

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

15 March 2021

Dear Parent and Carers

Our Schools have re-opened to all!

The day finally arrived last Monday and how good it has been to see all of our children back in school. Children at all of the schools appeared extremely pleased to return after 10 weeks of isolation in the third national lockdown since the pandemic began almost a year ago.

Once again, a huge thank you to all of our parents, school staff and children for the fantastic work that has taken place over the last two months. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to my staff who have done an amazing job of balancing in school teaching to vulnerable children and children of critical workers alongside delivering live lessons and remote provision for those children learning from home and to again to thank parents and carers for their kind words and support.

The welfare of staff, pupils and our school community remains our utmost priority and I would also like to thank you, our parents and carers, for following our COVID rules and supporting your child's return to school.

It was so wonderful to have everyone back in school, seeing all the smiling faces and the excited chatter, it made schools feel like school again hearing the buzz in every classroom. The children have settled back into the classrooms and returned full of the enthusiasm and vigour that we expected. It was lovely to see the children greeting their friends who they haven't seen for a while. Broad smiles were evident all week – pupils and staff alike.

We recognise how important it is for our pupils' well-being and mental health for them to be in school learning with their teachers, support staff and peers. As I explained in my previous letter, we are focusing on making sure we provide a safe place for our children to talk and share experiences and feelings. By hearing our children talk, and of course listen to each other, we will begin to understand how they are and gauge their sense of well-being. We can then tailor our responses to each child. It is through talking children will re-connect to their friends and staff in school and re-centre themselves.

We are also reconnecting the children with our expectations, values and learning behaviours as well as reviewing their learning so that teachers know how they can best support all the children in the future. Children over the next couple of weeks will be completing activities with their teachers and support staff, which will help us identify areas of the curriculum we will need to amend to support them with their learning. We will be getting in touch very soon to arrange some parent meetings with you after the Easter break to contribute to this. These meetings will be held virtually using Teams or via a telephone conversation if you would prefer.

Once again, I would like to reiterate that our children are not a 'lost generation'. Humans are wired for storytelling. A compelling story can be a comfort or an inspiration, raising our sights and stirring our emotions. Our children deserve a better story than the one being told with the gloomy, pessimistic title of 'lost generation'.

I would like to share the following poem with you. It was forwarded to me this week and I would like to share its sentiment and message with you:

IN TWENTY YEARS TIME ...

People will not ask the children of 2020 if they caught up with their studies.

They will not ask them what grades they made, despite the year off school.

They will ask them with wonder 'what was it like?'

They will ask them 'how did you cope?'

'How did you feel?'

'What do you remember of those days?'

They will listen in awe to the tales of clapping on doorsteps for the medical workers.

They will sit open-mouthed to hear of daily walks being the only life we saw and how much we missed human contact and gatherings.

They will be amazed to know about empty supermarkets, online concerts, birthdays spent on a screen and a life lived inside.

They will listen, then sit back with amazement and say, 'Wow. You went through so much.'

So think about what you would like your children to take away from this whole year.

Tell them they are not behind.

Tell them they are not missing out.

Tell them they are extremely special indeed and they will be forever made stronger by this unique time.

Tell them catching up is not even a thing because they have grown so much in so many other ways.

Remind them too of the fun stuff, the family jigsaws, the window rainbows, the zoom bingo.

The feeling of safety and togetherness amidst the chaos.

Let them take that thought with them through life.

Change the narrative now and it will travel far.

Tell the children they are not behind.

They are special.

They are special.

By Donna Ashworth

If you have any questions or concerns, please email your child's school using the office@ email address and someone will be happy to help.

I hope that you, your family and loved ones keep safe and well.

A. D. Best-White

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The Nebula Federation

