

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Anne Neary

Web: www.narvalleyfederation.co.uk

Friday 9th December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Narborough Newsletter for week ending 9th December 2022

It has been a really exciting week this week. The children are of course eagerly looking forward to Father Christmas arriving and are full of stories about what their naughty little elves have been up to at home! Father Christmas did not disappoint and paid us a visit on Thursday to wish us all a Merry Christmas. The children shared with him some of their Christmas requests and they discussed what they should leave out for him and the reindeer on Christmas Eve! It was really lovely to see him come all this way to meet us when he is at such a busy time in his annual schedule. He certainly was very jolly and we had some even more beautifully behaved than usual children after his arrival.

Our West Acre Theatre trips were really amazing. The Elves and the Shoemaker for Reception to Year 3 was awe inspiring. It was so lovely to see (and hear) the children enjoying it so much. The elves and huge mouse coming right into the audience caused sheer delight! The children's faces were a picture with eyes wide and jaws dropped most of the time. They were so kind when they offered to buy some shoes from the shoemaker and help him make them so that he didn't go out of business. There were also some brave souls that offered to help a frightened elf check out the noises from the back of the shop, but the spiders were better caught in a box! I am sure that the Years 4 to 6 performance on Friday afternoon, of Alice in Winterland, will be just as amazing and just as well received.

Thank you to Sadie and Matt at Westacre theatre for choosing such a good touring company for us to go and watch and for supporting Father Christmas to come and visit us too.

It was lovely to see almost every child and adult in Christmas jumpers (and some wonderful accessories) on Thursday; the whole day was full of magic colour changing attire and jingle bells along the corridors. It certainly made our Christmas lunch feel much more festive. A huge thank you to the PTFA for providing Christmas crackers and to Aspens for cooking us such a delicious meal. The serving hatch was beautifully decorated, and food served impeccably, by our very own smiley Santa's Kitchen Helper, Ms Smith. Obviously, the children loved being waited on by all of the staff and I must say that I feel we all did an amazing waiting service. Thank you to everybody who made the Christmas Lunch so special.

Christmas

Still more to come! It was lovely to hear from parents how impressed you have been with the amount of activities and commitment put into the festive season at school this year.

Don't forget, we are still looking forward to seeing you at the Carols Around the Tree Carol Service (all welcome) at 2:30pm on Monday 12th December; our Reception and Year 1 Nativity (Hedgehogs' families by ticket only) at 2:00pm on Tuesday 13th December and our Christmas Church Service for all year groups (all welcome) at 9:30am on Thursday 15th December at Narborough Church. We would love to see you all at the events.

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 Teacher Friends Association (PTFA)

Thank you so much to everybody who has supported all of our events. The Reindeer Race on Thursday was really good fun and I know that the children are really looking forward to the Polar Express Film Night tonight. Still to come is the Christmas Disco on Thursday 15th December from 5:00pm to 6:30pm. I'll look forward to seeing some sparkling outfits and groovy moves! Thank you for all of your support hard work and commitment. Keep your eye on the calendar and PTFA posters for more details of future events in the new year.

Attendance Rewards

Attendance rates for last week, ending 2nd December 2022 are as follows:

Hedgehogs: 97.39%

Squirrels: 93.93%

Foxes: 90%

Otters: 94.74%

The whole school attendance last week was 94.34%, which is up on last week, but hopefully the Christmas break will give us the time to rest and deal with all of the cold and flu bugs going around at the moment.

Well done to **Hedgehogs** for achieving the National target and the highest attendance award again last week. I am really impressed with the number of winning weekly attendance certificates we have in Hedgehogs now. Keep up the good work trying to beat us everybody!

Children's Worship

This week we have been practising our Christmas carols to sing with you around the tree on Monday. We are really looking forward to seeing you and sharing our singing with you. Don't forget to bring some pennies with you to buy a nice warm drink to keep your voice going! Hot chocolate and biscuits will be available.

Class Information

Hedgehogs

In Maths this week, Reception have been looking at different ways to split a number, we especially liked putting 5 frogs into groups on logs, ponds and grass in different ways.. In Year 1 we have been trying really hard to use our reasoning skills to explain how we would solve a problem. In English, we have been working really hard practising our Nativity to perform to you on Tuesday afternoon. We need more practise reading our lines and knowing where we should be standing, but we are doing really well. We are learning all of the songs and trying to remember all of the words! We really enjoyed the performance of The Elves and The Shoemaker that we saw at West Acre Theatre; we thought that it was really funny when the shoemaker measured Mrs Dunkley's feet and said that they were size smelly! We have enjoyed making Christmas candles for the tree and Christmas decorations for class. We have also loved working in Santa's workshop this week, making toys and wrapping them up for Santa to deliver!

Our Shining Light this week is awarded to Oliver G for always listening so well in lessons and being eager enough to always offer to share his answers. Keep up the enthusiasm, Oliver.

Squirrels

In Squirrels class this week, children have really been putting their problem-solving hats on to solve mathematical and engineering problems. They have been looking at money in maths, adding amounts to find totals and finding alternative ways to make an amount. They have done an amazing job of applying their addition and subtraction skills to their learning. In DT, they have had to figure out how to step the brick layers of their pyramids, to begin to form a narrowed point at the top. Lots of trial error and PVA glue. They had to work together in their groups to resize and remake bricks and put together whole layers once again. They have also absolutely wowed Miss Lay this week with their reading skills, showing all their hard work at school and at home is really paying off. Keep it up!

Congratulations to:

Debora, Freddie, James L and Harrison for achieving 25 reads at home; Ellie-May, Megan F and Finley for achieving 75 reads at home.

Our Shining Light this week is for Chloe for showing resilience, courage and responsibility in her learning. She has grown in confidence and is working amazingly both independently and as a table partner.

Foxes

Foxes class have been brilliant note takers when researching the ancient civilisations' belief in the afterlife and have begun to write some truly fabulous sentences to go in their final drafts. I am really looking forward to seeing the final products and being able to display them in school. The children have also been brilliant mathematicians, using key vocabulary to find factors, multiples and products in multiplication calculations. I am so impressed with how everyone has thrown themselves into challenges and word problems to develop their reasoning skills. I know we are all looking forward to the Christmas activities next week and, although they are small in number, Foxes class have been practising their big voices for the carols around the tree.

Congratulations to:

Lucy for achieving 25 reads at home and Freya for achieving 50 reads at home.

Tackling Tables: George-Henry has got two for green division and green mixed mini, meaning he has now progressed onto red level!

Our Shining Light this week is awarded to Nicole who has challenged herself in her writing this week, to improve her sentences with subordinate clauses and fronted adverbials.

Otters

Children from Otters class are again sharing their thoughts from this week. Maths has been incredibly popular this week. Sophie commented, 'I've enjoyed maths because we have been using BODMAS. It has been helping me by telling me what order I need to do calculations in.' Daniel said, 'This week I've enjoyed maths (multi-step challenges). It's been pushing me really hard but I could achieve it.' Libby agreed stating, 'I could not do multi-step problems before but now I can do it.' Eden has enjoyed maths '...because we have learned long division.' Oscar stated, 'I enjoyed maths because we have been learning about short division.' Rosie agreed stating, 'It has been fun doing the bus stop method.' Macie has enjoyed English, '...because we are learning about subordinating and coordinating conjunctions.' Izabel has enjoyed History '... because we researched what the ancient civilisations believed about the afterlife.' Theo W enjoyed RSHE 'because we were sorting the changes that happen during puberty into male and female and both.' Ashden has enjoyed D&T because '...we are making our playground.' Finally, Theo A has really enjoyed 'practising our Christmas songs.' We hope many of you will be able to join us on Monday for our carols around the tree.

Congratulations this week to:

Reading: Elsie for achieving 75 reads at home.

Tackling Tables: Jayden for achieving his blue level superstar certificate.

This week our Shining Light has been awarded to Amelia for always listening and absorbing information and being a fantastic learner!

Thought for the week

This week's thought is from Macie in Otters:

Always give your friend a smile to brighten their day up.

And always remember....

A smile is a good way to make new friends!

Message from the Executive Headteacher:

Swaffham Library;

Swaffham Open Library: 8am-7pm, The Pightle Swaffham. Anyone who is in need can take 'To Go' bags from the library, which are free bags of sanitary products, essential toiletries, cleaning items and warm bags which will help people as costs rise. You can enter the library using your library card & PIN to enter during unstaffed times. The staffed opening times are Tuesday & Thursday 10am-7pm, Friday 1-7pm and Saturday 10am-4pm. Visit Swaffham Library's What's On pages for more information and booking on www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/whats-on/event-search?location=Swaffham

[Libraries events search - Norfolk County Council](#)

Libraries events search

www.norfolk.gov.uk

or call 01603 774777.

Cold weather;

Please ensure your children have their coats, hats, gloves etc as the weather turns colder. We know the upcoming cold weather could be difficult at home in terms of heating as these are tricky times. Here are some cold weather tips from the British Heart Foundation:

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/information-support/heart-matters-magazine/medical/beat-the-cold/keeping-warm>

Swaffham Community Fridge;

Based in Swaffham Community Centre, this is a drop-in service where you can access food. Here is an extract from their blog;

If you don't already know, the idea of the community fridge is to prevent perfectly edible food from going to landfill. Supermarkets that would otherwise have to dispose of food past its sell by date donate it to us instead and we safely redistribute it to the community.

There still seem to be several misconceptions surrounding the concept, such as the belief that it is a form of food bank and only available to those on a low income or in special need of help. The fridge is open to absolutely anyone in the community. As long as it means food isn't being wasted, we welcome everyone.

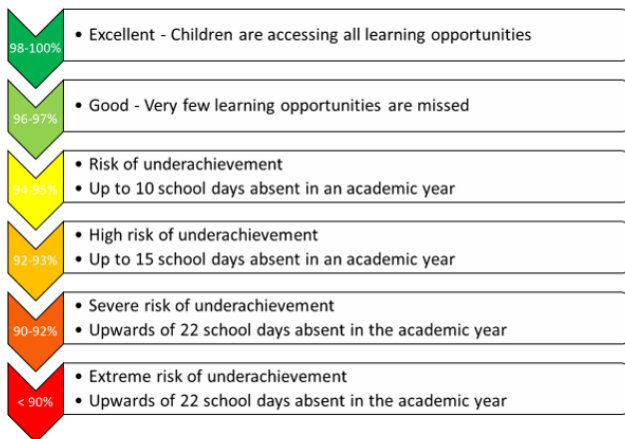
We also do not require monetary donations, but if you have any spare store cupboard items, we will happily accept suitable food donations to redistribute via the fridge or we will give them to other local agencies that may be in need.

We hope this helps clear things up a little and welcome you to pop by and see what's on offer.

The community fridge is open at 10am Monday to Friday. Please see Facebook for further details.

Attendance;

Thank you for supporting your child's attendance at school every day. We are pleased that most of our children across the Federation are 'green' (see below) and get to access learning opportunities and make strong progress. We have adopted the local authority attendance policy (see attached) and want to remind everyone that the target is 97% - not because we get any praise or issues if the target is achieved or not, but because we know that children who are in school 96% of the time or more have the best advantages in education and we want that for ALL our children.



Christmas events;

I'd just like to say a huge thank you to all our staff, volunteers, Friends' groups and visitors to school who have supported all our really lovely Christmas events. These are the bits of magic that children love so much and schools wouldn't be the same without them, as we found out during the pandemic, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who is making an effort for our children. I look forward to seeing you at all our events next week!

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