



Diocese of Norwich
Education and
Academies Trust

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Anne Neary

Web: www.narvalleyfederation.co.uk

Friday 9th September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome back to school for the Autumn term; we hope that everyone had a good Summer and enjoyed all your different activities and holidays.

We are really looking forward to a year full of exciting learning, outdoor and hands on experiences, trips, performances, Church services and sporting events. It is also lovely to have started working with our new staff team members at each school; 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.

Just a reminder in terms of attendance; strong attendance (96% and over) is so important for ensuring that your children learn and achieve well. 95% - considered satisfactory attendance by the Government and Ofsted as well as us - means not missing any more than ten school days over the whole year. Statistically, there is a clear link between children who regularly miss more than this in primary and achieving lower grades at GCSE and higher. (see this report: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/509679/the-link-between-absence-and-attainment-at-KS2-and-KS4-2013-to-2014-academic-year.pdf)

Also just a reminder that the school day is from 8.40am until 3.10pm, with registration at 8.55am. Please do bring your children at 8.40am, as the 8.40am until 9am slot is a teaching slot alongside registration and we want all children to benefit from this. We do daily skills practise for English and Maths. Not coming at 8.40am each day would mean one and a half hours of learning missed each week, which means nearly 67 hours of extra learning that your child will miss out on each school year. It is also an important opportunity for staff to talk to the children, see how they are, pick up on emotions and support children.

PE kits; now that the need that arose from Covid has passed, this year we are returning to changing for PE in school and getting changed back into uniform after the lesson. Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school on a Monday and takes them home on a Friday. Please ensure your child has tracksuit bottoms and the school hoody or a plain tracksuit top for the colder weather.

Volunteers; we will be delighted to welcome back any of you who have previously volunteered, and anyone who would like to volunteer. All volunteers undertake DBS checks and safeguarding procedures and we will offer some training and support. If you feel you can help with reading, have a skill to offer, have a specialist subject you could talk about then please do get in touch, we'd be really, really pleased to welcome you.

Clubs; We'd love to expand the number of clubs that we can offer our children; If you have a particular interest and would like to work with a member of staff to deliver a club then please do get in touch, we'd be really happy to welcome you.

Free School Meals, vouchers and hardship: please see the below info from Norfolk County Council (NCC);

Allergy Aware Schools – Please do not send nuts into Nar Valley Federation Academies

NB. Please note that we try and include in the newsletter local events that may be of interest, but inclusion in the newsletter does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation of any such event from ourselves.

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Rather than issuing the above in the school holidays, NCC is issuing them monthly to help families with the cost of living. Parents/carers may choose to save vouchers rather than spend at the time of issue, so they have more funds available during the school holidays if they wish to, within the constraints of the three-month expiry date of the vouchers. Note: If vouchers expire, they cannot be reissued.

Families in hardship and needing wider support

In addition to the offer of FSM vouchers for eligible families, there is support available for families who are facing hardship and need support.

Anyone experiencing hardship may be able to receive support through the Norfolk Assistance Scheme (NAS), which may be able to provide support for food, fuel, clothes, and other essential household items to families experiencing hardship. Wider support from a range of partners can then also be made available with NAS working alongside the Children's Services Community and Partnerships service.

Families may get in touch with NAS via their dedicated website which includes an online application form, or if they cannot access the internet, they can call 0344 800 8020.

During the drafting of this letter, we received the news that our Queen had died. Today in school we held a Collective Worship, to acknowledge and express respect for a life given in service. Our children wrote prayers/reflections, and we would like to share with you this, from all of the children in Otters Class.

“Dear Lord,

Thank you for the kindness demonstrated by her majesty and for giving us such a good role-model. We thank you for her generosity and we hope her son continues that.

Please help us to share our sadness and support each other to get through this sad time.

Please help King Charles III and us to continue her legacy.

Please may she rest in peace.

Amen“

I am sure that in the coming days we will do more to remember the service of the Queen and mark her passing and we will of course share these arrangements with you in due course. In the meantime, we continue to attend school as normal.

For those families who are new to us, you are very warmly welcomed and to our current families, we look forward to another year of working with you all. See you soon either on the gate or at various events; we have fayres in the villages of Sporle and Castle Acre on Sunday 11th so may see you there.

At Narborough this week, the staff and children have had an amazing start to the year. Every class has settled well and all children are working hard together. We have had some really lovely work shared and the children have shown excellent work ethic. I am looking forward with eager anticipation to a fantastic year. In our Children's Collective Worship on Thursday, Otters Class set the bar really high for future Children's Worship, which will be led by Miss Joice. The children portrayed the parable of The Good Samaritan, read the bible, acted out the scenes and interacted with the rest of the academy in the audience. A huge well done to Otters Class. Our Year 5 and 6 class are making us proud. In today's Collective Worship the children made outstanding contributions and discussed what our Queen, Elizabeth II meant to them. Billie-Jo (Year 6) started us off really well with a reflective thought about how she felt that Queen Elizabeth II was an amazing role model. The children showed true respect and thoughtfulness.

With very best wishes; see you soon,



Head of School
Narborough C of E Primary Academy



Executive Headteacher
Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Castle Acre, Narborough and Sporle C of E Primary
Academy