



## Castle Acre Newsletter for week ending 12th January 2024

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Anne Neary  
Web: [www.narvalleyfederation.co.uk](http://www.narvalleyfederation.co.uk)

A rather belated Happy New Year to you all! I hope you had a lovely Christmas and managed to find some quiet time in what is always a very busy break. I just wanted to say how brilliant all the children were in our Nativities and Church services in the lead up to Christmas and also highlight the amazing fundraising we did. I think over the Rudolph Run, the Cake Sale and the Raffle, we raised around £1000. Well done everyone! We have returned to school in 2024 with an absolutely fantastic attitude to learning. We had been working hard before Christmas on a couple of skills to really make our work the best it can be, particularly the presentation and amount of writing we do. I have been really impressed with how the children have remembered and continued with this. It is great to see so much pride and responsibility being taken. Mrs Neary and I have been chatting to the children about what they were learning last term and, even after a break, they spoke enthusiastically about their topics and their love of learning really came through. I am really looking forward to the next term and what it will bring (lighter mornings and evenings particularly!). I cannot sign off this newsletter without referring to the visit to the King just before Christmas. Our children were amazing, even if slightly shell-shocked afterwards! Once we get some pictures, we will give more information about the experience.

## Upcoming Events this week

See Diary Dates for details.....



**Menu Swap this week: Thu 18th lunch** will be fishfingers and chips or cheesy sweetcorn pizza, plus all other options. On Friday lunch will be chicken chow mein or Mexican bean wrap plus all other usual options.

**Thu 18th:** Active Kids Festival at Lynnsport for 15 x Y1/2 pupils

**Fri 19th:** Mini Medics course for Whitebeam pupils at school AM

**Tuck Shop** - Wednesday and Friday morning break - 40p

## Reminders and Information.....



We practise two kinds of safety procedures termly, an evacuation drill, where we rehearse getting everyone out of the building rapidly and safely, and an invacuation drill, where we practise getting everyone to a particular place in the building. Our children do this silently and very sensibly - well done children.

Don't forget **Before School Care** is available Monday to Friday from 8am to 8.40am at £2 per session. **After School Care** is available Monday to Friday 3.10pm 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.

## Attendance Awards w/e 12/1/2024

Class	%	
Rowan	96.15	
Whitebeam	94.89	
Oak	96.01	

Well done to Rowan and Oak class, it was very close this week but Rowan finished the week just ahead! Whitebeam, come on and improve for next week..



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

LOST MINUTES  
= LOST LEARNING!

EVERY SCHOOL  
DAY COUNTS!



Every school day counts BUT every minute is equally important!



# AWARDS

## The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

### Rowan Class

Award	Goes to...	For.....
Reader of the week	Noah	working hard in phonics to read new sounds
Writer of the week 	Brianna	working hard to do her best writing in all subjects
Mathematician of the week	Bobbi	persevering in maths and trying to stay focused when it is hard
Shining Light	Etta Willem Arly	always showing our school values and working hard in everything she does settling in beautifully and showing our school values showing kindness to her friends when they are upset
Tackling Tables 		
Reads at home 	Sybil Skyla	75 - Silver 10 - Blue

### Whitebeam Class

Award	Goes to...	For.....
Reader of the week	Molly	for super reading and noticing grammar and punctuation we have been learning in class
Writer of the week 	Lazenby	for a super diary entry with great word choices
Mathematician of the week	Lola P	for working methodically and exploring different strategies when multiplying
Shining Light Letting your light shine 	Charlie Logan	for showing the values of courage and kindness as he has joined Whitebeam Class for demonstrating all of our school values
Tackling Tables		
Reads at home	Max	75 - Silver 



# AWARDS



The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies



Oak Class

Award	Goes to...	For.....
Reader of the week	Elliot	using clues and background knowledge to figure out plot and outcomes
Writer of the week	Aleashia	putting in lots of effort in handwriting, presentation and content of her writing
Mathematician of the week	Esther-Rae	a fantastic explanation of fractions
Shining Light Letting Your Light Shine	Jess Emma Steele	always following our school values and Oak class rules settling in so well to Castle Acre and Oak Class trying hard and showing great improvement in all aspects of school life
Tackling Tables		
Reads at home		

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### Safeguarding.....

#### Screen time:

Technology has benefits, and some screen time can have positive impact in terms of being able to socialise with children from different areas, the interaction with computer games can develop hand-eye coordination and teamwork and creativity skills can be enhanced.

However too much screen time has negative impact as follows:

Sleep cycles are affected by blue light from screens, tricking our brain into thinking it is still daylight, making it difficult to sleep.

Too much passive screen time could weaken communication and social skills.

Some research found that children who spent more than two hours a day on screen-time activities scored lower on language and thinking tests.

Screen-based entertainment increases central nervous system arousal, which can amplify anxiety.

Using devices while sitting in one place reduces physical activity needed for a healthy lifestyle.

More info here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issue-s/screen-time/learn-about-it/#:~:text=Potential%20risks%20of%20overexposure%20to%20screens&text=Too%20much%20passive%20screen%20time,on%20language%20and%20thinking%20tests.>

### Message from the Executive Headteacher....

#### Parents/Carers' Forum:

Many thanks to those who came along to this event and gave your views, which were very positive. People are pleased with the range of clubs on offer and with the curriculum and school life. We talked about staff changes, which are not ideal but managed as best we can.

We discussed the possibility of having a nursery class here at Castle Acre, which is something that the Trust are happy to explore, and how to ensure that we are able to reach the families with young children who need to know this. The project involves an exciting new development for which we are awaiting planning permission - more on this if/when that comes through - and the fundraising that we will need to do for that. Once we have the planning permission, Mrs Spaul and I will talk to the Friends about how we progress this team effort! We also talked about some Parents/Carers volunteers volunteering to gather local intelligence about the number of potential nursery families, so again, please watch out for more information on that.

We look forward to seeing you all at the next one.

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

We would love to hear from any Parents/Carers who are interested in joining Friends as we are currently a very small group of volunteers. Please just speak with me on the gate or phone me on: 07825 229345, Libby Firth (Chair), thank you.

The next large fundraiser we have planned is the Annual Duck Race in the summer term.

### Prayer for the Week....

Dear Lord,

Please stop people in the world being mean to others and instead make friendships

Amen

By Emma and Finley



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