

Message from the Executive Headteacher



Nebula
where stars are born

Issue 8

March 2018

THE SCHOOLS IN OUR FEDERATION

Frettenham Primary

Hainford Primary

Horsford Primary

Old Catton Junior School

St. Faiths' Primary

White Woman Lane Junior

The Executive:

Miss Anatola - Executive Deputy
for EYFS

Mrs Pellatt - Executive Deputy
for School Improvement

Mrs Porter - Executive Deputy
for SEND

Heads of School:

Mr Paul Cross -

Hainford Primary

Mr Gyles Longhurst -

Frettenham Primary

Mrs Tanya Kirton &

Miss Tracy Anderson -

Horsford Primary

Mrs Kate Connelly -

Old Catton Junior

Miss Lesley Rix -

St. Faiths' Primary

Mr Daniel Richmond &

Mr Nick Johnson -

White Woman Lane Junior

The true meaning of Easter ...?

Jeremy was born with physical disabilities and learning difficulties and was not expected to live to become an adult. At the age of 11 he was still in Year 2 of a primary school, seemingly unable to learn. He would fidget in his seat, drool, make grunting noises, stare into space and was unable to participate. At other times, he spoke clearly and distinctly, as if a spot of light had penetrated the darkness of his brain. Most of the time, however, it seemed as if he was not learning in his mainstream classroom.

His teacher was worried; so one day she called his parents and asked them to come in for a consultation. During the meeting the teacher suggested that they should apply for a complex needs school place for their son. Jeremy's mum cried softly into a tissue, while her husband answered. "Miss Miller," he said, "It would break his heart if he had to leave this school. We know he really likes it here."

The teacher sat for a long time after they had left. She sympathised with the parents; after all, their

only child had a terminal illness. But was it fair to keep him in her class? She had all the other children to teach, and didn't know what else to do to help Jeremy. He would never learn to read and write. Never be able to properly socialise with the other children who were so much younger than he was. As she pondered the situation, guilt washed over her and she thought to herself, please help me to be patient and know what to do to help Jeremy. Then one day, he limped to her desk, dragging his bad leg behind him. "I love you, Miss Miller," he exclaimed, loud enough for the whole class to hear. The other children laughed, and the teacher was embarrassed and blushed but she managed to stammer "That's very nice Jeremy, thank you."

Spring came, and the children talked excitedly about the coming of Easter. The teacher told them the story of Jesus, and then to emphasise the idea of new life springing forth, she gave each of the children a large plastic egg. "Now," she said to them, "I want you to take this home and

bring it back tomorrow with something inside that shows new life. Do you understand?"

All the children responded "Yes" enthusiastically - all except for Jeremy. He listened intently; his eyes never left her face. He did not even make his usual noises. Had he understood what she had said about Jesus' death and resurrection? Did he understand what to do? She considered calling his parents and explaining the project to them but she completely forgot.

The next morning, all the children came to school, laughing and talking as they carefully placed their eggs in the basket on the teacher's desk ...

Continued on the back page ...



Ashley Best-White
Executive Headteacher
The Nebula Federation

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a positive and peaceful Easter.



Reading Project spring term - Hares!

This term another Nebula Reading Project has taken place - 'Hares'. A whole range of activities and experiences were planned and books studied, read and enjoyed around the Norwich 'GoGoHares' 2018 project.

This project has had 160 youth groups, schools, scouting, guiding, community and sports clubs sign up to be involved. Our schools have all signed up and each have a leveret to design and paint. The leverets will be placed around the city from 2nd July - 2nd September, in a wide range of locations. You will be able to complete the trail, find our 6 leverets and enjoy the artistic endeavours of the children.

Once again, every school had a visit from Karl Nova who led and performed in assemblies to inspire the children to write. Karl was very enthusiastic to visit us again following his trip to the Nebula schools last year.

Karl Nova is one of the UK's leading poets and hip hop artists delivering his work in his own unique, witty and energetic style.



Karl Nova



Painting Hares ...



Who is Karl Nova?

Is that your real name?

'Karl Nova is an artist. I am a Hip Hop artist which means I rap, I make beats and get to do my thing live all over the place. I am part of the award winning collective GK Real. I am a radio presenter with 2 shows on Premier and I am also a creative writing workshop facilitator working in schools, colleges and universities doing workshops. My real name is Karl and Nova is a name I picked up while rapping.'



Lisa from The Clay Barn came to all of the schools and the children painted their own pottery hare with glaze. The hares were then fired and returned to the children as a permanent reminder of the project.



More painted hares ...



Painting our leverets ready for the 2018 trail



The 'Hares' Reading Project was a great success, encouraging and promoting a love for reading!

Thank you to all the staff who worked so hard to organise it.



Young Voices 02

In February choirs from each of our schools travelled to the O2 in London to perform in the Young Voices choir.

For the past 20 years, Young Voices has staged the largest children's choir concerts in the world and over 2 million children have taken part in a Young Voices concert; 2018 was the largest concert tour to date with over 150,000 children taking part!

Each night, between 5,000-8,000 children perform as a single choir to a sold-out audience of family and friends and in 2018 our children participated in this exciting opportunity.

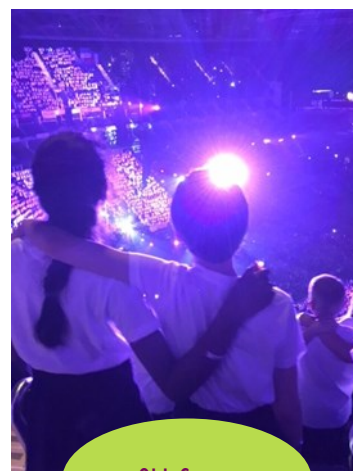
The aim of Young Voices is to inspire a love of music and create memories for the children that will last a lifetime.

The music is specially selected to create a diverse musical repertoire all with the intention to introduce children to the widest possible spectrum of music. For some of the music, the children also learned a simple selection of dance moves which were performed whilst singing the songs.

Nothing could prepare us for the sound of thousands of children singing together. There was a full 7-piece live band, backing singers, and the internationally acclaimed conductor David Lawrence – it was one of the most exciting and memorable musical experiences you can imagine.

It was even more memorable for the Old Catton choir; their coach broke down on the way home and they eventually arrived back in Norwich after 4.30am!

The impact of this opportunity has been seen in our schools with more and more of our children wishing to join the various choirs. As a result, we have signed up for the Young Voices concert at the O2 again next year; if all goes well we will be there again with even more of our young people enjoying the opportunity to sing with one of the largest children's choir concerts in the world at an iconic venue - the O2.



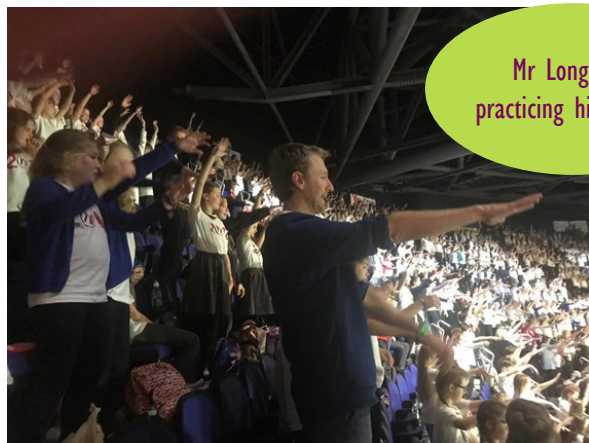
Old Catton



David Lawrence - the conductor



Enjoying the opportunity to sing in the Young Voices Choir



Mr Longhurst practicing his moves!





The Nest

A campaign has been launched to raise £2.5m towards a new multi-million pound sports hub named after Norwich City FC's former home ground.

The Nest, which will be located in Horsford, will include a floodlit 3G football pitch, sports hall, gym, and seven grass football pitches once complete. But in order for the second phase of its construction to go ahead, more funding is needed.

Norwich City Community Sports Foundation (CSF), which is behind the scheme, has launched its Build The Nest campaign to raise the money.

Initial work on the facility, which

will be built on the former Anglian Windows Sports and Social Club site, on Holt Road, has already got under way.

Seven grass football pitches have been re-laid as part of the £1.5m first phase, which is due to be completed this summer.

It will also see the clubhouse renovated and bunk boxes installed. The second phase, which is estimated to cost £9.4m, will see the remaining facilities built.

The foundation said it hoped to raise £2.5m of that figure through public donations, community events and by working with local businesses.

Jackie Thornton, the charity's head of development, said: "We are hugely grateful to the organisations that have pledged funding to The Nest, but there is a lot of work left to do to raise the final £2.5m and we hope for a real wave of support for our campaign."

The Nebula Schools are involved in

fundraising for this project, the pupils and staff have been working with Joe Harvey from the City Community Sports Foundation, to think of lots of fundraising activities to take place in the schools to help towards the goal of establishing these facilities on our doorstep. In the future, the Nebula Schools will take advantage of the facilities offered as a result.

We decided to support this project as it reflects the values of the federation. We are supporting The Nest to ensure that our pupils have the **opportunity** to take part in events, and help raise their **aspirations** while at the same time **inspiring** generations to come. The activities at The Nest will also allow our pupils to grow their **strong sense of self**, the capacity to show **resilience** in different situations, along with developing the key team work skills that participating in sport offers.



World Book Day



Frettenham Sport Afternoon



On Friday 23 March, pupils from all the schools in the federation participated in the Nebula Tag Rugby Tournament at White Woman Lane School. The pupils played well, enthusiastically and demonstrated good sportsmanship. More information and photos in the next newsletter.

THE NEBULA FEDERATION GOVERNORS

Mrs Judy Leggett	Chair	LA
Mr Ben Moulton	Vice	Co-opted
Mr Neil Aylott		Co-opted
Mrs Ashley Best-White	Executive Headteacher	
Mr Ray Browne		Co-opted
Mrs Stephanie Boyce		Parent
Mrs Kate Connelly		Staff
Revd. Chris Engleson		Foundation
Ms Sue Hill		Co-opted
Mrs Sylvia Mak		Foundation
Revd. Margaret McPhee		Foundation
Vacancy		Co-opted
Mr Peter Spears		Co-opted
Mrs Jane Stockings		Parent
Mr Ian Wicks		Co-opted
St. Faiths' PCC	Vacancy	Foundation
Mrs Jill Steward		Clerk



The true meaning of Easter continued...

Later, it was time to open the eggs and when the teacher opened the first one she found a flower ...

"Oh yes, a flower is certainly a sign of new life," she said. "When plants peek through the ground, we know that spring is here." A small girl in the first row waved her arm. "That's my egg," she called out.

The next egg contained a plastic butterfly, which looked very real. The teacher held it up. "We all know that a caterpillar changes and grows into a beautiful butterfly. Yes, that's new life, too." The child who had filled the egg smiled proudly at the teacher.

Then the teacher opened the third egg. She gasped. The egg was empty.

Surely it must be Jeremy's she thought, and of course, he did not understand her instructions. If only she had not forgotten to phone his parents.

Because she did not want to embarrass him, she quietly set the egg aside and reached for another

one. Suddenly, Jeremy spoke up. "Aren't you going to talk about my egg?"

Flustered, his teacher replied, "But Jeremy, your egg is empty."

He looked into her eyes and said softly, "Yes, but Jesus' tomb was empty, too."

Time stopped.

When she could speak again, his teacher asked him, "Do you know why the tomb was empty?"

"Oh, yes," Jeremy said, "Jesus was killed and put in there. Then His Father raised Him up to heaven."

The break time bell rang. While the children excitedly ran out to the playground, the teacher cried. The worries and anxieties inside her melted completely away and she knew he was in the right school. He had taught her so much.

Three months later, Jeremy died. Those who paid their respects at the mortuary were surprised to see 19 eggs on top of his casket, all of them empty.



Inspections ...

On 27th February we welcomed Ofsted to White Woman Lane Junior School. The Inspector confirmed that the school continues to be 'Good' and has demonstrated 'strong practice and marked improvement which may indicate that the school is improving towards being outstanding'.

The report states that the school provides a 'highly positive, warm and vibrant atmosphere within which pupils are valued as individuals' and that our 'Pupils develop into well-rounded individuals who are mature and reflective'. The Inspector notes that pupils thrive as a result, both in relation to their personal development and their academic achievement.

The report acknowledges the school's high expectations, strong academic results and the great investment we make in supporting the emotional and social needs of pupils, including promoting their good mental health.

The Inspector states that our partnership of schools has strengthened the school's ability to provide wider training and development opportunities for staff, to use resources more cost effectively and strengthen leadership. Many congratulations to the staff and pupils; I would like to thank them for all their hard work and for taking courageous steps together on the journey towards excellence.

SIAMs ...

Last term we had two Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMs) inspections for two of our Church schools - Old Catton Junior and St. Faiths' Primary School. SIAMs judges the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school as a Church of England school and aims to help schools improve as church schools. Both schools were judged to be 'Good'. The Inspector reported that Old Catton school's core values of love, hope and joy inspire and enable pupils to strive for excellence and be successful and resilient and this takes place within a caring Christian community which encourages a strong sense of self.

St Faiths' report says the school captures a strong, family atmosphere which permeates all aspects of the life of this thriving church school. Drawing on its Christian values of respect and justice, the school is rooted in an inclusive and supportive approach towards all learners, by 'celebrating diversity and difference'.

Please see the schools' websites for the full report.

The school received an extremely positive letter as a result of the Ofsted. If you would like to read it in full, it may be found on the school website;

www.whitewomanlane.norfolk.sch.uk

Huge congratulations to Mrs Pellatt, Mr Richmond, Mr Johnson and their team.

