

Message from the Executive Headteacher



Nebula
where stars are born

Nebula Newsletter
Issue 7

December 2017

THE SCHOOLS IN OUR PARTNERSHIP

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

Christmas gifts ...

Gift giving during Christmas time can become a worry for many people trying to figure out what they should get for family and friends at Christmas. People go to the shops, look at all the displays and look for something to give. Some THING. Some people don't really know what can make someone happy, so they just end up buying anything, any THING, rationalising it will make a person happy. After all, if enough money is spent on a gift it's going to make someone happy isn't it? People, basically feel obligated to give other people material gifts. They feel they have to buy a person "things" in order to prove to them that they care and love them.

Especially at Christmas, people give so many material gifts in the attempt to make others happy; these are put in boxes and made to look so very special; wrapped up in paper, ribbons and bows and this causes people to wonder about, anticipate and want to enjoy whatever is in the boxes. But is it simply a gift-wrapped some THING and the only content of those nicely wrapped packages is a thing and emotional emptiness?

Whether or not the following inspirational short Christmas story is true, it's a wonderfully inspiring story for people of any faith.

Once there was a man who worked very hard just to keep food on the table for his family. This particular year a few days before Christmas, he punished his little five-year-old daughter after learning

that she had used up the family's only roll of expensive gold wrapping paper.

As money was tight, he became even more upset when on Christmas Eve he saw that the child had used all of the expensive gold paper to decorate one shoebox she had put under the Christmas tree. He also was concerned about where she had got the money to buy what was in the shoebox. Nevertheless, the next morning the little girl, filled with excitement, brought the gift box to her father and said, "This is for you, Daddy!"

As he opened the box, the father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, now regretting how he had punished her. But when he opened the shoebox, he found it was empty and again his anger flared. "Don't you know, young lady," he said harshly, "when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside the package!"

The little girl looked up at him with sad tears rolling from her eyes and whispered: "Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was all full."

The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his precious little girl. He begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger. An accident took the life of the child only a short time later. It is told that the father kept this little gold box by his bed for all the years of his life. Whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems, he would open the box, take out an imaginary kiss,

and remember the love of this beautiful child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us has been given an invisible golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, family, friends and God. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold. So on this Christmas Day and on every other Christmas Day, see it for what it is - the birthday of the one person that genuinely and unconditionally tried to give us all love for God. And when you give a gift to a loved one, give it with a sense of sincere loving feelings for that person but realise it is your love that should make them happy and not some gift-wrapped emptiness.

In this season of love, may we all remember the beautiful love of a small child. Have a meaningful and love-filled Christmas season and new year ahead. May your days be filled with love, hope, joy, growth, and inspiration.



Ashley Best-White
Executive Headteacher
The Nebula Federation

Images of Christmas 2017 ...

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.



Old Catton Junior
Year 3
"Christmas with the Aliens"
Year 4
"Santa's on Strike"



St. Faiths' Primary
"Straw and Order"





More images of Christmas 2017 ...



Hainford Primary
*"Lights, camel,
action"*



Horsford Primary
Holt Road
Nativity



Even more images of Christmas 2017 ...



Horsford Primary
Mill Lane
"It's Chriiiistmas!"



★
For
unto
you is
born this
day in the
city of David
a saviour, which
is Christ the Lord.
Luke
2:11



Final images of Christmas 2017 ...



**Frettenham Primary
School**
"It's a baby!"



White Woman Lane
*"Cinderella and
Rockerfella"*



Shakespeare Schools Festival

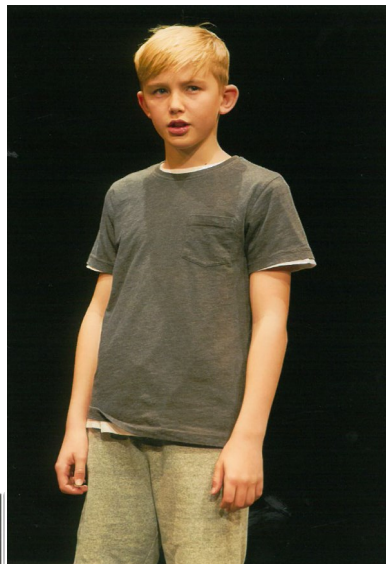
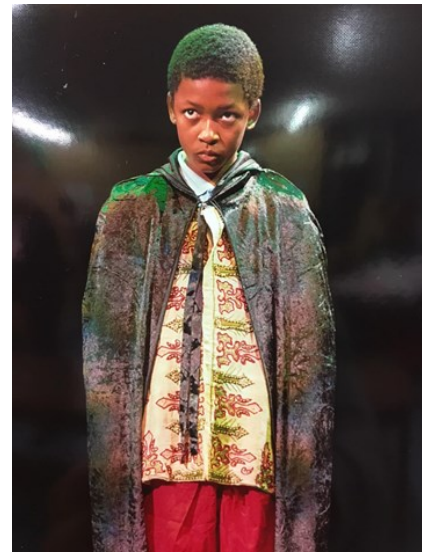
The charity, Shakespeare Schools Festival, is the UK's largest youth drama festival. Four of the schools in the Nebula Partnership took part in the **Shakespeare Schools Festival** this term; Horsford Primary, Old Catton Junior, White Woman Lane and Hainford Primary. Each school performed a half-hour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

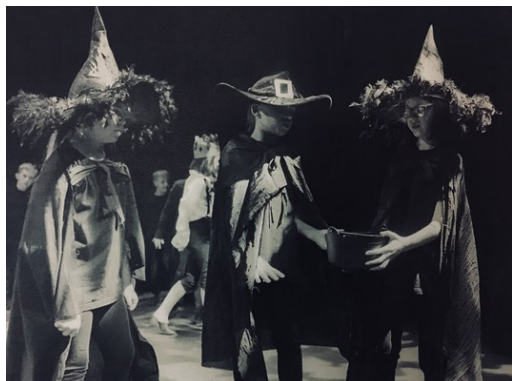
Shakespeare Schools Festival aims to engage children through an active way of learning. In preparing and performing the plays our pupils learn about Shakespeare's language, themes and characters - but they learn much more besides. They learn to embrace the diverse characters, styles and stories of Shakespeare 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

If you would like to see more photos - take a look at the display in the school.





Hainford Primary School - 'Macbeth'

Director: Miss A Williams

Horsford Primary School - 'As You Like It'

Director: Miss S. Blyth

Old Catton Junior School - 'A Midsummer's Night Dream'

Director: Miss K. Richardson

White Woman Lane School - 'Othello'

Director: Mr R. Queensborough



Nebula Federation is now in place ...

As you will be aware, following the consultation with all stakeholders in the summer term, the governing boards of Horsford VA Primary School, the Harnser Federation and the Old Catton and White Woman Lane Federation took the decision to form The Nebula Federation. The responses to the consultation that finished on 24 May 2017 were overwhelmingly in support of the proposed federation. We had hoped that the new federated governing body would be in place from 1 September 2017., however, the new Instrument of Government was not signed and sealed until the end of October and we have also been waiting for each of the foundation governors to be appointed by each of Benefices and for the Bishop's Appointee also to be appointed.

As we have four church schools in our federation we have four foundation governors to ensure that we continue

to promote and develop the Christian distinctiveness of our church schools.

The first governing body meeting of the new Nebula Federation took place on the 6th December 2017. We now have in place a single governing board of 16 governors with a shared strategic vision across all the schools.

The federated governing body aims to build on the successes already achieved and continue to improve the education of our children; to continue to offer the children access to shared resources and experiences, together with joint activities across the federation.

Furthermore, The Nebula Federation by working together and combining resources will offer financial security and sustainability for the benefit of all of the schools and the staff will continue to have access to joint professional development.

THE NEBULA FEDERATION

GOVERNORS

Mrs Judy Leggett	Chair	LA
Mr Ben Moulton	Vice	Co-opted
Mr Neil Aylott		Co-opted
Mrs Ashley Best-White		Headteacher
Mr Ray Browne		Co-opted
Mrs Stephanie Boyce		Parent
Mrs Kate Connelly		Staff
Rev. Chris Engleson		Foundation
Ms Sue Hill		Co-opted
Mrs Sylvia Mak		Foundation
Rev. Margaret McPhee		Foundation
Mrs Toni Rhodes		Co-opted
Mr Peter Spears		Co-opted
Mrs Jane Stockings		Parent
Mr Ian Wicks		Co-opted
St. Faiths' PCC	Vacancy	Foundation
Mrs Jill Steward		Clerk

Inspections ...

On 27th September we welcomed Ofsted to Old Catton Church of England Junior School.

Mrs Fiona Webb, HMI, confirmed that the school continues to be good. The report states that the leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the previous inspection. She also noted that the school works in partnership with a group of local schools and this provides further opportunities to strengthen provision. Joint work between these partnership schools means that teachers are able to see and share the best practice. They are also able to check their assessments of pupils, and this contributes well to improvement planning.

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

www.oldcatton.norfolk.sch.uk

Huge congratulations to Mrs Connelly and her team.

We have also had two Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) inspections for two of our Church schools this term - Old Catton Junior and St. Faiths' Primary School. SIAMS judges the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school as a Church of England school and aims to help schools improve as church schools.

There are four key questions in these inspections:

- How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?
- What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?
- How effective is the religious education?
- How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school?

We have not yet had the reports to share with you, but will let you know the outcomes of these inspections as soon as we can.

This term we welcomed ...

Mr Stan Dunn - White Woman Lane
Miss Teresa Norton—Old Catton
Mrs Carin Pratt and Miss Charlotte Gooda
- Horsford Primary Mill Lane
Miss Gemma Strange - Old Catton Junior
Mrs Fiona Nerney - St. Faiths' Primary
Mrs Lianne Rees - St. Faiths' Primary
(return from maternity leave)

This term we say 'Goodbye' to ...

Mrs Tanya Harewood as she goes on
maternity leave - White Woman Lane
Mrs Karina Beckett - Horsford Primary
Holt Road

In January 2018 we will welcome ...

Mrs Harriet Fuller - Horsford Primary,
Holt Road (return from maternity leave)

