

Swallowtail News



With friendship, trust and kindness, we fly!

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November 2025 Newsletter

Message from the Executive Head

Dear families,

Welcome to our November newsletter!

The capital letter 'C' word is certainly on the tip of the tongues of all in the school community. A personal favourite for me is hearing the nativity songs and carols being rehearsed and travelling through the walls of the schools. We really look forward to welcoming families in to join in all the festivities. Please do keep an eye on communication around dates, times and arrangements for these events.

Abby Blake took on role as assistant head this year, as part of this, she is focusing on attendance, ensuring we maintain high expectations and making sure 'everyday counts'. Abby will be in contact with families where attendance has dropped, to provide support. Thank you for your positive input into this, collaboration will always have the biggest impact.

*Kind Regards,
Natalie Butcher*

Executive Head, The Swallowtail Federation

Message from Miss Blake

Dear families,

We look forward to joining together on Thursday for our Autumn term Federation Day. Federation days strengthen the sense of belonging across our three schools, encouraging collaboration among the children and highlighting the benefits of working as a collective. We enjoy seeing the children from our three schools meet, interact, and form friendships, fostering a wider sense of community, celebrating diversity across, illustrating unique traditions, talents, and strengths, creating a rich cultural exchange.

Best wishes,

Miss Blake

This month's curriculum focus - EYFS and Phonics

Our EYFS classes are set up to support learning across all areas. We have provision within the classroom which covers reading, maths, writing, role play, construction, water, sand and creative play. This allows our children to access learning in all areas at all times.

We are continuing our CUSP planning to lead our Structured Story time sessions. These sessions focus on a high quality book, looking at new vocabulary and a diverse range of characters. We link these to topics and events throughout the year such as Diwali, Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Our books leading up to Christmas include: Pumpkin Soup, Stickman, Clean Up and Percy the Post Penguin.

To support development of our children's gross and fine motor skills, our EYFS children take part in Squiggle Whilst you Wiggle 4 times a week. This is where there is focus on a specific big movement each week, supporting the development of children's core muscles which then helps their fine motor skills that they need for writing. Our children love dancing away to the music whilst making those big movements and marks on their paper!

Excitingly, we have started a new PE scheme this year. This provides us with planning for our EYFS children to support developing their coordination, team work and skills. Our children are really enjoying the games and learning new skills.

Phonics

This term our pre-school children have been focusing on learning lots of nursery rhymes. This is really important to help support their vocabulary development and understanding. It also really reinforces hearing sounds and then being able to identify words that rhyme. They have also begun to focus on one sound a week, listening carefully and playing games with words that start with that focus sound and beginning to sound talk and blend words.

This term our Reception children have been focusing on learning their phase 2 sounds pictured below. Children use the mnemonic on the card to help them remember how to form the letter correctly. For example 'a' is 'around the astronaut and down into space'. We have also been focusing on oral blending and children beginning to blend simple words themselves. Children have also been introduced to 'tricky words'. These are words that do not follow the usual rules and cannot be sounded out.

Our Year 1 children have been busy reviewing their phase 3 and 4 learning and beginning to learn some phase 5 digraphs and trigraphs. This includes alternative sounds to the ones they have already learnt and new split digraphs. This links to what we call 'grow the code' where children learn all of the possible phonemes for particular sound to support their reading and learning the spelling rules.

Complete the code chart										Complete the code chart									
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s	t	p	n	m	d	g	c	r	h	a-e	y	igh	ow	oo	u	ou	ar	a	
ss	tt	pp	nn	mm	dd	gg	ck	rr		ai	ea	i-e	o	ew	u-e	ou	a'		
c	tte		kn	mb		gu	ch	wr		ay	ee	i	o-e	u	ew	u'	al		
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Our Year 2 children have been securing their Phase 5 knowledge of sounds. They will then be moving onto Bridge to Spelling where their Phase 5 knowledge will support them with developing their spelling and learning the spelling rules.

Our KS2 children who need additional support with filling gaps in their phonics knowledge are supported through Catch Up sessions. These are quick 10-15 minute sessions based on revisiting sounds that children haven't secured. Children are supported to identify these sounds in words during reading and also provided with support to spell words containing these sounds.

Miss Amis

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.

We will be holding a Christmas Raffle this year. Tickets can be purchased throughout the month of December. The raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 17th December. Raffle tickets will be £1 per ticket, please purchase your raffle tickets from the school office.

I am really sorry to have needed to change the date of our Christingle. The new date is Friday 5th December at 9.30am. Please drop your child at school as normal and we will walk them to the church and meet you there at 9.30am. There will be no family worship on that day.

A polite reminder that nativity costumes need to be in school by Monday 1st December. You are welcome to explore our costume box, please just speak to Miss Blake.

Tuesday 9th December - School Disco, 3.20pm - 4.30pm. Please book your places via Parentmail. Send your child's party clothes to school with them in the morning and we will help them to get changed.

Attendance Year-to-Date for Harriers: 97.14%



Cookery



EYFS Cusp Learning - Clean Up

EYFS Cusp Learning - Clean Up Sorting



Diary Dates

- **Thursday 27th November** – Federation Day for all children at Catfield. See below for details.
- **Friday 28th November** – Christmas Crafts – 2pm – Families welcome.
- **Friday 5th 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**

NEXT WEEK

Monday

- Forest School will be on Monday instead of Thursday next week. Please send your child into school in their Forest School Clothes and ensure their wellie boots are at school.

Thursday

- Federation Day, including touring pantomime. Please remember to drop your child off and collect them from Catfield on Thursday. Children attending breakfast club should do so at Catfield from 8am. Children attending after school club or wrap around will be transported back to Hickling via the mini bus. All other children should be collected from Catfield at 3pm. Home packed or pre-ordered school packed lunches only please.

Friday

- Christmas Craft afternoon. Please arrive at 2pm for our Christmas Craft afternoon. Family encouraged to attend, siblings welcome too.
- Due to Christmas Crafts, there will be no family worship.

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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