



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

[office@catfield.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@catfield.norfolk.sch.uk) (01692 580568) [office@hickling.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@hickling.norfolk.sch.uk) (01692 598355)

[office@sutton.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@sutton.norfolk.sch.uk)(01692 580608)

# November 2025 Newsletter

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 the Senior Teacher

Dear families,

It has been wonderful to see so many of you attend our recent school events, I know the children love it when you come in.

Currently we are busy practicing our nativity for you, the children are all learning the songs beautifully and our speakers are working hard learning their lines. Please remember to send in your child's costume by next Friday, 28th November. Tickets will be sent home the following week.

Next Thursday we are visiting Catfield for our federation day, the children will watch a travelling pantomime and then spend time with their friends from across the federation. As we will not be having forest school next week, children need to be in school uniform when you drop them at Catfield.

### Sabrina Holmes

Senior teacher; Sutton CE Infant Academy  
R.E and D.T Lead Teacher  
Swallowtail Federation of Church Schools

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## News

- Please don't forget to complete your form on Parent Mail for the Federation Day next week at Catfield. Payments for the pantomime can also be made on Parent Mail. Children will need to be dropped off and collected from Catfield Primary school.
- Christingle and the church service will both be at the church at 2.30pm. Parents of children who are attending can take their children home directly from church. If you will not be attending and need your child to walk back to school, please inform your class teacher.
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas jumper day. Children will spend the day at Hickling Infant Academy. Mrs Gilbert will be taking the children there and back on the school minibus. Drop off and collection will be normal times at Sutton Infant Academy. Children are welcome to wear their Christmas jumpers, please make donations to <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/donate>

## FOSIS

- How many sweets in the jar is still running until next Friday. A guess can be purchased on Parent Mail, once we receive payment, we will ask your child to make a guess. The winner will be declared at the Christmas craft morning on Friday 28th November.
- The Christmas raffle is also being drawn on Friday 28th November. If you would like to take part, please bring in your completed raffle tickets to the office.

## School attendance

Attendance to date for Sutton Infant Academy:

Butterflies class: **93.20%**

Dragonflies class: **97.32%**

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### Diary dates (all subject to change):

- **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November**- Federation Day. Children will spend the day at Catfield Primary for our Christmas Pantomime.
- **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November**- Christmas craft morning 9.00-10.00am, parents welcome to attend. Christmas raffle and guess the sweets will also be drawn.
- **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December**-Christmas in a box morning (YR-Y2 pupils only)
- **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December**- Christingle at 2.30pm at church. Children to go home straight after the service has finished.
- **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**- Reception children height and weight screening.
- **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December**- Nativity dress rehearsal
- **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December**- School Nativity at 2.15pm.
- **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December**- School Nativity at 9.30am.
- **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December**- Christmas jumper day. Children will spend the day at Hickling Infant Academy.
- **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December**- Children's Christmas quiz and snack 3.20pm-4.20pm. Pleaser book your tickets on Parent Mail.
- **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December**- Carol signing in the village at 9.30am.
- **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December**- Christmas lunch
- **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December**- Christmas church service at 2.30pm. Children to go home straight after the service has finished.
- Children break up for Christmas on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December and return to school on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

### This month's curriculum focus - EYFS

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!

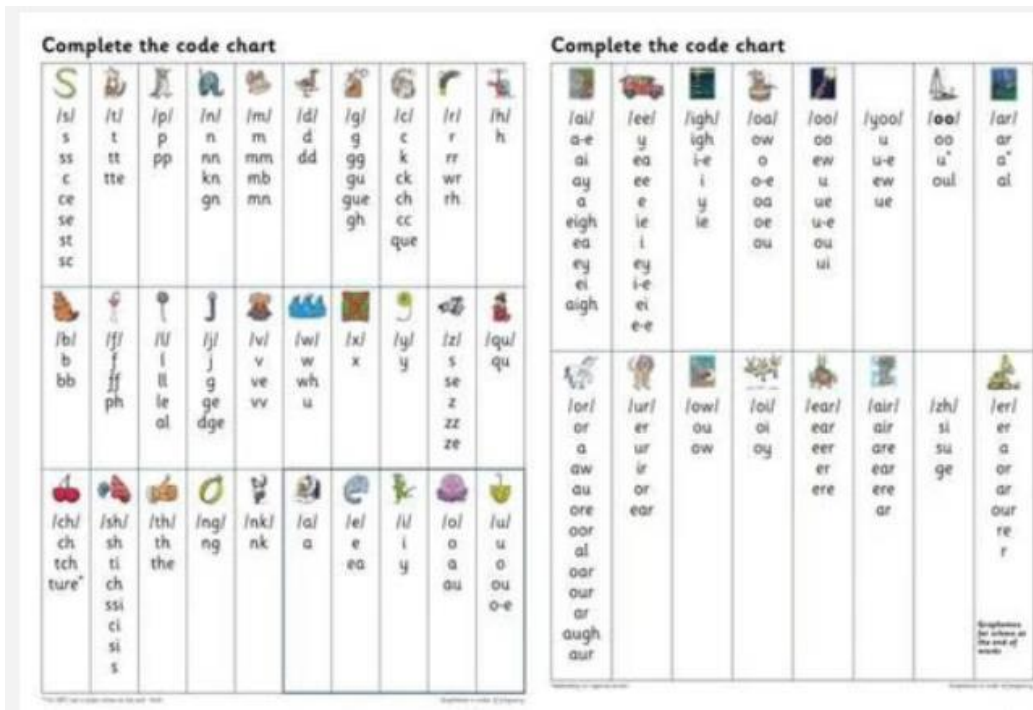
Excitingly, we have started a new PE scheme this year. This provides us with planning for our EYFS children to support developing their coordination, teamwork and skills. Our children are really enjoying the games and learning new skills.

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.



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- EYFS lead

## Safeguarding

Some links for e-safety:

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

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

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

## Stay up to date...

Website: [www.swallowtailfederation.co.uk](http://www.swallowtailfederation.co.uk)  
School

Facebook page – Search for Sutton CEVC Infant