



Diocese of Norwich
Education and
Academies Trust

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Anne Neary

Web: www.narvalleyfederation.co.uk

24th March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Narborough Newsletter for week ending 24th March 2023

This week has been overshadowed by the sad news of one of our much-loved colleagues from our Sporle school passing away. We offer our most sincere condolences and heartfelt wishes to her family, friends and colleagues. We hope that God brings peace and comfort to the hearts of all those that had the pleasure of knowing her.

Working in a school keeps you grounded! It makes you realise that life goes on in our children and in our memories. The children have enjoyed a week full of fun and hard work, with lots of lovely smiles to keep us all going.

Parent, Teacher & Friends Association (PTFA)

We have the Easter Egg Hunt and family event next week, from 2:00pm on Friday 31st March 2023. The children will be taking part in an Easter Egg Hunt with their class from 2:00pm - Hedgehogs and Squirrels will be from 2:00pm to 2:15pm, then Foxes and Otters will be from 2:15pm to 2:30 pm. The Easter family event will be held in the hall from 2:00pm and you will be welcome to join your child for their hunt if you wish to. The event in the hall will include refreshments, Easter Egg Tombola (50p per ticket or £1 for 3), Name The Bunny (50p per go) and Cake Raffle (£1 for 5 tickets). It will continue after school so that your children can join you for the event. **If you are able to donate cakes or Easter eggs for the event, please send them into school for the Friday morning.** Please remember to ensure that they are all **nut-free**. Thank you so much for supporting our efforts to provide exciting opportunities for our children and families.

Nursery Consultation

Just a reminder that we would be very grateful if you could complete the questionnaire sent out to let us know if you are happy for us to extend our admittance age from 4 years to 3 years. Please complete the form with a 'yes' to enable us to make this happen. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us on: 01760 338048 or email: office@narborough.norfolk.sch.uk.

We are holding a consultation evening next Wednesday, 29th March in the school hall, from 6:15pm to 7:15pm. Please pop along if you have any questions or would like any further information. We look forward to seeing you.

Attendance Rewards

Attendance rates for week to 17th March 2023 are:

Hedgehogs:	95.45%
Squirrels:	95.86%
Foxes:	96%
Otters:	93.5%

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.

Whole School 95.23%

Well done to **Foxes** for achieving the highest attendance of the week. The percentages were so close this week. Remember – every session counts!

Children's Worship

This week, Libby and Noah from Otters, Sophie from Foxes, Olivia from Squirrels and Reggie and Scarlett from Hedgehogs had us reflect on whether or not we trust ourselves and what you may trust yourself to do - walking to school on your own, getting your school uniform on, brushing your teeth...

Two teams were called up, and each took turns to answer whether or not they trusted themselves to do a given activity. They were then able to put a counter in the giant connect-4 game. Well done to yellow team who were the connect-4 champions.

Class Information

Hedgehogs

This week, we have been busy writing our vegetable poems in English, using our describing words, adjectives, similes and rhyming words. In Maths, we have learned about measuring length using rulers, measuring mass using weighing scales and measuring capacity using jugs of water. We had great fun measuring the capacity of different containers of water. We compared our capacities using the vocabulary of empty, emptier, emptiest, full, fuller and fullest. In RE, we were joined by our Year 1 friends from Castle Acre, and we all impressed Revd. Miriam with our Easter questions about Jesus, miracles, heaven, the Easter bunny and MORE! We all smiled beautifully for our class photograph and displayed some super bouncing and catching skills in PE. In DT, we evaluated the vegetable soup that we made and ate last week and thought about how it could be improved next time.

Congratulations this week to: Noah and Oliver G for achieving 75 reads at home and Pavitha for achieving 100 reads at home. Keep up the good work everybody.

Our Shining Light this week is for Scarlett for always being so positive with an infectious smile and eating every last drop of her healthy vegetable soup.

Squirrels

This week in Squirrels, we have been on a virtual field trip of the local river, the Great Ouse. We have been following a river's journey from source to sea using stories, diagrams and maps. Our directional language (in Maths too) has been brilliant and we are very capable geographers, when it comes to directing to specific locations using a map. Overall attendance has been much better - yay - so please keep it up Squirrels. Just one more week of term. In Maths, we have moved on to fractions: finding half, unit fractions and non-unit fractions. We are doing very well at applying our division skills and working practically to understand the concept. In English, we have begun to look at persuasive texts and will be writing a piece on plastic pollution in the oceans - what can we find out about this at home?

Congratulations to:

Reading: We had no reading certificates to award this week.

Tackling Tables: Harrison for his blue phase mixed mini test.

Our Shining Light this week is Khloe, for her contributions to class and group discussion in all subjects this week. She has really immersed herself into the learning.

Foxes

What a fun week we have had! Our trip to Norwich Castle Museum on Monday started the week nicely. We used our knowledge of Ancient Civilisations on the day to really engage in all the activities, which included farming, building, writing in hieroglyphs and philosophy debates. The philosophy especially has fitted in really well with our history unit on Ancient Greece. In Maths, we have bravely tackled the topic of fractions, placing mixed numbers and proper fractions on number lines. Our descriptive writing is coming along beautifully, using

a range of multi-clause sentences and descriptive devices. These have included hyperbole, alliteration and personification. Keep up the good work Foxes!

Congratulations to:

Reading: Archie for achieving 100 reads at home.

Tackling Tables: We have no certificates to award this week – keep practising hard.

Our Shining Light this week is awarded to Libby-Rae who has been a reflective learner, understanding when she might need to try something again or asking for help when she needs it.

Otters

On Monday, we had a fantastic trip to Norwich Castle Museum to learn about Ancient Civilisations. All of the children were impeccably behaved and joined in brilliantly with all the activities. Gabriella commented, "We learned about building, farming, philosophy and writing within ancient civilisations." Ashden said, "I enjoyed our trip because we learned how to organise a settlement and build protection around it." Lola stated, "I enjoyed our trip because I learned a lot about philosophy, and I am really proud of myself for standing up in front of everyone and giving a persuasive speech." This week, Theo stated, "I've enjoyed English because we were able to use informal language to write a first-person recount of our trip."

Meanwhile, back in class... Rosie has enjoyed Maths this week stating, "I have improved my understanding of number lines and can now use them to round decimals." PE has also been popular. Macie said, "I enjoyed football because yesterday we got to play our first match." Daniel agreed, "I enjoyed PE because we had a football match. Next week we are going to be playing against the Year 4s." (I think it will be a very exciting match to watch!) Gabriela enjoyed Science this week stating, "I've enjoyed learning about the life cycle of different mammals (marsupials, monotremes and placentals)."

Congratulations this week to:

Reading: Lola for achieving 25 reads at home and Daniel for achieving 50 reads at home.

Tackling Tables: Noah for achieving his red level multiplication **and** division certificates; Amelia for achieving 5 certificates this week: her Purple level addition, subtraction, mixed, addition missing numbers **and** subtraction missing numbers certificates.

Shining Light: This week our Shining Light has been awarded to Lola for having the courage to speak in front of a large group of people and deliver a persuasive speech with no time for preparation. Her arguments were so clear that she managed to persuade all the teachers!

Thought for the Week

This week's thought for the week is from Elsie in Otters:

If you never stop trying and never give up, you will achieve something in life.

Message from the Executive Headteacher:

Mrs Paula Smith

Many of you will have heard that our lovely Mrs Smith, one of our Teaching Assistants at Sporle died incredibly suddenly on Tuesday of this week of an unknown brain bleed. This has been a huge shock for everyone, leaving a gaping hole in our Sporle and wider Federation family, but we have all felt supported by the messages of support, the cards and the floral tributes laid for Mrs Smith under the tree at school. Our children and staff have done so well this week despite this massive loss. Mrs Smith had worked at school for over 13 years, starting as a lunchtime member of staff before finding the role she embodied so well as such a compassionate, kind, thoughtful and helpful member of our pastoral Teaching Assistant team. Very few children in school have not been helped by her at some point, with her kind words, unflappably calm manner and incredibly thoughtful actions. Mrs Smith was the definition of our school values; she was always unfailingly kind to everyone, used

her pastoral and therapeutic training to support children who needed her help and no matter what was going on for her in her life, thought of others always. There is much more that could be said and will be when the time is right to honor her memory.

For now, I want to pay tribute to our brave staff team at Sporle, and more widely across the Federation, who despite having to cope with the shock and pain of losing a colleague this week so cruelly quickly, have worked so hard to meet the children's needs and continue to teach, support and share happy memories and moments so that our children begin to understand that we all leave our mark on the people we interact with and someone is never truly gone when those who knew and loved them remember them.

Psalm 48:14

For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end.

Talking to children about someone dying is emotionally hard and we can all worry we're not doing it correctly. Attached is some information that may support you if you'd like.

Y4/5/6 Trip to Castle Museum;

A huge well done to all our Y4/5/6 children across the Federation, Otters, Kingfishers and Oak classes, who represented our school extremely well on the trip, which took place on two days. The knowledge that our children demonstrated was commented on by the museum staff as being very good, the questions that I heard them asking were excellent and they all enjoyed the practical activities, which ranged from building a democratic settlement, grinding wheat for bread (a chore each day that we learned gave rise to the term 'the daily grind') to philosophical thought experiments and writing in ancient languages. This was an absolutely wonderful trip and we again thank our Parent/Teacher/Friends groups for subsidising the cost of the travel to make the trip happen. Many schools are having to severely restrict or stop such trips, and so we are incredibly grateful to our lovely people across the Federation who give their energy to fundraising so our children can benefit from such curriculum enrichment.

Friends of Sporle School Bingo;

After discussions, FOSS and our staff team believe that Paula would want this to carry on, and so we would like to warmly invite you to the Easter Bingo next week at Sporle; entrance from 7pm and eyes down at 7.30pm.

As it is the last week of term next week, there won't be a newsletter, but please look out for the end of term letter.

Thank you for your continued support.



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