



The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Anne Neary

Web: www.narvalleyfederation.co.uk

Friday 5th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,


Welcome back to the Spring term and a very Happy New Year! In our online Collective Worship today I spoke to the children about their own personal targets for this term - school New Year's Resolutions almost – and we spoke about how having a growth mindset, being clear about what you want to achieve and practising these at home were the key to getting targets achieved. Our children were excellent in their contributions, remembering that having a growth mindset means knowing that your brain is a muscle and needs exercise – learning and challenge – and that it also means knowing that you may not be able to do something – YET – but if you put your mind to it, break the challenge down into small steps and practise, practise, practise, then you soon will. It would be fantastic if you chatted to your child about their personal target at home.

We are also continuing this term to encourage our children to be Courageous Advocates – a really tricky term that simply means standing up for or promoting what you believe in, doing something independently to solve a problem that you've noticed either in school or socially, or doing something themselves to do something good. This could be for a charity, an act of kindness for an individual or organising an event for a group of people. Please talk to your children about their ideas for this – we look forward to hearing all about them. Some lovely examples we have had so far is one of our children putting on an event for a charity, using school as a venue, and some children cutting their hair for charity. We were very proud of our children and enjoyed awarding them their 'Letting your Light Shine' certificate. We were also incredibly proud that Castle Acre was asked by the King to choose four shining light children to meet him just before Christmas! This was because a class at Castle Acre wrote letters to the King upon the event of his Coronation. Well done to Alex, Holly, Rowan and Isla (and their siblings, so well done Freya too!) who represented our school and Federation so beautifully.

This term we have a great deal of fantastic learning coming up, with many trips and visitors planned, including work with our own Fr Richard and Cricket coaching for all children. We are also delighted to be working with Premier Sports to provide two more extra-curricular clubs, one at lunchtime and a gymnastics club after school. Along with ICS, Tamion (known to many from his work with Westacre Theatre, based at Castle Acre last term, Narborough this term and Sporle in the Summer) and other lovely providers, including some of our own great staff team, we are excited about providing plenty of options for our children after school. If you are interested in running a club, or know someone who could do so, then please do get in touch. Curriculum newsletters will be coming out next week, so that you know what your children are learning this half-term, which includes Safer Internet Day on 6th February – if you have any worry about online safety that you'd particularly like us to cover, please do contact us. This half-term we will be sending out our main Parents/Carers' Survey so please do look out for that – at Parents/Carers' Forum we felt that a short one in Autumn and then the main one in Spring were all that was needed, so please do fill it in and give your ideas. Parents/Carers' Forum will also be in the second half of the term, so do come along for a cup of tea and a chat.

Many thanks also for your ongoing support with your children's attendance, which we know is vital for good achievement at school. Our schools are all above the national, which is fantastic so let's keep it that way. As you start to consider your Summer holiday plans, firstly, please do avoid your child missing school. If you feel you must ask, then please can I request that you get in touch with school through the Leave of absence request form BEFORE anything is booked so that we can work together to minimise impact on your child.

Thank you for your support. As always, we look forward to continuing to work together in partnership and to seeing you at school events from our lovely PTFA/Friends' groups or our Church services. You're also always welcome to get in touch with your Head of School or myself if you have any queries or you'd like to feedback.



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Castle Acre, Narborough and Sporle C of E Primary Academy