

# Swallowtail News



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

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## October 2025 Newsletter

### Message from the Executive Head

Dear families,

As we move further into the season of Autumn, I always enjoy seeing the different learning experiences that brings to our children. One minute it can be chilly, rainy, windy or sunny. We are so proud to say that does not stop us enjoying our wonderful outdoor spaces which is so important for the social, emotional and mental health of our young people. I am not afraid to say that if I am having a tough day, watching the children embrace these opportunities can certainly lift my spirits.

Recently in our collective worship we have been focusing on respect. Through bible stories and reflection on their own experiences, children have been incredibly thoughtful in considering how they can respect others but also how they deserve to be treated. We have linked this with our school vision and how these behaviours allow us all to 'fly'.

I also open this up to our wider school community, where mutual respect is what allows us to grow from strength to strength. Thank you to all of those who completed the parent survey, we had a very high number of responses which have been overwhelmingly positive. I will be analysing over the next few weeks and looking at actions that need to take place but wanted to share with you some of the comments shared regarding the best things about our Federation:

*"The community, the closeness, the ability to go to any of the sites and know all the staff, and most of them know my child! The support, the care and knowing my child is safe above all else."*

*"The family feel and the support given to both children and parents. The staff always make it feel like a safe space for me as well as the children."*

*"Staff that actually care about the children, meeting individual needs and helping them thrive."*

Kind Regards

Natalie Butcher

Executive Head, The Swallowtail Federation

### Message from Miss Blake

Dear families,

We recognise the importance of extracurricular opportunities for our children and consider this greatly in the mapping out of our curriculum. Year 1 and 2 visited Strangers Hall on Wednesday to support them in the consolidation of their History learning, focused around The Great Fire of London. The children moved around three activities and developed their knowledge in each. We especially enjoyed hearing the retelling of what happened in 1666. The children represented the houses and buckets of water were used to put the fires out however, due to the closeness of the houses, they continued to relight meaning that the fire continued to spread. Reception children visit Norwich Cathedral next Tuesday and we wish them a really lovely day.

Kind regards,

Miss Blake

## **This month's curriculum focus - History and Geography**

Our Geography curriculum coverage consists of the following key concepts: Locational knowledge, Place knowledge, Human and physical geography, Geographical skills and fieldwork.

As geographers, our learning focus this year will be:

EYFS: Place knowledge, skills and fieldwork, People and Communities, Seasonal Changes, Place Knowledge, Skills & Fieldwork.

KS1: Compare a small part of the UK to a non-European location – London and Nairobi, Fieldwork and map skills and Compare a different non-European location to our locality - Amazon Rainforest

Year 3 and 4 : Rivers, Latitude and longitude, Water cycle, Map skills & Environmental regions

Year 5 and 6 : Physical processes, Human and Physical Geography: Economic, settlement and trade links, UK, Europe and North America comparison study, OS Maps and fieldwork (orienteeing).

Our CUSP Geography curriculum is built around the principles of cumulative knowledge focusing on spaces, places, scale, human and physical processes with an emphasis on how content is connected and relational knowledge acquired.

Our History curriculum coverage consists of the following key concepts: Community, Knowledge, Invasion Civilisation, Power and Democracy. The children learn History through enquiry that includes the various stages: Chronology, Cause & consequence, Change & continuity, Similarity & difference, Evidence and the Significance.

As historians, our learning, this year, will focus on the following topics:

EYFS: Significant people, changes within living memory, Chronology, Understanding the past through story, their families, enquiry, changes within living memory, significant people

KS1: Events beyond living memory, Significant historical events, people and places in our locality

Year 3 and 4: Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons and Scots, Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor, Ancient civilisation: Egypt or Shang Dynasty

Year 5 and 6: Beyond 1066 - Local History Study - how did conflict change our locality in World War 2?, Windrush generation, Ancient Greece (Place in time and significant events).

CUSP History strategically incorporates a range of modules that revisit, elaborates key concepts, events, people and places, which consolidates and helps further embed the children's learning.

Mrs Smithson (Geography and History lead)

## News:

### IMPORTANT REMINDER

Whilst you will already be aware that we are a nut free school, I wish to stress the importance of nut and nut products not coming into school. A member of our school community is anaphylaxis therefore we must ensure high vigilance at all times. Thank you for ensuring we keep everyone safe in school.

Non-school uniform day on Friday 24th October in exchange for a gift. Following the donations, families will be invited to purchase a present (£5 per present), via Parent Mail. On purchase of a gift, children will be invited to choose a gift from the gift table and gift wrap it and bring home to you ahead of Christmas. The intention being that children have 'safely shopped' independently and have something to gift on Christmas morning that they have chosen themselves.

A reminder that clubs are now available to book on Parentmail– **Nature Art** (Hickling) and **Christmas Crafts** (Sutton). (Join our Nature Crafting Club for a unique crafting experience. Akin to our Forest School philosophies, the children will have the freedom to explore their creative side, with crafting prompts inspired by the natural resources around us! Each session will include resources for a suggested craft, but the children will be free to let their imaginations run wild as well)

Donations of big and small boxes requested by Miss Turner please.

**EYFS Cathedral Trip** - Please drop your child off at Sutton at **08:35am** and collect them at 3:00pm for those that need to pick up siblings at other schools otherwise children can be collected at **3:20pm** as normal. Please advise the office if you are collecting at 3:00pm, so that we can have your child ready. Breakfast club can be accessed at Sutton from 8:00am, please book in the normal way on Parentmail. Please ensure your child brings a rucksack to carry all of their belongings in. Children must have a home packed lunch unless a school packed has been ordered in advance, a water bottle and raincoat.

**Attendance Year-to-Date for Harriers: 97.18%**



Strangers Hall - KS1 trip



Harvest Festival—EYFS sharing vegetable paintings

KS1 Maths - Creating number bonds to 10



## Diary Dates

- **Tuesday 21st October** – EYFS Cathedral trip. Information to follow via Parent Mail.
- **Thursday 23rd October** - Reception, Year 1/2 Parent Consultations
- **Friday 24th October** - Reception, Year 1/2 Parent Consultations
- **Friday 24th October** – Non-School uniform in exchange for a small gift (to be re-gifted as a Christmas present)
- **HALF TERM HOLIDAY – 27th – 31st October**
- **Monday 3rd November** – Autumn 2 begins
- **Friday 14th November** – Children In Need – Wear something spotty! Donation link to be sent nearer the time.
- **Tuesday 18th November and Wednesday 19th November** - EYFS and Key Stage 1 consultations. Information regarding booking to be shared nearer the time.
- **Thursday 27th November** – Federation Day for all children at Catfield. Information to be shared nearer the time.
- **Friday 28th November** – Christmas Crafts – 2pm – Families welcome.
- **Thursday 4th December** – Christingle Service at St Mary’s Church – 9.30am - Please drop your child off at school at normal time, we will walk the children to the church and look forward to seeing you there at 9.30am.
- **Tuesday 9th December** – Christmas Disco – 3.20pm – 4.30pm - £3 per child - Please send your child into school with their party clothes. We will help them get changed at school. Payment to be made via Parentmail.
- **Thursday 11th December** – Christmas jumper day
- **Thursday 11th December** – Nativity – 2pm - Information regarding tickets to be shared nearer the time.
- **Friday 12th December** – Nativity – 9.15am - Information regarding tickets to be shared nearer the time.
- **Monday 15th December** – Christmas Church Service at St Mary’s Church – 2pm - Families welcome. Children to go home after the service.
- **Wednesday 17th December** – Carol Singing in the village (AM)
- **Friday 19th December** – Christmas Lunch
- **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – 22nd December – 5th January**
- **Tuesday 6th January** - Spring term begins

New legislation came into effect on 26 October 2024 under the Worker Protection (Amendment of Equality Act 2010) Act 2023, placing a proactive legal duty on employers to take reasonable steps to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace. In our schools we have made a pledge to protect our staff from sexual harassment. Please find attached to this newsletter a poster that defines the 4 types of sexual harassment that are not acceptable from any member of our school community, including parents.

### Safeguarding

Some links for e-safety:

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

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

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

### Stay up to date...

Website: <http://www.swallowtailfederation.co.uk/>

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