



Diocese of Norwich
Education and
Academies Trust

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Anne Neary

Web: www.narvalleyfederation.co.uk

27th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Narborough Newsletter for week ending 27th January 2023

We have had another really good week this week, with lots of super sport and music.

Year 4 continue to enjoy the Ensemble music lessons on Tuesdays, and I must admit I think I am beginning to get in tune with the Samba drums!

On Monday, some of our Year 2 children were invited to attend the Infant Agility Festival at The Nicholas Hamond Academy (TNHA) along with Miss Cargill and Mrs Painter. They all came back very pleased with their performance. The children took part in a carousel of twelve stations that challenged them to apply different skills of balance and action. They went around the stations mixed with children from other schools, led by the children from TNHA and earned stickers from each activity. They thoroughly enjoyed the morning and were incredibly proud of challenging themselves and sharing how each other had performed.

On Wednesday, three of our Year 5 and 6 children (Ashden, Theo A and Daniel) were chosen to represent our academy in a joint Nar Valley football match against Gaywood Primary School. It was the first inter-school football match that we have taken part in (at least since I have been at Narborough) and I am very proud of the boys for the part they played in enabling the match to take place. It takes all members - star shooters, glorious goalies and reliable reserves - to make a team and our children were fantastic. It was a very tight game and well contested. Nar Valley were unlucky not to score early on in the second half, with Alex of Sporle just shooting wide and then Gaywood scoring on the break. It remained 1-0 for a long time, then Gaywood popped a last two in with Nar Valley pushing for the equaliser. Well played all! On this occasion, Gaywood won 3-0, but we enjoyed the game and everybody showed team spirit. We are looking forward to many more inter-school sports events in the coming months.

Parents' Evenings

Please remember to book your parents' evening slot on the forms outside your child's class. If you do not see the form, please ask your child's teacher or drop them a Class Dojo and they will be happy to put your name down for you. The times are 3:30 – 5:30pm on Monday 20th February and 4:00 – 7:00pm on Thursday 23rd February. We look forward to seeing you.

Parent, Teacher & Friends Association (PTFA)

We can confirm that former pupil and current sibling Caiden Marshall has kindly offered to do the disco for us on Thursday 9th February from 5:00pm to 6:30pm. More information will be given next week. The sweet stall and fancy-dress swap stall will be in the playground on Friday 10th February after school and any donations of costumes would be gratefully received. We would please ask that they are dropped off at the school reception or with your child's teacher before Thursday 9th February. We are also having a non-uniform day on Friday 10th February to help raise funds, where children can wear red, pink or hearts, for a donation to the PTFA. Thank you for your continued support.

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.

Attendance Rewards

Attendance rates for last week to 20th January 2023 are:

Hedgehogs:	98.26%
Squirrels:	98.28%
Foxes:	100%
Otters:	100%
Whole School	98.97%.

Well done to **Foxes and Otters** for achieving not only the highest attendance of the week, but both with a superb 100%. I am very impressed and all four classes did extremely well to exceed the target last week.

Children's Worship

This week, Ellie-May from Squirrels, George-Henry and Archie from Foxes helped us to identify symbols of peace as seen from around the world. They showed us how the image of the dove has been used in many civilisations; from the Ancient Greeks to the Japanese, as well as being mentioned in the Bible. They reflected on where we see the dove image in scripture; after the flood waters receded in Genesis 8 and after Jesus' baptism in Matthew 3:16.

Class Information

Hedgehogs

This week in Hedgehogs we have had lots of people off unwell and we wish them better very soon as we really miss them. We have been continuing to work on our addition and subtraction in Maths, with Reception combining numbers on dominoes and dice and comparing numbers and length. We have also been learning our days of the week and months of the year. Year 1 have also been adding and subtracting using different methods and equipment, then comparing our number sentences using greater than, less than and equal to signs (>, <, =). We are using this to complete our End of Unit assessment tasks and find better ways to calculate answers. In English, we have really enjoyed writing our own fairy tales and remembering to use all the features that we have learned about, including using our capital letters full-stops and adjectives. We really liked creating our very own story. We really loved planting magic beans last week and we have been carefully observing and recording what our bean looks like and if it has started growing yet. We also learned about terrific trees and how we can identify different trees by looking at their leaves. In Art, we have used collage to create the background for our artwork inspired by Henri Matisse. Next week we will paint our flower onto our collage.

Congratulations this week to: Pavitha for achieving 50 reads at home and Arthur for achieving 100 reads. The children are continuing to work hard to achieve their badges and certificates.

Congratulations to our Shining Light this week, which is awarded to Isaac for excellent focus and hard work in English and Maths. His fairy tale was really well written, and he was a super whizz with his Maths skills.

Squirrels

This week in Squirrels, we have been missing a great many of our members and are wishing them a speedy recovery. We hope you're taking care of yourselves.

In English, we have continued to look at newspapers in readiness for writing our own report. We have focused on collecting vocabulary specific to a "sea rescue" incident, have posed questions and have taken on the role of reporters to collect evidence from eyewitnesses. In Maths, we have been consolidating our methods for division. Both year groups have been brilliant at using their equipment to support themselves when sharing, grouping, and making arrays. We would LOVE to see children more confident in their times tables too and receiving more certificates from Tackling Tables. Are we up for the challenge, Squirrels?

We are looking forward to continuing our Hokusai inspired wave paintings in Art. We have experimented with making tones of blue, ahead of putting this skill into our final watercolour piece.

Congratulations to:

Rosanna, Finley and Ellie-May for achieving 100 reads. Well done everybody.

Tackling Tables: Blue phase multiplication mini-test to Harrison; Blue phase superstar and Blue phase multiples mini-test to Finley.

Our Shining Light this week goes to Harrison for challenging himself with his times tables. Each week his score had grown exponentially; the hard work is shining through.

Foxes

As the class have started their new writing unit exploring explanation texts, it has become clear how much they have taken on board in their learning so far this year. The children have been punctuation hunting in different example texts and have found, explained and justified the author's choice for using a wide range of punctuation from commas to dashes and brackets. I am sure that they are looking forward to building on this knowledge next week as we look at the language and grammar features used in Year 4 non-fiction texts. The Maths lessons have been focussing on grid method multiplication of 2-digit and 3-digit numbers. Using a range of concrete and visual aids as well as mental methods, the children have succeeded in finding the product of increasingly tricky calculations and stretching themselves with two-step word problems. This knowledge will help them a great deal when we start division next week.

Congratulations to:

Nicole has her 50 reads at home and Freya and Fearne have their 75 reads at home.

Tackling Tables: Archie - Purple addition; Nicole - Red multiplication and Paige - Purple addition.

Our Shining Light this week goes to Theo for his brilliant attitude to reading in his lessons and at home.

Otters

This week in Otters, we have been calculating with fractions, and I have been so impressed! The Year 5s have learned how to add and subtract fractions with different denominators and how to add mixed numbers. The Year 6s have learned how to multiply pairs of fractions and are beginning to explore division involving fractions. In English, we have been preparing to write a short persuasive text based on the spider and the fly and have been working really hard to include a variety of different sentence structures within our writing. In Science, we were investigating the link between surface area and air resistance to make parachutes. In Geography, we have been learning about how volcanoes are formed, and have watched footage of real eruptions which were amazing! In PE, we have begun to explore Bhangra dance, learning some traditional moves and performing them in groups.

Congratulations this week to:

Reading: Unfortunately, we have no reading certificates to award this week.

Tackling Tables: Noah for earning his green level multiplication certificate. Jayden for achieving his red division certificate. Billie-Jo for earning her red level finding fractions of amounts certificate. Isabella for earning her red level simplifying fractions certificate. Amelia for earning her red level percentages certificate.

Shining Light: This week our Shining Light has been awarded to Isabella for consistently working hard in all subjects and setting an excellent example to others.

Thought for the week

Offer whatever light you can as you never know when you will need the light of others.

Message from the Executive Headteacher:

Strikes update;

I would like to give you all a picture of how things are looking currently so that you can plan for the strike day on Wednesday 1st Feb. Firstly, it is important to understand that due to the rights employees have around

striking, the picture may change, so I cannot say with complete certainty, but can only go on what I know currently. Teachers are under no obligation to let their employers know of their intentions regarding striking, and so I am deeply grateful to our excellent staff team at Nar Valley for their understanding of the difficulties this could cause, and for their regard to all our Parents/Carers and children, in that they have all communicated to me their intentions at this time.

One other key factor is that staff who are not planning to strike may be affected by their children's school striking and that we may not yet know this picture. This could be support staff on who I am relying to cover classes where teachers are intending to strike.

It is not my place or the right arena to discuss the merits of striking or not, but I do want to reiterate that all our staff have thought about this issue deeply and are doing what they believe to be right and I absolutely support them in that. The funding of education and the recruitment and retention of high-quality staff through appropriate salaries is important to us all. Disruption caused by a strike is far, far less than the negative impact on children caused by not being able to recruit to vacant positions for example, or by losing teachers and other staff to poor work/life balance.

At this time, we anticipate being open as normal. That does not mean that no teachers are on strike, and it does not mean that this will not change if we have absences such as those caused by support staff's children's schools being closed or staff illness, but this is the current picture. We will of course let you know immediately via ParentMail should there be any change.

Online Safety;

Online Safety; 7th February is National Safer Internet day, and we've got lots of work coming up with the children about this. If you wanted to support this at home, the following link takes you to some good resources from Childline about this really important issue:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/staying-safe-online/>

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.



Head of School
Narborough C of E Primary Academy



Executive Headteacher
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Castle Acre, Narborough and Sporle C of E Primary
Academy