

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

8 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you all well and enjoying some time with wider family and friends now some of the lockdown measures have been relaxed a little.

I would like to say a massive thank you to you all once again for your continued support during the Coronavirus pandemic. I would also like to thank our staff and pupils; I have been so proud of how the staff and children have risen to the challenges that have come our way.

The whole demeanour and support of staff for each other and the children has been incredible. Our school leaders and their teams have responded to these unprecedented times and gone above and beyond their roles. In all my 33 years of working in education, I have never known a time where I would have been able to stand in front of all of them and be so ultimately proud. It has been quite humbling, and I think it has changed every single one of us.

Everything we have been asked to do we have done. We have followed all the requisite policies and guidance and implemented them, in a way which has worked for each of our schools' specific circumstances. As a result, I believe that our school communities has been well served, well informed, and well looked after during this very difficult time.

People's thoughts have now inevitably turned to September and what it means for our schools. The Government guidance on how all children return to school in September was issued on Thursday 2 July. The message from government is currently that **all** pupils will be back in school full-time in September.

We are now working through the detailed guidance to plan exactly how things will work at each of our schools. It is unlikely there will be just one version of the plan given the very different schools in our federation. We recognise that in order to teach children as we want and need to, we need to plan certain aspects of the day particularly meticulously. We also need to consider and plan for specialist teaching and interventions, small group teaching and planning, preparation and assessment time for the staff. It is therefore unlikely that there will be one solution for all of our schools. Each school will need specific plans that work in their particular context.

Whatever plans we make, within the guidance, I know that leaders, teachers, support staff, and our governors will do their utmost to make sure that what we do puts the safety of our children and our colleagues first.

As soon as we have made sense of the new guidance, we will write to you again with a clear plan of how we intend to proceed. Please be patient while we work things out.

In the meantime, each school will be writing to you with an offer to welcome all our pupils back before the end of term to 'touch base' with their class teacher or meet their new teacher for next year. This plan does rely on the collaboration and support from everyone, so I do hope you can help us with this. We feel it is extremely important that our children, so many of whom have not been in school since the end of March, have the opportunity to come back to their school, albeit for a short period of time, before September.

We will not be requiring anyone to attend summer or Saturday catch-up classes and we certainly have no plans to begin the new academic year earlier than planned. Our staff have worked hard supporting our children and need a proper break in order to prepare themselves for the new academic year and the significant challenges it will bring. Our children and families also need to have some time to be able to recharge and regroup without having to be tied to the demands of home learning. We will all be in a better position to tackle the new academic year after a good break. We would of course encourage all our children to keep reading as much as they can.

The only adjustment that we might make to our calendar is to how we might use an INSET day in September to facilitate a more gradual induction of our new cohort of Reception pupils in our primary schools and Year 3 children in our junior schools. This is because we have not been able to manage transition, as we would normally do before the summer holidays. We will write to all parents concerned with our plans as soon as we can.

Thank you again for all you continue to do to support your child in their learning and for the support that you give to our school community.

Keep safe and 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