



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 11th November 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Narborough Newsletter for week ending 11th November 2022

Another interesting, fun and educational week has passed by with the children showing what fantastic learners they are. We are really proud of our team at Narborough, with children, staff and parents all working hard together to make a truly wonderful team to be part of.

Year 5 represented our academy really well in the Dodgeball Festival at The Nicholas Hamond Academy on Tuesday and I am told that, although it was a festival NOT a competition, Narborough team performed amazingly well and were Dodgeball Super Champions! Well done Team Narborough!

We also attended our annual Remembrance observance at the Narborough Church memorial, showing our respect and gratitude to those who have given and continue to give so much to make our lives safe.

Next Friday 18th November, we will be supporting the Children In Need campaign as usual by paying a suggested donation of 50p to dress in spots. The Year 2 and 3 children attending the trip to Cambridge can, of course, donate to wear spots, but please keep to a spotty top and continue with uniform trousers/skirt and jumper so that they can easily be identified as belonging to our school group and will be comfortable throughout the longer day.

Parent Teacher Friends Association (PTFA)

The PTFA have worked hard to get lots of fun activities in place before Christmas break, so please check the dates calendar and PTFA leaflets for more details. The activities include a Coffee and Cake afternoon on Friday 25th November from 2:30pm to 4:30pm where refreshments will be available, a fidget toy stall, raffle square and a stall where you can swap Christmas Jumpers in time for the Christmas Jumper Day.

Thursday 8th December is our Christmas Jumper Day, which is also our Christmas Lunch and the PTFA Reindeer Race after school. Cake donations will be much appreciated and can be dropped off at school on the morning of 25th November.

On Friday 9th December there will be a film showing with popcorn and refreshments and on Thursday 15th December they will be holding a Christmas Disco. Please remember that supporting the PTFA events will ensure that they can fund lots more fun activities for our children and families.

If you have any donations (cakes, Christmas jumpers, etc.) or feel that you can give some of your time to these events please let us know. All help and donations are gratefully received.

Children's Worship

This week in Children's Worship, Daniel and Ashden from Otters, Archie from Foxes and Isla-Rose and Lacie from Squirrels definitely had their creative hats on. They learned about the story of the Garden of Eden,

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.

understanding all the important natural features such as the tree and the apple and what significant role they had to play in the story. The children created and shared beautiful images of the tree using collage and colouring.

Attendance Rewards

Attendance rates for last week, ending 4th November 2022 are as follows:

Hedgehogs: **100%**

Squirrels: 96.43%

Foxes: **100%**

Otters: 97.89%

The whole school attendance last week was 98.35% and I am so pleased to that we all met national expectations last week. Super positive news and lots to celebrate.

Well done to **Hedgehogs and Foxes** for not only achieving the highest attendance award for last week, but also BOTH achieving an amazing **100%**! Keep up the excellent work everybody.

Class Information

Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs have shown that we are really good learners for all adults this week. It has been good to see the children responding to Miss Cain, our student teacher, whilst she has been teaching some of the lessons this week. We have been writing our postcards from Little Red Riding Hood and trying hard to remember to put some description and sequence our writing using time adverbials such as 'next', 'after that' or 'finally'. Some of us worked hard to make our writing really interesting, especially with squirrels swooping in the dark woods! In Maths, Reception have been learning how to show groups of 4 or 5 in different ways and Year 1 have started learning how to find differences by counting back and comparing number sentences. In DT, we have started to make our milk bottle elephant, carefully cutting out the correct shape from the bottle.

Reading congratulations to: Isla for achieving at least 10 reads at home and recording them in her Home Reading Record. Congratulations also to Ethan and Jaxson for achieving their 25 reads at home and Charlotte and Isaac for achieving 50 reads at home. Remember to keep recording your reading in your record every day.

Our Shining Light this week is awarded to Noah, for being so kind and supportive with his feedback to others. Well done, Noah, you really think carefully about how your words make others feel.

Squirrels

In Squirrels this week, we have been focusing on the construction of a sentence to help us recognise when to use a full stop and capital letter. The children have done amazingly well at recognising the subject and the verb - have they sung you the song yet? In Maths, Year 2 and 3 have been looking at methods of addition and subtraction. Year 2 have been adding three 1-digit numbers, and Year 3 have been adding 1-digit and 2-digit numbers to numbers in the hundreds. In Science we began to explore everyday materials and what their properties are; beginning to think about how their properties make them suitable for use in everyday items. What objects and different materials can be discovered at home?

Reading congratulations to:

25 reads: Sophie and Bow. 50 reads: Megan F, Rosanna, Ellie-May and Isabelle.

Shining Light: Bow for increased confidence in maths; independently using her equipment to add and subtract and even demonstrating her learning to others.

Foxes

Foxes class have been busy writing their suspense stories making sure to include lots of great descriptive phrases to set an eerie atmosphere. Their final write up next week will be displayed to showcase their fantastic start to their Year 4 writing journey and all the progress they have made so far this year. We will then move on to our new unit: information texts. In Maths, Miss Joice has been so proud of how resilient the class have been while learning to add two 4-digit numbers using column addition with exchanges. The whole class have made great strides and we are moving on to formal and efficient methods of subtraction next week.

Congratulations to: Nicole for achieving 25 reads at home. We also have 5 children nearly at 50 reads, which is great.

Our Shining Light this week is Harvey for showing fantastic independent learning in his writing this week.

Otters

I am really proud to report that Otters have yet again proven what a fantastic class they are this week. They have been taught by two different supply teachers whilst Miss Maskell was attending training, both of whom stated how lovely the class were. The Year 5's had great fun on Tuesday attending the dodgeball festival at TNHA. We have explored food chains in Science, square and cube numbers in Maths and have also started writing our suspense stories in English. We have also explored remembrance ahead of our memorial service, considering what life was like for soldiers during World War 1, what service means, and why poppies have been chosen to be a symbol for remembrance.

Congratulations this week to:

Reading: Lola-Rose for achieving 10 reads at home, Ashden for achieving 25 reads at home and Isabella, and Macie for achieving 50 reads at home.

Tackling Tables: Esme for achieving her green level superstar certificate.

Shining Light: This week the Shining Light has been awarded to Oscar for contributing well in lessons and for using the correct mathematical vocabulary and expressing his reasoning clearly. Keep it up!

Thought for the week

This week's prayer is from Theo A in Otters:

Dear God,

Thank you for making us live in a wonderful place.

Thank you for our friends because when we feel sad, we can talk to them and they make us laugh.

Thank you for our families, because if they were not here, we would not have as good a life that we do now.

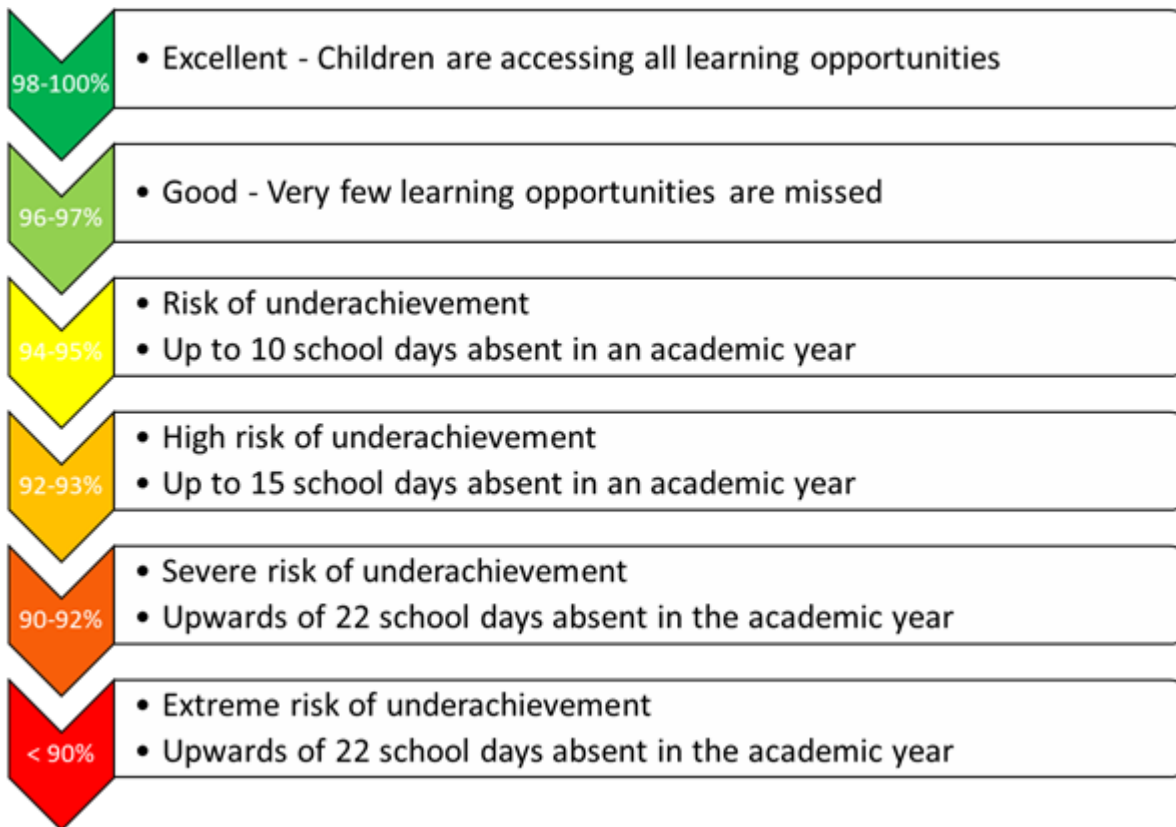
Amen

Message from the Executive Headteacher:

Attendance;

I am very pleased that attendance across our schools is going up. Thank you for making sure your children are in school every day that they are not ill; every day makes a real difference and good attendance is an aid to super learning that only Parents/Carers can give their child. When there are attendance concerns, we believe that working together in partnership is the best way to resolve these and achieve success for your children.

Whilst our attendance is going up, it isn't as high as we want it to be. The diagram below really clearly shows that even when children have attendance of 95%, which sounds high, they really do miss out.



I looked at an example of one of our children in the Federation. The child has no additional needs, no particular illnesses, no operations, no difficulties in school. They do put a lot of pressure on their family to allow them to stay off school. Already by half-term, the child has missed 7 sessions (the equivalent of 3 ½ days) and their attendance is only 91.57%, very close to the level at which we involve the Local Authority (90% - defined as Persistent Absenteeism). Now 3 ½ days does not sound like a great deal of absence, or that it could matter, but I looked at what the child has missed out on:

1st session missed - missed the chance to be in a pupil and staff meeting that would have allowed the child to make a presentation to a group and boosted their self esteem.

2nd session missed- Missed out on a trombone lesson and didn't get to go to Games Club or Multi Sports Club.

3rd session missed- Didn't get to go to the Tag Rugby competition and missed their weekly one to one tutoring session.

4th -7th sessions missed - Missed swimming, another Trombone lesson, Cross Country festival at TNHA, and didn't get to go to Games Club or Multi-Sports Club.

That child has also already missed 3 Maths lessons, 3 Writing lessons, 3 reading lessons, 2 music lessons, two PE lessons, one history lesson, one science lesson and one Spanish lesson. That is around 15 hours of learning.

They have also missed out on the chance to play instruments, develop their language skills and sport skills, take part in competitions, challenge themselves, know what it is like to push yourself and then achieve something. They didn't get to stand up in Collective Worship and be applauded for representing our Federation so well. They didn't get to enjoy themselves with their peers and cement their social relationships.

And what about whether this child is on track to achieve the expected standard for their age?

They are not, and indeed if they continued down this path, they would actually drop a whole grade at GCSE. That could be from a pass grade to a fail, and could stop them being able to take the options at A Level or BTEC or similar that they want to and could indeed limit their whole life chances.

All this, just from a few days off here and there over time.

Our role is to support you to ensure that all our children are in school all the days that they are able to be there, because we want those opportunities for each and every one of our children.

So if you know that your child's attendance is lower than you'd like, please come and talk to us and together we'll work to improve.

Private Fostering;

Please see the below from Norfolk County Council:

Is someone you know looking after a child or looking after your child?

Where children or young people are currently being looked after by someone else, it's called private fostering and there is a legal requirement that the council must be informed so we can offer support and advice and ensure the child's needs are being safely met. If a child or young person under the age of 16, or 18 if they are disabled, is being looked after by someone other than their parents or a close relative for 28 days or more, then this should be reported to the Children's Advice and Duty Service (CADS) at Norfolk County Council on **0344 800 8020 between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday. More information is available by visiting www.norfolk.gov.uk/privatefostering**

A private foster carer could be a family friend, a neighbour, or an extended family member like a cousin, great grandparent or great aunt/uncle.

Online safety;

Please see the below link from the NSPCC.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/>



[Helping Children Deal with Bullying & Cyberbullying | NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/)

Call out bullying with WWE. We've partnered with the WWE to Call out Bullying. Together we're helping young people understand why bullying is never okay and what to do if they experience or witness it.. WWE stars are touring the country and sharing advice and support on social media to help children stay safe from bullying.

www.nspcc.org.uk

Anti-Bullying Week 14th-18th November;

The theme of this week this year is 'Reach Out' - the Anti-bullying alliance say this:

"Whether it's in school, at home, in the community or online, let's reach out and show each other the support we need. Reach out to someone you trust if you need to talk. Reach out to someone you know is being bullied. Reach out and consider a new approach"

On Monday 14th, we are making odd socks to show that everyone is different and unique and this is something to be celebrated. We are all unique and special and we all have our strengths and something to offer and that we all need to look after all our school communities.

We are helping our children understand what bullying is and isn't - we are talking about the fact that bullying is ongoing, deliberate and targeted, and that falling out or someone saying something unkind is a 'Mean Moment' . Neither of these are right, and both need to be dealt with and are taken seriously. Please have a chat with your child about this. What is excellent, is that we know from our Pupil Voice surveys this term that every single child in our Federation has an adult that they trust to talk to in school.

Open Days;

We are having our Open Day on Tuesday 14th November from 9.45-2.30pm. If you know of someone who may be interested, please do invite them. They can make an appointment or just come. Many thanks for your support.

Parents/Carers Forums;

Just a reminder that our Forum for this term is on Tuesday 15th November; please do fill in the Microsoft form and come along - we can't promise a biscuit but we'll definitely do a cuppa and a chat! Thank you for your support

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