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!

January 2024 Newsletter

Message from the Executive Head

Dear families

Well we have certainly had a busy start to 2024.

Mrs Moore and I have had the pleasure of moderating writing across the three schools over the last few weeks. To say it has blown our socks off is an understatement. It is clear to see the impact CUSP is having in this area. Here are just a few snippets for you to enjoy:

"Nala hastily finished her ugali and chugged down her sweet, black tea. Next, she gently put flower-coloured beads in her dark black braided hair before she went out into the sunshine." (Year 2 pupil)

"Laying in the golden cornfield, listening to the wind while it sung. The sun beamed down on me bringing glistening light to the whole field. Contentedness filled my mind. The corn waved at me as I shut my eyes and drifted off to sleep." (Year 6 pupil)

I am sure you agree that the quality of this writing is exceptional, especially as this is after just one term. Well done to all the staff and children for their hard work. I couldn't be prouder.

We look forward to showcasing more of the children's fantastic learning throughout the year.

Kind Regards

Natalie Butcher
Executive Head, Swallowtail Federation of Church Schools

Message from the senior teacher

Thank you for a lovely (less chaotic than December) start back to school. There is a pleasing and infectious ooze of Friendship, Trust and Kindness amongst our school, enabling us, in our own individual ways, to fly! Earlier this week I spoke to the children about creating and building upon a solid foundation. We discussed not only what this looks like and how we can do it but more importantly, the impact it is going to have. Throughout the week the children have taken time to let me know how that have contributed to their solid foundation.

You will notice we have tried to be a little bit organised with important dates for the year, other dates will of course emerge as we go through the year and we will endeavour to let you know these as and when they arise.

Miss Blake (Senior Teacher) x

This month's curriculum focus: Computing

Across the federation we use Teach Computing to deliver computing lessons. Teach Computing has been created by The National Centre for Computing Education (NCCE) which is funded by the Depart for Education. This marks a significant investment in improving the provision of computing education in England. NCCE aims to transform the way computing is taught in schools across the country and enable more young people to benefit from studying such an important subject, which in today's technology driven world, will enhance young people's skills and career opportunities.

The Teach Computing curriculum is structured into units for each year group, and each unit is broken down into lessons. Each lesson is sequenced so that it builds on the learning from the previous lesson, and where appropriate, activities are scaffolded so that all pupils can succeed and thrive. There are also exploratory tasks which foster a deeper understanding of a concept, encouraging pupils to apply their learning in different contexts and make connections with other learning experiences.

Every year group learns through units within the same four themes- computing systems and networks, programming, data and information and creating media.

These are the areas each year group covers within these four themes-

Year 1-	Year 2-
Technology around us	Information technology around us
Digital painting	Digital photography
Moving a robot	Robot algorithms
Grouping data	Pictograms
Digital writing	Digital music
Programming animations	Programming quizzes
Year 3-	**Year 4-**
Connecting computers	The internet
Stop frame animation	Audio production
Sequencing sounds	Repetition in shapes
Branching databases	Data logging
Desktop publishing	
Events and actions in programs	
Year 5-	**Year 6-**
Systems and searching	Communication and collaboration
Video production	Webpage creation
Selection in physical computing	Variables in games
Flat-file databases	Introductions to spreadsheets
Introduction to vector graphics	3D modelling
Selection in quizzes	Sensing movement

Online safety

Keeping safe online is an important part of both our computing and PSHE curriculums and is visited regularly throughout the year. Children are taught how to use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly and to recognise when something is not right and what they should do.

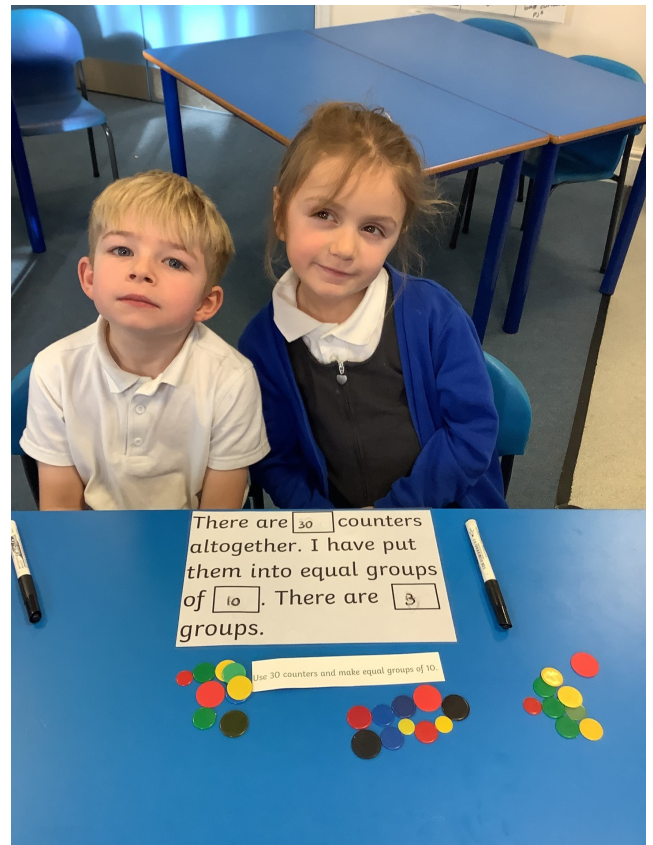Miss Fiddeman- Federation computing lead

News

- Once your child turns 5 years old they will no longer receive free milk at school. If you would like your child to still receive free milk it can be purchased from Coolmilk at www.coolmilk.com. If you purchase this for your child please inform the school office.
- Dear Parents, I am walking the Norfolk Mighty Hike (14 miles) in May to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support (a charity close to my heart). If you would like to Sponsor me and raise money for this amazing charity please put some money in a named envelope and give to the office. Alternatively you can go straight to my just giving page at

  https://www.justgiving.com/page/dawn-steers1704725828666utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fdawn-steers1704725828666&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=pfp-email

Many thanks in advance, Mrs. Steers

- We are hosting our first PTA meeting of the year on 22nd January at 2.30pm. A PTA is a group of volunteer parents and teachers who work together to make our school a better environment for children to learn. They raise extra funds through a wide range of fun and creative initiatives and events. If you feel you could support our PTA please come along on.
- Don't forget to bring along your unwanted clothes before Monday morning. All funds raised go to supporting the school.

Following a recipe.

Grouping KS1 maths

Diary dates

Monday 22nd January– PTA meeting at school at 2.30pm. Parents welcome to attend.

Monday 12th February (4pm-5.30pm) - Love disco - £3 per child, to include a drink and snack.

14th - 28th March - Lent

Friday 8th March - Mother's Day celebration - 8.50am

Saturday 2nd March - 10.30am-1.30pm, we will be at the Seed Swap event at Hickling Barn. May we encourage and invite you to bring your children along; with us they will be able to join in with some plants/growing related arts and crafts.

Saturday 16th March - Easter Fayre

Tuesday 19th March - Work sharing

Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st - EYFS parent consultations

Wednesday 27th March - Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Wednesday 27th March - Easter Church Service - St Mary's Church, Hickling - 2pm

Friday 26th April - Key Stage 1 reports out to families

Friday 14th June - Father's Day celebration - 8.50am

Tuesday 25th June - Work sharing

Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th June - Key Stage 1 parent consultations

Monday 1st July - EYFS reports out to families

Wednesday 10th July - Sports Day and picnic (11am)

Wednesday 17th July - Reserve Sports Day

Thursday 18th July - Year 2 leavers assembly in school (9am) - Year 2 families only.

Friday 19th July - End of term church service (1.30pm) - All welcome

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…

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@HicklingInfants

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