



Castle Acre Newsletter for week ending 9th February 2024

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

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

February has arrived...with inconsistent rain! One minute it is pouring with rain, the next the birds start singing and the sun tries to peek out from behind the clouds. It has meant lots of wellies on then off at playtime. Despite this, Rowan Class had an amazing time at Pensthorpe on Wednesday. The children came back absolutely buzzing about what they had seen and learned. Some of our children were even brave enough to let the birds take food out of their hands. Whitebeam Class enjoyed their visitor Wednesday afternoon who lead a workshop on Ancient Greece. The children tried lots of different foods (I'm not sure the dates were a hit), made their own flatbreads and even did some dancing. Oak Class have their trip coming up next week to West Stow, which I always enjoyed taking my Year 4 class to so I am sure they will have a fantastic time.

Upcoming Events this week

See Diary Dates for details.....

Monday 12th - Sponsored Read Event starts.
After school Gymnastics Club with Premier Education.

Wednesday 7th - Oak Class Trip to West Stow Country Park & Anglo Saxon Village.
After School Multi-Skills Club (Y3 - 6) with ICS.

Thursday 8th - After School Multi-Skills Club (Rec - Y1) with ICS.

Friday 9th - 1.45pm Candlemas Service at Castle Acre Church, all invited.

Tuck Shop - Wednesday and Friday morning break - 40p

Reminders and Information.....

Please make sure that your child is wearing the correct uniform for school, including their PE kits and shoes. We all have a dress code we have to follow and it is important to show that they belong. We, of course, know that things happen sometimes but this should be the exception. Do come and speak to us if you have any queries about this. Please note that the hoodies are for PE and trips or when it is particularly cold on top of a jumper, and not an alternative to a jumper, thank you.

Please make sure your child has their PE kit in from Monday to Friday.

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 9/2/2024

Class	%	
Rowan	81.41	
Whitebeam	96.43	
Oak	94.35	

Well done to Whitebeam class!



ATTENDANCE MATTERS



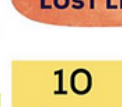
3
days lost

5
minutes late
per day



6.5
days lost

10
minutes late
per day



10
days lost

15
minutes late
per day



13
days lost

20
minutes late
per day

EVERY SCHOOL
DAY COUNTS!

19
days lost
EACH
YEAR!

30
minutes late
per day




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	Tia	for working hard in reading at school and at home
Writer of the week 	Mason	For showing a great learning attitude and working more independently to whilst writing in lessons.
Mathematician of the week	Indie	For trying his best in maths lessons and using what he has learnt in his choosing time.
Shining Light 	Stan Nahla Oliver P	settling in beautifully, making new friends and trying his best in lessons showing kindness to others and sharing with her friends and siblings showing a fantastic work ethic and always trying his very best in everything he does
Tackling Tables 		none this week
Reads at home		none this week

Whitebeam Class

Award	Goes to...	For.....
Reader of the week	Elarni	for fluent reading and moving levels
Writer of the week 	Tyler	for taking care over the presentation of his work and letter formation and beginning to join
Mathematician of the week	Holly	for super work in all areas of maths
Shining Light 	Lazenby Logan	for being a good friend and demonstrating our school values for his super attitude towards his learning
Tackling Tables 		none this week
Reads at home	Holly Fletcher Alexander Molly	150 reads 75 reads 50 reads 50 reads 



AWARDS



The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies



Oak Class

Award	Goes to...	For.....
Reader of the week	Esther	confidently reading aloud
Writer of the week	Steele	comprehensive and thorough note-taking
Mathematician of the week	James	working hard on fractions and explaining to others how to solve a problem
Shining Light	Declan Pearl	always showing kindness, respect and empathy when supporting others continuously demonstrating our school values
Tackling Tables		none this week
Reads at home	Freya	150 and so gaining a shield

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Help with online safety::



The CEOP website, run by the National Crime Prevention agency, gives helpful advice about when and how to report your concern.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Get-help/Reporting-an-incident/>



See these links for further information, games and tips:

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/4_7/
https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8_10/
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>



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Safeguarding.....

Online Safety Day

We held our Online Safety day this week, to coincide with National Online Safety day on 6th February.

Following our Parents/Carers' questionnaire, we are arranging some workshops for Parents/Carers and details will be available soon.

Here is what some of our children have learned during Online Safety day:

"To always tell an adult if something is wrong"
"Report a person if they are saying mean stuff"
"don't share personal information on the internet"
"Use the block feature if people say something mean"
"Don't watch scary things before going to bed."
"Don't stay on your phone too long because you may get tired and sore eyes"
"It's important to have some time away from the internet"
"AI can be helpful but may not always be"
"Don't let AI take over your life"
"Not everything you see on the internet is true- photoshop"
"Influencers only share the good parts of their life"

Message from the Executive Headteacher....

A message of thanks firstly, to all families who are ensuring that their children are in school 96% and more - to give you an idea, this means missing less than 8 school days in the year.

I wanted to show an illustration of the huge link between attendance and attainment. Below are the marks of two of the children in our Federation's Y6. Child A and Child B both had poor attendance last year. Neither have additional needs and both are were performing at similar levels, which were not as good as they need to be and could be.

At the end of Autumn 2, when letters had not made a difference to their attendance, we held an attendance meeting with both families. Child A's attendance did not improve, but Child B's family made sure that their child did not miss a single day between the meeting and today. The score is their age standardised score - 100 is the expected for the end of Y6.

Child	Autumn1	Autumn 2	Spring 1
Child A	91	91	92
Child B	96	96	99

Can you see the difference that the 100% attendance in Spring 1 has made? Child B has made a significant jump upwards and is so very close to achieving 100 on their SATS test and looks likely to do so. Child A is not going to make it. Child B is now many times more likely than Child A to achieve Grade 4 or above at GCSE and yet both children are capable.

The advantage of strong attendance is something that only you can do for your child, so thank you so much to the vast majority of families who do this for our children.

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,

Thank you for the teachers we have. Thank you for the food we eat and the roofs over our heads. Thank you for our friends that made us smile today.

Amen

By Ella



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