

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

18 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

### **COVID-19 Update**

I am writing to you again with the next update on our response to the spread of COVID-19. Firstly, following yesterday's letter, you will be aware that guidance on staying at home has changed and this is repeated below;

- Anyone with a new, continuous cough or high temperature should stay at home for 14 days, as should every member of the household.
- Everyone should minimise social mixing in the community (being in school is not defined under Government guidance as social mixing).
- Schools are not directed to close at this point. All decisions remain local decisions.

I would ask you to refer to the Government's latest guidance in deciding whether your child should attend school. I fully recognise that these can be difficult decisions.

There is much discussion and debate about the Government's decision to keep schools open and for as long as this remains the strategy, I am obliged to do this each day until this advice changes.

The starting point for decision-making every day always has to be whether the school has enough staff on site to keep children safe. As more staff are required to stay at home, we have fewer staff available.

I want you to understand the process undertaken when making a decision and the possible scenarios over the next few days and weeks.

- Today we plan for tomorrow and the starting point is 'Do we have enough staff to open and keep pupils safe?'
- If we reach the point where we do not have enough staff to keep the whole school open, we will make a decision to see how much of the school we could keep open.

- If we decide to have partial opening (i.e. not open for all pupils) we will work in a priority order, trying to stay open for Year 6 first of all and we will confirm each day if this is still sustainable.
- We are very conscious that we want to do everything we can to prevent workers in our health and social care systems (e.g. Nurses, Paramedics, Health care Workers, Care Home workers, Social Workers) having to take time off to look after their children.
- We will ensure we provide online and offline work for home learning for pupils at home in the event of closure. Our websites already have some work on them that you and your children can use.
- You should expect changes in how we operate including pupils not having their regular teachers or being in their regular groups.

I am very grateful for all the kindness and support so many parents have shown to us over the past few days. I recognise that as we move into a more difficult situation, many parents will disagree with our actions. Our staff continue to follow the guidance we have been given and to provide a service to our families and communities. I suggest that what we can all do, is to be kind to each other.

I continue to wish you and your families the very best at this time and the days ahead.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. D. Best-White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i' in "White".

Ashley Best-White  
Executive Headteacher  
The nebula Federation