

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

10 November 2020

Dear Parent / Carers,

I hope that you have had the opportunity to relax and spend time with your loved ones over the half term.

I wanted to contact you as soon as possible following the implementation of the new national lockdown. I want to reassure you and let you know how we are responding as a community of schools.

First of all, I am confident that we will rise to the challenges of these uncertain times. Over the last months, I have seen and personally experienced the powerful community spirit and support that exists at all the schools in the Nebula Federation and I have been impressed by the dedication and professionalism of staff. I know that we will continue to benefit from this and be able to support each other.

At all of our schools, we have strong and reliable systems in place in order to ensure that teaching and learning takes place in a safe, secure and caring environment. We have reviewed these arrangements and are confident that they fully support the safety and welfare of staff, students and their families. We will continue to monitor the situation and respond promptly and effectively, keeping you fully informed of any changes, should they be necessary. Do please keep an eye on the school website, emails and text messages.

On a practical note, I would like to emphasise and ask for your help with the following:

- Only send your child into school if they are not showing any of the symptoms of the virus. This is a vital part of our approach and an important way in which you can support us in keeping our children and colleagues safe in school.
- To help us to protect our staff and you, the community, we ask that you continue to adhere to social distancing guidance and move on as quickly as possible at the beginning and end of the day. Remember please, that to minimise numbers of adults, that only **one** parent should be accompanying children to and from school.
- To help us ensure that everyone feels safe whilst near the school at the beginning and end of the day, please consider wearing a face mask.

Since the change to the guidelines once the second national lockdown was announced, schools now have the discretion to insist that parents and visitors wear face masks on their sites. We do not, of course, have the same discretion on the paths and areas outside our

schools. In addition, we are not in a position to 'police' compliance and ensure enforcement, and would not want to do this; we would hope that you will see that the simple action of wearing a face mask would alleviate the worries and concerns of many and would help everyone to feel safe and secure.

- In order to continue to minimise the number of people coming onto the school site, please can I ask that you do not visit the school sites unless you have an appointment or have contacted the school beforehand.

Although this goes against our usual open-door policy, it is important, in the current climate, to limit the number of people on site, especially during the school day. Please either ring the usual school number or email the relevant school office.

- We will continue to adhere to a strict hygiene regime at school and keep occupied spaces well ventilated (with the heating on!) We will also try to use the outside space as much as possible and therefore for both of these reasons we do recommend, as per government guidance, that pupils come to school wearing more layers than they usually might.

Remote Learning

The teachers continue to plan for remote learning alongside face to face learning for those children who are having to self-isolate due to awaiting medical procedures or because the family has been contacted by Test and Trace. The current aim is that all children should be in school unless they are ill or self-isolating. It is a fair assumption that at some stage a whole class or year group will have to self-isolate and in this situation the whole class will move to remote learning. It is important that you have tried to access your child's Microsoft Teams account and then making the school aware of any issues.

Assertive Mentoring

Thank you to so many of you who have been so positive and complimentary to staff during the meetings. This has been hugely appreciated by everyone. It is a challenging time for everyone, and a kind word can make such a difference to how people are feeling.

One key to our success has been the high quality of communication between home and school. Staff will want to ensure that we continue to communicate effectively. Please stay in touch: continue to talk to appropriate staff and ask questions if you have any concerns or worries.

The Warm House Discount Scheme

You could be eligible to get £140 off your electricity bill for winter 2020 to 2021 under the Warm Home Dis-count Scheme.

The money is not paid to you - it's a one-off discount on your electricity bill, between September and March.

You may be able to get the discount on your gas bill instead if your supplier provides you with both gas and electricity. Contact your supplier to find out.

The discount will not affect your Cold Weather Payment or Winter Fuel Payment.

For further information, visit www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme

Free School Meals

As the current Covid-19 pandemic continues to affect us, it is possible that if your circumstances have changed you could be entitled to free school meals for your child/children. This could save you over £350 per year. Dependent upon your family circumstances, your son/daughter may be entitled

to a free school meal every day. If this is the case, the local authority has funds allocated for this purpose.

Please follow the link below to apply or contact the School Office

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk>

School Lunches

From Monday 16th November, we will be extending the menu for school lunches. There will also be a baked potato option. Your child's school will send the information to you so that you can assist your child with their choices each day.

Do you need some support?

Please do not suffer silently, we have pastoral staff who may be to offer you support. Please contact your child's school and we will arrange for someone to contact you.

Other useful telephone numbers:

NHS Direct - 111

Childline - 0800 1111 (free)

NSPCC - 0808 800 5000 (www.nspcc.org.uk)

Just One Number - 0300 300 0123

Young Minds - 0800 802 5544 (www.youngminds.org.uk)

Citizen Advice Service Main Number - 0344 111444

Citizen Advice Service in The Forum - 0800 144 8848

MAP (under 25s, near Theatre Royal) - 01603 766994

Oak Grove Money Advice - 01603 403388

Kings Money Advice - 0800 970 9875

National Debtline - 0808 808 4000

Age UK Norwich - 01603 496333

Change, Live, Grow (Addiction Advice Service) - 01603 514096

Thank you all once again for your support for the all the staff during these unusual and challenging times. We have had some good news just yesterday about a vaccine which MAY be on the horizon. We must remind ourselves throughout this unprecedented time, that we all in the middle of a marathon (albeit not one we trained for), not a sprint. That means we must all take moments to recharge our batteries and look after ourselves and each other.

Please be assured that we will continue to provide a first-class education in a safe and secure environment for all of the young people in our care.

Yours sincerely,



Ashley Best-White
Executive Headteacher
The Nebula Federation.