

Frettenham Primary School
Hainford Primary School
Horsford Primary School
Old Catton Junior School
White Woman Lane School
St. Faiths' Primary School



Nebula
where stars are born

Ashley Best-White
Executive Headteacher

9 December 2021



Dear Parents and Carers

I cannot believe that we are already in December! Our schools are incredibly busy as usual with Christmas festivities alongside the normal school events and continuing hard work and learning in lessons. Each of our schools will let parents know what Christmas events are taking place at each school, ensuring our children have as much as a 'normal' Christmas experience at school as possible, given the current situation and our risk assessments. I'm sure the children will enjoy the rehearsals for their various plays, Nativities, singing performances, Church services as well as Christmas Jumper days, Christmas lunches, Rudolph Runs and live screening of a panto ... to name just a few of the events taking place across our schools.

As you will have noticed with signs in shops and restaurants, the country is currently short staffed. Our schools have been no different over this half term particularly. Across our schools, at different times, we have experienced a high level of staff absence with a range of illnesses throughout the term and this is really unusual for us. Our staff are normally able to drag themselves in - but this year, whether it is due to Covid, the illnesses being stronger, or because the staff are already so worn out from working through a pandemic, our staff are really suffering. I do ask that you are understanding in the current climate. We are trying our very best to ensure we meet the needs of our young people, but it is not always possible to deliver everything as we would normally do. We have been very fortunate that it has not been necessary to close any of our schools due to insufficient staffing but we do know of schools where this has had to happen.

Thank you so much to those of you who have noticed when our schools have been short staffed and have offered your full support and understanding about the situation we find ourselves in. I would like to take the opportunity once again, to say a huge and heartfelt thank you to our amazing staff who every day make a real and vital difference to the lives of our children. It is a difficult time for everyone but I know we will find our way through it - as we always do - generally still with a smile on our face! Your children continue to be amazing.

Layering Up

As the weather turns colder outside we would encourage you to send your children to school with layers on as we are still keeping the classrooms well ventilated due to Covid 19. If they get too hot, they can always remove a layer. Please also remember that all children should have a warm, waterproof coat in school for breaks and lunchtimes.



Free School Meals Over School Holidays

Are you eligible and not claiming Free School Meals? If so, you could be missing out on valuable vouchers in the holidays. Children and young people who are eligible for means -tested free school meals will receive food vouchers over the Christmas 2021-22 and February 2022 half-term holidays. Over the Christmas holidays, each eligible child will receive £55 in vouchers and at half term, they will receive £15. The vouchers can be ordered via the school and used in any supermarket. If you

have not completed an application to claim free school meals for your child (even if they do not always wish to have them) or think you are eligible, then please contact the office for an application form or alternatively, to see if you qualify, visit www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals



Families in hardship and needing wider support - Norfolk Assistance Scheme (NAS)

In addition to the offer of FSM vouchers for eligible families, there is support available for families who are facing hardship and need support. Please see the link; [attached a Norfolk Assistance Scheme \(NAS\) information leaflet](#).

Anyone experiencing hardship may be able to receive support through the NAS, which may be able to provide support for food, fuel, clothes and other essential household items. You may also get in touch with NAS via their dedicated website which includes an online application form at [Norfolk Assistance Scheme - Norfolk County Council](#) or alternatively, please give them a call on 0344 800 8020.

Household Support Fund

The government has made funds available to provide vulnerable households in most need of support; who would otherwise struggle to buy food or pay essential utility bills, or meet other essential living costs this winter as the economy recovers. The Household Support Fund is a one-off piece of funding for this financial year only.

This fund can be used to provide food, support with energy bills for any form of fuel that is used for the purpose of domestic heating, cooking or lighting and for household essentials. Please contact your child's school if you need help and we can make an application on your behalf with a few details from you.

Safeguarding at Nebula Federation Schools

At all our schools, we take the safety of our children very seriously. If you ever have a concern about a child or adult please speak to any member of staff who will support you, alternatively you can ask to speak with one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads. On our websites, there is also some helpful information for you. Most recently, we have provided information about keeping your child safe when online for example.

We are able to offer support with many family issues, so please do make contact with your child's school if you would like to discuss anything that we might be able to help with. If we can't help, we may be able to put you in touch with someone who can.

Vacancy

We are currently recruiting for a midday supervisor at St. Faiths' Primary School. If you would be interested then please do let us know by contacting the school – 01603 898353.

Thank you for all your continued support, understanding and patience. Stay safe and be kind.

A. D. Best-White