



## Message from the Executive Headteacher



Nebula  
where stars are born

Nebula Newsletter  
Issue 10

December 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 &

Mrs Tracy Palmer -

Horsford Primary

Mrs Kate Connelly -

Old Catton Junior

Miss Lesley Rix -

St. Faiths' Primary

Mr Daniel Richmond &

Mr Nick Johnson -

White Woman Lane Junior

## The Christmas Truce ...

The Christmas Truce has become one of the most famous and mythologised events of the First World War. But what was the real story behind the truce? Why did it happen and did British and German soldiers really play football in No Man's Land?

Late on Christmas Eve 1914, men of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) heard German troops in the trenches opposite them singing carols and patriotic songs and saw lanterns and small fir trees along their trenches. Messages began to be shouted between the trenches.

One of the stories that emerged from the event was that, in the quiet of Christmas Eve night, some young German started singing "Stille Nacht" (Silent Night). Soldiers on the other side of No Man's Land (often measuring only a hundred yards wide) joined in, using their own language. Before long, the spirit of peace and 'goodwill towards

men" prevailed and the troops on both sides sensed their common humanity.

The following day, was December 25, 1914, only 5 months into World War I. German and British soldiers, already sick and tired of the senseless killing, disobeyed their superiors and fraternized with "the enemy" along two-thirds of the Western Front (a crime punishable by death in times of war). German troops held Christmas trees up out of the trenches with signs saying 'Merry Christmas'. Thousands of troops streamed across a no-man's land strewn with rotting corpses. British and German soldiers met in No Man's Land and gave gifts, shared food rations, took and exchanged photographs of loved ones back home, sang Christmas carols, even roasted pigs and played some impromptu games of football. They also buried casualties and repaired trenches and dugouts.

Soldiers embraced men they had been trying to kill a few

short hours before. They agreed to warn each other if their officers and superiors forced them to fire their weapons, and to aim high to ensure no one was hit and killed.

The truce was not observed everywhere along the Western Front. Elsewhere the fighting continued and casualties did occur on Christmas Day. Some officers were unhappy at the truce and worried that it would undermine fighting spirit, a disaster in the making: soldiers declaring their brotherhood with each other and refusing to fight. Generals on both sides declared this spontaneous peace-making to be treasonous and subject to court martial.

After 1914, the High Commands on both sides tried to prevent any truces on a similar scale happening again. Despite this, there were some isolated incidents of soldiers holding brief truces later in the war, and not only at Christmas.

Continued on back page ...



Ashley Best-White  
Executive Headteacher  
The Nebula Federation



# World War 1 Reading Project ...

This term, the focus for the Nebula reading project was World War 1 to commemorate 100 years since the end of the First World War. Children in Years 5 and 6 focused on the book 'War Horse' by Michael Morpurgo which was thoroughly enjoyed by staff and children. Years 3 and 4 read 'Where the Poppies Now Grow,' a picture book by Hilary Robinson. They loved following the story of two friends who became soldiers.

Alongside the books, an inquiry study was carried out. At White Woman Lane School children followed the journey of four WWI heroes and created a museum exhibition to show their different experiences. These included Edith Cavell (a nurse from Norfolk) and Ernest Ellis (a Norwich City footballer who signed up to war).

All the children then created some wonderful pieces of work for an exhibition. Year 6 displayed some very emotive letters and Year 5 created some fantastic artefacts for Edith Cavell. Year 4 wrote some poignant 'thank you' poems and Year 3 amazed us with some incredible thank you letters to The First World War Generation. A superb week which had every child 'hooked' and engaged.

Year 6 pupils at WWL and Old Catton were also fortunate to watch a performance of War Horse at Milton Keynes Theatre.

At Old Catton Junior the children have been reading these texts in their Guided Reading lessons and have completed a sequence of lessons about letter writing linked to the characters and plots of the stories. In the afternoon lessons, each class has been looking at the effect that the War had on the people of Norfolk and they have been using the creative curriculum to explore the journey that each of these people (both real and fictional) have endured. Each class has been working to create and collate a set of 'artefacts' that best reflect the characters' journeys.

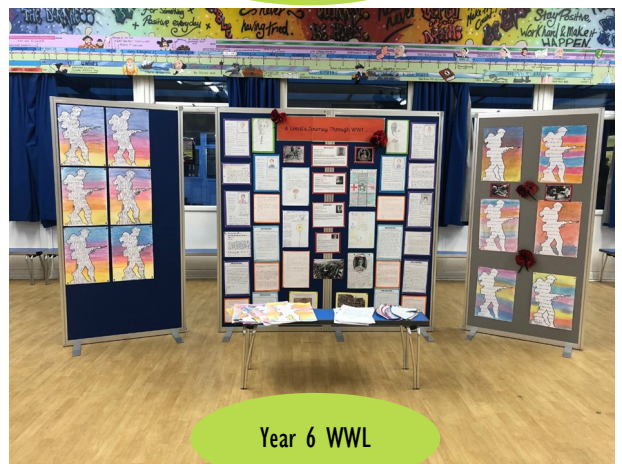
During reading week Class 3 looked at fictional people left behind during the First World War. One of these included a person who worked with horses in Devon like the character of Albert in the book we were reading. Here the children are researching Devon and the other seven counties the characters are from.  
Roxy Mason, Class 3, Frettenham.

'Class 1 went into role as Sister Poppy at the local military hospital during World War 1. They learned basic first aid; wrote letters and diary entries from Poppy's point of view, and joined a 'Ceremony of Thanks' to celebrate the Armistice. Here they are with their commemorative plaque and Medals of Thanks'

Stacey Keeler  
Class 1 Teacher.  
Frettenham.

'After learning the meaning of the poppy and reading 'Where the Poppies Now Grow', Class 2 created some beautiful poppy art. They each made a quarter of a poppy. When displayed together, they looked really effective.'

Mary Board,  
Class 2 Teacher,  
Frettenham.





# Where the poppies now grow ...



The Trenches

Hainford Primary



No Man's Land

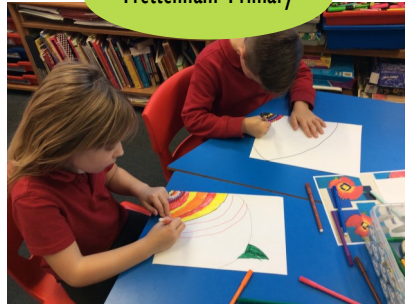


St. Faiths' Primary

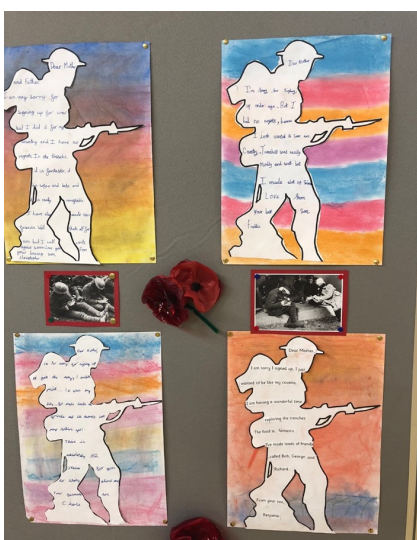
At St. Faiths' Primary using our inquiry curriculum approach, we met characters from Norwich - some real and some fictional. We explored the different roles of these characters throughout the war and created a variety of individual and collective pieces. The children were humbled and respectful to all those that served and empathised greatly with the different sacrifices people made.

In our special Remembrance Service with Reverend Rosemary, we learnt about the symbolism of the poppy and how we can continue to learn from legacies from 100 years ago.

As a culmination to the week, we wrote letters to the different characters we met and have created a beautiful display in school, showcasing some of the best work from all four classes.



Frettenham Primary



Year 6 Horsford Primary Pupils made their own WWI trenches after reading War Horse



# Residential Trips ...

**Residential trips** are an important part of our curriculum and offer us opportunities to engage the children in different activities and environment away from the school. Core values like resilience, responsibility and independence can be developed through the activities we undertake and we often see the children on return to school showing, increased confidence in the way they approach their learning.

This October the 3 Harnser schools took 66 Year 5 and 6 children to a new activity centre called Norfolk Lakes. Over the 2 days they packed in 9 activities from Giant stand up paddle boarding to caving. The schools worked closely with the centre to enable as many of the children to access the trip as possible, whether it is financial support for families or adapting the activity to suit the specific needs of a child. By working together, most challenges are able to be overcome or at least managed to allow the children as much participation as possible. Hopefully for lots of the children they had a trip which was memorable and certainly enjoyable too.



1.



4.



2.



3.

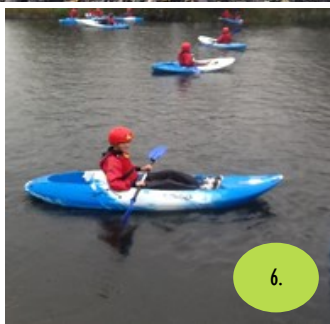
In November, children in Year 6 at Horsford Primary School visited the Kingswood Centre at Overstrand Hall as part of their end of KS2 residential. The instructors were given the challenge of improving the children's team building and problem solving skills. The children took part in range of activities including rock climbing, bouldering, orienteering, archery, den building, nightline, aeroball, Jacob's ladder (a climbing challenge) and laser tag. The weather was very kind to the group allowing them to spend the whole three days outside "challenge themselves by choice". The lead instructor, Ross, explained that this meant they would set the children a challenge on each activity and it was up to the children to decide how far they went with that challenge. The children worked together in two groups encouraging each other to push themselves as far as they could. For some children that meant just getting onto the climbing wall, for others it meant reaching the top! Mrs Kirton was really pleased with the progress the children made in just three days and has brought some of the techniques the instructors used to promote independent thinking back to use at school. It was an amazing experience for all involved and the children have returned with wonderful memories of their time at Kingswood.



5.



9.



6.



7.



8.



10.



# Norfolk Lakes, Kingswood and Hilltop ...



11.



14.



15.



12.



13.

In November, and being very lucky with the weather, Year 5, Miss Strange, Miss Cooper, Miss Reeves, Mr. Henderson and Mr. Semmens from Old Catton headed to Hilltop in Sheringham for a 3 day residential. Over the 3 days the children got stuck into their activities. A rotation of crate stacking, archery, the assault course, team tasks (problem solving), the big zipper, orienteering and high ropes meant that as well as hitting a lot of the curriculum the children were able to work together in teams to overcome challenges. Shaky legs at the top of the trapeze and instructors coaxing the children over the edge of the platform on the big zipper were all part of the children coming away feeling like they'd really achieved something. A few nights of broken sleep for the teachers and some exhausted but more confident children emerged from school on Friday afternoon to the welcoming arms of their families. There were lots of smiles and great memories made. On the last evening, after Miss Strange led the campfire songs up on the hill, and just before bed time, Mr. Semmens asked the children to put their hands up if they had achieved something on the trip; the sea of raised hands was all the proof we wanted to see. An amazingly successful trip!

This November it was also time for one of the highlights of Year 5 at White Woman Lane - the Hilltop residential! All the children had a fantastic time enjoying, and challenging, themselves. They took part in many exciting activities including Big Zipper, tree top trail, assault course, archery, bikes, team tasks and many more. Staff observed many acts of bravery, kindness and teamwork from the children as some overcame fears of heights, learned to ride or pushed themselves as far as they could. The children learnt a lot about working together, and being responsible for organising themselves and their things! The school received many compliments from the instructors about how fantastic our children were to work with which was fantastic to hear. Well done to Year 5 for such a brilliant effort, and a big thank you to all the staff who volunteered their time to enable the children to have this opportunity.

### Old Catton Junior School

- 13.. The Wobbly Log - high ropes
- 14. Team work tasks in the afternoon sun
- 15. An instructor coaching/coaxing a child to overcome his fear of heights.

### White Woman Lane

- 11. Challenge - climbing the crow's nest
- 12. Team work - can we all fit on here?
- 16. Ready in our safety equipment ...



16.

### Harnser Schools

- 2. The rifle range
- 3. Fencing
- 5. Team work task
- 6. Canoeing
- 7. Climbing wall
- 8. Caving

### Horsford Primary

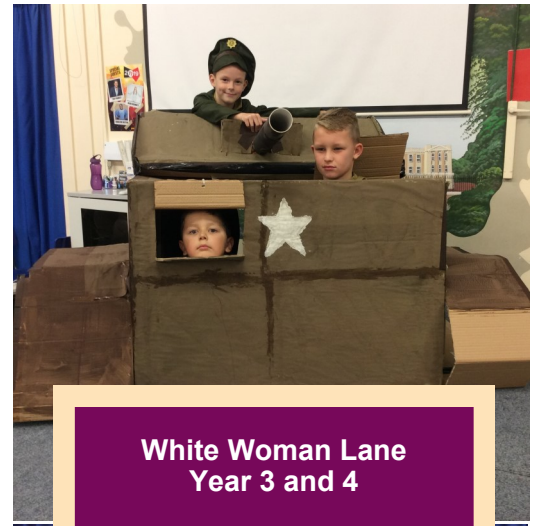
- 1. Climbing wall
- 4. Team work task
- 9. Climbing challenge
- 10. The group shot



# Images of Christmas 2018 ...

We have enjoyed so many Christmas concerts, Carol Services, Christmas plays and Nativities during the last couple of weeks. Thank you to everyone involved!

*May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.*



**White Woman Lane  
Year 3 and 4**

*'Tiffin and Tinsel'*



**Hainford Primary**  
*'Bethlehem the musical' at Hainford Church*



**St. Faiths' Primary**  
*The Landlord's Cat*



# More images of Christmas 2018 ...



**Old Catton Junior**  
Years 3 and 4  
*"5 Gold rings"*  
Based on the '12 days of Christmas'

**Frettenham Primary**  
*The Nativity in the church*



**Horsford Primary**  
Mill Lane  
*The Magical Christmas*  
Jigsaw  
Holt Road  
Nativity

**St. Faiths'**



# Shakespeare Schools Festival

The charity, Shakespeare Schools Festival, is the UK's largest youth drama festival. Four of the schools in the Nebula Partnership took part in the **Shakespeare Schools Festival** this term; Horsford Primary, Old Catton Junior, White Woman Lane and Frettenham Primary. Each school performed a half-hour abridged version of a Shakespeare play at the Norwich Playhouse, on the professional stage with a full audience of family and friends.

Shakespeare Schools Festival aims to engage children through an active way of learning. In preparing and performing the plays our pupils learn about Shakespeare's language, themes and characters - but they learn much more besides. They learn to embrace the diverse characters, styles and stories of Shakespeare and the stories are made accessible to them through this process. This project also unites the cast and performing in a professional theatre on a real stage to a live audience can also make the experience fun, or terrifying, hilarious or deeply moving, and all of the above!

"Every child in every school ought to have the chance to experience this magical process. To bring the enchantment of Shakespeare to thousands of children - there's no more magical process in the whole of education. Long live the Shakespeare Schools Festival!"  
**Philip Pullman, SSF Patron**



**Horsford Primary**  
**A Comedy of Errors**



**White Woman Lane**  
**The Taming of the Shrew**



**Frettenham Primary**  
**Macbeth**



**Old Catton Junior**  
**Much Ado About Nothing**







## Nebula Tag Rugby Festival ...



We held our second Nebula Tag-Rugby in November. Unlike our other events in the past year, this one was played in amazing sunshine! Over the course of the day 130 pupils played competitive tag-rugby whilst receiving coaching at the same time. All pupils seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves and played well and within the spirit of the game. This year, there was a noticeable improvement in the standard in both age ranges, a testament to the teaching of the children and their desire to learn the game and play to the best of their ability. Our thanks to Paul at NCCSF who deployed the coaches and organised the day. His thoughts afterwards.....'I personally thought that the standard of rugby on display was fantastic, a fantastic 188 Trys were scored across the day!' Paul Hunter, School Sport Partnership Officer, Norwich City Community Sports Foundation.' Our thanks to all the coaches for their patience and enthusiasm and for making our festival fun!

'The partnership between the Nebula Federation of Schools and NCCSF has enabled many more children to access a festival and/or competitive sporting environment. Pupils who might not represent their schools have been able to access competition and improve their skill level. It was noticeable that the standard of tag-rugby played this year was higher than last year, indicating that teaching staff are also benefitting from observing the coaching, and learning for pupils has also improved.'

*Nicky Pellatt - Executive Deputy*

## ... and the Premier Arts Dance Showdown

Horsford Primary



Old Catton and White Woman Lane



St. Faiths' Primary

Children from four of our schools took part in the dance showdown at the Puppet theatre this term.

Premier Arts run after school dance classes at Horsford Primary, St. Faiths' Primary, Old Catton Junior and White Woman Lane Junior and they had an opportunity to participate in this event and perform their work in front of each other, families and friends and children from other schools in Norwich.

The children had worked very hard preparing and rehearsing their dances and really enjoyed the experience.

The children are so keen to continue that they have specifically asked that the after school lessons continue next term. If your child would be interested in joining the group, please contact your school.





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## The Christmas Truce continues

By March 1915 the fraternization movement had been eradicated and the killing machine put back in full operation. By the time of the armistice in 1918, fifteen million would be slaughtered.

Doesn't this seem remarkable? How could men suddenly become friendly with each other after months of continual shooting? Of course, even more remarkable is how they could go back to their trenches and start shooting again with the knowledge that the men they had just fraternized with were being killed by their bullets and artillery shells!

Yet there are lessons for today. On December 25, people of all sorts of different values, views, opinions and persuasions will gather their families together and celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Child who was born to save the world. For a day, we will give to

others and exhibit goodwill. Yet the very next day the old animosities may return. Mean-spiritedness, bitterness and personal criticism will once again be in evidence. The Christmas Truce really should teach us some lessons. One is that we should get to know those "others" who we don't really understand and may criticise and be unkind to. If we get close to them, we might find that those who hold differing views to us are not 'bad' people. Instead of us going back to our trenches and shooting at each other verbally from a distance, we should stay in the "No Man's Land" of compromise and conciliation and continue to find solutions to common problems. Unlike the soldiers in the Christmas Truce, we should make the spirit of goodwill at Christmas last more than one day.

One of the lessons of the Christmas

Truce story is summarised in the concluding verse of John McCutcheon's famous song about the event, "Christmas in the Trenches":

### "Christmas in the Trenches"

"My name is Francis Tolliver, in Liverpool I dwell.

Each Christmas come since World War I

I've learned its lessons well:

That the ones who call the shots  
won't be among the dead and lame  
And on each end of the rifle we're the same."

The Christmas Truce story gives us a glimpse of the world as we wish it could be and us, "This really happened once."

It is like hearing that our deepest wishes really could come true: the world really could be different.

## Ofsted Inspections ...

In July, Frettenham Primary School was inspected by Ofsted. They concluded that it is a thriving place where pupils learn well. The inspector said that pupils are confident and self-assured because of the school's positive culture and it is a friendly, caring place that has high expectations of pupils' behaviour and progress. The children get off to a good start in the early years. They are well supported and are keen to emulate their older classmates and they enjoy a rich curriculum that enables them to develop early literacy and numeracy skills effectively.

We were particularly proud that the inspector recognised that the pupils' personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding because they are so enthusiastic about learning and get on so well together. Pupils are polite and take their responsibilities very seriously.

The inspector was very complimentary about our head of school, who leads by example and promotes the values of the school very well. His expertise in mathematics has had a real impact upon raising standards. Congratulations to Mr Longhurst and the team.

In September, two HMIs (Her Majesty's Inspectors) visited White Woman Lane to conduct another Ofsted inspection.

I am delighted that in all of the areas, the school has officially been judged to

be 'Outstanding'. The inspection team recognised the high quality of all aspects of the school and the hard work and commitment shown by staff; I was particularly proud when during the inspection the HMI said 'Staff have incredibly warm relationships with the children and clearly genuinely care for them'. It is lovely to read the very positive comments about the pupils' attitudes to work, exemplary behaviour and their real enjoyment of school and love of learning. The school has always had the enthusiasm and determination to provide the very best teaching and learning opportunities for all pupils without losing sight of the caring and inclusive ethos of our school. Achieving high academic standards is of course an important objective for the school, but only as a by-product of our focus on every child being enabled to achieve to the best of their ability and to enjoy the wide range of learning and other activities that we offer, not just as an aim in itself.

To receive such positive recognition from Ofsted is a tremendous achievement for all the staff, governors, pupils and families of White Woman Lane.

We will not be complacent however and will strive to not only maintain this high standard but to build on it and improve further.

Huge congratulations to Mr Richmond, Mr Johnson and the team at White Woman Lane.



## THE NEBULA FEDERATION GOVERNORS

We currently have some vacancies on our governing body. Would you like to become involved and support and challenge your schools to help them become the best they can be?

If you are interested, please contact Ashley Best-White, Executive Headteacher, or Judy Leggett, the Chair of Governors. We would be very happy to discuss the role with you before you make a final decision.

This term we say 'Goodbye' to ...

Mr Michael Donhou - St. Faiths' Primary

In January 2019 we will welcome ...

Miss Emily Bean - St. Faiths' Primary

