

## Message from the Executive Headteacher



Nebula  
where stars are born

Nebula Newsletter  
Issue 13

December 2019

### 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 Kirsty Anatola-

Horsford Primary

Mrs Kate Connelly -

Old Catton Junior

Mrs Jenni Porter &

Miss Katherine Wilson (Senior Teacher)

St. Faiths' Primary

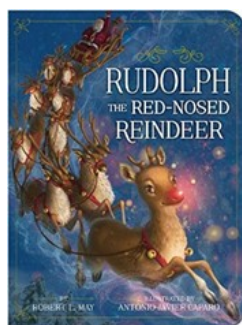
Mr Daniel Richmond &

Mr Nick Johnson -

White Woman Lane Junior

## Christmas stories ...

When I was a child, one of my favourite parts of Christmas Eve was having my parents read stories to me. This was a tradition that I continued when I became a parent myself. The following stories became some of our favourite Christmas stories. I hope you enjoy them just as much with your family this Christmas Eve!



Robert L. May wrote *Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer* at the request of the department store company Montgomery Ward. The story was given out for free to over 2 million children who visited the shops during Christmas of 1939. Robert's brother-in-law, Johnny Marks, saw the popularity of the story and wrote the song we all know and love. From there, the story took off and now we can't imagine Christmas without Rudolph.



*A Gift of the Magi* is a beautiful short story about the personal sacrifices we are willing to make for the ones we love.



*The Fir Tree* is a fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen. It tells the story of a young tree that wants nothing more than to grow up. In focusing so much on the future, the tree forgets to truly appreciate the present. This a great reminder for children and adults alike.



Probably, more suitable for the older reader, *The Greatest Gift* is a short story written by Philip Van Doren Stern in 1943. A suicidal man named George Pratt stands on a bridge on Christmas Eve, ready to jump. Before he can, an odd man approaches him and strikes up a conversation. George admits to the man that he wishes he had never been born. The man tells George that his wish has been

granted, and upon returning to his town, George finds that no one recognizes him. After the initial shock, he realizes just how much he values his life and learns that to throw it all away would be a waste. This story became the basis for the brilliant classic film *It's a Wonderful Life*.



How *The Grinch Stole Christmas!* is a children's story that, even as adults, we enjoy reading every year. Dr. Seuss is great at sneaking deep life lessons into his stories, and in this tale, he demonstrates that Christmas is a spiritual experience, not a material one.

Continued on the back page ...



Ashley Best-White  
Executive Headteacher  
The Nebula Federation

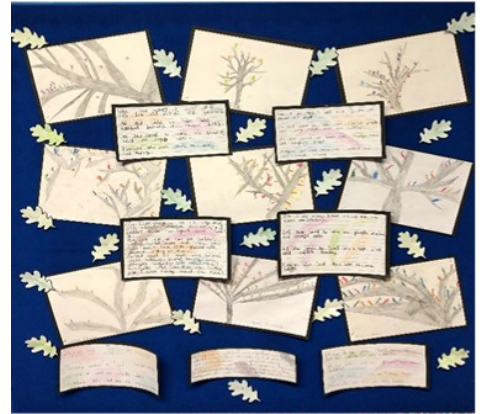


# Autumn Reading Project ...

## The Promise

At the beginning of term Old Catton Junior embarked upon a whole school reading project based on the book, *The Promise* by Nicola Davies. The book is one of our Power of Reading texts and allows us to teach it, at different levels, to all year groups in school. Every class started the year by getting fully immersed in this beautifully illustrated book that tells the tale of a journey that will change a thieving girl's life and gives her a chance to change the world - for good. The story is a magical discovery that caught the imaginations of our pupils and dealt with issues such as the environment, pollution, community, working together and the power one individual holds.

The pupils created beautiful art work, descriptive pieces, letters and dramatic reconstructions through the work on the story. They were able to have deep discussions about the language and the themes found in the story. The reading project gave us a chance early in the term to get to know our new classes and to unpick a story that the whole school could focus on and share as a collaborative adventure.



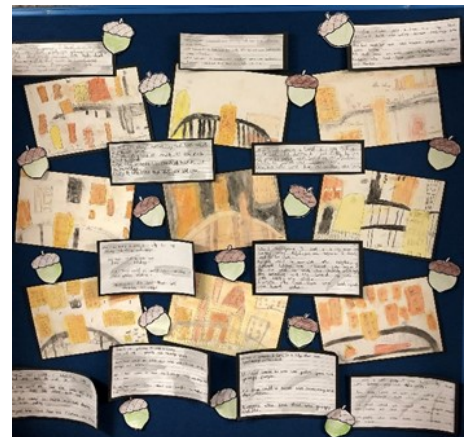
WWL also welcomed the new school year by immersing every child within the whole school reading project, studying 'The Promise' by Nicola Davies; an inspiring picture book that encourages every reader to consider their own actions and their consequences. Inspired by the belief that a relationship with nature is essential to every human being, and that now, more than ever, we need to renew that relationship, 'The Promise' is the story of a magical discovery that touched the hearts and imaginations of every pupil. We followed a young girl's journey from a harsh, urban reality to the beauty and vitality of a changed world. The story provided a rich writing stimulus for our young writers and they enjoyed creating diary entries, poems, setting descriptions and environmental campaigns. We studied the beautifully illustrated pages, focusing on how the use of colour communicates the powerful message of pollution and deforestation. Throughout the book, colour is used to draw attention to the beauty and rarity of nature. 'The Promise' was a perfect choice to underpin our school values at the start of our new school year and many classes used it to create their own 'Class Promise.' The reading project demonstrated how hearts can change, and how one person can change the world, through the smallest act of kindness.



St. Faiths' studied two texts for this year's Nebula Reading project. In Ducklings and Robins the children studied 'Tin Forest' by Helen Ward and the Key Stage 2 text was 'The Promise' by Nicola Davies. The children completed a variety of work based on their chosen texts but one special piece was created by the Robins class, who made a beautiful display, comparing the vibrancy and colour of a real forest, with the dull, subdued metal tones of the Tin Forest.

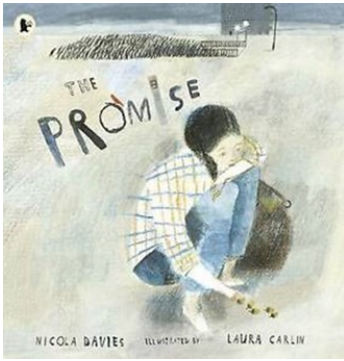


St. Faiths' Primary



White Woman Lane





**Horsford KS1 Reading project : The Tin Forest**

Our KS1 children were excited to begin the school year with our reading project focusing on The Tin Forest. The children very much enjoyed the story and were very concerned about the thought of a world with no plants. They were eager to recreate their own garden in school. We learnt about what a seed needs to grow and then they each wrote their own instructions on how to plant a seed. Finally we all followed our instructions to make sure they were correct. A lovely way to start the year watching our plants grow and flourish alongside the children.



**City List poem**

In the murky city,  
Destroyed by the wind,  
Gloomy,  
Corrupted,  
Trashed by people,  
In the murky city.

In the revolting city,  
Nothing ever grew,  
Rank,  
Expired,  
Subdued,  
Disappointing city,  
In the revolting city.

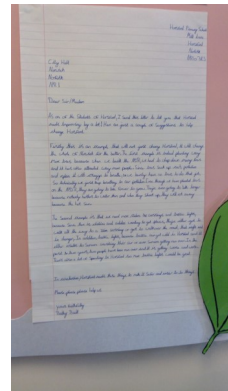
The city is upside down,  
Population is gone,  
Depressed run down,  
It's abandoned,  
The city is upside down.

The city is disappeared,  
Cold and shivery,  
Dark,  
Dismal,  
Frozen like the artic,  
The city is disappeared.

**By Morgan White-Waters.  
Year 5**

**Horsford KS2 Reading project: The Promise.**

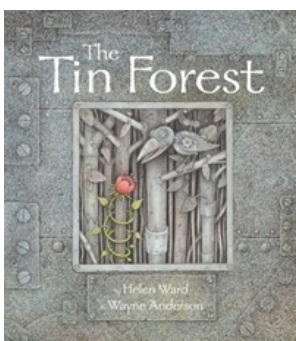
We too began this school year with a whole school Reading Project based on the picture book "The Promise". We chose this book because it has a theme of working together to improve the environment. The children enjoyed listening to the story, dramatizing some parts of it, as well as thinking about Horsford and how we can help to improve the local environment. We wrote promises to do our bit improve the locality and some Y5 and 6 pupils even wrote to the local parish council to share their ideas.



At Hainford Primary, in Class 1 the Reception and Year 1 children created their own Class Tin Forest and wrote lists about what animals they could see. In Class 2 the Year 2 and Year 3 children learnt an adapted version of the story by heart using actions and words and performed it to the whole school. In Class 3 our Year 4, 5 and 6 children wrote poems, setting descriptions and newspaper reports based on the book 'The Promise'.



**Frettenham Primary**





## Residential Trips ...

**Residential trips** are an important part of our curriculum and offer us opportunities to engage the children in different activities and in an environment away from the school. Core values like resilience, responsibility and independence can be developed through the activities we undertake and we often see the children on return to school showing an increased confidence in the way they approach their learning.

This term, pupils from White Woman Lane, Old Catton Junior and Horsford Primary attended residential trips which included some adventurous activities. White Woman Lane and Old Catton went to Hilltop in Sheringham and Horsford Primary enjoyed their trip to Thorpe Woodlands in Thetford.



### Horsford Y5/6 residential visit to Thorpe Woodlands

59 pupils from Year 5 and 6 at Horsford Primary visited Thorpe Woodlands Adventure Centre, in Thetford Forest last month. The weather was cold and wet but that didn't stop them having an amazing time! The children took part in a range of adventures including: zip wire, climbing, canoeing, biking, tree trekking, caving and archery. They were encouraged to push themselves out of their comfort zones and they rose to the challenges superbly! They also enjoyed the night walk in the forest, scavenger hunt and campfires each evening. The children were a credit to the school and a pleasure to spend time with.



## Thorpe Woodlands and Hilltop ...

Let's  
READ

Dream Big  
READ!

READING

is to the

MIND

what

exercise

is to the BODY.

Mr Richard Davis

READ





On Wednesday 20th November, 44 Year 5 children arrived at the Hilltop Activity Centre in Sheringham ready for three, jam-packed days of adventurous action. "Challenge by Choice" was the motto, explained to their eager faces by the activity leader and these Year 5s certainly challenged themselves! With chilled out activities such as Archery, Orienteering and Team Building to the terrifying heights of High Ropes, Vertical Challenge and Crate Stacking, it was smiling faces all round. The children certainly seemed to love it all. They battled freezing winds and aching limbs, but with the help of their encouraging peers (and plenty of hot chocolate!) they certainly made Old Catton Junior School proud.



Also, in November, Year 5 pupils from White Woman Lane went on a 3 day residential to Hilltop Outdoor Activity Centre. The children took part in many exciting activities such as Zipline, Tree Top Trail, Bikes, Archery, Assault Course and many more. Along with night-time activities and fantastic meals, the children had a great time. They faced challenges and fears, pushed themselves and worked on responsibility and independence. Whether it was raining or dry, they showed the same enthusiasm and positivity. Well done Year 5!

## A visit from The Bishop of Norwich ...

On Wednesday 4th December Old Catton Junior School had the privilege of Bishop Graham coming into school to take part in Collective Worship. Bishop Graham spoke to the whole school about what it means to be a Bishop and explained his role through the stories of St Nicholas, The Good Shepherd and the Prodigal Son. The children were treated to seeing some of the special items that a Bishop is allowed to wear and Year 6 were able to stay behind for an extra questions and answers session. It was a real pleasure to have Bishop Graham meet our pupils and to be part of an Assembly that I am sure they will all remember.



... Read, Read, Read ...

IF YOU  
CAN READ,  
YOU CAN  
LEARN  
ANYTHING  
!

READERS  
*make great*  
LEADERS








# Images of Christmas 2019 ...

We have enjoyed so many Christmas concerts, Carol Services, Christmas plays and Nativities during the last couple of weeks. Thank you to everyone involved!

*May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.*

On Monday 2nd December Year 3/4 from Horsford Primary attended an advent celebration at Horsford Church. They brought white decorations, which they placed on the tree and Reverend Margaret told them all about Advent and why this time of year is so special to Christians. Lastly, we were given figures of Mary & Joseph to return to the school with. Mary & Joseph have travelled around the school, visiting each classroom on their Posada journey throughout the school and Mary & Joseph will return to Horsford Church when we have our school carol service there on Monday 16th of December.

On Monday 9th December Year 3/4 performed their Christmas show. This was a traditional retelling of the story of the first Christmas, complete with readings from The Bible and songs, many of which included solo or duet singing.



## A Wriggly Nativity at St. Faiths'

This term our Year 1 and 2 children have taken the Nativity gauntlet with the whole-school production - A Wriggly Nativity. The children worked hard to learn their lines and Miss Woolley created a great show in her St Faiths' directorial debut. The show was a fun and interactive way of sharing the story of Jesus' birth through catchy songs and detailed dances. We performed at the St Faiths' Centre to two sold-out audiences full of proud family members and friends.



St. Faiths' has also had our Christingle service where we sang a variety of traditional carols in church. The children worked in their house teams to create their Christingles in school before taking them to church for the afternoon service. The candles and tape were donated by The Children's Society, while the Friends of St Faiths' provided some yummy dolly mixtures and juicy oranges! The message of Christingle was delivered by Reverend Rosemary and the children's singing raised the church roof, creating a lovely and festive afternoon, filling us with Christmas spirit. We wore Christmas jumpers too and asked for a donation to give back to The Children's Society and raised almost £70.



**White Woman Lane**  
**Year 3 and 4**  
The Elf (left) on the shelf

**St. Faiths' Primary School**





# More images of Christmas 2019 ...



**Hainford Primary**  
*The Nativity Hainford Church*

At Old Catton Junior School Year 3 and Year 4 transported us to Sherwood Forest for their Robin Hood inspired, "Hoodwinked" Christmas Performances. The shows delighted audiences with beautiful singing, amazing acting, clearly memorised lines and punchlines aplenty. We all watched the lower school pupils perform their hearts out and felt amazingly proud of what they achieved together. Whether they took a leading role or were part of the choir, they all shone together on stage and we loved watching them. Well done to all the children and to the brilliant Teachers and TAs who helped make it all happen.



**Old Catton Junior**  
**Years 3 and 4**  
*"Hoodwinked"*



**Frettenham Primary**  
*The Nativity in the church*



**Horsford Primary - Holt Road**  
*Reception - The First Christmas*

# Shakespeare Schools Festival

The charity, Shakespeare Schools Festival, is the UK's largest youth drama festival. Four of the schools in the Nebula Partnership took part in the **Shakespeare Schools Festival** this term; Horsford Primary, Old Catton Junior, White Woman Lane and St. Faiths' Primary. Each school performed a half-hour abridged version of a Shakespeare play at the Norwich Playhouse, on the professional stage with a full audience of family and friends. Shakespeare Schools Festival aims to engage children through an active way of learning. In preparing and performing the plays our pupils learn about Shakespeare's language, themes and characters - but they learn much more besides. They learn to embrace the diverse characters, styles and stories of Shakespeare and the stories are made accessible to them through this process. This project also unites the cast and performing in a professional theatre on a real stage to a live audience can also make the experience fun, or terrifying, hilarious or deeply moving, and all of the above!

**A Midsummer Night's Dream**

The Kingfishers at St Faiths' opened the show with their interpretation of A Midsummer Night's Dream. Children were given parts based on their acting preferences and nobody being disappointed. It was an excellent way for the new class to get to know each other and great friendships were formed and cemented. The performance was a first for many of the children and they were incredibly sensible and professional at the theatre. Coupled with fish and chips at the Grosvenor Fish Bar, the whole experience was entertaining, confidence-boosting and great fun. I really couldn't have been prouder of the children who worked so hard to learn lines, create costumes and put on an exceptional show.

~ Miss Wilson



St. Faiths' Primary  
A Midsummer's Night Dream

"Every child in every school ought to have the chance to experience this magical process. To bring the enchantment of Shakespeare to thousands of children - there's no more magical process in the whole of education. Long live the Shakespeare Schools Festival!"

Philip Pullman, SSF Patron



Horsford Primary  
Hamlet



The best thing about the cast of Shakespeare was that the stage was really big and had lots of space to perform. I also liked all of the costumes because they were all really detailed to the performer. There were so many people there, which was really fun. I can't believe that I had the opportunity to perform. I would like to say thank you to my teachers, Mrs James and Mrs Kirton, for making the play happen and for us to do the production - **Olivia Eldridge, Horsford Primary.**



The best thing about the cast of Hamlet was we got to perform in front of hundreds of people and the costumes were very detailed to the characters that were wearing them. It was also very fun when we practised in the afternoon. When we were performing on the stage it was scary however half way through the play I was so proud of myself! I had such a lovely time watching the other performances and thank you to Mrs James for being the director! I have made so many memories - **Katelyn Bone, Horsford Primary.**



## Star Wars and Shakespeare ...

### White Woman Lane - King Lear

It has been a privilege to direct and produce a Shakespearean production at the Norwich Playhouse. During the first six weeks of the school year, the Year 6 (Set 1 Literacy) group have been thoroughly dedicated to the production; learning their lines and stage instructions and listening to and carrying out every detail towards their performance.

On the performance night the group performed to the very best of their abilities, concentrating on the stage and working as a team to produce a very visual and cinematic 'Star Wars' version of King Lear. Performing on a professional stage, under professional lighting and in front of almost 300 people is very daunting and the children have been left physically and emotionally drained...but very happy. I would like to thank them all (and their families ) for their splendid effort. I'd also like to thank Mr Savage for his assistance back stage during the performance and the many other Staff and Pupils at WWL who were kind enough to allow us to borrow 'Light Sabres' and other Star Wars related paraphernalia. Well done team.

- Mr R Queensborough



White  
Woman Lane

King Lear

As part of Miss Strange's English set, we performed an outstanding version of 'The Tempest' on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November at the Norwich Playhouse. We worked really hard for 7 weeks to produce an amazing performance and our hard work really paid off. We remembered all of our lines and with the addition of the props, it looked excellent! Everyone gave their all when learning lines, placing props, remembering cues and adding passion to our work. After practising Scene 1 so many times, it was a great feeling when everyone complimented our soundscape. We all thought that our two-headed Caliban was stupendous, as well as our drunken Stephano.

Of course, we could not have done it all without our Teacher-Directors Miss Strange and Mrs Gray. Without their hard work, we could not have been in the Shakespeare for Schools Festival and gained such a memorable experience.

**Erin Langescov (Prospero) and Sophie Lee (King Alonso)**  
Old Catton Junior School



Old Catton Junior  
The Tempest





## Sport and the arts ...

This term our Key Stage One pupils participated in a multi-skills festival at Horsford Primary School. The children were very active and enjoyed developing their skills. We then held our third Nebula Tag-Rugby in November, also at the Mill Lane site. It was perfect weather! Over the course of the day pupils played competitive tag-rugby whilst receiving coaching at the same time. All pupils seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves and played well and within the spirit of the game. This year, there was a noticeable improvement in the standard in both age ranges, a testament to the teaching of the children and their desire to learn the game and play to the best of their ability. Our thanks to all the coaches for their patience and enthusiasm and for making our festival fun!

Paul Hunter, from the Norwich City Community Sports Foundation, who organised the event for us, said "The day itself was fantastic and the standard of rugby just continues to improve. In the Year 5/6 events there were some excellent phases of play and superb stand out performances. The Year 3/4 standard was also higher than last year, pupils were engaged and played some nice rugby."



Qualifying finalists from the NESSP Cross Country event at North Walsham. These finalists will take part in the Norfolk School Games Cross Country Final in the new year.



## A message from the Chair of Governors ...

As chair of the governing board of the Nebula Federation, I fully understand and appreciate that parents will talk about their opinions of the positives and negatives of our schools. However it has been brought to the attention of the governors that some staff members have been the subject of critical and unpleasant comments that have been made on various social media sites. These posts have caused frustration and concern. Whilst some have been confined to private groups the nature of social media is that word spreads beyond the initial group members and it is causing harm. The governors will not tolerate any abuse that is directed towards the staff, whether online or otherwise. The governors will take all reasonable and proportionate steps to protect their staff who are hardworking, loyal and committed to the education of the children within their care.

Can I please ask parents and carers that if you are unhappy about anything or have specific concerns about your child or the school, that you arrange to talk, in the first instance, to either your child's class teacher or the Head of School. The senior leadership team (Miss Anatola, Mrs Pellatt, Mrs Porter and Mrs Best-White) are also available as appropriate. All staff are very approachable and only by talking through your concerns, can anything be resolved. It is in everyone's best interests that any concerns are dealt with promptly.

Thank you for your support to the schools this term and the governing board wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Judy Leggett

Chair of the Nebula Federation Governing Board





# Premier Arts Dance Showdown

Children from four of the Nebula Schools took to the stage in Premier Performing Arts Dance the theme for this particular show was "Christmas" which led to some truly magical performances as the Schools got creative with music, dance moves and Christmas costumes and tinsel!

It was clear to see that some real enthusiasm and passion had gone into all the Schools rehearsals, as each performance was so well choreographed, executed and full of imaginative movements.

Children as young as five performed in front of their parents, families and teachers at the city centre venue, The Puppet Theatre, on Friday evening.

The Schools that took part were Lodge Lane Infant School, Attleborough Primary, Horsford Primary, St. Faiths' (including a pupil from Hainford Primary) and Old Catton Junior.

The event was organised by Premier Performing Arts who provide professional dance coaches to choreograph, teach and perfect the routines at the Schools in extra-curricular clubs.

The children really had such a fantastic time and were beautifully behaved and so appreciative of their dance coaches. The opportunity to share their learning experience with so many people in such a fantastic venue was one that I'm sure they will always remember.



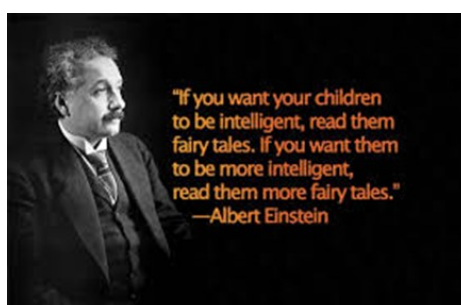
Old Catton



Horsford Primary



St. Faiths' and Hainford







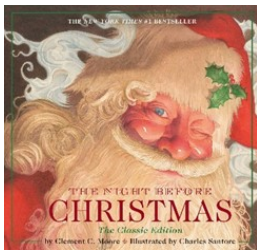
# Christmas stories to read ...

## THE POLAR EXPRESS



"Seeing is believing, but sometimes the most real things in the world are the things we can't see."  
Chris Van Allsburg

In the middle of the night, a young boy is awakes to the sound of a train pulling up outside his house. The train is full of children and it takes them to the North Pole where he gets to meet Santa Claus. This book was turned into a fantastic film that we also recommend checking out.

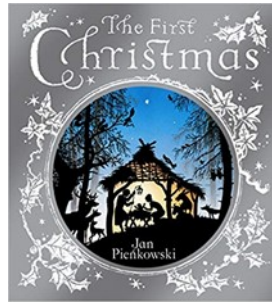


Although commonly referred to as 'Twas The Night Before Christmas,' this children's Christmas poem is actually titled *A visit from St. Nicholas*. It's Christmas Eve, and the entire house is sleeping—all except one little boy, woken by the jingle of bells and the clatter of reindeer hooves on the roof. As he tiptoes downstairs, who will he find?

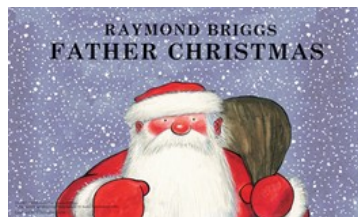


Who doesn't love Mog? Even though Judith Kerr made us accept that the tubby tabby is now chasing mice in the sky in *Goodbye Mog*, she lives on in the earlier classics. The house is full of strange bustling, there are new noises and new smells, and where is that tree going? Disconcerted by all the unusual activities, Mog escapes to the roof,

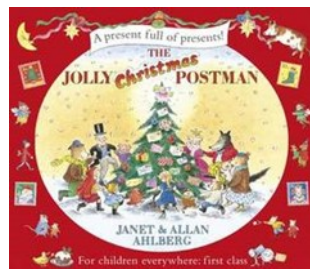
and there she stays...until, unexpectedly, she returns with a bump!



Stunning silhouettes by Jan Pienkowski, the master of dramatic design, bring to life the story of the very first Christmas. With words from the King James Bible, which is hard to beat when it comes to the nativity story and reads like a service sheet for a traditional carol service. This is a truly classic and beautiful book to be treasured.



In complete contrast, here is the secular side of the story. Father Christmas or Santa Claus, as he is known across the Pond, doesn't have much in common in this version with the Saint Nicholas his legend is based on. In fact he's a grumpy old man with a cold who does not relish his job at all! "Bloomin' reindeer, bloomin' cat" he grumbles.



As you might expect, this is a lot jollier! The new edition has the strapline: "A present full of presents" and it certainly lives up to the original *Jolly Postman*, in which the Ahlbergs came up with the inspired idea of including real letters in envelopes because children love mail and hardly ever receive any. It's Christmas Eve and the Jolly

Postman is delivering greetings to everyone's favourite fairy-tale characters. He has a card for Baby Bear, a game for Red Riding Hood, a get-well jigsaw for poor Humpty Dumpty and lots more packages to deliver! The Jolly Postman keeps on peddling his bicycle up hill and down dale. . . and into everybody's hearts.



This is but a small selection of well loved stories and books that have been enjoyed over and over again at Christmas.

I'm sure that you and your children have your favourite Christmas books too ... what are the top ten recommended Christmas books from the parents and children of the Nebula Federation?

Please share your favourite Christmas book by following the link below and we will compile the Nebula Top Ten.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSemcCFnAv9tFhZVU8itWItZrKs6UpbDUcC70NK775qHH2IYEA>

### This term we say 'Goodbye' to ...

- Miss Holly Gilbert - Horsford Primary
- Mrs Harriet Fuller - maternity leave
- Mrs Claire James - Horsford Primary - maternity leave
- Miss Roxy Mason - Frettenham Primary - maternity leave

### In January 2020 we will welcome ...

- Mrs Teresa Linford - Horsford Primary
- Mrs Laima Laws - Horsford Primary
- Mr Patrick Kavanagh - Frettenham Primary
- Mrs Becky Quiles-Richmond—WWL

