

# 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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## December 2023 Newsletter

### Message from the Executive Head

Dear all

Welcome to the last newsletter of 2023!

As I write, I have viewed one Nativity this morning, will be seeing one this afternoon and another one tomorrow. Later in the week I will be attending the Key Stage 2 Carol Service at Catfield church. Whilst it is a particularly busy time for me, I feel really blessed to share in the joy these Christmas events bring. I always feel these are where the uniqueness of being part of small schools really shows, with each and every child getting an opportunity to shine. None of this would be possible without the hard work of our staff and I know you will join me in thanking them.

All that leaves me to say is I hope you and your loved ones have the merriest Christmas!

*Kind Regards*

*Natalie Butcher*

*Executive Head, Swallowtail Federation of Church Schools*

Mr Jones has some Christmas decorations he would like to donate to a good cause. If you now of a charity or any individual that would benefit from them, please let the school office know.

**SENCO**

Mrs Moore our Federation Deputy is also our SENCO. To ensure both roles are given the time and commitment required, designated days are set aside. Days for SENCO are Monday and Tuesday.

## 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

Our Christmas celebrations have been well under way this week. We hope our EYFS and KS1 families enjoyed their child's nativity performance. All the children worked so hard and sang their little hearts out and we as staff were so proud of them. We want to thank the village hall committee for letting us use the hall and thank our families for supporting us with this change too.

Our KS2 children shined in their carol concert in the Church this week. They sang so fabulously and read their lines so clearly, making us super proud!

On Monday we look forward to our Christingle celebrations in the Church and hope you can join us too. We will begin at 2pm.

On Wednesday we invite children to come dressed in a Christmas jumper and non-school uniform trousers/leggings.

All that leaves me to say is we wish all of our families a very happy Christmas!

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Christingle in Church 2pm.** We would like to invite you all to our Christingle in the Church. Please can we ask that you park at school and walk up to the Church.

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**—Non-uniform—Children come dressed in a Christmas jumper and non-school uniform trousers/leggings

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Dinner.** If you have NOT pre-ordered the Christmas or Vegetarian Christmas meal, your child will require a packed lunch from home as all other options are not available

## This Month's Curriculum Focus: Music

Our Music curriculum is personally crafted by our Music Subject Leader, following the National Curriculum and is supported by the Charanga music scheme. This blend of planning is personalised towards the excellent musical resources we have in our Federation, the interests of the children, and provides them with a wide scope of exposure to international, generational and historical music genres.

Over the course of their journey at Swallowtail, the children will explore learning to play and compose their own music on a variety of tuned and untuned instruments, as well as dipping into digital composition in Key Stage 2. Untuned instruments include: percussion and djembes. Tuned instruments include: glockenspiels, Garage Band for digital music and the ukulele. Music theory and music history is woven into each unit, but is also taught explicitly as a unit in each year at school. The children are encouraged, but never pressured to perform what they have learned or composed in class. Their musical experiences outside of school are also celebrated, should they wish to share this with us!

Music work is recorded in samples by the teacher and kept in a digital file by the Music Subject Leader. Once a year, when the children study Music History and Theory, their recorded work is kept in a treasury tagged folder that will be passed up through their years at school.

This Autumn, Year 1 and 2 have listened to an array of rap music and have been using the djembes to create rhythms as well as to lead and participate in community drum circles. Year 3 and 4 have listened to various spiritually influenced music from a range of genres and used percussion instruments to convey emotion and supplement story lines. Year 5 and 6 have listened to rock music from various decades and have been using the glockenspiels for the 3rd time in the Primary musical experience, which has progressed to include reading music on a staff to play familiar and unfamiliar pieces. The second half of the Autumn term is always reserved for singing practice, in preparation for their Nativity performance in Key Stage 1 and Carol Concert in Key Stage 2.

In the Spring, Year 1 and 2 will use percussion, Year 3 and 4 the djembes and Year 5 and 6 will delve into the Romantic period in music history (1820-1900), in particular, looking at the work of Chopin and Tchaikovsky.

## 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							1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
							30	31																			

January 2024							February 2024							March 2024							April 2024						
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				1	2	3	4					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					26	27	28	29				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

May 2024							June 2024							July 2024							August 2024						
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						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					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

### December

18th—Christingle in church 2pm

20th—Non-uniform, Christmas dinner & Last day of Term

4th January 2024 —Children return to school