

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

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Executive Headteacher

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Dear Parents/Carers

### COVID-19 Update – Easter Update

#### **Easter**

I would like this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful, happy and healthy Easter. And to offer some encouragement ...

In many ways, the school closures have brought a set of unique and un-faced challenges for so many of us – for those still providing face to face care for many children of critical workers, for teachers leading learning in new remote ways, for pupils having to work out their new identities (particularly those Year 6, 11 and 13 pupils for whom things have radically and rapidly changed), for families beginning a new phase of life and for parents working from home, whilst providing care and also home-learning – there has never been anything like it in peacetime.



We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.  
2 Corinthians 4:8-9

It is difficult to imagine a time when we have faced such uncertain times and we have had to take so many decisions, often very quickly and without the necessary guidance being completely in place.

Yet we also know we must approach our present challenges by holding onto the bigger picture, whilst also keeping our families together in a period of unparalleled uncertainty. This requires immense and sustained courage. I understand 'en-couragement' to mean the act of putting heart into another person or group – giving them the ability to take the next step together, even when that next step is far from clear in the dark. As Martin Luther King put it so eloquently – **'you don't need to see the whole staircase to take the first step'**.

So, as we continue in this new phase, we should honour, cherish and applaud all the work that everyone is doing to provide a beacon of courage and hope in a world of confusion and fear.

#### **Home Learning Update:**

We have been overwhelmed with the appreciation shown by our families about how they have been enabled by our teachers to support their children's learning at home. There is some strong practice in the way our schools are keeping in touch with the children and our websites, Facebook and Twitter accounts are full of examples. We know it is the Easter holiday but would like to inform you of a couple of additional resources:

Here is a useful link to the 'Council for Learning Outside the Classroom' with some interesting ideas for pupils to have a look at:

<https://www.lotc.org.uk/resources/education-resources/>

Please also see the link to a resources page our colleagues at Norfolk County Council have been working on. This gives some really helpful resources for reading in the Primary subjects 'reading' section: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/educational-resources>

The government has also published a list of online resources that parents may consider to support children to continue learning at home. This list will be apparently be updated over time.

More information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources>

### **Need Help?**

We know that some families will be finding things difficult and struggling to find the support they need.

The following is a link from Norfolk Early Help, which provides a range of resources to support families during this time:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/care-support-and-health/health-and-wellbeing/adults-health/coronavirus>

Norfolk County Council has also issued some information to support families – 'Just One Norfolk' and Norfolk County Council Parent Information. Both are attached to this letter for you.

### **Mental Well-being**

I have also attached a copy of a booklet from Liverpool Child and Adolescent Mental Health which I hope you may find useful. The booklet has been put together for primary age pupils to help parents look after their family's emotional well-being at home.

### **Free School Meals**

Our school offices have been extremely busy collating email addresses of those parents in receipt of Free School Meals to enable them to order the FSM vouchers offered by the government in their recent announcements. Despite the hard work and fortitude of our office staff, it has become increasingly apparent that the system in place is not sufficient to cope with the unprecedented demand by schools all over the country. The online ordering system is not accepting the orders for vouchers and this has been the case for the vast majority of schools. We have had to send numerous emails to try to get the help necessary to place our voucher orders. All to no avail.

Once our orders are accepted all parents who have provided a current email address will get an email with an e-code and we will update you once we have more information. Please do not contact us with queries about the vouchers, because as explained we have absolutely no answers yet. Thank you for your patience and understanding regarding this matter.

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/>

Take care everyone. Stay safe.



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The Nebula Federation