



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

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."

Continued.....

Message from the Executive Head continued

We are sad to share that our lovely Miss Amis will be leaving the Federation at the end of December. She wants to let you all know that it is nothing to do with the school as she has loved her time in the Federation, but has decided it is time for a career change. Miss Amis joined the school 9 years ago as a student teacher with Mrs Butcher as her mentor (lucky girl!). In that time, we have seen her flourish into the amazing teacher we see today. I know we are all going to miss her dearly, and wish her well in the future.

We are delighted to say that Mrs Smithson will be stepping up into the senior teacher role. We know she will do an amazing job. We will then be advertising for a new EYFS teacher. As always, we will keep you in the loop regarding this recruitment and make sure all parents and pupils are ready to settle in with a new teacher.

*Kind Regards
Natalie Butcher
Executive Head, The Swallowtail Federation*

Attendance:



Attendance YTD Catfield Primary Academy:

Lions: 96.19% Cheetahs: 95.85%

Panthers: 96.59%

Well done Panthers!

Message from Miss Amis

Events coming up:

Thursday 23rd October - Spooky disco 3:20pm - 4:20pm

Please send your child to school with their disco clothes in a named bag that they will change into at the end of the day.

Friday 24th October - Spooky Sale - Before & After School

Our school counselors will be holding a spooky sale to raise money for our school. The sale will be happening before and after school on Friday so please bring along your cash!

Wednesday 5th November - Individual photos

Thursday 6th November - EYFS Stay & Play 9:30-10:30

Please let anyone with a child looking for a pre-school/Reception place know that we have our Stay and Play event on Thursday 6th that they are welcome to join.

Friday 14th November - Children in Need Event 8:50-9:45am

We will be inviting children to come to school wearing yellow or something spotty. We also invite you in to join us for our usual Celebration worship followed by Children in Need activities back in your child's classroom. This will be from 8:50-9:45. We ask that if you can, please donate to Children in Need via their website as we will not be taking donations in school. The link to the website is below: <https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/>

Our Autumn parent consultations will be taking place week commencing 10th November. Please look out for emails inviting you to book a slot for your child.

Regards,
Miss Amis

Information and accompanying flyer

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.

Diary dates

October:

21st	KS2 Swimming—Last session
21st	EYFS Trip to Norwich Cathedral
21st	KS2 Young Voices choir 3.20pm-4.20pm
22nd	Space club 3.20pm-4.20pm

Continued on next page

Diary dates continued

October:

- 23rd Disco 3.20pm-4.20pm
24th Flu Vaccinations (Reception to Year 6)

27th October— 2nd November—HALF TERM

November:

- 3rd Children return to school
4th KS2 Young Voices choir 3.20pm-4.20pm
5th Individual & Sibling Photos
6th Christmas Craft club 3.20pm-4.20pm
11th Parent Consultations (all classes) 3.30pm-5.30pm
13th Christmas Craft club 3.20pm-4.20pm
13th Parent Consultations (all classes) 3.30pm-5.30pm
14th Children In Need—Wear Yellow or something spotty
18th KS2 Young Voices choir 3.20pm-4.20pm
20th Christmas Craft club 3.20pm-4.20pm
21st Non-uniform day
25th KS2 Young Voices choir 3.20pm-4.20pm
27th Federation day
27th Christmas Craft club 3.20pm-4.20pm
28th Christmas craft event 9am-10.30am

December:

- 1st Christingle at Catfield Church 9am
2nd KS2 Young Voices choir 3.20pm-4.20pm
4th Christmas Craft club 3.20pm-4.20pm
9th KS2 Young Voices choir 3.20pm-4.20pm
10th Nativity dress rehearsal
11th Christmas Jumper Day **and** Nativity performance 9.15am
11th Christmas Craft club 3.20pm-4.20pm **and** KS2 Carol Concert at Catfield Church 6pm
12th Nativity performance 2.40pm
16th Christmas Quiz fundraiser 3.20pm-4.20pm
18th Christmas Movie Night 3.20pm-5.15pm
19th Christmas service at Catfield church 9am **and** Last day of term

6th January 2026 Children return to school

This Month's Curriculum Focus: History & 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 (orienteering).

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)

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/>