



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)

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Narborough Newsletter for week ending 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023**

It has been an interesting week this week and, as you know, we have seen unprecedented illness amongst both children and staff with the nasty flu-like bug and chicken pox. We seem to be over the worst of it, now and hopefully we are all returning to our normal routines. I would like to say a huge thank you to our whole community for the strength and support we have for each other in these trying times.

Year 2/3 Squirrels are really looking forward to their visit to the Sealife Centre on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February and have been eager to tell me how excited they are to be going.

### **Safer Internet Day**

As you know from our dates calendar, it is Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, so we will be working even harder on helping our children and families to stay safe online. The theme for this year is... 'Want to Talk About It?' This will be around making space for conversations about life online. This follows up on our Autumn Term Pupil Voice Survey, where many children expressed concerns over online activity. As you are aware, our society is becoming more and more internet dependent, so it is a very important topic for us all. I am sure that you agree that making conversations with our children about their online activity, thoughts and feelings is of utmost importance. Please use the link to find out more from the UK Safer Internet Centre:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023>

As part of the awareness day, our Online Safer Schools Team will be delivering two webinars giving you the opportunity to gain information and ask questions. These are on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, with one from 11:00am to 12:00pm and again at 4:00pm to 5:00pm. We hope that you will find these both interesting and informative. No need to book – just follow the link we have given out.

### **Parents' Cafés**

A reminder that we are holding our parents' cafés from 2:00pm to 3:00pm next week as below:

**Hedgehogs** – Reception and Year 1 – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February

**Squirrels** – Years 2 and 3 – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February

**Foxes** – Year 4 – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February

**Otters** – Years 5 and 6 – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February

We would love to see as many of you as possible at these events joining your children with their learning, having some fun and refreshments.

### **Parents' Evenings**

It is really good to see so many of you have booked your slots for parents' evenings. There are still a few slots left, so please speak to your child's class teacher if you still need to book in. The appointment times are 3:30 – 5:30pm on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February and 4:00 – 7:00pm on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. If neither of these evenings are

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.

convenient for you, please speak to your child's class teacher about booking an alternative time to discuss your child.

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

Just a reminder that our children's disco will be held next Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> February from 5:00pm to 6:30pm in the school hall. I must ask you to return the parents' permission form to book your child in by Thursday lunchtime so that we have all of the details we need to keep your child safe at this event. On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February, we will be holding our half-termly sweet stall in the playground and alongside this will have a fancy dress swap stall where you can bring along a fancy dress that you would like to swap for a small donation. If you do not have a fancy dress that you would like to swap, don't worry, you can still come along and bag yourself a bargain. If you have any fancy dress costumes that you would like to donate to our good cause, please bring them into school by Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February. All money that we raise goes straight back to our children and families. We will also be holding a quiz night at the community centre on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March from 7:00pm. Look out for the flyers and next week's newsletter for more details.

We also met on Thursday afternoon to discuss and vote for the PTFA new Chairperson, in light of Miss Smith having to step aside for family reasons. We are delighted that Mrs Marshall stood and was voted in as Chairperson, with Mrs Adcock as Vice Chairperson. We also voted in Mrs Gotts as our Vice Secretary. Mrs Tapson remains in post as our Secretary and Mrs Painter as our Treasurer. I know that we are all very grateful for Miss Smith's hard work and strong leadership to this point and she has said that she is happy to continue to support our PTFA in the future.

### **Attendance Rewards**

Attendance rates for last week to 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023 are:

Hedgehogs:	76.52%
Squirrels:	76.9%
Foxes:	86%
Otters:	85%
Whole School	80.23%.

Well done to **Foxes** for achieving the highest attendance of the week. As you know, it was a very tricky week with lots of chicken pox and flu bug going around, so hopefully we will all be looking better again next week.

### **Children's Worship**

This week, Libby and Billie-Jo from Otters, Lucy from Foxes, Debora and James H from Squirrels, Danny and Olivia from Hedgehogs continued to support our understanding of what peace means and what we can do to help ourselves feel peaceful, which they questioned us about to help us reflect on our earlier learning. They created a word search of vocabulary linked to peace and challenged the school to find the words. They then ended with prayers for peace for our school days.

### **Class Information**

#### **Hedgehogs**

This week we continued our exploration of yoga in P.E. - having tried monkey moves, animal poses and even Wild West inspired balances so far; this week it was circus fun all the way! We also enjoyed acting out the start of a Shabbat meal for R.E. and especially loved tasting the Challah bread (some also enjoyed extra honey on top!). Whilst in Geography, we continued to think about different human/physical features and farms - looking at the different types of farm and then Year 1 tried a design for their own farm. In English we had great fun giving instructions to people to get from our classroom to the library - we realised that we had to be very specific with our instructions as we ended up in the toilet by mistake! We also enjoyed taking turns to give Simon Says instructions to learn about imperative verbs (bossy verbs). We will use this to help us write instructions to plant a seed. In Maths, Year 1 were learning to use numbers up to 50 in partitioning into tens and ones and Reception made the numbers 9 and 10 in different ways. We also had great fun planting our new hanging flower bed and all want to plant more flowers in our outside area.

Congratulations this week to: Noah W and Jasper for achieving 100 reads at home. Keep up the good work Hedgehogs.

Our Shining Light this week is Olivia, for always showing our values of kindness and respect. She is always ready with a smile and helping hand for anybody who needs it and is always first to offer support.

### **Squirrels**

It's been a very daring and exciting week in Squirrel class as we have been out on wild sea rescues. We have been learning about and re-enacting Henry Blogg's rescue of the SS Fernebo in 1917. We met "Henry" and interviewed him. Then we translated all our learning into some fantastically written newspaper reports. We are going to publish a final draft and can't wait to share them with you. In Maths, we consolidated our knowledge of division and our methods for this, applying them to problems such as working out if a number is odd or even, and scaling measurements to determine if something is twice, 3 times or 4 times longer. We have finished the week by finalising our Hokusai inspired wave watercolours and they are looking fantastic!

Congratulations to:

Ruben for achieving 50 reads at home and Chloe and Megan W for achieving 75 reads at home.

Tackling Tables: Finley - Green phase missing numbers and Green phase multiples and Oaklie - Red phase missing numbers and Green phase multiples

Our Shining Light this week goes to Scarlett, for demonstrating clear sequence in her Henry Blogg newspaper recount and showing a huge amount of independent learning.

### **Foxes**

I am so proud of the way Foxes class has approached their termly assessments this week. We have spread them out over two weeks, so it is not too much in one go, but we have already seen such wonderful determination and pride from the children which is very much deserved. The assessments are interspersed with active learning in Maths and English, researching our explanation topic of mountain formation and consolidating our learning in Maths with group challenges. Next week, we will be progressing with our explanation text, looking at grammatical features such as time fronted adverbials and causal conjunctions while in Maths we are set to finish our unit on multiplication and division.

I am also looking forward to welcoming parents and carers into the classroom for our Maths café on Tuesday.

Congratulations to:

Sophie for achieving 100 reads at home.

Tackling Tables: Archie - Purple addition, subtraction and mixed; Fearne - Green division and green mixed mini;

George-Henry - Blue superstar; Paige - Purple addition, subtraction and mixed and Sophie - Blue division

Our Shining Light this week goes to Harvey for working so hard on his maths and developing his multiplication skills to include multiplying three numbers.

### **Otters**

This week Otters class have made boats in Science to explore how streamlined shaped hulls can reduce water resistance; explored why earthquakes happen in Geography; continued our work on fractions in Maths, with Year 5s subtracting mixed numbers and Year 6s dividing fractions by integers. In Bangra dance, we have learned more basic moves and performed these in small groups. We have also worked really hard to complete our Spring Term assessments this week.

Congratulations this week to:

Reading: Noah for achieving 10 reads at home.

Tackling Tables: Rosie for achieving her blue level mixed mini certificate. Theo W for achieving his red level division certificate. Theo A for achieving his red level decimals certificate.

Shining Light: This week our Shining Light has been awarded to Libby who has made excellent progress in maths due to her hard work and determination. Keep it up!

## Prayer for the Week

This week's prayer is by Billie-Jo in Year 6:

Dear God,

*Thank you for creating this world and all its wonders.*

*Thank you for giving me a lovely family who make sure I am okay and well.*

Amen

## Message from the Executive Headteacher:

### Online Safety;

As mentioned above, Mrs Blakey, our Federation Computing Lead, has been liaising with the police to put together some online safety work for our children. We've got a number of events coming up to support our work in this area, beginning with the workshops above. We hope you are able to attend one of the sessions and that you find it useful; please do let us know.

### Parents/Carers' Survey;

As you know, we ask the views of our children about various different aspects of school each half-term, and this helps shape our work. Following our Autumn pupil voice where it was clear that children had some needs to do with online safety, we asked them more about their online time, needs and worries or things they enjoy. We found that many of the children say they use apps for older children, that many of them want to know more about online safety and that many of them do not think they have any privacy settings on their apps or devices. 49% of the children do not know how to use privacy settings to keep themselves safe. 42% believe they spend more than 3 hours a day with screen time. Lots of our children said that if they saw something online that worried them, they would simply switch it off or exit the app or game and wouldn't say anything to anyone. So now it is your turn! We'd like to know what questions or worries you have about online time and what you might like from school.

The survey link has been sent out today and we would be really grateful for your responses. We're working closely with the police and other children's agencies to ensure that our teaching covers what our children need to know and we need your input into that. Many thanks.

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  
Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies  
Castle Acre, Narborough and Sporle C of E Primary  
Academy