*With friendship, trust and kindness, we fly!*

**The Swallowtail Federation**
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# April 2025 Newsletter

## Message from the Executive Head

Dear families

Welcome to the Summer term! I hope you all enjoyed a lovely Easter break and were able to make the most of the lovely weather.

Just before the Easter holidays, we all met together for a Federation Day on the theme of 'genres'. This involved the children working in mixed groups completing activities to develop their understanding of different genres including nature reporting and poetry. Our EYFS children also joined in the fun, they all played together in the Early Years classroom and practised their skills including writing lists.

It was the most wonderful day. Thank you to all the staff who put in tremendous hard work to mark sure they activities were so engaging. However, we also need to thank our wonderful children. The kindness they shared to one another allowed for a day of great fun and developed friendships. The smiles on their faces said it all. It was also so heart warming to have so much positive feedback from parents from across the three schools. We look forward to when we can all meet together again. With friendship, trust and kindness we fly!

Kind regards
Natalie Butcher
Executive Head, The Swallowtail Federation

## Attendance Catfield Primary Academy:

Lions: 91.38% Cheetahs: 93.76% Panthers: 91.66%

Well done Cheetahs!

# Message from Miss Amis

Welcome back! I hope you had a fabulous Easter break and enjoyed the warmer weather we are starting to get. This half term is a very short one but we are still packing lots and lots in!

Monday 5th May is a Bank Holiday.

Thursday 8th May – Please ensure all forms and payments are returned for Tigers and Cubs trip to Banham Zoo.

Monday 12th May – EYFS Stay and Play 1:30pm – 2:30pm. If you know of anyone with children 2-4 years old looking for a pre-school or reception place, please let them know about our Stay and Play session.

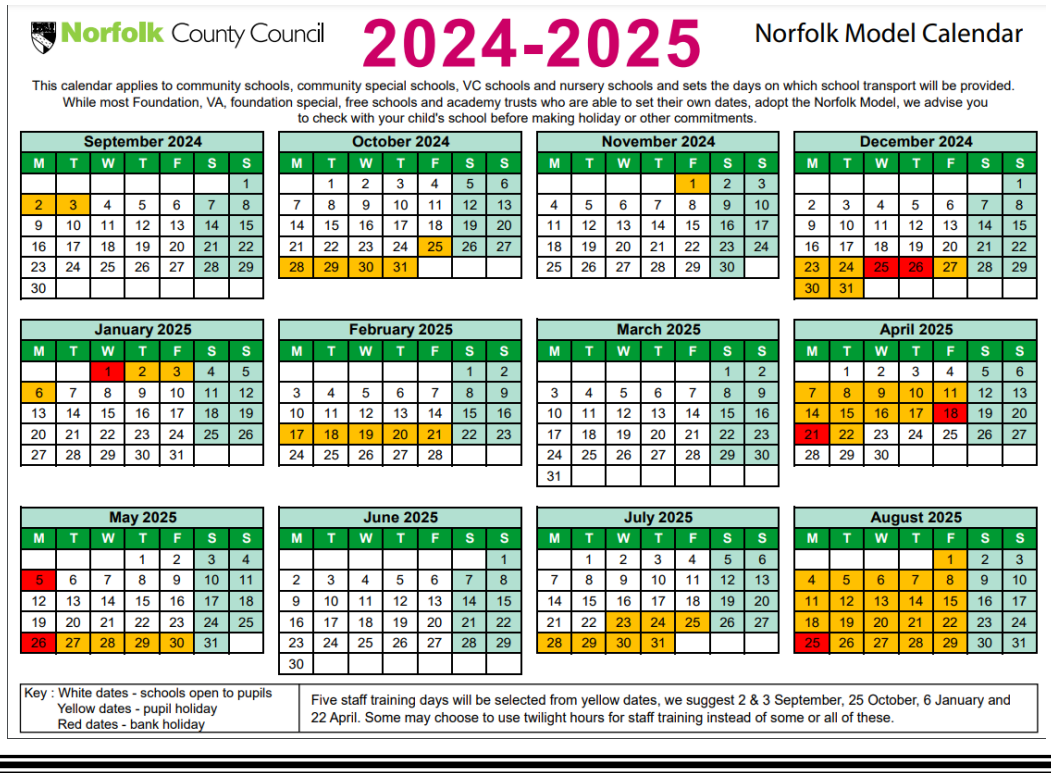
Monday 12th – Thursday 16th May – KS2 SATS Week. Mrs Smithson will be in contact with more information.

Tuesday 13th May 3:20pm – 4:20pm – Wheels Evening. We will be holding a Wheels Evening at school. **Please sign up and make payment through Parentmail—This will be live on Monday 28th April**

Friday 23rd May – Maths Café – we welcome you to join us from 2pm for some fun maths activities in class with your children. Please arrive and sign in at the front office.

Miss Amis

# 2024–2025 Academic calendar



Norfolk County Council **2024-2025** 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 2024**

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**October 2024**

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**November 2024**

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**December 2024**

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**January 2025**

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**February 2025**

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**March 2025**

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**April 2025**

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**May 2025**

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**June 2025**

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**July 2025**

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**August 2025**

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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 2 & 3 September, 25 October, 6 January and 22 April. Some may choose to use twilight hours for staff training instead of some or all of these.

# Diary dates

**May**

| | |
|---|---|
| 2nd | KS1 & KS2 Reports to Parents |
| 5th | Bank Holiday |
| 12th | KS2 SATs Week |
| 12th | 1:30pm – 2:30pm – Stay & Play EYFS (upcoming 2 & 3 year olds) |
| 22nd | Final Singing Club session |
| 23rd | 2pm – Maths Café |
| **26th to 30th** | **Half term** |

**June**

| | |
|---|---|
| 2nd | Year 4 Multiplication Check Week |
| 2nd | 1:30pm – 2:30pm – Stay & Play EYFS (upcoming 2 & 3 year olds) |
| 9th | Year 1 Phonics Screening Week |
| 13th | 2pm – Father's Day Celebration |
| 17th | 9am – Class and Leavers Photographs |
| 20th | EYFS Banham Zoo Trip |
| 20th | No Family Worship |
| 23rd | KS1 & KS2 Parent Consultations |
| 23rd | Reception Shared Learning Event After School |
| 26th | KS1 & KS2 Parent Consultations |
| 26th | KS2 Norfolk Show Trip |
| 27th | KS2 Staycation (Provisional Date) |
| 27th | KS1 Federation Day at Hickling |

# Safeguarding

Some links for e-safety:

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

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

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

# This Month's Curriculum Focus: DT

At Swallowtail, our design technology curriculum follows CUSP and is on a two-year rolling programme.

In the early years our pupils are introduced to a variety of materials, tools and fixings, sculpting and evaluating, these are covered through the early years Expressive Arts and Design area of development. Key stage one and key stage two build upon these early foundations and upon each other.

While working as designers our pupils follow the design, make, evaluate and apply process. Many units have connections with architects, designers, structures etc, this gives a historical aspect to these. All units have specific oracy and vocabulary learning along with the evaluation process.

Across this academic year key stage one and two pupils have covered and are covering the following areas:

| Autumn term | Spring term | Summer term |
|---|---|---|
| Key stage 1 | | |
| Mechanisms (linked with the instructional writing unit): *How can you make a picture move?*<br><br>Investigating how sliders work, designing and making a card slider product.<br><br>Connections: 'Little Red Riding Hood' Deans of London<br><br>Structure: *How can you stop a tower from toppling over?*<br><br>Investigating what needs to be in place so that a structure can remain standing on its own, using a range of materials to explore and reason about why some structures may fall.<br><br>Connections: The leaning tower of Pisa | Food and Nutrition (linked with the science unit animals including humans): *How does food affect your senses?*<br><br>Learning that eating is a sensory experience, learning about nutrition and why colourful food can be better for you. Using a range of techniques to create and modify dishes that appeal to our senses.<br><br>Understanding materials: *Can you build with bread?*<br><br>Identifying a range of construction materials and how materials can be changed by adding heat or water. Using a combination of materials to create a small model house.<br><br>Connections: The American architect, designer, writer and educator Frank Lloyd Wright | Textiles (linked with the geography unit hot and cold places): *How can two squares of fabric keep you warm?*<br><br>Learning to sew pieces of fabric together to form a pouch, naming the parts of a needle and threading a needle.<br><br>Connections: The Bayeux Tapestry which is an embroidered cloth.<br><br>Food and Nutrition (linked with the instructional writing unit): *Why are vegetables the best?*<br><br>Learning to prepare and sample a wide variety of vegetables. Learning about the health benefits of eating vegetables daily. Developing knife skills and basic culinary techniques. |

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# This Month's Curriculum Focus: DT

| Autumn term | Spring term | Summer term |
|---|---|---|
| Lower key stage 2 | | |
| Textiles: *How can you make a box out of cloth?*<br><br>Exploring ways to stiffen fabric. Covering a box with cloth and creating a rigid box out of fabric.<br><br>Connections: The New York-based artist and architect Gisela Stromeyer<br><br>Food and Nutrition (linked with the science unit animals including humans): *What do we mean by a balanced diet?*<br><br>Considering what a balanced diet is and making three products that are often bought pre-made or highly processed. | Mechanisms (linked with the science unit forces and magnets and the advanced instructional writing unit): *How can you do a lot of work with little effort?*<br><br>Investigating various linkages and levers to design and make their own linkages and levers product. Using a variety of modelling materials to create final outcomes.<br><br>Connections: The Greek mathematician Archimedes.<br><br>Food and Nutrition (linked with the science unit animals including humans): *How does food affect your body and mind?*<br><br>Exploring the nutritional value of food and its effect on our physical and mental health. Practising methods for preparing a range of vegetables and applying these skills to create different dishes. Learning how to change the texture and flavour of food by roasting and adding herbs and spices. | Systems: *How are things powered?*<br><br>Looking at different types of energy and how these can be used to power different devices. Considering how design choices are influenced in energy sources.<br><br>Connections: The Malawian inventor, engineer and author William Kamkwamba.<br><br>Structures: *What makes a bridge strong?*<br><br>Investigating how the shape and features of a bridge can affect how strong it is. Identifying types of bridges and the structural changes that engineers and architects make to increase the stability of structures.<br><br>Connections: The English architect Sir Horace Jones and the engineer Sir John Wolfe Barry. |
| Upper key stage 2 | | |
| Food and Nutrition: *Why are our diets so different?*<br><br>Looking at Midde Eastern and Danish foods for inspiration and considering what can be learnt from the diets of different cultures. Learning how to make flatbreads and using a range of techniques to make delicious appetising food.<br><br>Systems: *How can we keep ourselves safe on the road?*<br><br>Drawing on the knowledge learnt so fat to design and make a road safety belt. Writing a simple program for a micro:bit and evaluating the outcome against a design brief.<br><br>Connections: The British inventor, industrial designer and entrepreneur Emily Brooke. | Textiles (linked to writing formal letters of application unit): *Which fabric is ideal for creating a functional and hardwearing lunch bag?*<br><br>Considering the durability of fabrics. Designing and making a functional and hardwearing lunch bag. Creating fair tests to investigate the properties of a range of fabrics and considering insultation and waterproofing.<br><br>Connections: The German-born American businessman Levi Strauss.<br><br>Food and Nutrition (linked to the geography unit world biomes): *What can you learn from different cultures' diets?*<br><br>Looking to different countries to see what can be learnt from different cultures. Learning how certain foods can contribute to good health and wellbeing. Learning that the UK diet is influenced by a range of different cultures. | Structures: *How are frames strengthened, reinforced and made rigid?*<br><br>Looking at a range of ways that frames are reinforced to make them stable. Identifying joins and supports. Creating a model shelter based on what they have learnt.<br><br>Connections: The English ironmaster and Quaker Abraham Darby III<br><br>Mechanisms (linked to the science unit forces): *How can you lift a car onto a roof?*<br><br>Investigating how pulleys and gears work. Designing and making own pulleys and gears products, selecting and using a variety of modelling materials to create final outcomes.<br><br>Connections: The American civil engineer George Washington Gale Ferris Jnr. |