 12th November - Federation Day at Sporle Primary for Maple Group plus Rowan and Whitebeam Classes. See further info on Headteacher's page of this newsletter.

Friday 13th November - Children in Need Day; children are invited to wear something spotty.

NB: No Swimming for Y4/5/6 this week, continues next Wednesday, 18th November.

Attendance Awards w/e 6/11/26

Class	%
Rowan	94.74
Whitebeam	97.58
Oak	97.19

The winners of the Attendance Award this week are Whitebeam Class by the smallest of margins from Oak Class, well done!

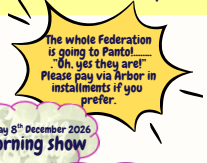


Ted the Bear will be joining Whitebeam Class this week!

Reminders and Information.....



Celebration Worship on a Friday; every Parent/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!







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/

family voice norfolk
together improving services

Please see the latest Newsletter from Family Voice by clicking here

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

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Rowan Class

Award	Goes to...	For.....
Reader of the week		
Writer of the week	Hollie	trying really hard during handwriting lessons.
Mathematician of the week	Reggie	great learning and spotting of 2D shapes in our maths lessons.
Shining Light	Mia Sissy	always demonstrating our school value of kindness, especially when helping the younger children in Rowan Class. always showing respect and responsibility to everyone in our class.
	Ethan Esca	25

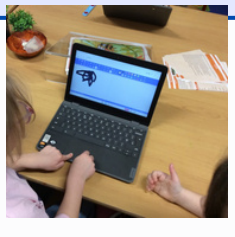
Our week in Class

A great week in Rowan class.

This week the children have been writing about the story of Rama and Sita and describing the characters and settings.
In maths, reception children have been exploring 2D shapes, they enjoyed going on a shape hunt.
Year 1 children have been using a number line to subtract numbers within 10.

Yesterday afternoon, the children were very excited to complete a science experiment. We used old scraps of paper, ripped them into small pieces and submerged them into green coloured water. I wonder what will happen to the paper...











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AWARDS

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Whitebeam Class

Award	Goes to...	For.....
Reader of the week	Stanley	for his improved reading speed and for reading aloud with great expression
Writer of the week	Lukas	for his amazing independent writing especially during phonic follow-up work
Mathematician of the week	Charlotte	for her focus during maths lesson and always answering questions enthusiastically
Shining Light	Archie Ava	for his fantastic attitude towards learning and for embracing challenges especially in maths for demonstrating the values of responsibility and kindness by seeing that a friend needed some support and helping them
Tackling Tables		
Reads at home		

Our week in Class

Well done Whitebeam for a great week. We have started our new focus in English which is traditional fairy tales and you are all really enjoying looking at different versions of these stories and are comparing them. We also have some of the characters in class, so you never know when you will come across a wolf or Little Red Riding Hood!

In science, our focus is forces and magnets and we have been thinking about different surfaces and objects that we may pull or push and you worked really well in groups of 3 during PE.

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AWARDS

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Oak Class

Award	Goes to...	For.....
Reader of the week	Ella	impressive,accurate reading, dealing with some very tricky words.
Writer of the week	Mason	consistently writing accurate sentences in English lessons.
Mathematician of the week	Hollie	her determination to grow her Maths scores, leading to a big leap in her arithmetic.
Shining Light	Noah Oliver P Logan	his consistently positive attitude to everything in his learning. his incredible maturity and responsibility at all times. his confidence, maturity and resilience.
Reads at home	Molly Florence Alexander Isla P Oliver P	10 reads - blue star 10 reads - blue star 25 reads - red star 25 reads - red star 50 reads - bronze star
Tackling Tables	Finlay Darcy B Isla P Gracie-Mae Ella Skyla Oscar Rowan	Blue - Purple subtraction missing numbers and Superstar Blue - superstar Green - division and mixed mini test Green - multiples Red - multiplying and dividing with fractions Red - decimals mini test Red - mixed numbers and improper fractions Red - mixed

Our week in Class

This week in Maths, we started with column subtraction: 2-digit by 2-digit numbers! This is a challenging but essential skill that we will continue to work on. Year 4 children have been multiplying by 1 and 0.

In English, we have started to write about sci-fi settings and characters. The class are enjoying this topic and we are seeing a high standard of writing. We have been focusing on controlling our sentence structure, ensuring we are writing clearly and accurately.

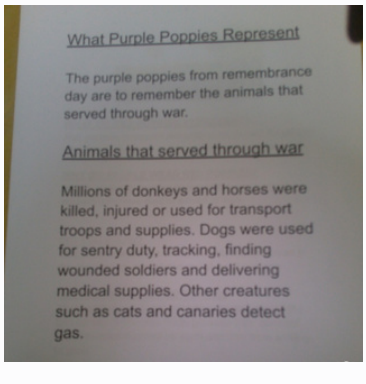
In the afternoons, we have been discussing light sources, learning about Stone Age people, and learning about Remembrance.

It was a pleasure to talk to everyone during Parents' Evening, thanks for coming along!









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Safeguarding.....

Please see this article from a school governor who helped their school to be a Smartphone free school (as we are. If anyone would like to take up this project for us, we'd be delighted to help and support you - just get in touch!



Sapna Dave, Governor, St Nicolas CofE Academy, Nuneaton

"As a governor, I am so proud that St Nicolas CofE Academy is leading the way in becoming a Smartphone Free School in the Nuneaton area of Warwickshire. This hasn't happened overnight. Our journey began in November 2025 with some Smartphone Free Childhood posters on the school gates, followed by our Headteacher sharing the Smartphone Free Childhood Parent Survey. Only 25% of families said they would give their child a smartphone regardless of whether peers were given a brick phone. That left the remaining 75% open to delaying giving their child a smartphone and showed a clear appetite for change.

Our Headteacher recognised the opportunity for the school to help create that culture shift. Through the SFC 'Keep the Magic' Christmas campaign, and by sharing the Parent Pact on the school gates and in newsletters, the school began to gently introduce the idea of a Smartphone Free Childhood and get families thinking about the benefits of waiting.

A parent forum, led by our Headteacher, gave families the opportunity to ask questions, share concerns, and talk openly about becoming a Smartphone Free School.

In June 2026, the school announced it was going Smartphone Free from September 2026. At the Summer Fair, four passionate parent volunteers ran a Smartphone Free Childhood stand, giving families a chance to engage with the topic, ask questions and share their views. The response was hugely encouraging and showed we had so many silent supporters all along!

My message to school leaders is: lean on your governors. After all, our role is to support the school's direction. And if you have a governor who wants to get more involved, they could even consider becoming a School Organiser and helping with some of the groundwork, like sharing the SFC resources.

The strength of our approach hasn't come from a sudden change in policy, but from the consistent, subtle messages and conversations we've built with families.

Our journey is certainly not over. We are continuing to build our Parent Pact numbers by keeping the conversation going and supporting our families as we move forward. Our hope now is that other primary and secondary schools across Nuneaton will join us!"

Healthy mind, healthy body

Congratulations to all our runners who finished in the top ten in their year groups and have made it through the the finals next week - we are really proud of you!
Castle Acre: Well done to Gracie-Mae (and a special well done for winning your category!), Skyla, Oscar, Oliver, Harry and Etta (and a special well done for winning your category!)
Narborough: Well done to Lilly, James (and a special well done for winning your category!), Jasper, Fred and Raphael.
Sporle: Well done to Annie, Leonor, Ethan, Benjamin, Harry, Adaline and Violet.
We are very proud to have 18 Nar Valley Federation children in the finals. Good luck!

Message from the Executive Headteacher....

We are excited about our upcoming Forest School Federation Day at Sporle Primary Academy, where we will be having a really fun day based on outdoor activities and sports learning (with a wet weather plan too!). As you know, we have termly Federation days and revolve round all 3 schools, meaning that you will be asked twice a year with at least two week's notice to get your children to one of our Federation schools. The next one is at Castle Acre in the Spring term.

EYFS/KS1 (Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y2) day is on: 12th November
KS2 (Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6) is on: 9th November

Details for drop off and pick up are as follows:

Drop off any time between **8.30am and 9.00am.**
There will of course be increased traffic through Sporle on this day, so we ask for your help and support with the system we have created.
Sporle parents, it would be wonderful if as many families as possible could walk to school on this day, leaving the roadsides as clear as possible. If you have to drive, please park on the playing field car park. Enter school via the usual route please at both ends of the day, at the usual time.
Castle Acre and Narborough parents, please drive through Sporle from the A47 end and take the first turning on the right just after the King Charles III pub and before the Church/Village hall. This is the turning with the Sporle village sign on, which is currently decorated with a cloth of red poppies. Drive into the entrance on the playing field and staff from Castle Acre and Narborough will be waiting to help disembark your children onto the playing field, register them and then and walk them in to school via the playing field and Churchyard. Please then follow parking staff's instructions to come out of the field, turn right and drive out of Sporle towards Castle Acre to keep traffic flowing smoothly and make it easy to manage for everyone. Please be aware that there are a lot of cars parked on the main road through Sporle so everyone sticking to the one-way system will really help.

Pick up is the same system, between **2.50pm and 3.10pm.**

Footwear:
Please ensure that your children are wearing wellies and also bring their school shoes. It is ESSENTIAL that these items (and lunchboxes) are named - three schools' worth of pairs of unamed wellies or shoes would be awful to try restore to their owners!!!

Wraparound Care:
Narborough and Castle Acre children are welcome to attend Wrap Around care - Before School Club (from 8am) and After School Club (from 3.10pm) at Sporle on this day - book in the normal way at your home school. Staff from Castle Acre and Narborough will be present at Sporle school.

(Key Stage 2 children who are in the Cross-Country finals at Lynn Sport - please take your children to LynnSport for the start of the school day, give them their lunch afterwards and then drop them at Sporle for the afternoon using the road outside school and take them . Many thanks for your support - we are not given the Cross Country finals date until after the first running event and so could not avoid a clash)

Lunches:
On this day we will be asking for all children to bring a home packed lunch where possible. Alternatively they will be able to order a school Ham or Cheese sandwich on the day. There will be no hot food available on the day.

Groups:
Each group will have one adult who stays with that group all day to ensure continuity of support for the children, and then the other adults lead the group activity.

Many thanks for your support - the children have really enjoyed the previous Federation days and we're looking forward to this one too.

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

Sadly the Friends are cancelling the planned Quiz fundraiser on Nov 13th due to a lack of teams.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for new fundraising opportunities that you think the school families might enjoy please get in touch via Mrs Howman or Libby Firth (libbyofirth@gmail.com)

Please don't forget to order your child's Christmas design and help us raise vital funds!

Prayer for the Week....

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the people who fought to save our country and the animals who served in the war.
Thank you for the beautiful poppies that grow in the battlefield to remember them.

Amen

By: Tia and Ivy F

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

