

## Message from the Executive Headteacher



Nebula  
where stars are born

Issue 2

March 2016

### 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

## It's all Greek to me ...

In original Greek, the definition of the word 'school' is "places of leisure in the pursuit of knowledge"! Now, one realises the challenge of a school having the luxury of being able to indulge purely in leisure. As if! – particularly nowadays, in the context of relentless pressure from Ofsted, the DfE, and the Regional Schools' Commissioner, the unremitting expectations for an inexorable rise in standards, and our own very natural quest and vocation as educators of striving for young people to continue to grow and develop and realise their potential.

But, I think we can achieve schools which match the original definition of the word – I know and believe we can create an atmosphere for learning and developing which is as earnest, rigorous and professional as it needs to be and as we'd expect – but which also has an air of positivity and calm about it; which is fun and enjoyable and nurtures and nourishes the whole child and is centred on equipping our young people for high school and then onto a variety of as yet unknown challenges and opportunities which will arise in their later lives.

**"25 years from now, our children will be in jobs that have yet to be defined, using technology which is yet to be invented, to solve issues**

**which have yet to be encountered. How should we prepare children in school to become part of this brave new world?"**

Education and school is about more than the narrow confines of just a few academic subjects which happen to be tested, tabled, published and pronounced upon. It's about planting within young people a thirst for lifelong learning, for both necessity and pleasure. It's about inspiring, and **'lighting a fire within them, not underneath them'!**

We need to give them what they need for the journey through life which lies ahead – and doing so in a way which indeed has room for leisure and pleasure. And, if it's good enough for the children, it's surely good enough for us adults too:

**"Never get so busy making a living that you forget to make a life".**

Schools need to be places of learning – and blended with a balanced approach to that learning; one which has elements of leisure and comfort. Otherwise, all we risk doing is hot-housing children, cranking up the pressure, teaching them only part of the whole curriculum and merely cramming in instead of drawing out; drawing out all that makes them, them: individual, unique, with their own special gifts and talents.

And that's what 'education'

(again, in Greek) means anyway: edu-car-e – to draw out.

It reminds me of what E.F. Skinner said:

**"Education is what remains when all that's been learnt has been forgotten"; and that "children are the messages we send to a future we shall never see".**

No pressure, then!

This term, children in our schools have had lots of opportunities to learn and have fun and to participate in a range of activities 'to draw out' their individual gifts and talents in their individual schools and partnership wide. In this issue of the newsletter we celebrate their achievements in just a few of these events.

**May I take this opportunity to wish you all a learned, relaxing, and peaceful**

**Easter.**



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

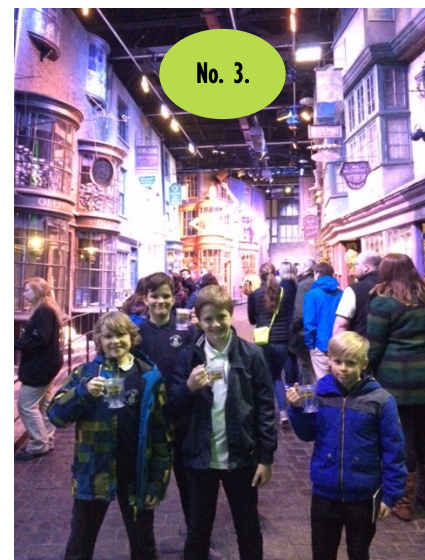
## Reading Project Autumn term - Mystical Beasts!

This term saw the second Nebula Reading Project take place - 'Mystical Creatures'. A whole range of activities and experiences were planned to enthuse children to read and the children certainly appeared to enjoy participating. Every child across the partnership in Years 5 and 6 read J.K Rowling's 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them'. They then had the opportunity to visit the Harry Potter Studio Tour to further inspire their imagination and creativity; over 350 pupils visited during 16th and 17th March! This was an exciting experience for all adults and children and there were a number of mystical creatures to spot and take a picture of and a range of magical and mysterious activities to enjoy.

Pupils in Year 3 and 4 read Cressida Cowell's 'How to train your dragon' and children in KS1 read and enjoyed 'The Paper Bag Princess' by Robert Munsch. They too participated in a number of exciting activities throughout the week which linked with the mystical creatures theme.

Why reach for the stars when you can reach for a book and have the stars, the sun and the moon?

Some of the pupils in KS1 and lower key stage 2 visited Bewilderwood and got to experience the imaginative adventure park and its intriguing creatures. Others had the opportunity to visit the Norwich Castle and participate in 'How to Train Your Dragon' workshops. Storytellers were invited into schools to share magical and mystical stories and a Norwich author Rachael Butler offered workshops on her mystical creature Torp (inspired by Thorpe's dragon gargoyle) to pupils.



1. Off to Hogwarts
2. St. Faiths' at Godric's Hollow
3. Enjoying Butterbeer in Diagon Alley
4. The Knight Bus
5. Hagrid's motorbike and sidecar







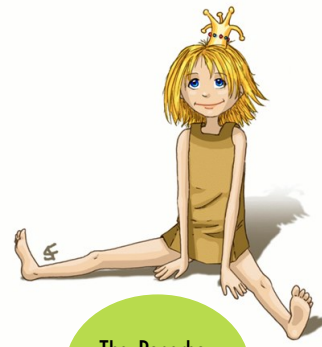
Expelliarmus!



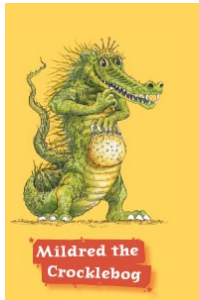
Bewilderwood



No. 5



The Paperbag Princess



No. 6



No. 7



Astrid and Stormfly

The Phoenix



6. The Great Hall  
7. Chamber of Secrets Snake Door

The Nebula Extreme Reading Challenge Competition was also introduced at the start of the week and the winner will be announced after the Easter holidays.

Overall the Mystical Creatures reading project was a success, it encouraged and promoted a love for reading!







## CASMA - Central Area Schools' Music Association

On Wednesday 17th March, children from each of the schools in the partnership joined together to create a Nebula Choir and had the opportunity to perform at the Epic Studios. They sang as part of the CASMA massed choir with children from Drayton Junior School.

The Nebula choir, 150 strong with pupils from Year 3 to Year 6, sang a wonderful selection of songs and they were supported by bands, played by secondary pupils from City of Norwich School.

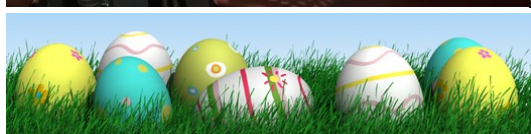
On the night Epic Studios was packed, the audience ready and the choir ready and waiting backstage. Their conductor, the brilliant Mr Andrew Weeks relaxed all the nerves with a fun warm up

and then it was time to get into their places on stage.

All the children in the choir showed great commitment over the whole term learning all the songs and all words off by heart. We were immensely proud of all the children in the choir, the way they performed with such confidence, enthusiasm and skill. I hope they realised how much joy they brought to the audience.

None of this would have happened, however, without the dedication and enthusiasm of the school teachers. Performances like these do not happen without hours of preparation, including song sheets music and piano

practice before the choir are even involved. Then there are the hours of practice with the choir, the joint practice with the other schools, the organising of coaches, risk assessments and accompanying staff, not to mention the sleepless nights worrying about it all. I am sure the children and parents would like to join me in thanking Mr Reeve, Mrs Brooks, Mr West, Mr Patient, Mrs Allison, Miss Wilson and Mrs Baldry for their tireless hard work and enthusiasm which has made all this possible.





## Nebula Tag - Rugby Tournament



Our collaboration with the Physical Education Department of Norwich School developed further this term with the organisation of the first Nebula Partnership competitive sport event - the Tag Rugby Tournament. This was held at Redmayne Playing Field - Norwich School's own sports facility. Every school in the partnership entered a team and the eventual winners of our first tournament were: Yr 5/6 Old Catton Junior School and Yr3/4 Frettenham Primary. Well done to them and all the children who took part on a very cold, Fri-



day morning. A very appropriate activity for Sport Relief 2016. Watch out for information about another sporting event next term; we are committed to providing pupils with the opportunity to

experience a range of physical activities, to develop their physical competence and build self-esteem and to enjoy and value the benefits of a healthy and active life style through regular exercise.

## Children can only aspire to what they know exists

We want to inspire all our young people to discover innovative and creative learning outside the normal school day, and so develop new interests and acquire new skills. We also want to celebrate their achievements and the learning that takes place outside school hours. All the schools in our partnership now work with Norfolk Children's University to do just that! The Children's University is an organisation which signposts your child to exciting learning activities which take place outside the normal school day - it could

take place before school, during lunchtime, after school, during weekends or holidays etc. The activities are all voluntary, it is up to you and your child to choose what they do and when, and the learning always has a link to something they could go on to do at a 'grown up' university. Through the Passport to Learning, the children are encouraged to take part in extra learning in their schools, in out of school clubs, and also to enjoy learning opportunities on offer across the county in places like museums and libraries.

As children show that they want to learn by choosing to do these extra things, their achievements are celebrated with certificates and special Graduation Days.

A Children's University Passport is a learning passport with your child's name and unique registration number, valid for 3 years, which you and your child will look after. It records all the additional the learning hours gained in clubs at school and at other places like libraries and museums

Talk to your school's co-ordinator if you'd like your child to take part.

