



With friendship, trust and kindness, we fly!



The Swallowtail Federation

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Natalie Butcher

Correspondence Address: Catfield CE Primary Academy, School Road, Catfield, Norfolk NR29 5DA

Tel: 01692 580568 **Email:** office@catfield.norfolk.sch.uk

Web: www.swallowtailfederation.co.uk

June 2025 Newsletter

Message from the Executive Head

Dear families,

I am delighted to share with you that Miss Blake, who is currently senior teacher at Hickling, will become the Federation Assistant Head from September 2025. She will continue with 60% teaching responsibility at Hickling with the remaining 40% being taught by Mrs Pell. Her new role will have a key focus on attendance as well as curriculum development across the Federation. Congratulations and very well deserved, Miss Blake!

Next week all children will be taking part in transition days. Our year 2 children will be joining their key stage 2 schools and our Year 6 children will be visiting their high schools. We wish them lots of luck and know they will be amazing!

In school, the children will also be moving into their new classes. As we have mixed aged classes, for some this will be staying in their current class and welcoming in new friends.

You will have no doubt seen in social media and across the news the impact on schools with falling birth rates. The Swallowtail federation is no exception to this. Many schools locally and nationally have had to make the difficult decision of losing staff to allow their budgets to balance. I am thrilled to say that we have not been impacted in the same way and all current staff will remain working in the Federation. This is solely because of the fact we are a federation and how we run. You'll often hear us say we are like just one big school across three sites and that really is true. By sharing our staff and resources we are able to continue to provide our children with an amazing education. In addition, we are blessed to have very small class sizes which means all children get a very high level of support and each individual is valued and understood.

Next year, all teachers will be remaining in their current classes. The only exception is at Catfield, where the lovely Miss Everett will be joining the team to teach Cheetahs. To be able to keep our current staffing levels, there will be a much more fluid approach with support staff. With many working across different classes and schools. This means you may see some familiar faces and some new ones.

Message from the Executive Head continued

We are such a close knit team, with a shared curriculum and understanding of how things work in each school, so are confident this will be a successful model. It is important to say that if some staff are no longer at your child's school next year, it does not mean they have left. We have worked incredibly hard to ensure the correct skills, qualifications and levels of supervision are in place, to ensure all children receive the very best education and keep our small schools thriving.

I am sure you all know how passionate I am about small schools and that is exactly why I chose to be the head of this federation. I believe that children get as good an offer, if not better, than when attending a larger school. We have the most beautiful buildings and grounds, are able to offer forest schools and have nurturing environments where everyone is part of a family. I know many of you feel the same and that is why you have chosen to send your child here. I cannot emphasise enough what a fortunate position we are in compared to so many schools. Our vision of 'friendship' truly in action, with the strength of working together and being part of a bigger community. I look forward to seeing all the children during the transition days enjoying time in their new classes.

Catfield Specific

Next year the teaching staff at Catfield will be as follows:

Panthers class teacher (Y5/6): Mrs Smithson

Cheetahs class teacher (Y3/4): Miss Everett

Lions class teacher (Y1/2): Miss Fiddeman

Tigers and Cubs class teacher (pre-school and Reception): Miss Amis

Teaching support staff:

Miss Coles

Mrs Seaton

Miss Tovell

Miss Thayers

Mrs Ryan

Mrs Turton

Mrs Bridge

Mrs Bales

Kind regards

Natalie Butcher

Executive Head, The Swallowtail Federation

SPACE NEWS!

Space Mail Challenge- Thank you to all the families who took part in the Space Mail challenge, the winning postcards selected from us were Astrid, Poppy, Molly, Rosabella, Ruby, Ellie-May, Logan, Phoebe, Henry S, Richard, Doris, Eddie, Gracious and Lillie-Rose. Congratulations to you all!

These postcards will be placed in the Blue Origin Spaceship and then blasted off into space!



Attendance YTD Catfield Primary Academy:

Lions: 91.74%

Cheetahs: 94.38%

Panthers: 92.35%

Well done Cheetahs!

Message from Miss Amis

What a super busy half term we have had already! There are more key dates/events coming up in our last few weeks so please make sure you add them to your diary.

Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd July are our transition days. Children will line up on the playground in their 'new' classes and be dismissed at the end of the day from their new class.

Friday 4th July is our sports day. We will begin our picnic at 12pm and races will begin just after 1pm. Children will need to come to school wearing their PE kits and their house team coloured t-shirt or a white t-shirt. They will need a sun hat, sun cream and a water bottle. If you need to exit the building please do so via the front door and ensure a member of staff is aware to sign you out and ensure the door is locked behind you.

Thursday 10th July is our Year 6 leavers trip to Pleasure wood Hills. Reminder deadline for payment is Monday 30th June 12noon.

Monday 14th July is the Year 2 trip to Bewilderwood. Letters already sent out and forms need to be returned and payment **must** be received by Friday 4th July 10am, otherwise children will be unable to attend.

Wednesday 16th July is our Arts Festival from 5pm-7pm. All children will be taking part and will have art on show for you to look at. We are really excited about this event and hope as many of you can join us as possible!

On **Thursday 17th July** our Lions are going to see a shared art exhibition at St Peter Mancroft church in Norwich. Please ensure you return your child's consent form if you have not done so already.

On the evening of **Thursday 17th 4-6pm** we have our leavers Church event. This is a really lovely event organised by the church. They will be providing food and drinks for us and putting on some lovely craft/animal activities. All children will be joining in singing and the Bishop of Norwich will join us to present Year 6 leavers with their bibles.

Friday 18th July is our colour run event. Those children taking part will need to bring old clothes and shoes in a named bag to change into before the event. A white t-shirt and sunglasses will be provided. Parents will be invited in from 2pm where you can watch the event. Please be aware that children will finish the event covered in paint so you may want to bring a change of clothes or a towel to sit them on in the car!

Tuesday 22nd July is our Leavers Assembly at school starting at 2:30pm. Please sign in via the office if you are joining us.

Miss Amis

Diary dates

July

1st	KS2 (Panthers) Parent Consultations
1st & 2nd	Swallowtail Transition days
1st/2nd/3rd	Stalham High Transition days
4 th	12pm – Sports Day Picnic and Races
10th	Year 6 Leavers Trip to Pleasurewood Hills
11 th	12pm – Reserve Sports Day Picnic and Races
14th	Year 2 Trip to Bewilderwood
16th	Swallowtail Arts Festival 5-7pm
17th	KS1 Art Exhibition—St Peter Mancroft Trip
17 th	4-6pm – Leavers Church Service
18th	Catfield Colour run 2pm
21st	Swallowtail Arts Festival reserve date 5-7pm
22 nd	2:30pm – Leavers Assembly at School
22 nd	Last day of school

23rd July-31st August Summer Holidays

September

1st & 2nd	INSET DAYS
3rd	Children return to school

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: RE

At Swallowtail, our Religious Education (R.E) curriculum follows the Norfolk Agreed Syllabus and Understanding Christianity, this is on a two-year rolling programme and is covered across all year groups, including our early year's classes. Each year our pupils build upon their knowledge of theology, philosophy and human social sciences, they do this through an enquiry approach where they explore a big question. We explore into a variety of religions and worldviews with Christianity being explored into further.

Across this academic year our pupils have covered and are covering the following areas:

Autumn term		Spring term		Summer term	
Early Years Foundation Stage					
Philosophy Should Noah trust in God?	Theology Why do Christians perform Nativity plays at Christmas?	Theology What do Christians believe about God?	Human social science How do Christians and Muslims worship God?	Human social science What do people from different religions do to welcome babies?	Theology Why and how do people say they are sorry when they have done something wrong?
Key Stage 1					
Philosophy Why do people have different views about the idea of God?	Theology Why is light an important symbol for Christians, Jewish people and Hindus?	Theology Why does Easter matter to Christians?	Human social science How does a celebration bring a community together?	Philosophy How did the universe come to be?	
Lower key stage 2					
Theology What do Christians learn from the creation story?	Human social science How do religious groups contribute to society & culture?	Philosophy What does sacrifice mean?	Human social science What difference does being a Muslim make to daily life?	Theology Where do Christian religious beliefs come from?	
Upper key stage 2					
Human social science <i>How has belief in Christianity/Islam impacted on music & art through history?</i>	Theology <i>How can following God bring freedom & justice?</i>	Philosophy <i>What does it mean to be human? Is being happy the greatest purpose in life?</i>	Theology <i>How do Buddhists explain suffering in the world?</i>	Human social science <i>How do Hindus believe? How do they express their faith?</i>	

Here are a few photographs of our learning across the year groups for you to enjoy.

EYFS		Year 1 & 2	
Year 3 & 4		Year 5 & 6	