



Diocese of Norwich  
Education and  
Academies Trust

## The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Anne Neary

Web: [www.narvalleyfederation.co.uk](http://www.narvalleyfederation.co.uk)

20<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Narborough Newsletter for week ending 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023

The weather certainly has turned decidedly 'nippy'!

We do let the children play outside in most weathers, so please make sure that your children bring in their hats, gloves and, most importantly, warm coats. It has been lovely to see the children enjoying their time outside, but it does make me shiver to see some of them try to get out without warm coats on!

Please also ensure that ALL clothing, bags and water bottles are named. We have real difficulty returning lost, misplaced and discarded clothing to the rightful owners without names in them – they often all look the same!

### Parent, Teacher & Friends Association (PTFA)

As a PTFA we met on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January and decided to subsidise the cost of all school trips as well as raising money for resources for school. We have also discussed ideas for many activities, and we will finalise dates so that you know them as soon as possible. For now, it has been decided that there will be a half-term disco in February (possibly on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February from 5:00pm to 6:30pm); this will be confirmed when we know if the DJ is available. We will also be running our half-termly sweet stall in the playground on the last Friday of each half term again, so keep your spare change at the ready each time! The date for the first one will be Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023 from 3:00pm. We are going to have at this event a fancy dress swap stall (like the Christmas jumper swap before Christmas). The suggestion was that this may help out families wishing to swap costumes that no longer fit, or are just looking for a change, in time for the World Book Day event on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023. Any donations of costumes would be gratefully received – or just bring one along to swap.

### Attendance Rewards

Current attendance rates are as follows:

	Last week to 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
Hedgehogs:	99.57%
Squirrels:	93.45% - Come on Squirrels, you can do it!
Foxes:	97.33%
Otters:	100%
Whole School	97.24%.

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

### Children's Worship

This week, Isla from Hedgehogs, Amelia from Squirrels, Adrianna from Foxes, and Billie-Jo and Macie from Otters did a super job in Children's Worship. They helped us to reflect on how to find peace when there is

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.

conflict. They re-enacted the story of "A family Quarrel" from Genesis 13, which told of how Lot and Abraham's herdsmen disagreed over the pasture for their flocks. They gave us ideas of how conflict could be resolved and how certain actions may escalate a problem.

The children give their own time to practise their worships and they always make such an excellent job of it. Well done to everybody.

## **Class Information**

### **Hedgehogs**

This week in Hedgehogs we have continued to explore our new Geography unit- thinking about human and physical features; then looking at the difference between cities, towns, villages and farms. In Music, we sang and moved to the pulse of a funky piece of Latin music (much fun was had by all!). We then explored the instruments to make and share our own rhythms. In PE we have started a YOGA unit - having lots of fun doing animal warm up movements, followed by some rather amazing shapes and balances! In English we have been using adjectives to describe our fairy tale characters. We described one good character, one evil character and our setting. We then looked at how to improve our writing by putting our ideas into complete sentences. Next week we will be using this to help us write our own fairy tale. In Maths, Year 1 have been learning how to add and subtract using tens frames, Numicon and number lines. Next week we will be using number bonds and our knowledge of fact families to help us add and subtract. Meanwhile, in Reception we have been matching numbers made in different ways, making pairs and combining two numbers. Next week we will use this to help us count on and compare length and height.

Congratulations to:

Samuel for achieving 25 reads at home; Jaxson and Oliver G for achieving 50 reads at home and Joey, Layla and Teddy for achieving 75 reads at home. Keep reading everybody.

Our Shining Light this week is awarded to Oliver B for excellent phonics learning and developing resilience in all areas. Well done, Oliver.

### **Squirrels**

It has been an absolutely amazing week of learning behaviours in Squirrels. The children have been working so hard at building their resilience and independence in resolving disputes, definitely echoing their learning on the concept of peace this half term. It has been incredible to see them navigating friendships with confidence and communication.

We have had a full house every day this week (YES!) and children have been attentive in all lessons.

We have been consolidating our knowledge of arrays and grouping for multiplying in Year 2 Maths, and Year 3 have been looking at multiplication through the grid method. In Science we have been exploring the seven life processes to determine whether an object is alive, no longer alive or never alive, justifying our ideas. In English, we have been building a toolkit to help us with the structure of our newspaper article.

Congratulations to:

Harrison for achieving 25 reads at home; Isla-Rose Goose - 50 reads; Luna, Logan and Lacie 75 reads and Megan F and Isabelle - 100 reads. Well done everybody.

Tackling Tables: No certificates this week. Are you practising at home everyone?

Our Shining Light this week is for Olivia, for her classroom conversation. Linking her knowledge and experiences to the learning, to speak in greater depth on many history and science topics. Amazing!

### **Foxes**

Foxes class have finished our writing unit on the spider and the fly with a bang, using role play to write in role as a character from the story, correctly punctuating our speech and sentences! We are really looking forward to diving into explanation texts next week to run alongside our fantastic Geography unit this half term. In Maths we have learnt the rules to multiply and divide by 10 and 100 and have used this knowledge of related

facts to answer division questions with 4-digit numbers mentally. Next week, we will be starting to use formal written methods to multiply 3-digit and 2-digit numbers.

Congratulations to:

Libby has achieved 25 reads at home and Sienna-Rose 10 reads.

Tackling Tables: Adriana - blue multiplication; Fearne - green multiplication and Nicole - green mixed mini.

Our Shining Light this week goes to Nicole for her hard work and perseverance to correctly place inverted commas around direct speech.

### **Otters**

This week PE has been the subject that has had universal appeal. Esme said, 'This week I've enjoyed PE because I have experienced fun things in gymnastics. I liked jumping off the platforms to land safely on the mat.' Daniel has enjoyed dance because '...Theo, Jayden and I did some spiderman moves.' Sophie also enjoyed dance this week stating, 'We have learned different dance moves and made our own routine. I had enough courage to show Otters and Foxes mine and Libby's dance.' Maths has also been a hit. Macie said, 'I have enjoyed Maths because we are learning about fractions and they are really fun.' Eden agreed stating, 'I have enjoyed Maths because we have been adding and subtracting mixed numbers.' Rosie has enjoyed English because '...I have liked learning about the spider and the fly,' whilst Gabriella is looking forward to 'writing our persuasive text next week.'

Congratulations this week to:

Reading: Izabel for achieving 25 reads at home and Theo A for achieving 75 reads at home.

Tackling Tables: Noah for achieving his blue level mixed mini-test certificate; Daniel for achieving his red level decimals certificate and Sophie for achieving her red level simplifying fractions certificate.

This week our Shining Light has been awarded to Sophie, for always being kind, polite, considerate and helpful to others and for having an excellent attitude towards her learning.

### **Thought for the week**

This week's prayer is by Gabriela in Year 5:

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for my teachers, family and friends. We are super thankful for the NHS.*

*Thank you for supporting us because we have had some hard times.*

*Please help the poor homeless, ill and hungry.*

*We pray that you will always be the shining light that you are.*

*Amen*

### **Message from the Executive Headteacher:**

#### **Safeguarding children;**

Since the pandemic, there has been a significant increase in the number of people ringing the NSPCC helpline about a child they are worried about. From April 2021 to March 2022 the NSPCC Helpline spoke 8,347 times with adults, compared to 7,338 in the same period for the previous year. (Source, Andrew Hall Safeguarding briefing). The NSPCC have launched a 'Listen up, Speak up' campaign to help all of us feel more confident about how to feel more confident about what to watch out for.

The below link is to a very short and accessible online training session about how to help protect children. It is very quick and easy to do and doesn't commit you to anything. If you would like to, please have a look; it might just help protect a child. Many thanks.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2023/listen-up-speak-up-campaign-provides-training-to-spot-and-report-abuse/>

### **Teacher Strikes;**

As you may have heard or seen in the news, one of the teacher unions has voted to strike, and the days that teachers in that union can choose to strike on are 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1<sup>st</sup> March and the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of March. The reasons for this strike are well-documented and this is not the appropriate arena to discuss these; what I can say is that any decision to strike or not to strike will have caused a great deal of anguish and careful thought as all our staff care deeply about our children and their ongoing education and every staff member has my full support in this difficult decision.

Striking teachers have a legal right to do so and do not have to inform school leaders whether they are going to do so or not, and also can change their mind. Striking staff can choose to do so on one, two, three or all four of the days. However, our teachers are very professional and understanding of the need to plan in advance as much as possible. As a Trust, the position is to keep our schools and classes open where it is safe to do so.

At this point, I can only say that many of our staff are Parents/Carers too and may be affected also by these strikes and are fully aware of your desire to know in advance what is happening for your children and that we will share as much information as we have in as timely a manner as we have it. We will update you as soon as there is any more information.

Best wishes and please do contact Mrs Dunkley or myself if you have any queries. We continue to enjoy working together and some great fun and learning.



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Narborough C of E Primary Academy



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