



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 7th October 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Narborough Newsletter for week ending 7th October 2022

Life is so busy these days so grab a cuppa and catch up with this week's school news. It's always lovely to see the children so busy learning and having fun and as you can see in the class information, this week has been no different. Please remember to send your child in with a warm coat every day, as the weather is turning decidedly chillier, and we do try to get outside every day. I do notice that there are several children still forgetting to bring a coat every day. We are also reminding children to bring in their Home Reading Record every day too, so that the staff can help children keep track of their reading and note any parent comments. I would like to assure you that children are listened to read regularly in school, but this is recorded in teacher records, leaving the Reading Record book for home reading. Please speak to your child's teacher if you need any further help or information.

Harvest Festival

As you know, our Harvest Festival will be held at All Saints Church on **Friday 14th October 2022 at 2pm** and parents/carers are most welcome. Please remember that the church is only small so space for parents and carers will be limited. If you could kindly wait outside the church (away from the doors) until all of the children are in and seated, we would be most grateful. Could we please ask you to send any Harvest food donations into school by Thursday 13th October, so that we can arrange for them to be taken to the church in plenty of time.

Any tinned or packaged dried foods will be gratefully received. Please do not send any fresh fruit, vegetables, frozen food, or food that needs to be stored in a fridge as it will perish. The children have been working really hard practising for their performance and it has been lovely to hear the songs echoing through the corridors. We look forward to sharing our hard work with you.

New PTA

It was really good to see so many attend the introductory meeting of the new Parent, Staff and Friends Group last Friday. It was lovely that some of the previous FONS group came along to offer their continued support too. As you know from last week's newsletter, the new Parent, Staff and Friends Group are eager to get started with fundraising for Christmas activities in the first instance. We have so many good ideas for helping to support the children and families at Narborough and, with your help, I know that the new group will be able to help to make our children's school life more memorable and fun. The group are holding their first meeting to discuss roles and responsibilities on **Monday 17th October 2022 at 1:30pm** and would like to see as many parents, carers and other friends as possible to enable elections of key roles and finding a name for the new group. Do not worry, you will only be asked to give time, donations or support that you feel able to give, even if it is supporting one event a year. The meeting will be held in the **school library**, and whilst we understand that the timings may not be convenient for everybody, we hope that as many of you as possible can join us. For those that cannot make it in person, please let your child's class teacher or the office know that you are interested and let us know what kind of help you can give. To ensure that everybody feels included, meeting notes will be sent out to all parents so that you remain aware of what is happening even if you cannot make the meeting.

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.

Parent Cafés

A reminder that Parent Cafés are being held from 2pm to 3pm during the week beginning 17th October:

Monday 17th October – Foxes and Otters – Geography Showcase – sharing learning from the half term.

Tuesday 18th October – Squirrels – Science Sources of Light.

Friday 21st October – Hedgehogs – Phonics and Read, Write Inc. Session.

Parents/carers are invited along to share in your child's learning and have some refreshments.

Children's Worship

I am so proud of the children's worships each week; they show great commitment to their rehearsals and perform beautifully. This week, Arthur and Luna from Squirrels, Sophie from Foxes and Daniel and Gabriella from Otters gave a performance based on The Selfish Crocodile. They helped the children reflect on how it is important to be kind, even when we are not feeling quite ourselves. They helped us see how even the smallest creature, like a mouse, can step up and show courage. The children rehearsed very thoroughly and gave an informative and entertaining performance.

Attendance Rewards

Attendance rates for last week ending 30th September 2022 are as follows:

Hedgehogs: 96.52%

Squirrels: 94.29%

Foxes: 92.67%

Otters: 86.32%

The whole school attendance last week was 92.82%.

Well done to **Hedgehogs** for achieving the highest attendance award for last week and being the only class to reach the target of 96%. Keep up the good work, Hedgehogs.

Attendance below 96% can have a huge impact on your child's learning. Our learning is so closely linked and each lesson builds on previous learning. If that learning is missed, it can make it tricky for our children to keep up with their peers. Missing 8 days over the whole year brings your child's attendance below 96%, so each day is crucial. We will work closely with families whose child's attendance falls below this expected level, so that we can work together to give our children the best possible chances.

Class Information

Hedgehogs

In Hedgehogs we have written our autumn poems, creating two verses – the first verse using our knowledge of adjectives to describe autumn leaves and the second we choose a different area of autumn to describe. Next week we will be starting our work on narrative and look at how to sequence a story. In Maths, Year 1 have been learning how to order numbers and use the correct symbols in our number sentences (<, > or =). We have also learned about ordinal numbers by ordering ourselves and animals in a race. Reception children have created some excellent repeating patterns using natural and found items. We then recorded repeating patterns using stampers. In Geography, we learned about our place in the world and labelled rivers, mountains and lakes on a map of the United Kingdom. In Computing we drew some excellent self-portraits using our mouse skills from last week.

Reading congratulations to: Danny-John, Charlotte, Noah W, Isaac, Jasper, Ethan, Noah C, Joey and Arthur for achieving at least 10 reads at home and recording them in their Home Reading Record. Three children are also on track to achieve their 25 reads next week, so keep up the good work! Please remember to read with your child every day and record in their record.

Our Shining Light this week is awarded to Alfie for showing such courage in overcoming his nerves and having a huge smile all week. Well done, Alfie.

Squirrels

This week in Squirrels we have been focusing on how to form a paragraph. Children took notes from their planning and formed this into full sentences that flowed together into paragraphs. Some really beautiful, descriptive and geographical language was used. In Maths, the children have been looking at how to add ones to a two or three-digit number, using tens frames, part whole models and bar models. They have also been using their fact families to reason. Their reasoning skills are really improving. In Geography, we zoomed in on African physical features such as Mount Kilimanjaro, the savannah and Victoria Falls. We were in awe of the natural phenomenon of a "moonbow", perhaps Squirrels can tell you all about this at home?

Our Shining Light this week is Oaklie, for giving hope. Oaklie has been doing extra Maths learning at home and supporting classmates within lessons to help them achieve their learning. He has given them the hope and confidence they needed to keep going with their learning.

Foxes

We have been recapping rounding to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000 in Maths in preparation to start addition and subtraction of up to 4-digit numbers next week. In English, we have been description detectives, finding descriptive features in texts and using them to draw characters and settings. The class are very excited to begin to plan and write their very own suspense story next week.

Our Shining Light this week goes to Paige for showing courage in swimming lessons.

Otters

This week Otters have been working hard on adding and subtracting numbers with more than 4 digits using written and mental strategies. In English, we have written a diary entry from the perspective of a character from Clockwork. In Science, we have discovered that acid dissolves tooth enamel from looking at the results of our investigation. In Geography we have been using maps and atlases to name and locate mountain ranges and rivers in Europe. In R.E., we have been learning about how Christian charities help others in the local area and globally. The Year 5 children are also attending the Tag Rugby tournament on Friday morning. A very busy week!

Congratulations this week to:

Reading: Well done to Billie-J, Isabella, Rosie, Amelia, Eden, Oscar and Theo A for achieving 10 reads at home to an adult. Congratulations to Libby for achieving 25 reads at home.

Tackling Tables: Unfortunately, there are no Tackling Tables certificates this week. Don't forget to keep practising at home!

This week our Shining Light has been awarded to Elsie for always being kind, caring and helpful to others, consistently working hard in all subjects, and producing work of a high standard.

Thought for the week

From Macie in Otters

Always believe in yourself, anything is possible!

Message from the Executive Headteacher:

Parents/Carers' survey;

This has now closed; we had over 57 responses, a 33% response rate (above average); it is great to get plenty of views. Overall analysis shows that 93% are happy and this being evenly spread across the three schools. We do analyse these as individual schools and below are the main areas to consider; we will be feeding back the actions taken as a result as they happen. Thank you to everyone who put their name, which means we can follow up if we need to better understand or discuss feedback. Clearly if someone has put that communication needs improving, but not put how or which aspect or their name then we're really sorry but it is unlikely we are going to be able to follow up. We worked hard on communication over the course of last year and the good news is that 77% of respondents feel that communication is good, 4% felt that communication is improving,

16% felt there was still room for improvement and 3% said it was not good. We want everyone to feel communicated with and want to thank those who gave an example of where it had fallen short; this is really helpful. If someone just puts 'no' and particularly if they don't put their name, then we are unable to follow up and improve things for them. However, hopefully by acting on the examples given we can ensure that all families feel that there is good communication.

Many of you had helpful and constructive individual comments rather than areas that a group of people raised; we'll follow up with people or by actioning them and feeding back in the newsletter as appropriate.

Thank you for the feedback about the timing of letting you know that we were going to return to getting changed for PE in school; we appreciate this could have been sooner and apologise for any inconvenience around buying uniform.

You said, We're doing!

Outdoor learning and the development of outdoor areas came through as an area that quite a few of you would like to see developed.

This is an area that is on our School Development Plan for this year, as per a previous newsletter, and we are keen to get on with this. We'll be involving School Council, Eco Council and our Head and Deputy Head Pupils in the project but would also like to invite any Parents/Carers that are interested in supporting us with this to get in touch. This could be because you have a practical skill that could help, such as landscape gardening or building, or because you have a passion for outdoor learning or indeed you work for an employer who would consider match funding. Huge thanks in advance to our new PTFA group who are going to be putting monies towards this outdoor project too.

We would like to launch a competition for our children - Design our new outdoor area! Do you have ideas about what you would like to see outside? Do you know of any playgrounds that have really wonderful equipment that you love using to stay fit and healthy? Would you love to see shelters for quiet reading and chatting, would you love to have things to climb on or things for imaginative play? Would you like a sandpit or water games, would you like musical instruments outside or dressing up boxes? We'd like you to draw your ideas on a template that will be sent home for you all (and be on the website in case you need another one!) for you to do over half-term, with a closing date of Tuesday 1st November. The entries will be reviewed by our Head and Deputy Head Pupils and a design team created. Exciting stuff!

Thank you as always for your support and partnership,



Head of School
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