

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

3 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you have enjoyed a restful break over the Christmas holiday despite the challenges national and local restrictions brought upon us all. It has been a very difficult time for some people within our community and I would like to send you all my best wishes and kindest regards. I am sure you will all join me in wishing 2020 a rapid farewell, with the hope that 2021 will not be all consumed by COVID-19.

I am sorry for the last-minute nature of this letter. However, as I'm sure you are aware there has been ever changing government policy and a lot of publicity and speculation over the past few days regarding the reopening of primary schools across England following the Christmas break.

On 30th December, the government took the decision to delay the opening of primary schools in the majority of London boroughs and other Tier 4 areas in the South-East of England. Then on New Year's Day extended these areas to include all primary schools in all London Boroughs but still not including schools in other Tier 4 areas across the country.

Following this announcement, all major teaching and education support staff unions announced on Saturday that they believe that primary schools should not reopen as normal on 4th January and schools should move to remote learning. Some unions have also advised their staff that it is, in their view, unsafe for staff to attend work at the current time.

While this is a very uncertain time, in terms of the full impact of this new variant of coronavirus, I feel it is important that we are open and honest and keep you updated with any developments relating to what we are doing to try and prevent the spread of the virus and any potential school closures.

At the current time we are able to open our schools in the Nebula Federation as we have sufficient staffing in order to be able to do so safely. This will be kept under regular review and we will inform you as soon as possible if we need to take alternative action.

We are continuing to follow guidance from the Department for Education and Norfolk County Council, who act upon advice from Public Health England, in terms of steps to take in the prevention and containment of Coronavirus. Advice from Public Health England for schools in Norfolk remain unchanged.

Over the last nine months we have done everything in our power to make our schools as COVID safe as they can reasonably be. We have redesigned the way we run schools from the ground up to minimise and mitigate the spread of the virus. Whilst the evidence suggests that the risk to young children from the virus remains relatively small, the risk to you, your extended families and all of the staff working in our schools is much higher.

While we are doing our best to prevent the potential spread of the virus in school by following rigid health and hygiene procedures, we all know there is potential for Coronavirus to spread rapidly, as we have seen in other counties not just our own. Therefore, our schools continue to review their risk and safety for the pupils and staff.

We are still required to ensure adequate levels of ventilation. Therefore, to reduce the risk indoors, our schools are currently operating with windows/doors open to allow as much fresh air into classrooms as possible. This is to ensure our school spaces are as safe as possible for our pupils and staff. As there is a need to prioritise infection control over thermal comfort, we are encouraging children and staff to wear additional layers of clothing. May I also suggest that all children bring fleeces and coats to school. We will also continue to improve heating output at all our schools, but we realise this may not provide the levels of comfort we would like.

Following the Government announcements concerning *the increased number of COVID 19* infections, we have decided to put in place extra precautions to help protect pupils, parents and staff.

We need to ask for your help.

We are mindful that we are a community and ask that face coverings are worn at all times by parents/carers and visitors when it is necessary to enter school premises and also in shared areas outside during school pick up and drop off. It is increasingly important that face coverings become a routine part of the school run. From Monday 4th January, only parents with a medical exemption will be allowed on the premises without a face covering.

You will also notice that all staff will now be wearing face masks on the playground at drop-off and pick-up times. This is another way of us reducing the risk of infection within the school community. Some staff may also be wearing face visors inside school.

I need you to help us restrict the spread of the disease by respecting social distancing rules when you drop off and collect your child. Whilst we have the current restrictions you should not be spending any significant length of time less than 2 metres away from anyone outside of your household. This means that, you should not be walking with other families or giving children from other families lifts to school. Only one adult per household may accompany the child/ren at the drop off and collection points at each school and please stick to the staggered arrival and collection times that have been shared with you.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that you should keep your child at home if they or any other member within their household are showing signs of the coronavirus symptoms. Only send your child to school once a negative result has been received, otherwise, please isolate for the recommended 10-day period. We are continuing to monitor the positive covid19 cases and therefore you must inform the school if your child's test is positive.

I ask for your help because if we do not together slow the spread of the Coronavirus then schools may have to close and people close to you may become very ill. Whilst we have a duty of care to your children and a moral responsibility to educate them to the best of our abilities, we must also look after our staff.

In the event that we have to close a school or school closures are enforced we will inform you as soon as we are able to. We already have some plans in place for such an occurrence, to ensure that we are ready to provide remote learning. Should this be the scenario, you will receive detailed information as to expectations and relevant resources.

We would like to thank you for your continued support and understanding during these challenging times. I will continue to keep you updated as and when I have any information.

Keep well, keep safe, and look after each other.



Ashley Best-White
Executive Headteacher
The Nebula Federation