



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 30th September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Narborough Newsletter for week ending 30th September 2022

This week, I have had the pleasure of showing around several new children, their parents and other visitors. They were all really impressed with our fantastic academy and all visitors comment on how well-behaved, friendly and focused on their learning our children are. We know this, of course, but it is always lovely to hear the positive comments of others, recognising the hard work and effort everybody puts into making our academy a wonderful place to learn and work. We are so lucky to have such supportive families and friends. Thank you everybody.

Crazy Hair Day

Today's crazy hair day was brilliant, there were some amazing hairstyles with lots of time and effort being put in by all. I especially loved the fairy cake bun and attached hair raiser by Ariyah-Mai. Thank you to everyone who took part and helped support our Christmas events fundraiser.



Harvest Festival

As promised dates for the Harvest Festival and church events have been arranged. Our Harvest Festival church service will be held at 2pm on Friday 14th October at All Saints Church Narborough. Parents are most welcome to attend, but please remember that we have a very small church and children will be seated first. Please could any kind donations of packets, tins and boxes of food be sent into school with your child to enable us to take them to church with us.

Uniform

The children all look so smart and ready to learn in their school uniforms. Please remember that our school uniform is on our website on page 20 of our prospectus if you ever need a reminder:

<https://www.narborough.norfolk.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=9552&type=pdf>

Could you please ensure that children also have an appropriate P.E. kit for school.

- A pair of black or navy shorts
- A white or royal blue t-shirt
- A pair of plimsolls or trainers
- A warm, plain navy tracksuit for the autumn term.

Uniform can be bought from Birds of Dereham <https://www.birdsofdereham.com/shop/search/?q=narborough>

Children's Worship

Continuing with our value of Courage, the children performed the bible story of Daniel and the Lion's Den this week (Daniel 6:22). They gave an excellent performance and did themselves proud, brilliant acting and very engaging. Lots of hard work went into the rehearsals and it really paid off. Well done everybody.

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.

Attendance Rewards

Attendance rates for last week ending 23rd September 2022 are as follows:

Hedgehogs: 94.02%

Squirrels: 99.11%

Foxes: 96.67%

Otters: 89.47%

The whole school attendance last week was 95.15%.

Well done to **Squirrels** for achieving the highest attendance award for last week and getting so close to 100%.

Class Information

Hedgehogs

In Hedgehogs we are working really hard to learn our phonemes. We are also learning to sign the letters of the alphabet. In English we have looked for adjectives in The Gruffalo story and in autumn poems. Next week we will use adjectives to create an autumn poem of our own. I am REALLY impressed with the Year 1 children using Spelling Frame to practise spelling their key words. The children are doing really well, and it is good to see that 5 out of the 10 highest scoring children on the whole school leader board are Hedgehog Year 1's. Well done Year 1 – keep up the excellent work! In Maths, Year 1 have continued to look at numbers and compare them so that next week they can order numbers and Reception will be using their comparisons of size this week to make repeating patterns. In R.E., we learned the Christian Creation Story and in Computing we thoroughly enjoyed developing our mouse skills by clicking and dragging.

Our Shining Light this week is awarded to Ronnie for working so hard to learn the whole alphabet of signing phonemes and sing them with such pride. Keep up the good work, Ronnie.

Squirrels

This week in Squirrels, we have been looking at money in Maths. We set up a shop and children practised counting out amounts in order to buy the items on their shopping list. Some of our Year 3's were shopkeepers and helped count the correct money and even give change. They are very quick at recognising the different coins. I'm sure they'd have great fun playing shop at home too. In English, we have begun to write our information texts on Africa, creating titles and introductions, looking at how to build description into our sentences with expanded noun phrases, and cohesion across our sentences by varying our sentence starters. In science, we looked at reflective surfaces and how by using them and a light source, we are able to see things like the back of our head or create a "fun house" mirror to make duplicates of an object. Next week, we will plan out our paragraphs in English and put all our grammar and learning together. We will be looking at adding in Maths and zooming in on some famous features of the African landscape in Geography.

Our Shining Light this week is awarded to Arthur D for showing kindness to adults and classmates.

Foxes

This week we have drafted, edited and produced a setting description to go alongside our book 'Clockwork'. The class practiced editing and improving skills, dictionary skills and had a chance to showcase their amazing writing for display. As we continue reading the book, we will move on to looking at the features of character descriptions next week. In Maths, the class have been really engaged with finding 1, 10, 100 and 1,000 more and loved exploring Roman numerals. Next week we will use this learning to challenge ourselves to order numbers up to 10,000.

Our Shining Light this week goes to Libby-Rae for showing responsibility in her learning, especially in the final draft of her setting description.

Otters

This week, Year 5's are reporting on their learning. Oscar stated, 'this week I enjoyed maths because we have been learning how to find the difference with negative numbers.' Rosie agreed saying, 'I liked learning about negative numbers.' Izabel has been enjoying Geography because, '...it is fun learning about Europe.' Theo A has

enjoyed English, writing their final draft of their setting description '...because we got to write in pen.'
Swimming has also been a hit with many children. Gabriella enjoyed swimming because ...'I'm getting the hang of it.' Elsie also enjoyed swimming because '...we got to swim like a dolphin.'

Congratulations this week to:

Tackling Tables: Libby for achieving her green missing numbers certificate.

This week the Shining Light has been awarded to Eden for having such a positive attitude towards her learning, persevering and being reflective when reviewing her work. Keep it up!

Prayer for the week

From Elsie in Otters

Dear God,

Please help the cost of living to go down because the cost of living right now has gone up by a lot. Also, people have ended up having to choose whether to have heating or to eat. Some people are lucky that they don't have to make that choice. Please help everybody in need.

Amen

Message from Emma Spaul:

Come and join me for a chat on Wednesday 12th October from 10am-11am in the school library if you have any questions or queries relating to your child and how they are getting on at school. You do not need to have an appointment, just drop in and I will have the kettle on and biscuits ready. Your child does not already need to be identified as having SEN to come along. I look forward to seeing you there.

Emma Spaul, Federation SENDCo. Please contact me at Castle Acre on 01760 755305 if you have any queries.

Message from the Executive Headteacher:

Parents/Carers' survey;

Firstly, a huge thank you to those 35 people who have taken the time to fill in the survey, that's really helpful. It's also brilliant that most people are putting their names as then if there is feedback we need to know more about, we can seek your further input. The survey is very positive which is lovely. There are also some really constructive comments for us to consider, so thank you. The thing that quite a few of you have mentioned, across all three schools is the fact that we are now changing for PE again, and that you all preferred the change made during Covid to coming in and going home in PE kit. We did discuss this as staff teams quite carefully, as from a parent perspective we can totally see why this would be easier. However, we had observed that particularly younger children had lost the skill of independently dressing themselves, which is a requirement of their learning, and had also lost some of the balance and co-ordination required. Getting changed for PE in school is also a key element in terms of safeguarding children and so we felt it was right that it should go back to how it has always been. Once the survey has closed, we'll let you know what actions we've taken in terms of any other feedback given. Thanks again for all the lovely comments and support, and for the constructive feedback.

Ofsted report;

I am delighted to be able to share with you our OFSTED report, which was published last Friday, and details that Sporle is rated as OFSTED 'Good'. The inspectors picked out that Sporle is a happy place of learning and were impressed by the children who consistently uphold the school's values of responsibility, kindness, courage, hope, respect and forgiveness. They were very clear that children achieve well across a range of subjects. They also recognised the good challenge and support offered by both our Governors and the Trust; I want to thank all those people for their support. Our Subject Leaders lead their subject across the Federation and may usually work at different schools, so it really is a testimony to their hard work that they are able to influence not just the learning of children in their own school but in all our schools.

I'm very proud of our staff team and our great children and sincerely thank all our Parents/Carers at Sporle who work together in partnership with us.

School Development Plan from last year; our evaluation;

Each year, we set ourselves development tasks and then evaluate the success of these.

Last year our overarching priorities were as follows:

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<i>Ensure that organisational systems and processes are established following periods of instability eg Covid and changes of leadership so that staff are most effectively supported to ensure strong development and attainment, particularly that of children with SEND and Disadvantages</i>

Continue to develop the curriculum, planning and delivery so that children are enabled to make strong progress and attainment rises in all classes, particularly that of those children with Disadvantages or SEND so that the majority of year groups meet or exceed the national measures.

Ensure that assessment, moderation, and interventions are effectively used so that children make rapid progress and attain in line with or above average and that the attainment of children rises, particularly those with Disadvantages or with SEND

We were pleased with our progress last year, despite all the challenges of the two huge Covid outbreaks and vast amounts of staff and pupil absence across the year. It is also nice to have some validation on our work from OFSTED of course!

This year, we are focusing on embedding that work and improving even further, widening our focus to the children who are strongly able and ensuring that they have even more stretch and challenge.

There are also lots of other things that we want to do this year, such as providing more equipment, games and support at lunchtimes, working on our outdoor areas and our outdoor learning. We also want to embed our Pupil roles -

Academy Councillors, Eco Councillors, Team Captains, Head and Deputy Pupils, Values Ambassadors, Play Leaders, Y6/Reception Buddies and continuing with Children's worship leaders.

we want to continue to provide lots of different opportunities for children to visit places, learn from others, such as local farmers, and work with members of the community.

It's going to be a busy and exciting year!

Pupil Voice;

We are currently asking our children how they have settled back in to school and how their holidays were and whether there was anything that they particularly enjoyed or particularly bothered them.

One thing we have noticed is that many children referencing gaming as something that they enjoyed, but many are mentioning it as something that worried or upset them. Please remember that there are risks with online gaming and consider asking yourself the questions - do I know who my child is gaming with? Can I see who is online with them? Can I hear what is being said to them and what they are saying back? What is the age that my child has to be before playing this game?

There is so much research out there about the impact of these games on children's ability to concentrate, interact with others and understand social norms. Like any tool, gaming can be used well and for positive outcomes but can also lead to huge issues. For example, Fortnite (for which you should be 13 to play); you may find this article interesting: <https://childmind.org/article/parents-guide-dealing-fortnite/>



[A Parent's Guide to Dealing With Fortnite - Child Mind Institute](#)

When people are talking about Fortnite, they are most likely talking about Fortnite: Battle Royale, which is the version of the game where up to 100 players battle to the death, with the winner being the last player standing.

childmind.org

We're here to talk if you need anything.

Thank you as always for your support and partnership,

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