



The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Anne Neary

Web: www.narvalleyfederation.co.uk

13th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Narborough Newsletter for week ending 13th January 2023

Welcome back to a new term and a Happy New Year to everybody. I hope that you are keeping safe and well.

We have had a super start to the year with children sharing their excitement of their Christmas break. We have already started with afterschool clubs on Mondays through to Thursdays and the children seem to be thoroughly enjoying the ones that have already started up again. The smells of cooking wafting through the corridors on a Tuesday is really tempting! Thank you to: Mrs Hill and Miss Cargill for the Science and Games clubs on Mondays and Tuesdays; Miss Smith and Mrs Painter for the Cooking and Art & Wellbeing clubs on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the ICS Team for their Multi-Skills Sports club on Wednesdays.

We are currently organising trips and events for the year so please keep an eye on the dates and newsletters for more information as it becomes available.

It was fabulous to hear the enthusiasm and talent of the Samba drummers on Tuesday, when Ensemble Music taught Year 4 to create powerful music! I know that Miss Joisce was really impressed, and the children really enjoyed their first lesson. I look forward to hearing their progress over the coming weeks.

Can I please ask you to remind your children that they are not allowed on the field with indoor shoes on. The field is very wet and muddy at the moment and some of the children are bringing in mud all through the classrooms and corridor. Most children are changing into their Wellington boots, but it seems that some are changing into their PE trainers. This means that they are putting muddy trainers back into their PE bags and their trousers and socks are getting very wet. In order for us to be able to ensure the safety and comfort of the children, please provide children wishing to play on the field at break times with Wellington boots. **Staff will be asking children to play on the playground, not the field if they are not wearing wellies at the moment.** Thank you for your understanding and co-operation in helping to keep your children and the school safe and clean.

Easter

I know it seems really early, but I would like to remind you that we will be holding our Easter Church Service at 9:30am on Thursday 30th March 2023. I hope that you are able to join us again as it is really lovely to see so many of you there and the children really love having you there to perform to.

Attendance Rewards

Current attendance rates are as follows:

	Last week To 6 th January 2023 (3 days)	Last term 1 st September to 16 th December 2022
Hedgehogs:	91.3%	96.73%

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.

Squirrels:	98.85%	94.12%
Foxes:	100%	94.14%
Otters:	98.33%	92.82%
Whole School	96.93%	94.52%

Congratulations to everybody for achieving the 96% target last week.

Well done to **Foxes** for achieving not only the highest attendance of the week, but with a fantastic 100%. Super job, Foxes, well done!

Children's Worship

This week, Ariyah-Mai from Squirrels, Libby from Foxes, Elsie and Sophie from Otters helped us to reflect on how we can find "peace in the storm" in school by setting up a quiet, comfy area and asking for volunteers from the audience to show us what they do to be peaceful and calm their minds. They then read us a story that helped us think about what warm, comforting things we have to support us when times seem tough. They then wrote a thought-provoking prayer to help us reflect on the value of peace, which is at the end of this newsletter.

Class Information

Hedgehogs

We have really missed Mrs Smith, who is still really poorly. I know that you will join us in wishing her all our best and hope that she gets better soon. In her absence, we have had super support from Mrs Jary and Mrs Marshall, who are covering her until her return. The children know both adults very well, as Mrs Jary teaches them on a Thursday afternoon for Science and Mrs Marshall, who is a very experienced Early Years Practitioner, has been listening to readers in Hedgehogs and supporting other activities around the school for many years. Mrs Jary works with us in the mornings and Mrs Marshall works with us in the afternoons. Since returning from Christmas, we have been very excited to share all of our holiday news and Christmas presents. We have been having a great time learning about fairy tales in English, listening to a variety of old favourites, joining in with the repeating phrases and all living happily ever after! We will use our knowledge of fairy tales, especially Jack and the Beanstalk, to write our own fairy tale over the next two weeks. In Maths, Reception have been using measuring skills to make their own playdough and Year 1 have been working with adding numbers by counting on or using number bonds. We will use this to help us with subtraction next. Our new learning in Science is about plants, and we have had good fun searching for different plants, using a key to help us identify them. I 'accidentally' threw some magic beans out of the window earlier in the week and the children are super excited to see if they grow into a beanstalk – they seem to have already started growing!

Congratulations to:

Avaya for achieving 25 reads at home; Ethan and Ronnie for achieving 50 reads at home and Isaac for achieving 75 reads at home. Well done everybody, keep up the good work.

Our Shining Light this week is awarded to Scarlett for always showing good focus in her learning and giving some excellent fairy tale answers. Keep up the good work, Scarlett.

Squirrels

This week, we have begun to look at newspapers. We have learned what newspapers are, what they report on and how a report is structured on the page. The children enjoyed playing fastest finger to identify the features in different newspaper examples. We are learning about Grace Darling in History, and Henry Blogg, as examples of historical figures who have done heroic deeds in the dangerous seas. This learning will be informing the content of our newspaper stories. It has been a fantastic week and a half back with great learning behaviours and we look forward to another fantastic week ahead.

Congratulations to:

Oaklie for achieving 100 reads at home.

Tackling Tables: Oaklie - Green Phase missing numbers mini test and Finley - Blue phase missing numbers mini test.

Our Shining Light this week is for Megan W for her continual enthusiasm with learning and being a ray of light, spreading joy amongst her class members with her infectious smile.

Foxes

In English we started our topic with a dramatic reading of the poem 'The Spider and The Fly'. I have been so impressed with the character voices and dramatic faces the children have used as they read. As we continue our work with 'The Spider and The Fly' in English, we will take a deep dive into sentence demarcation, including speech marks, commas and full stops. In Maths the children have started brilliantly, showing a solid understanding of factors and factor pairs. They have also been showing off by multiplying by 10 and 100. Next week, we will look at dividing by 10 and 100 before moving onto written methods of multiplication.

Congratulations to:

Paige for achieving 75 reads at home.

Tackling Tables: Nicole - Green division test and Paige - Green superstar division mini test.

Our Shining Light this week is awarded to Lucy for a wonderful return to school and being kind to others.

Otters

Otters have had yet another busy week! In Maths, the Year 5s have been learning about equivalent fractions, whilst the Year 6s have been applying their knowledge of equivalent fractions to simplify and compare fractions. In English, we have been exploring how to use expression and different voices to perform a poem whilst also exploring the author's choice of language. In Geography, we have begun our mountains, volcanoes and earthquake topic and have explored the structure of the earth and plate tectonics. In Science, we have identified different forces acting upon objects and explored how the forces affect the object.

Congratulations this week to:

Reading: Esme for achieving 25 reads at home and Rosie for achieving 50 reads at home.

Tackling Tables: Noah for achieving his blue level multiplication and division certificates. Rosie for achieving her blue level division certificate.

Our Shining Light this week has been awarded to Noah for making an excellent start to his new school, listening well, having the courage to speak in front of an audience, trying hard in all lessons and persevering with challenging tasks. Keep up the great work!

Thought for the week

This week's prayer is from the Children's Worship:

Dear God,

Please can you give our world peace by stopping all of the wars because it is not very peaceful.
Thank you for all the places we can go when we are feeling stressed to make us feel peaceful and calm.
Please give us peace in our mind so we don't make the wrong choices.

Amen

Message from the Executive Headteacher:

School Reception places Sept 23;

If you know of anyone who has not yet filled in an application form, please remind them that the deadline for these is 15th January and so these need completing urgently. Many thanks for your help.

Pupil Voice from the Autumn;

As you know, each half-term we talk to our children about their time in school and ask their opinions. Last term we asked about learning, about how much they enjoy reading, about bullying and mean moments and about whether the children felt safe in school.

We had super responses, which really gave us a good knowledge of our children's views and feelings.

When we asked about their learning, the children gave so many positive comments about a whole range of subjects and units of learning. For example, 'I love learning about India because I love the animals (that) live there', 'I like learning sounds', 'I like learning everything because it is fun', 'I love drawing maps because they are my favourite' and 'I like Maths because I get to use blocks, number lines and maths equipment' 'I love the Maths challenges and using resources' 'I enjoy that we get to do partner work' 'I like learning because I love reading and writing' 'I like Science experiments' 'I like Maths because I like using long multiplication' 'I like PE because I enjoy sports' 'I enjoy Maths because it's really fun' 'I enjoy swimming because I like learning new strokes' and 'I like Art because it's enjoyable and fun'. There were so many lovely comments that show our children are really enjoying their learning and curriculum, and the same was true of reading, with children talking about reading helping you in your learning, being fun and making you smarter.

Children felt that there was no discrimination. Some children found this a hard concept, thinking more about mean moments so more work on that will follow over time.

100% of children said that there was no bullying, and that if anything did happen (a couple could talk about mean moments) then a teacher would help you. All children said that they felt safe in school because of our staff and our fences. One Reception child said in response to this question that they didn't know, so this was followed up.

Overall, this was an incredibly positive and pleasing survey. There were one or two individual things to follow up, such as explaining discrimination further and one child who didn't feel they had enough variety of books to read, which staff are working on.

This term, we will be talking about online safety as we approach Safer Internet Day in February.

Keeping children safe online:

This can be such a daunting task and one that worries all parents I talk to about it and me too.

Top Tips from the NSPCC include:

Listen to what they have to say and show an interest. They could give you a demo of their favourite app or show you their favourite YouTube or TikTok account.

They will probably be able to teach you things you don't know! This will also give you an opportunity to chat about any safety settings they might already have in place.

Regular conversations with your child will encourage them to come to you if they ever need support or advice.

If your child asks you a question you don't know the answer to, or speaks to you about a negative experience they had online, here are some of things you could do:

Visit the NSPCC online safety hub: [nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety)

Call the NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5000 to speak to an advisor

There are some excellent resources to help with this here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>



[Teaching Your Child about Internet & Online Safety | NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/)

Starting the conversation. Talking regularly with your child is the greatest tool to help keep them safe online. Talking regularly and making it part of daily conversation, like you would about their day at school, will help your child feel relaxed.

www.nspcc.org.uk

Parents/ Carers' Survey;

This term it is your turn to give your views, so please watch out for this coming out soon. Your views are really important to us and help shape the work of the leadership of the school, so please do fill it in. Many thanks.

Best wishes and please do contact Mrs Dunkley or myself if you have any queries. We look forward to working together again this term and some great fun and learning.



Head of School
Narborough C of E Primary Academy



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