

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 every day 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!

Wishing all of you a happy and safe half term.

Natalie Butcher

Executive Head, Swallowtail Federation of Church 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: <https://www.swallowtailfederation.co.uk/>



@ CatfieldPrimary

Catfield CE VC Primary School

Message from Miss Amis

It's crazy to think it is the end of the first half term back at school already! All of our children have been super busy with their learning and are enjoying our new CUSP curriculum. We want to thank all of you who were able to join us for our EYFS/KS1 CUSP afternoon and hope you enjoyed seeing our new curriculum in action. Don't forget KS2 will be holding their CUSP afternoon on Thursday 2nd November at 2:30pm. We hope you can join us.

It was fantastic to see so many of you join us for our Harvest worship last week. We will be dropping donations off to the local food bank during half term.

Our next half term will be jam packed with lots more learning as well as Christmas celebrations. Please keep an eye on emails and newsletters for important dates.

On Monday 6th November we will be having a non-uniform day and a bonfire special lunch. As a Federation would like to be part of the Christmas School Sugar Collection and support shelters in East Anglia for the homeless and families in crisis. Therefore, we will not be asking for a monetary donation for the non-uniform day but instead we would like to ask you to donate a bag of sugar.

On Friday 17th November it is Children in Need day. This year's theme running through the Swallowtail Federation focuses on the power of positive relationships, and the impact of these relationships throughout the children's school years. With this in mind, we would like to invite children to come to school dressed as a superhero for the day in exchange for a voluntary donation of £1 for Children In Need. Remember, some, but not all superheroes wear capes! Your child's superhero could be a veterinary nurse who made their poorly pet better, or perhaps a doctor who made them feel better, or what about the postman who delivered their favourite toy? The list is endless!

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 hope all our children that attended our spooky and sparkly disco had a lovely time. We will let you know in the next newsletter how much we were able to raise from this event.

Don't forget we have our Christmas Movie Night on Thursday 7th December. A letter will be coming out with more information after half term.

We are really desperate for help with PTA events. If you are able to spare some time to help out and support at any events, please let me know. Without enough support, we may not be able to hold events such as discos and movie nights for our children. We are really desperate for help with PTA events. If you are able to spare some time to help out and support at any events, please let me know. Without enough support, we may not be able to hold events such as discos and movie nights for our children.

Message from the P.T.A

Thank you to all the parents/carers/children and staff for the support this half term with the events that we have held. As always we welcome any help at any of the events, even if it is making tea, every bit of help counts! Without parent support, we are not able to safely run events and things may get cancelled if we do not have enough volunteers. We are pleased to say that this half term the following has been raised:

Cake raffles—£150.00

Wheels evening—£56.85

Spooky & Sparkly Disco—£117.50

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, Key stage 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 Key stage 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 Key stage 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

2023–2024 Academic calendar



Norfolk County Council

2023-2024

Norfolk Model Calendar

This calendar applies to community schools, community special schools, VC schools and nursery schools and sets the days on which school transport will be provided. While most Foundation, VA, foundation special, free schools and academy trusts who are able to set their own dates, adopt the Norfolk Model, we advise you to check with your child's school before making holiday or other commitments.

September 2023	October 2023	November 2023	December 2023
M T W T F S S	M T W T F S S	M T W T F S S	M T W T F S S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024
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May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	August 2024
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Key : White dates - schools open to pupils
Yellow dates - pupil holiday
Red dates - bank holiday

Five staff training days will be selected from yellow dates, we suggest 4th & 5th September, 3 January, 28th March and 22 July. Some may choose to use twilight hours for staff training instead of some or all of these.

Diary dates

October

23rd-27th Half term

30th—Children return to school

November

6th Bonfire Special Lunch & non-uniform day

6th Children sharing work with families 3pm

6th & 7th —Parent Consultations

8th—Tempest Individual & sibling photos

17th Children In Need

30th—Christmas craft morning

30th—Flu immunisations

December

7th—Christmas Jumper day

7th—Movie Night 3.15pm-5.15pm

11th—Nativity dress rehearsal

12th—Nativity performance 2.30pm

13th—Nativity performance 9.15am

14th—KS2 Carol Concert 6pm

18th—Christingle in church 2pm

20th—Christmas dinner

20th—Last day of term

January 2024

4th—Children return to school