

## Message from the Executive Headteacher



Nebula  
where stars are born

Issue 9

July 2018

### THE SCHOOLS IN OUR FEDERATION

**Frettenham Primary**

**Hainford Primary**

**Horsford Primary**

**Old Catton Junior School**

**St. Faiths' Primary**

**White Woman Lane Junior**

#### The Executive:

Miss Anatola - Executive Deputy for EYFS

Mrs Pellatt - Executive Deputy for School Improvement

Mrs Porter - Executive Deputy for SEND

#### Heads of School:

Mr Paul Cross -

Hainford Primary

Mr Gyles Longhurst -

Frettenham Primary

Mrs Tanya Kirton &

Miss Tracy Anderson -

Horsford Primary

Mrs Kate Connelly -

Old Catton Junior

Miss Lesley Rix -

St. Faiths' Primary

Mr Daniel Richmond &

Mr Nick Johnson -

White Woman Lane Junior

## You make your own future ...

In my work, I hear a lot about and talk a lot about - responsibility. I talk about the teachers' responsibility for inspiring children, and pushing children to learn and do their best. I talk about the responsibility parents have for making sure their children stay on track, get homework done and understanding the impact of social media and using it safely. I talk a lot about our government's responsibility for setting high standards, supporting teachers and headteachers and turning around schools that aren't working where children aren't getting the opportunities they deserve.

But at the end of the day, we can have the most dedicated teachers, the most supportive parents, and the best schools in the world – and none of it will matter unless all of our children fulfil their responsibilities; regularly attending those schools; paying attention to those teachers; listening to their parents and other adults who care for them; and putting in the hard work it takes to succeed. So, I'd like to focus on the responsibility every child has for his/her education; the responsibility each child has for him or herself.

Every single child has something they are good at. Every single one of them has something to offer. And every one of them has a responsibility to themselves to discover what

that is. That's the opportunity an education can provide.

No matter what each child wants to do with their life – I guarantee that they will need an education to do it. Whether they want to be a doctor, or a teacher, or a police officer, a nurse or an architect, a lawyer or a member of the forces - they are going to need a good education; they will have to work for it and train for it and learn for it.

And what each child makes of their education will decide the future; what they learn in school today will determine whether we as a country can meet our greatest challenges in the future.

They will need the knowledge and problem-solving skills they learn in science and maths to cure diseases like cancer, and to develop new energy technologies and protect our environment. They will need the insights and critical thinking skills they gain in history and personal and social education to fight poverty and homelessness, crime and discrimination, and make our country more fair and more free. They will need the creativity and ingenuity they develop in all their classes to build new companies that will create new jobs and boost the economy.

We will need every single one of our children to develop their talents, skills and intellect so they can help solve our most difficult problems.

The circumstances of our life – what we look like, where we come from, how much money we have is no excuse for not trying. Where we are right now doesn't have to determine where we will end up. We write our own destiny. We make our own future.

So we need to help the children set their own goals for their education and help them do everything they can to meet them.

The goal can be something as simple as doing homework, paying attention in class, or spending time each day reading a book. Maybe to get involved in an extracurricular activity, or decide to stand up for children who are being teased or bullied because of who they are or how they look, or maybe to take better care of themselves so they can be more ready to learn ...

Continued on the back page ...



**Ashley Best-White**  
Executive Headteacher  
The Nebula Federation

# Go Goblins ... Go!

Pupils from 18 Norfolk primary schools raced in the Goblin cars they had built at the county's Formula One-style engineering event on Tuesday, June 5. This included pupils from the Nebula Federation; pupils from St. Faiths' Primary, Horsford Primary, Old Catton Junior and White Woman Lane. The children were racing their single-seat electric 'Goblin' cars at Scottow Enterprise Park; the former RAF site was transformed into a children's racetrack for the day and up to 200 10 and 11-year-olds drove the cars they built at school, with the budding engineers and racing car drivers competing in slaloms, drag and sprint races.

Greenpower Education Trust is a UK based charity which gets young people enthusiastic about science and engineering by challenging them to design, build and race an electric car.

Greenpower supply age appropriate Kit Cars, which can be built in schools, college or elsewhere and are raced at

motorsport venues at Greenpower organised events. The Greenpower challenge uses the excitement of motorsport to inspire young people to excel in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

Greenpower currently work with over 700 teams throughout the UK and hold more than 35+ regional events and an International Final every year. More than 10,000 young people take part each year, from primary school age through to university. Greenpower is working hard to help long term to address the engineering skills gap. The Royal Academy of Engineering estimates that the UK needs 104,000 STEM graduates per year, and 56,000 technicians, between now and 2020. There is also a growing number of international teams participate in the events and the USA, China, India, Singapore, Malaysia and Poland now also run programmes under the Greenpower license.

Through participating in this project

our children have had hands-on experience of engines in the classroom. They had to both build the car from scratch, design the body and decorate it and then drive it in the races. They therefore also learned how to work as a team, to problem solve, demonstrate and develop leadership skills, and build their confidence. The project is a really innovative way to get children to develop their science and technology skills and as you can see from the pictures, they had a lot of fun doing so.

Official photos from the event are at <https://spacesuitcollections.com/view-collection/562>

With 628 photos, there's a decent chance of a good one of your team.

A pdf breakdown of the results can also be found from the 'season results' button at <https://www.greenpower.co.uk/results>



**The Teams**  
**Horsford Primary School - Horsford Hornet**  
**Old Catton Junior School - The Black cats**  
**St. Faiths' Primary School - Faith, Rapid Rockets, Anti-Waste Wasps and Team Extreme**  
**White Woman Lane Primary School - Ghost Rider**



# SkillForce Awards Ceremony

## Dare to be your best self

On 6 July the Nebula Federation held its fourth SkillForce Awards Ceremony. Year 5 pupils from all our schools who participated in this programme this year were invited with parents and carers to attend and were presented with certificates to celebrate their achievements. They received a certificate for completing the SkillForce Junior Prince's Award, another for completing the Heartstart programme (a course in Emergency Life support) and also a certificate for achieving the National Navigation Scheme Young Navigator Bronze Award.

Frettenham Primary, Hainford Primary, Horsford Primary, White Woman Lane Junior School, Old Catton Junior School, St. Faiths' Primary and Drayton Junior School held a joint ceremony at the International Aviation Academy, Hangar 9, in Norwich.

We have been very fortunate in the past to have Mr Peter Cross, the founder of SkillForce, General Lord Dannatt and Air Commodore Kevin Pellatt to attend the ceremony and award the certificates. This year we were very pleased to welcome the CEO of the charity SkillForce, Mr Ben Slade. We are hoping one day, that the patron of the charity itself, Prince William himself may visit ...

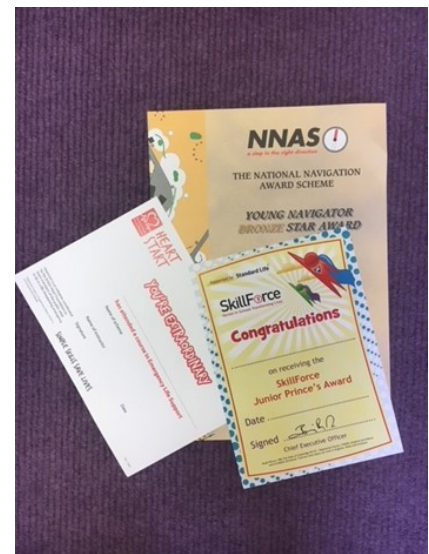
The SkillForce Junior Prince's Award programme draws on the values and skills of ex-Forces personnel to inspire young people to achieve at school. The programme includes; working together, team-building, problem solving challenges, team sports, outdoor pursuits, first aid and navigation skills.

We were very excited to once again be hosting an awards ceremony to celebrate the success of our pupils. They have thrown themselves wholeheartedly into the opportunity and enjoyed the range of experiences that the scheme provides and the teachers and staff are certainly seeing the benefits of the SkillForce programme in the classroom.

We would like to thank our fabulous instructors; Stuart McGuire, Paul Charley, Ian Carmichael and Jason Martin.



L to R: Ashley Best-White, Ben Slade and Nicky Pellatt.



## About SkillForce



"SkillForce was established in 2004 to help young people achieve their potential. We help them build their character, resilience and confidence from an early age. We empower them to "be their best", to access the full curricular and extra curricula experience at school and in so doing we help them achieve and exceed.

The people who turn these young lives around are our brilliant instructors, the majority of whom have served their country in the British Armed Forces. These 'heroes in schools' embody the Service values and understand the importance of teamwork, resilience and self-discipline. They are the complementary role models that many children need working alongside their teachers."



# Nebula Film Festival

On Thursday 28th June 2018 the second Nebula Film Festival was held at The Auditorium at The Forum in Norwich. All schools were invited to take on the challenge of creating a short film with the theme of 'Journeys'. Pupils were also encouraged to submit a second short film to demonstrate how their films had been created.

It was very interesting to see the variety of ways the pupils and staff had interpreted the brief.

The Year 6 Hainford Primary School pupils had made a film describing their journey from reception at Hainford to leaving the school at the end of this year. They entitled their film 'Journey down Memory Lane' reflecting on how they were and how they have grown up, their friendships and experiences and the journey they had taken through the school. They used Lego and photographs to tell their story.



Year 6 pupils at Hainford Primary School

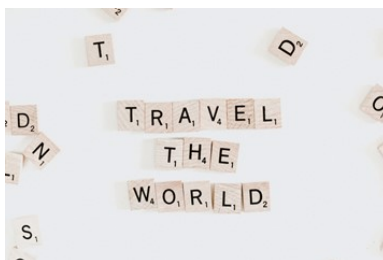
Class 2 at Frettenham Primary School created an animation of a fantasy journey including every member of the class. They called their film 'Frettenham Quest' and used photographs of themselves and their teacher and drawings of the settings for each of their scenes. They journeyed under water and over mountains, in space and rain forests.

A **quest** serves as a plot device in mythology and fiction: the film showed their difficult journey towards the goal of returning to their school. Tales of **quests** figure prominently in the folklore of every nation and ethnic culture and Class 2's film was very imaginative, colourful and demonstrated very good story telling techniques.



Old Catton Junior School's animated film was very topical; it was called 'The Journey of a Plastic Bottle', inspired by the recent documentary 'Blue Planet' maybe? The film enabled us to peek into the diary of a plastic bottle as it goes on a journey from the shop shelf, into the sea with a message contained within it, and finally to a recycling plant where it emerges into its new life... The story is told from the point of view of a free-spirited plastic bottle, the film points out the ecological significance behind this product. Viewers will never look at a plastic bottle the same way again!

Horsford Primary School Year 2 pupils made a film about the geography they had been learning about in school—their film was about the journey to South America. It was made with drawings of the country and the story was told using the letters from a scrabble board game. It was very clever and extremely effective.



St. Faiths' Primary School made a film which explored the experiences of evacuees during the Second World War and used the genre of diaries to communicate what they had learned in their lessons. They used drawings and photographs and read their diary entries alongside the images. Pupils had brought artefacts to school from their families, an RAF uniform, medals, ration books, all these things were also used to illustrate the children's writing.

Another group made a documentary style film which explored the journeys they had experienced, the longest journeys, the places they had visited, and the mode of travel which had been used.

White Woman Lane Junior School's film was the 'Jurassic Journey'. Using Lego and models the pupils created a comedy film of the journey to a Jurassic Park and the story of a mother dinosaur looking for her child. It was endearingly funny!

This film is on Youtube if you'd like to take a look;

<https://youtu.be/4Wzt5zND1Zo>

A huge thank you to Mr Queensborough for being the inspiration behind this event; and for organising and being the 'master of ceremonies' at the Film Festival again this year.



## The Bishop of Norwich visits ...

### School celebrates forty years anniversary

Horsford Church of England VA Primary School celebrated 40 years of their official opening of their school on the Mill Lane site on Wednesday 6 June with a visit by the Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Revd Graham James. He greeted the children at Holt Road in a worship assembly and led prayers before he moved on to Mill Lane for the official ceremony.

The school welcomed back Mr Slack, who had previously been headteacher at the site when it had been the junior school and Mrs Browning, who was a class teacher at the school, too.

Also attending the service was our Chair of Governors, Judy Leggett, Brian Blythe from the Horsford Parish Council and Revd Garry from our Open the Book team.

Some of the Year 5 and 6 children shared the prayers they had written during the service and the Bishop and Reverend Margaret led the worship.

It was a memorable morning looking back at old photos and reminiscing about the changes that have taken place at Mill Lane over the last 40 years.



L to R: Revd Garry, Brian Blythe, Tanya Kirton, Rt. Revd Graham James, Ashley Best-White, Jan Browning, Revd Margaret McPhee, Stephen Slack and Judy Leggett.

Prayer by a Year 6 pupil.

Dear God,

Thank you for all of the lovely teachers who have taught at our school.

People may not say it all of the time but they are all very grateful for our school. Please help all of our teachers to stay healthy and achieve great things with our school. Thank you for our lovely lessons, like English and maths. Help our school keep producing great children filled with wisdom and knowledge. Let us have an amazing anniversary and to keep going on through the years.

Amen

By Mia Genc

## Sponsored run at The Nest ...

The Nest will be the new multi-purpose community hub in Horsford. When completed, it will feature an indoor sports hall, a gymnasium, a floodlit 3G football pitch, and classroom facilities, in addition to the renovation of the clubhouse, installation of residential 'bunk boxes', and the re-laying of seven grass football pitches, which is due to be completed this summer.

In order to make this exciting vision a reality, the Norwich City Community Sports Foundation have launched a public fundraising campaign – [#BuildTheNest](#) – to raise the £2.5m they need towards the total project cost of £9.4m. The schools in the Nebula Federation are actively working with the foundation as partners, supporting the fundraising venture and with plans to enable our children to have the opportunity to use these facilities in the future. So, on 27th June this year, all the children in every

year group participated in the sponsored fun run at The Nest to raise money to support the building of these exciting facilities. Our children were the first primary age children to visit The Nest and what a brilliant experience it was. Staff and children ran together (or walked – the choice was theirs) and as the photos show they took the event very seriously but also had lots of fun.

### Money Raised:

White Woman Lane	£2091.00
St. Faiths'	£590.70
Hainford	£705.00
Frettenham	£397.50
Horsford	£546.00
Old Catton	£2221.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>£6552.12</b>

A huge achievement, well done and thank you everyone.

*If you would also like to run and raise funds, Run Norwich – the 10-kilometre road race is returning to the city centre on Sunday 5th August 2018. For more details:*

<https://www.communitysportsfoundation.org.uk/build-the-nest>



# Inspections ...

## Horsford Primary School

On 6th and 7th June we welcomed Ofsted to Horsford Primary School. The Inspectors confirmed that the school is a 'Good' school and achieved a 'good' judgement in each of the areas. The report states that Horsford Primary is a rapidly improving school and Senior leaders and the Nebula Federation have been successful in improving teaching and pupil achievement. The report recognises that our pupils are polite and courteous; that they welcome visitors and they support each other well around the school. They also stated that our pupils have good attitudes to learning and work well together in classrooms. The report notes that the quality of teaching is good and teachers make learning interesting and enjoyable for pupils and the teaching assistants support pupils very well.

We were pleased that the inspection team acknowledged that our vision sets clear and high expectations for

staff and pupils, there is a positive, reflective, forward-looking culture in the school and the leadership team are determined and have a relentless focus on achieving high standards. The inspectors also referenced that the school has implemented an ambitious curriculum, an 'enquiry curriculum' and the school's curriculum beyond English and mathematics is suitably broad and balanced.

Many congratulations to the staff and pupils; I would like to thank them for all their hard work and for working together to achieve this well deserved result.

The school received a full report as a result of the inspection. If you would like to read it, it may be found on the school website;

[www.horsfordprimaryschool.co.uk/ofsted/](http://www.horsfordprimaryschool.co.uk/ofsted/)

Huge congratulations to Miss Anatola, Miss Anderson and Mrs Kirton and their team.

## Frettenham Primary School

On 11th and 12th July, just when we thought all possible Ofsted visits were finished for this academic year, we welcomed Ofsted to Frettenham Primary School. The Ofsted inspector visited lessons, went to The Nest to observe the sponsored run, watched the Class 3 end of year show, as well as all the other activities that need to be completed during the inspection. We are still waiting for the report to be published; we will give a copy to all parents at Frettenham as soon as we receive this and put it on the school website but unfortunately it is unlikely that we will be able to do this until the start of the new term in September.



# Developing our curriculum ...

## Implementing an Enquiry Curriculum

This year a focus of our work has been to plan and teach aspects of the statutory National Curriculum through an engaging cross-curricular approach. We believe that choosing the right context to engage our children in their learning is vital in fostering a love of learning, making them 'bothered' and also maintaining our high standards. We have been working closely with Hywel Roberts, Debra Kidd, Tim Taylor and Jenny Lewis to support us in developing an enquiry based approach to learning. So why?

\*It is planned around the distinctive needs of the children.

\*It promotes curiosity.

\*It has a clear outcome, designed to raise standards.

\*It gives a real context for the application of basic skills.

\*It allows writing to be meaningfully embedded.

\*It is interesting for the teacher as well as the children.

\*It integrates empowering learning (learn to learn).

\*It is underpinned by leading research about quality learning and brain-based learning.

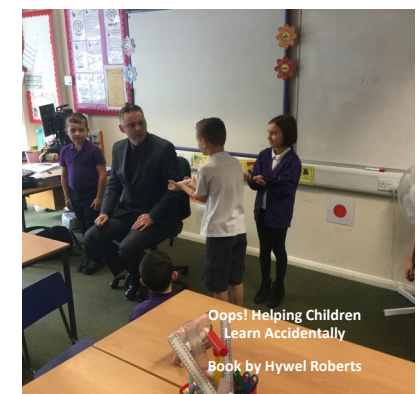
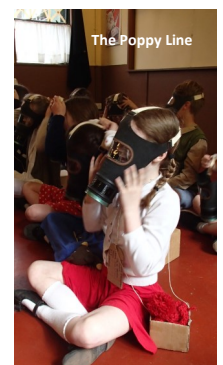
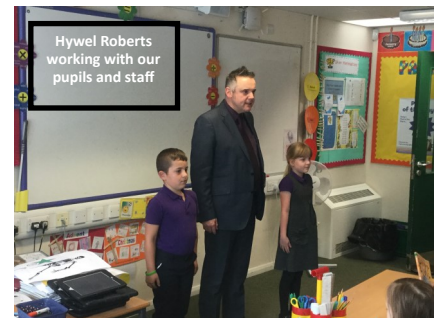
The enquiry based learning works because the learning journey is explicitly shared with children in order to ensure they connect to the big picture

of their learning, that is, knowing what to expect.

Teachers provide an initial stimulus experience that helps children connect with the content and skills of the unit of work; a **Hook** into learning. These can take many forms, e.g. a visit from a Roman soldier, finding a message in a bottle, a video diary excerpt, strange trolls in the classroom, taking the role as an evacuee etc. etc.

The Pupil Voice is evident in the learning, input from the children is integral to enquiry based learning; we want the children to feel that they are able to drive part of their learning journey. This is essential to ensure that the curriculum meets the ongoing varied needs and interests of the children. Pupil voice is used throughout the unit of work to steer learning by asking children to pose questions that they want to know more about. Teachers refer to children's questions throughout the unit of work so that children can see that their contributions are valued and their questions drive their learning.

The Ofsted inspections that have taken place in our schools this year have recognised the positive impact enquiry has had on our curriculum and the children's learning and standards achieved.



Oops! Helping Children Learn Accidentally  
Book by Hywel Roberts

# Developing our curriculum ...

## LET'S THINK *in English*

Let's Think in English is a teaching programme developed since 2009 to help pupils develop the reasoning skills needed for success in English. This is vitally important for the new primary National Curriculum with its emphasis on mastery and for preparing for the new higher-demand GCSE English examinations. The schools in our federation piloted this approach during the 2016—2017 academic year and based on the response received from both staff and pupils alike, decided to roll it out to all years groups in all of the schools this academic year. We wanted to ensure that the implementation and approach was consistent throughout so we commissioned Michael Walsh, from Kings College, London to help us. He provided high quality training for all staff and worked with staff in every school to support the implementation and ensure the highest quality teaching and learning using the programme.

The programme consists of high-interest lessons all using English texts – fiction, poetry, non-fiction and film. The primary lessons are designed for Years 1/2, 3/4 and 5/6 and lessons are designed to be used fortnightly and involve reading, open-ended questioning and structured group discussion. They systematically develop pupils' skills of inference, deduction and analysis, increasing their confidence, resilience, understanding and ability to express their ideas.

The Let's Think in English (LTE) programme raises the attainment of all pupils, and particularly helps less able pupils to thrive and make especially good progress. LTE also encourages the growth mindset that Carol Dweck has shown is so important for increasing pupils' attainment as well as their self-confidence. Because all pupils' ideas are discussed on an equal basis without praise or criticism, this encourages pupils to take risks.



Michael Walsh from Kings College, London, who has been working with all staff in the Nebula Federation to implement the Let's Think in English Programme.

Michael will continue working with us next year providing ongoing support. Over 350 schools are now using the programme, mainly in London and the South East but also in Hampshire, Dorset, Cornwall, Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire, Stockport, Liverpool, Cumbria and Jersey with others in Switzerland, Hong Kong and Vietnam.

# Our Pastoral Manager and PSA ...

**Pastoral Manager and  
Parent Support Advisor  
Natalie Brown**

**"What is a Pastoral Manager?"**

*The Pastoral Manager is available to offer support/advice about your child's emotional wellbeing and make appropriate referrals if required.*

**"What is a Parent Support Advisor?"**

*A Parent Support Advisor (PSA) is there to help, support and advise parents and carers who have worries or concerns about their children.*

**"What could a PSA help me with?"**

*A PSA can offer support to ensure high quality at-home parenting through accessing the 'Strength to Strength' Parent Programme which is available at our schools on a regular basis.*



**Natalie Brown**

**Pastoral Manager and PSA**

*"I may not have all the answers, but I might be able to help you work things out, or help you find someone who could help you more."*

*The PSA can also offer support in a range of situations, such as:*

- \* supporting you when you have to go into school*
- \* wanting advice and support with your child's behaviour at home or at school*
- \* your child not wanting to attend school or attendance difficulties*
- \* any other issue you may have relating to your child that you would like support with.*

**How do you contact Natalie?**

*Please speak to the Head of School at your child's school and they will make a referral for you.*

# Time to say goodbye ...



A NEBULA HOODIE

Morgan Sindall Group plc is a British based construction services business headquartered in London. We would like to say a huge thank you to the Morgan Sindall Norwich Office who have recently generously donated a large quantity of nearly new furniture to our schools. We have received chairs, desks, cupboards, drawer units etc. which has enabled us to replace some tired, old furniture that we couldn't afford to replace.

Thank you.

At the end of term all our Year 6 leavers were presented with a Nebula Hoodie.

We know they will have enjoyed all the events their individual schools will have organised for them but wanted to acknowledge the part they have played as pupils of the Nebula Federation too.

We wish them all much success and happiness as they leave us to begin their secondary school journey.

# You make your own future ...

... Whatever our children resolve to do, we need to encourage them to commit to it, to really work at it. Sometimes, you get the sense from TV that you can be rich and successful without any hard work - that your ticket to success is through rapping or football or being a reality TV star, when chances are, they are not going to be any of those things. The truth is, being successful is hard. Children won't love every subject they study; they won't click with every teacher. Not every piece of homework will seem completely relevant right this minute and they won't necessarily succeed at everything the first time they try. And that's OK. Some of the most successful people in the world are the ones who've had the most failures. JK Rowling's first Harry Potter book was rejected twelve times before it was finally published. Michael Jordan was cut from his high school basketball team, and he lost hundreds of games and missed thousands of shots during his career. But he once said, "I have failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed." These people succeeded because they understand that you can't let your failures define you - you have to let them teach you.

You have to let them show you what to do differently next time. If you get in trouble, that doesn't mean you're a troublemaker, it means you need to try harder to behave. If you get a bad test result, that doesn't mean you're stupid, it just means you need to spend more time studying.

No one's born being good at things, you become good at things through hard work. You don't hit every note the first time you sing a song. You've got to practice. It's the same with your schoolwork. You might have to do a maths problem a few times before you get it right, or read something a few times before you understand it, or do a few drafts of a story before it's good enough to hand in. Tell your children not to be afraid to ask questions; not to be afraid to ask for help when they need it. I do that every day. Asking for help isn't a sign of weakness, it's a sign of strength. It shows you have the courage to admit when you don't know something, and to learn something new. Tell your children that even when they're struggling, even when they're discouraged, and they feel like other people have given up on them - never ever to give up on themselves.

### This term we said goodbye to ...

Miss Emma Jackson - White Woman Lane  
- Maternity leave

Mr Andy Sidy - White Woman Lane

Mrs Barbara Wiles - White Woman Lane  
- retired after 27 years at the school

Miss Nikki Burley - St. Faiths' Primary School

Mr Dean Armstrong - Horsford Primary,  
Mill Lane site

Miss Jenny Starling - Horsford Primary,  
Mill Lane site

Miss Rebecca Chenery - Horsford Primary  
Mill Lane site

Miss Charlotte Gooda—Horsford Primary  
Mill Lane site

Miss Stacey Cunningham - Hainford Primary  
- Maternity leave.

Mrs Pauline Crooke - Hainford Primary  
- retired after 30 years at the school

Mr Stephen Pritchett - Old Catton Junior

### We will be welcoming the following teaching staff to our schools in September:

**White Woman Lane**  
-Miss Abi Coe

**Old Catton Junior School**  
- Mr Ben Clitheroe

**Horsford Primary**  
- Mr Tom Allen  
- Ms Helen McMurray  
- Mrs Claire James  
- Mr Andrew Sidy

**St. Faiths' Primary**  
- Mr Michael Donhou  
- Miss Cassie Woolley

**Hainford Primary**  
- Miss Jessica Harris