



Castle Acre Newsletter for week ending 1st December 2023

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Anne Neary
Web: www.narvalleyfederation.co.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would love to be able to convey the children's (and my) excitement through this page - it is the 1st of December and the chocolate countdown has begun! The Christian countdown does not begin until Sunday and we will begin next week by lighting the first candle of the Advent Wreath. The Christmas season has arrived in style as it was like a scene from a traditional Christmas card on our journeys to school this morning and whilst it can cause a little frustration and trepidation, it certainly is beautiful. And what can we say about the magnificent tree as a focal point outside our school, it looks fantastic. It definitely made me smile this morning. Thank you to the Patrick family for getting and installing it for us. We will be singing around it on Friday 8th at 2:30. Please do come and join us for Carols and hot refreshments.

We have many exciting things planned over the next few weeks. Please look at the date sheet. It has all the up to date information on there and Miss Howman puts in the dates for the coming week in the Upcoming Events box below.

I would just like to say a huge thank you to the Friends in advance of our Christmas Fair on Sunday. It takes a huge amount of work and I know it will be a wonderful event. Please do come along.

Upcoming Events this week

See Diary Dates for details.....

Mon 4th: Whitebeam parents invited to Djembe drum performance at 2.45pm

Thurs 7th: Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch

Fri 8th Dec: Rec-Y2 to West Acre Theatre to see The Goblin King
Plus, 2.30pm Singing Round the Tree - Parents/Carers invited to join us!

Tuck Shop - Wednesday and Friday morning break - 40p

Advance Notice: End of Term Christmas Service at St James Church Castle Acre on Wednesday 20th December at 1.45pm, all welcome!

Attendance Awards w/e 1/12/2023

Class	%		
Rowan	97.2		
Whitebeam	93.5		
Oak	96.3		

Well done to Rowan class for the highest attendance percentage this week!



Reminders and Information.....

Christmas Cards - we welcome the children bringing in Christmas cards for their friends. There is a box by the pupil entrance for them to pop them in and a team from Oak Class will deliver them.

Rudolph Run - We are hosting a Rudolph Run on 13th December to raise money for The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House. This will be a sponsored event but we will be asking for sponsorship for taking part rather than sponsorship for the distance run. The sponsor forms are coming home today.

Veg For Sale! - Cain and Lola's mum is very kindly donating some organic vegetables every week to the school. We are using as many of them as we can for snack for the children but we still have a surplus. We will be selling these for 75p after school every Tuesday. Please do come and have a look - they are really tasty.

Volunteers - we are looking for volunteers to come in and read with our children. If you are interested please speak to either the class teacher or Mrs Spaul.

Christmas Jumper Day - Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch are both on Thursday 7th December this year.

Don't forget **Before School Care** available Monday to Friday from 8am to 8.40am at £2 per session. **After School Care** is available Monday to Friday to 4.30pm at £6 per session.

Bookings to be made through the school office. Please remember to be **on time for school** - children need to be in their seats at 8.40am learning. Every minute helps them and every minute is time lost from their learning and over time is a huge and needless disadvantage for them.






AWARDS

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Rowan Class

Award	Goes to...	For.....
Reader of the week	Mila	working hard to learn new sounds in phonics and use them to start to read words.
Writer of the week 	Sybil	great work with possessive apostrophes.
Mathematician of the week	Skyla	showing great knowledge of 3D shapes
Shining Light 	Harry Florence Finlay	being a great friend being a good role model by always demonstrating our school values being a good friend
Tackling Tables 		
Reads at home	Toby Leon	25 reads 25 reads

Whitebeam Class

Award	Goes to...	For.....
Reader of the week	Elarni	for fluency and reading in front of the class
Writer of the week 	Holly	for her independent writing of an explanation text
Mathematician of the week	Logan	for his great participation and progress he
Shining Light 	Molly Brody	for demonstrating responsibility by persevering with her work for demonstrating respect by looking after others and property well
Tackling Tables 	Rowan Holly	Purple phase subtraction yellow phase superstar
Reads at home		



AWARDS



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Oak Class

Award	Goes to...	For.....
Reader of the week	Marley	taking responsibility for reading at home
Writer of the week	Freya	taking great care with her writing with a good choice of words
Mathematician of the week	Nataniel	taking great care with his presentation of all number related work
Shining Light Letting your light shine	Aleashia Lola Steele Elliot	always being kind and helpful for kindness and generosity with her peers and others showing resilience, patience and understanding with his peers in a tricky situation for showing great kindness
Tackling Tables	Izzy Finley	Green multiplication Green Unit fractions of amounts
Reads at home	Marley	Blue star

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Safeguarding.....

I just wanted to thank all our families for your work in ensuring that your children are in school. I was reading a thesis on attendance recently and one or two facts struck me: firstly, children showing chronic levels of absence in their Reception year (ie missing 10% of the year - just 10 days across the year, which is 2 sessions a day) are already behind academically by the time they enter Year One. That means at 5 or 6 years old, a child who has missed 10 days in Reception already has huge gaps in their learning - and knows that there are things they don't understand or can't do - and secondly if their level of absence doesn't change, then they are significantly likely to fail to reach the expected standard in Y6, and then equally likely to go on to fail to achieve GCSE passes. So a huge thank you to all our Parents/Carers who are making sure that your children have the best possible chance of achieving well.

Message from the Executive Headteacher....

We are talking with the children at the moment about doing their best presentation all the time, because giving your best is an important skill for life; presenting yourself well, presenting your communication well and presenting your thoughts and ideas clearly and carefully are all really good ways of ensuring that you are likely to succeed. Please help your children to build their writing stamina at home - maybe as they write their letters to Father Christmas - careful handwriting with letters the same size and capital letters, full stops and all the other bits of punctuation. If anyone has some very well presented writing from home that they want to bring in and share, please do!

Friends of Castle Acre School (FOCAS).....

Thank you to those who have offered help or given donations for our Christmas Fayre on Sunday, 12 - 3pm.

We will have lots of attractions including Santa, games, craft stalls, refreshments our raffle and much more! We look forward to seeing you there!

Prayer for the Week....

Christ be in our eyes and in our looking,
Christ be in our ears and in our listening,
Christ be in our hands and in our making,
Christ be in our minds and in our understanding,
Christ be in hearts and in our loving.



Thank you as always for your support and partnership,

Head of School
Castle Acre C of E Primary Academy

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