

Message from the Executive Headteacher



Nebula
where stars are born

Issue 3

July 2016

THE SCHOOLS IN OUR PARTNERSHIP

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

One more step ...

I wonder how many of our schools ended this academic year with the familiar refrain of 'One more step along the world I go'?

The end of a school year is a time of reflection, it's a time when we look forward with the children – we look back at what they've achieved and what they've become as they prepare to take their next steps and move on from either their primary school (or infant or junior); or even from class to class. And the children also look back and look forwards. They think about all the steps they've made – and the steps they will take in the future.

We look forward too and wonder what may lie ahead for them and we are aware that;

'Children are the messages we send to a future we may never see'.

We all set out from somewhere. Adults as well as the children. And we hope they know that, whatever their achievements, development and progress, they will realise that their life and their future is their own. And that they, even alone, can make a difference.

We aspire for them to step into their futures believing in themselves, and with confi-

dence and the self-assurance we hope the time and nurturing at our schools have helped to instil in them. As they take the exciting steps into their future we must continue to remind them that;

'You've gotta dance like nobody's watching; dream like you will live forever; live today like there's no tomorrow; and love like it's never going to hurt' (Mem Grifsters).

Of course, you may have heard another favourite ringing out of the respective school halls at the end of term. The lyrics of 'Believe' by Lynn Marsh really sum up the confidence and self assurance and the strong sense of self belief we want for all our children (you may also have heard this song sung at 'Sing Up' earlier this term);

***I can do anything at all,
I can climb the highest mountain,***

I can feel the ocean calling wild and free.

***I can be anything I want,
With this hope to drive me onward,***

If I can just believe in me.

It is the time of year when thought turns particularly towards a school's performance, as children have results from their SATs and our attention does get drawn to the criteria by which schools – and their pupils, staff and

governors – are measured, And by which success is judged.

So what is success? What does it really look like, feel like? Albert Einstein said;

'Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted'.

We aspire in our schools to stay true to the goal of developing and educating the whole child. An holistic approach to education which celebrates the life, gift, talents and abilities of each child.

So what is success? Success is that our children leave us with a strong sense of self, confident and secure and able to believe in themselves and what they can achieve.

May I take this opportunity to wish all who leave us a happy and successful future.



Ashley Best-White
Executive Headteacher
The Nebula Partnership

Congratulations to Hainford Primary

Hainford Primary School was inspected by Ofsted on 16th and 17th June 2016. It was judged to be 'Good' in every category and 'Good' overall.

The strengths of the school were identified as follows;

- The executive headteacher has high aspirations for pupils and staff. Her passionate and determined leadership, ably supported by other senior leaders, is driving rapid improvement across the school.
- Governors know the school's strengths and areas to improve very well. They challenge leaders effectively.
- The quality of teaching is now good. Staff use assessment effectively to plan work that is well matched to pupils' needs in reading, writing and mathematics. As a result, current pupils are making good progress in these subjects.

- Actions taken by the early years leader over the last year, together with good teaching, have transformed the early years. Children make good progress and are well prepared for Year 1.
- The curriculum is well designed and provides pupils with a range of rich experiences to enthuse them, as well as improving their basic skills.
- This contributes well to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness and ensures that they are well prepared for life modern Britain.
- Pupils' behaviour is good in lessons and across the school. They are polite and courteous to each other and to all adults, and have positive attitudes to learning.
- Pupils feel safe at school. Leaders ensure that systems

to keep pupils safe are effective and respond to the individual needs of pupils.

- Partnerships with parents are strong. Virtually all parents are highly positive about the education and care their children receive.

The Ofsted Inspector also gave the school an indication of what it needs to do next in order to improve further. Her suggestions were as follows;

Improve the quality of teaching across the school to achieve outstanding outcomes by:

- sharing the strong practice which exists in the partnership to further develop the quality of teaching over time in the school
- ensuring that subjects other than English and mathematics are taught in sufficient breadth and depth so that pupils develop their knowledge and understanding at levels appropriate for their age
- refining the recently introduced assessment systems to provide leaders and teachers with enhanced information about pupils' outcomes in all subjects.

The full report may be seen on the Hainford Primary School website or on the Ofsted website.

City Sports - 4th, 5th and 6th July

Well done to all the children who represented us at City Sports this year; they were ALL brilliant!

There were twenty three schools who competed in this annual event and the Harnser Federation entered a team for the very first time this year.

The City Sports Event takes place over three days. There is a field event that takes place after school where children compete in the high jump, long jump and throwing events. The track events take place over two afternoons; during the first afternoon the heats take place and the second afternoon is when the semi-finals (for the relays) and all the finals take place with the addition of the 800m.

The children competed enthusiastically and supported each other throughout the day. I just wanted to take this opportunity to let you know how proud I was of our children and how they did their schools and their parents proud!

I also wanted to let you know about the comments we had about the impeccable behaviour of our children and their tremendous team spirit!

Many thanks too, to all the parents who came along to support their children and the teams.

All of our teams were placed;

Field Trophy: Drayton 24 pts, Avenues 23 pts and White Woman Lane 21 pts

Relay Trophy: Drayton 30 pts, Falcon 14 pts, St. Francis and Avenues 13 pts

Girls' Shield: Cringleford 57 pts, Avenue 34 pts, Falcon 28 pts

Boys' Shield: Drayton 57 pts, Avenue 34 pts, White Woman Lane 32 pts

Jackson Trophy (Small Schools): Cringleford 44 pts, Old Catton Junior 35 pts, Horsford Primary 19 pts

Overall Trophy: Drayton 92 pts, Avenue 58 pts, White Woman Lane 57 pts

Congratulations to everyone at Hainford Primary School

Small School's Relay Trophy: Cringleford 10 pts, Old Catton Junior 9 pts, Harnser Federation 2 pts.

Congratulations everyone!

Whitlingham and Whitwell



SING UP

On Friday 17 June, the Sprowston Cluster proudly presented 'Sing Up 5'. Pupils and staff from schools across the partnership came together to perform at the fifth Sprowston Cluster 'Sing up' Festival at St Andrew's Hall. The schools involved from our partnership were Frettenham Primary, Hainford Primary, Old Catton Junior and White Woman Lane Junior. The children, along with their dedicated singing teachers had worked very hard preparing their songs to perform. Hainford and Frettenham Partnership performed 'Video Killed the Radio Star' and 'Queen Rock Medley'. White Woman Lane performed with their feeder school, Lodge

Lane, 'Grease Lightning' and 'Man in the Mirror' and Old Catton performed with Garrick Green Infant School, 'We Go Together' and 'Help'.

All of the children also performed compositions by the organisers; 'Better Place', 'Singing Playgrounds', 'Creepy Castle' and 'Believe'.

Everyone was so impressed with the behaviour, effort and beautiful voices of the pupils.

There were some very proud families of the Sprowston Cluster pupils and many thanks to all the family members and friends who supported the children. Many thanks too, to Mr Reeve, Mrs Allison and Mr West for all their hard work.



A lovely Friday afternoon!

SkillForce - Awards Ceremony

The schools in our partnership took part in the second SkillForce Awards Ceremony on Thursday 14 July. Year 5 pupils from all our school were presented with certificates to celebrate their achievements during the programme.

Frettenham Primary, Hainford Primary, Horsford Primary, White Woman Lane Junior School, Old Catton Junior School, St. Faiths' Primary and Drayton Junior School held a joint ceremony in the Birkbeck Hall at The Great Hospital in Norwich.

The awards were presented by Peter Cross OBE, Founder and President of the SkillForce Charity and were given to celebrate the achievements of young pupils who entered into the scheme in September last year.

The SkillForce Junior Prince's Award programme draws on the

values and skills of ex-Forces personnel to inspire young people to achieve at school. It includes; team-building, problem solving challenges, team sports, outdoor pursuits, first aid and navigation skills.

The award has run alongside the pupils' studies throughout the year and rewards young people who have demonstrated significant character development, and have made a contribution to their local community.

We were very excited to once again be hosting an awards ceremony to celebrate the success of our pupils. They have thrown themselves headfirst into the new scheme, and teachers are certainly seeing the benefits of the programme.

It has helped to raise confidence and resilience. The scheme is designed to gear pupils up for

The transition to high school and to enable them the opportunity to work with children outside of their own school.

Peter Cross explained to the children how the award had been created and how involved the charity's Royal patron, the Duke of Cambridge had been. He had been keen that the children had participated in new activities and skills such as the navigation award and Heartstart First Aid programme as part of the award, and was also keen that the children should study Remembrance as part of the award; this year the children had focused on the Battle of the Somme as it is the 100 year anniversary of this event. Peter also delivered a message to the children from Prince William, congratulating the children on their achievements.



City Sports - 4th, 5th and 6th July



The first ever Harnser Team to represent their schools at the City Sports

Children can only aspire to what they know exists



Relay Winners!



Nebula Showcase

On 12 July at Hellesdon High school, we held a Nebula Showcase so that parents could see a sample of the wide range of work and experiences that are going on in our schools, focusing on dance, music and drama.

The schools were asked not to prepare anything new but rather Showcase all the amazing things the children had participated in throughout the year and the range of performances was amazing!

We had singing; a range of songs the children had performed at the CASMA and Sing Up events.

We had Shakespeare performed—a wonderful reminder of the extraordinary productions we enjoyed at the Shakespeare schools Festival at the Norwich Playhouse earlier this academic year.

We enjoyed dance; including street dance and musical theatre.

And music - what a fabulous range of music - guitar, keyboards, drums, a Samba band and a taste of African drumming.

We should not underestimate the courage of the young people who performed on the stage at Hellesdon High School to a very large audience.

A huge thank you to everyone who performed - and a massive thank you to our audience; for your enthusiasm and patience!



A NEBULA HOODIE

All our Year 6 leavers were presented with a Nebula Hoodie. We know they will have enjoyed all the events their individual schools will have organised for them but wanted to acknowledge the part they have played as pupils of the Nebula Partnership too.

Assessment and standards

This last year has seen ever increasing tinkering with the educational system in curriculum content, assessment and inspection. In our schools we have had a number of changes and challenges such as the introduction of a baseline assessment for 4 year olds and new end of key stage 2 tests for our Year 6 pupils.

This level of change requires our schools to make a huge and sustained investment in teacher development particularly as it can take four or five years for teachers to fully embed curriculum change in the classroom.

I know how difficult it has been to try and backfill the content, skills and knowledge required of a new curriculum and teach the new curriculum for the current year. Our year 6 pupils had to learn a brand new curriculum in Year 5 and 6 and backfill the new content and requirements which were put in place for Years 3 and 4; how can that be fair for these children and their teachers? Assessment, to be blunt, has been a train wreck.

Chaotic and confused and ambiguous throughout the year on the expected standard: Arbitrary changes of deadline and clarifications, and an abundance of clarifications, and then clarifications about the clarifications.

We now have the results and our children (and teachers) have done well, extremely well. The government has committed to a floor standard for attainment of sixty five per cent, but this is likely to change as nationally only 53% of pupils have met the expected standard in reading writing and maths.

For primaries it is the progress measure that matters. We will not know the progress floor until well into the autumn term.

The last Education Secretary, Nicky Morgan, announced before her departure that the new grading structures means that comparisons cannot be made with previous results; so I expect the confusion about assessment and standards to continue for some time yet!

THE FOLLOWING STAFF WILL BE LEAVING US AT THE END OF TERM WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THEM AND SEND OUR VERY BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE:

WWL:

- MRS RACHEL BROOKS

- MISS ELIZABETH BUFTON

OCS:

- MR CHRISTIAN WEST

- MISS RACHEL HOLMES

HORSFORD PRIMARY:

- MISS NATASHA LEE

HAINFORD PRIMARY:

- MRS ANGELA MARSHALL

- MRS ABIGAIL BRIGDEN

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS STAFF:

WWL:

- MISS ANNA STACKWOOD

- MISS DANIELLE COATES

OCS:

- MR STEPHEN PRITCHETT

- MISS KATIE RICHARDSON

HORSFORD PRIMARY:

- MISS REBECCA CHENERY

HAINFORD PRIMARY:

- MISS AMY WILLIAMS