

# Swallowtail News



## The Swallowtail Federation of Church Schools



*Our Federation's mission is to work together to create successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.*

*With friendship, trust and kindness we fly!*

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## October 2023 Newsletter

### Message from the Executive Head

Dear families

What a busy month it has been! The new curriculum is now in full swing across our schools and, even at this early stage, the impact is so clear to see. What is standing out most to me is the engagement in the high quality texts and passion from children about reading. The children are talking so enthusiastically about their learning and using really high level vocabulary which they are being exposed to through these books.

I have been so proud to showcase our three schools through open days this week. We believe that parents want to see the schools running as they do everyday and that is exactly what we have done. The feedback from visitors has been exceptional. High praise to the behaviours, resources and enthusiasm of the children. Some of the visitors couldn't get away as our children were just bursting to tell them about their school and what they learn. I think that says it all!

*Kind Regards*

*Natalie Butcher*

*Executive Head, Swallowtail Federation of Church Schools*

### Message from the senior teacher

Alongside our vision, we try our utmost to support a variety of charities each year. We recognise that at this time in particular, there is an increase in the number of opportunities to donate. Please only contribute to those you are able to.

We will be holding a Christmas Raffle this year. Tickets can be purchased throughout the month of December. The raffle will be drawn on Monday 18th December. Raffle tickets will be £1 per ticket, please purchase your raffle tickets from the school office. Following the success of obtaining raffle prizes last time, the children will be writing letters to kindly ask for raffle prizes. We understand that not everyone feels comfortable asking for things so please only do this if you do feel comfortable to do so. Also, due to the generosity last time we held a raffle, we do understand that it may be trickier to obtain as many donations. Donations can be dropped off to school anytime from now up until Friday 15th December.

Following the success of our last Bingo fundraising event, we have planned another! We will be holding a Christmas Bingo Fundraising event on Tuesday 5th December at 7pm. Tickets are £10 per person and include Christmas nibbles. Please bring your own drinks. Dabbers will be available to purchase on the night and tickets for the Christmas raffle will be available to purchase too so please bring some cash with you! All the money raised from the bingo and raffle will be going towards our pond renovation project. Tickets to our bingo event are on sale NOW. Please contact the school office for a booking form. These can be emailed to you or collected from the school in person.

A third success, following the success of our Easter Fayre last year, we are excited to be busy planning the next one! Our Easter Fayre will be held at school on Saturday 16th March 2024. We are already interested in hearing from outside businesses/craft makers etc that wish to have a stall at our Easter Fayre. Tables/table space will be £10 each. Please contact the school office if you wish to book a space.

Miss Blake  
Senior teacher

## News

- The children will be taking part in a Sponsored Readathon in November. We are busy planning a variety of engaging reading activities for the children. The reading activities will last the duration of the day and will promote reading for the whole of the 6 hours that the children are in school. The children will be reading a variety of genres as well as opportunities to read music and maps! The event will be planned in such a way that children will still be reading when they are travelling down the corridor, washing their hands and even when they are having a wee! We will be in touch with more information in due course.
- There have been lots of new things happening within our Federation since the beginning of the academic years and we wish to share the successes of some of our new things with you. We would like to invite you into school to share your child's learning opportunity with them.  
Reception children - Friday 3rd November 1pm - 1.45pm  
Year 1 and 2 children - Thursday 2nd November 9.00-9.45am.
- We have made the decision to reinstate our Stay and Play sessions at school. Please share the poster that was recently shared with you, far and wide. We are offering both provision based and Forest School based Stay and Play sessions.
- We are delighted to share with you that our chosen Nativity this year is Born in a Barn. There will be two showings of our nativity. The first on Tuesday 12th at 10am and the second on Wednesday 13th at 2pm. Both showings will take place at the church. Our nativity will be a ticketed event this year. Four complimentary tickets per family will be allocated to you and if any further tickets are required, these can be purchased at £3 each.
- Carol Singing in the village - On Tuesday 19th December we will be carol singing throughout the village. Please see the schedule of where we will be at what time, below. Please come out and support us at one (or all!) of our singing locations.  
9.30am - The Village Green  
10am - The Chapel car park  
10.50am - Broadlands Road  
11.30pm - The Community Garden  
We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 19th December.
- New books - Lots of you have been fortunate enough to experience the new texts in which we purchased as part of our library renovations. The feedback about these books has been phenomenal and we are delighted that you love them as much as we do! We purchased the books from The Norfolk Children's Book Centre in Alby, near Aylsham. (Wayside, Church Lane, Alby, Norwich NR11 7HB) The bookshop is open to the public and stocks a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction texts, suitable for babies through to young adults. We really recommend you take some time to visit! <https://www.ncbc.co.uk/>
- The PTA are having a stall at the chapel Christmas event on Saturday 25th November to raise money for school funds. They are asking for donations of chocolate, small chocolate bars, boxes of chocolate, multipacks etc. All donations are highly appreciated and are needed for our game at the Christmas event. Please drop these into the office between now and Wednesday 22nd November.

## This month's curriculum focus: Geography

We are very excited across the Federation to have implemented, and now all be teaching using the new CUSP scheme. The high quality resources make the lessons very accessible and engaging for the children. CUSP provides a wealth of resources in the form of online books and video books, which supports a greater depth of subject knowledge.

Children are provided with knowledge organisers at the start of each topic that introduce and provide all the topic content. We are particularly finding that the CUSP scheme is challenging our children with the depth of the learning delivered, and has enhanced their whole learning experience.

The main concepts covered in Geography are Locational knowledge, Place Knowledge, Human and Physical and Geographical skills and fieldwork. CUSP provides a two-year rolling programme to ensure the knowledge and skills are taught from Early Years right through to Year 6.

This Autumn term, Keystage 1 are studying human and physical geography in the local area, which includes simple fieldwork, observational skills and the use of compasses to study the local area. They will also be comparing a small part of the UK to a non-European location - London and Nairobi.

Lower Keystage 2 will be learning all about Rivers, including the different features of a river and a study on a local river, identifying the source and the mouth.

Upper Keystage 2 are learning about the Physical processes: earthquakes, mountains and volcanoes. This includes also looking at the Earth's structure and tectonic plates.

The use of the CUSP scheme has enhanced our young Geographers learning experience and we look forward to continued success with this scheme.

Mrs Smithson - Geography Subject lead

We have had a great week during Forest Schools!



### Safeguarding Some links for e-safety:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/digital/5-a-day/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

### Stay up to date...

Website: [www.swallowtailfederation.co.uk](http://www.swallowtailfederation.co.uk)

[Follow us on twitter at](#)  
[@HicklingInfants](#)

[Follow us on Facebook at](#)  
[Hickling Infant School](#)

## Diary dates

October- Black history month.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October- Harvest worship at the church at 2pm. Children to go home from the church afterwards.

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>-Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October- Half term.

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October (PM) - Volunteering at Hickling Community Garden. Please collect your child from school as normal.

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November– KS1 Work showcase of new curriculum at 9.00am-9.45am.

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November- Reception and KS1 children sharing their work at 2.30pm.

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November - EYFS Showcasing CUSP - Mrs Steers wishes to invite you in, 1pm-1.45pm to showcase our new curriculum within the Early Years.

Monday 6 and Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November- KS1 parent consultations.

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November- Pre-school parent consultations.

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November- Reception parent consultations.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November - Library opening - Please join us at 2pm to officially open our new library and celebrate with tea and cake!

Monday 13<sup>th</sup>-Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November- Anti-bullying week.

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November- Individual and sibling photos at 9.00am.

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November- Flu immunisations at 1.30pm.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November- Children In Need. This year's theme focuses on the power of positive relationships, and the impact of these relationships throughout their school years. With this in mind, we wish to invite your child to dress us as Superhero on this day, in exchange of a £1 donation for Children In Need.

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November - Sugar and Sparkle day - In exchange for dressing up in something sparkly, please bring in a bag of sugar. We are doing this to support shelters in East Anglia for the homeless and families in crisis. For those in need, sugar is instant and vital energy in food and hot drinks.

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November- Christmas Craft Fayre at the Chapel, please come and support us, we will have a stall.

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November- Christmas craft morning 9.00-10.30am. Families welcome to attend.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December- Carol Singing at Hickling Lunch Club at 1.30pm.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December- BINGO! 7pm. £10 a ticket, bookable via the school office. Ticket to include festive nibbles. Bring your own drink.

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas Jumper Day.– Children to wear a Christmas Jumper in exchange for a £1 donation.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas Disco, 3.30pm-5pm. Tickets £3.00 and places can be booked on Pupil Asset.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December- Nativity dress rehearsal (church) at 9.30am.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December - Carol singing at Hickling House

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December- Nativity at 10.00am.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas Movie night 3-4.30pm. Tickets are £3.00 and can be booked on pupil asset.

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December- Nativity at 2pm. Children to go home from the church afterwards.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December- Reception class and KS1 attending Snow White Pantomime show in Sheringham Little Theatre. As per the letter, please drop your child off at Catfield at 8.00am but collect them from Hickling as normal.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December - Pre-school Children attending a Federation Day at Sutton.

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December- Christingle at 2pm at the Church- children to go home afterwards.

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December- Carol Singing in the village.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas church service at 2pm. Children to go home afterwards.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas dinner at school.

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December- January 3<sup>rd</sup>- Half term. Children return to school Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024.