

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

1 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

COVID-19 Update – End of term update

We are now coming to the end of the most extraordinary term and heading into the Easter break. The schools remain technically closed, but will continue to provide childcare places for critical workers throughout the break except on Good Friday and Easter Monday. Please note however, that over the Easter holidays office staff and school staff will not be available to answer general queries. If you have a question in this time, you will need to email and a response will be given as soon as we can at the start of the next term.

All our staff have been working hard to provide support for critical workers, so they can be there for us when we need them. Therefore I would like to thank all of the staff for their work at a very difficult time. Also thank you to all those working in a critical role in the fight against the coronavirus; we are most grateful.

Supporting at home

We know this can be a challenge; some parents have said they are not trained to be a teacher, but we are all in totally new territory here. Children need to be at home to keep them safe and we know their learning falls back over a holiday period, so regular reading, writing and maths is really important and we have given ways you can support them to do this, even if you are not a teacher.

We do also appreciate that it is a challenge to support home learning if you are working from home, but thousands of parents are in this position and we just have to find some method that works for us as families. You will all find your own routines I am sure, so as long as you do your best, you are doing a great job.

Children may find it difficult or be reluctant but having a routine for them will mean they do not find it so difficult. These hints may help:

- Have set times when you do things. Make a timetable if it helps. Don't aim for a full school day, build in regular breaks. If it works for you to do it in the afternoons and up until meal times, then do it that way. Find a routine that works for you.
- Set clear guidelines and expectations for your child/ren – we will do this, then this and then this. A visual timetable may help with pictures, there are many on line. We know it is different and challenging but please do your best to support them to continue learning over the closure period.
- Remember you are the adult and if your child refuses, be firm and set expectations. First, we do this reading and then you can watch TV. It may be tricky at first but it will become easier once they know you mean it and are sticking to your decisions!

Reading

- All children are expected to read regularly still. It really is the most important skill to develop and the reading for pleasure will serve all your children well in the future. Please listen to your child read daily and try to read to your child daily or listen to an audio story together. If you want to take some

time to listen to a story with your child, then Cressida Cowell is reading 'How to train your dragon', David Walliams is reading every day too. Just search for them in Google. Lots of our Holt Road staff have been recording their favourite stories for children to listen to. You can access these in the Home Learning section of our school website.

Maths

- Every child in Key Stage 2 (Year 3 and above) had their TT Rockstars passwords before school closed. They will need this to access their TT Rockstars account. TT Rockstars operates in a way that means children start at the beginning and automatically progresses them through the stages as they complete stages successfully. If children are very proficient they will progress quickly but all revision is good for them, especially at this time. The more questions the children get right, the quicker they progress. Keep practising. Timetables mastery is a vital part of a child's maths progress and development, so please practise saying them aloud, quick fire questions at home and testing each other. It will make a huge difference.

Online learning

All of the school websites in our federation have resources and activities online and so do the twitter accounts. Please take a look and choose what interests you and your child.

Sign up for twitter. It has information every day on how to support your child, some quick and easy activities and just general support and contact.

Twinkl is also taking steps to support continued learning at home. They are offering free access to all Twinkl resources for a period of one month in the first instance. They have a number of really helpful guides, designed for parents, for different areas of the curriculum. Take a look at the dedicated [Parents' Hub](#) which contains hundreds of educational activities designed for use at home.

For parents with children in Early Years, take a look through the 'EYFS for parents area' to find some really useful guides and activities to share. For primary-aged children, take a look at the 5 – 11 area. These were created with parents in mind so it's filled with guides and information about what children should be learning in each year group, for each curriculum area. To sign up for the free month follow the following steps:

- Step 1: Go to www.twinkl.co.uk/offer
- Step 2: Enter the code you have received, or CVDTWINKLHELPS if you have not yet been given a code

Stay safe online

We always teach the children about not sharing personal information online that can identify them or where they live etc. Please can we also ask parents to think about this over the closure period. We know children are missing friends, but please don't put out information asking parents to get in touch, or giving descriptions and names of children on Facebook or other places. Some families have escaped from domestic abuse or a volatile or unsafe situation, and sharing children's names, description and school could identify them and their location to an abuser. We just want you and all of our families to be safe.

The Government has now also provided some updated guidance for parents and carers to support and help them keep your children safe online whilst they are at home. There is a lot of support available, please find below some useful links:

- [Thinkyouknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- [Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Net-aware](#) (support for parents and careers from the NSPCC)

Useful information about online safety can also be found on our school websites.

Free School Meals

Once again, I would like to provide some additional clarity around those who qualify for the means tested free school meals and the Universal Infant Free School Meals all infant children received whilst schools were open.

As said previously, the Government have stopped the Universal Infant Free School Meals, and these are no longer in place and therefore your child does not qualify for a meal during the school closure period.

Children who qualify for the means tested Free School Meals already are aware of this and we have kept in touch with parents regarding the packed lunches which are available on a daily basis to be collected. These will **not** be available during the holiday period. If you haven't previously requested a packed lunch for your child/ren, but would like to, please let us know and we will ensure these are provided for you after the Easter holidays.

In terms of the vouchers announced by the government, these are currently ONLY available when a school cannot provide a meal. Currently, our caterers are still in school working and therefore we can continue to provide one. We will however keep this situation under review.

If your child is currently in reception or key stage one and you think you may be eligible for a free school meal, you can apply online using the following link

<https://fiso.norfolk.gov.uk/synergy/Enquiries/Citizen/FreeSchoolMeals.aspx/>

Any Questions

The best route if you have a general question is via the school office.

Staying safe

Please do listen to the government messages and information and continue to follow them. There are still reports of children playing out or calling for friends, or people visiting other houses. We also have requests for places for children at school where there is at least one parent at home who can care for them and keep them safe. This is a serious virus, and we can't stop it unless we ALL follow the rules and do what we can. Please stay in, stay safe and ensure those workers on the front line are protected and able to be there in case we or our family need them.

Easter holidays

We know the end of term has been difficult for everyone. Please do take a break from some of the home learning over the holidays. Continuing with reading though would be great.

If you have any child protection or safeguarding concerns in the holidays, you can still contact the relevant professional. Please email the school office and someone will respond as soon as they can.

Thank you to the parents who have sent in kind messages to keep staff morale high during this time, when we know everyone has their own concerns. We really do appreciate it.

Take care everyone

Best wishes



Ashley Best-White
Executive Headteacher
The Nebula Federation