



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)

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome back to school for the Autumn term; we hope that everyone had a good Summer and enjoyed all your different activities and holidays.

We are really looking forward to a year full of exciting learning, outdoor and hands on experiences, trips, performances, Church services and sporting events. It is also lovely to have started working with our new staff team members at each school; Staff photos for each school will be coming out in next week's newsletter so that you know who everyone is and what class they are teaching in.

Just a reminder in terms of attendance; strong attendance (96% and over) is so important for ensuring that your children learn and achieve well. 95% - considered satisfactory attendance by the Government and Ofsted as well as us - means not missing any more than ten school days over the whole year. Statistically, there is a clear link between children who regularly miss more than this in primary and achieving lower grades at GCSE and higher. (see this report:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/509679/The-link-between-absence-and-attainment-at-KS2-and-KS4-2013-to-2014-academic-year.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/509679/The-link-between-absence-and-attainment-at-KS2-and-KS4-2013-to-2014-academic-year.pdf) )

Also just a reminder that the school day is from 8.40am until 3.10pm, with registration at 8.55am. Please do bring your children at 8.40am, as the 8.40am until 9am slot is a teaching slot alongside registration and we want all children to benefit from this. We do daily skills practise for English and Maths. Not coming at 8.40am each day would mean one and a half hours of learning missed each week, which means nearly 67 hours of extra learning that your child will miss out on each school year. It is also an important opportunity for staff to talk to the children, see how they are, pick up on emotions and support children.

PE kits; now that the need that arose from Covid, this year we are returning to changing for PE in school and getting changed back into uniform after the lesson. Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school on a Monday and takes them home on a Friday. Please ensure your child has tracksuit bottoms and the school hoody or a plain tracksuit top for the colder weather.

Volunteers; we will be delighted to welcome back any of you who have previously volunteered, and anyone who would like to volunteer. All volunteers undertake DBS checks and safeguarding procedures and we will offer some training and support. If you feel you can help with reading, have a skill to offer, have a specialist subject you could talk about then please do get in touch, we'd be really, really pleased to welcome you.

Clubs;- We'd love to expand the number of clubs that we can offer our children; If you have a particular interest and would like to work with a member of staff to deliver a club then please do get in touch, we'd be really happy to welcome you.

Free School Meals, vouchers and hardship: please see the below info from Norfolk County Council (NCC); Rather than issuing the above in the school holidays, NCC is issuing them monthly to help families with the cost of living. Parents/carers may choose to save vouchers rather than spend at the time of issue, so they have more funds available during the school holidays if they wish to, within the constraints of the three-month expiry date of the vouchers. **Note: If vouchers expire, they cannot be reissued.**

### **Families in hardship and needing wider support**

In addition to the offer of FSM vouchers for eligible families, there is support available for families who are facing hardship and need support.

Anyone experiencing hardship may be able to receive support through the Norfolk Assistance Scheme (NAS), which may be able to provide support for food, fuel, clothes, and other essential household items to families experiencing hardship. Wider support from a range of partners can then also be made available with NAS working alongside the Children's Services Community and Partnerships service.

Families may get in touch with NAS via their [dedicated website which includes an online application form](#), or if they cannot access the internet, they can call **0344 800 8020**.

### **Message from Head of School**

Here at Sporle we'd love to extend a big hello and welcome back to all our families and children. How quickly the summer flew past! We do hope you had a restful break and enjoyed the opportunity to have quality time together. It has been absolutely lovely to see all the children greeting us with a smile and so excited to be back, looking smart in their uniforms. Some of them have grown so much!

I would also like to welcome our new members of staff – a welcome to Miss Whitehead who is joining us as the Robins class teacher and to Mrs Honhold who is working in the Kingfisher team. Also, a welcome back to Miss Willgress, who is back at Sporle this year. We are also absolutely delighted to welcome back Mrs Cole in a different role as a HLTA. This will enable us to get the most from her wonderful skills and we are very pleased to be able to welcome back and retain her talent. We are really pleased to have them as part of the staffing team.

We have been so impressed by how well the children have settled back into learning this year. There is a calm, happy buzz in the classroom environments and I know how impressed the teachers are with how much learning the children have remembered.

In the Robins class, the children have enjoyed painting self-portraits and writing about a caterpillar and discussing being brave and courageous. We've been using playdough to make number bonds to tell. Miss Whitehead and the Robin team have been impressed by how well the reception children have settled in.

In Woodpecker class the children have been impressing Miss Behan with their place value knowledge. We've been practising counting in tens and ones and partitioning different numbers. In writing we loved hearing and retelling the story of King Midas and his golden touch.

In Kingfisher class, the children really impressed Miss Willgress with their quality and presentation in their learning. In maths they've been learning about Roman numerals. In geography they've been learning different facts all about Europe and in English they've been practising their sentence writing skills.

Looking forward to next week, we will have our school and eco councillors in place and are holding our interviews for Head Pupil. We look forward to being able to share the successful candidates in next week's newsletter. We have lots of exciting things planned for the rest of the term and will announce these over the next couple of weeks.

Finally, please remember that our door is always open. Please do pop in and speak to us if you have any questions or queries or equally if you have any positives and ideas.

During the drafting of this letter, we received the news that our Queen had died. Today in school we held a Collective Worship, to acknowledge and express respect for a life given in service. Our children wrote prayers/reflections, and we would like to share with you this one here by Buster in Kingfisher class

“Dear God,

We are thankful for the Queen and her reign upon England. She an example to the world on how to be a good ruler. She did her duty as the Queen very well. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord, Amen”

I am sure that in the coming days we will do more to remember the service of the Queen and mark her passing and we will of course share these arrangements with you in due course. In the meantime, we continue to attend school as normal.

For those families who are new to us, you are very warmly welcomed and to our current families, we look forward to another year of working with you all. See you soon either on the gate or at various events; we have fayres in the villages of Sporle and Castle Acre on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> so may see you there.

With very best wishes; see you soon,

Mrs Anne Neary



Miss Jessie Behan



Executive Head Teacher  
The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies  
Castle Acre, Narborough and Sporle

Head of School  
Sporle CE Primary Academy