



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



## The Swallowtail Federation

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# December 2025 Newsletter

## Message from the Executive Head

Dear families,

Welcome to our December newsletter.

I am really looking forward to the coming days in schools where I will view the nativities and KS2 carol concert. Thank you to the staff who have been working incredibly hard to help our children shine. I look forward to seeing many of you at our events.

The end of a year, is always a time to reflect and think about what we are grateful for. I can honestly say I am truly grateful that I get to work in these three amazing schools. I could not be prouder of the pupils and staff who continue to flourish. Thank you for always finding time in your busy life's to support us and share a kind word. It really does make all the difference.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas.

*Kind Regards*  
*Natalie Butcher*

### Every day in school counts...



and every minute counts...



### Attendance YTD Catfield Primary Academy:

Lions: 94.80%

Cheetahs: 94.03%

Panthers: 95.16%

Well done Panthers!



### Message from Miss Amis

Dear families,

We are currently in the craziness of Christmas!

Our EYFS and KS1 children did us proud with their Nativity performances this week. It's quite scary for such little children to get up on that stage but they sang their hearts out and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

Our KS2 children performed fantastically at their annual Carol Concert. It always is so magical to see them all in their Christmas jumpers singing carols, getting us in the Christmas spirit!

Next Tuesday after school we have our Christmas Quiz that children have signed up to and on Thursday we have our Christmas Movie night until 5:15pm. Children are invited to bring a cushion, cuddly teddy and a blanket if they wish. On the last Friday, we have our Christmas service starting at 9am, please join us in the church for our celebration.

To all the children and families I've had the pleasure of working with over the last 9 years: thank you. It has been a privilege to watch your children grow, learn and become the wonderful young people they are today. I'm grateful for your support and will treasure the memories I've made at Catfield. Thank you and I wish you and your children every happiness and success in the future.

All that's left for me to say is I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year!  
Miss Amis

### Diary dates continued

#### December:

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 16th                    | Christmas Quiz fundraiser 3.20pm-4.20pm                              |
| 18th                    | Christmas Movie Night 3.20pm-5.15pm                                  |
| 19th                    | Christmas service at Catfield church 9am <b>and</b> Last day of term |
| <b>6th January 2026</b> | <b>Children return to school</b>                                     |

Updated diary dates for Spring & Summer term to follow

## This Month's Curriculum Focus: Modern Foreign Languages & Music

### Modern Foreign Languages

Our Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) curriculum is personally crafted and delivered by our MFL Subject Leader. It follows the National Curriculum for Languages in Key Stage 2 with a view to provide engaging, varied and stimulating units of study over the course of their four years of learning at Swallowtail. The chosen language of study at Swallowtail is Spanish.

It is a passionate priority of the MFL leader that children enjoy learning about a range of practical topics in Spanish, such that they can begin to converse about ideas that are most likely to present themselves in day-to-day life, are important and appropriate to their age group. In each topic, we will undertake skills required to listen, speak, read and write. Woven through their years of learning, are Hispanic cultural units to enrich their understanding of the world and its citizens.

Spanish learning is recorded in their Spanish books, which the children take home at the end of each academic year. Spoken evidence may be recorded in samples and kept in a digital Subject Leader file. Children will also have the opportunity to take home small projects that they make in class at various points each year, be it an adapted story that they have written, a themed bilingual card or a hand-made vocabulary learning tool!

We have an ambitious curriculum in Key Stage 2 at Catfield, therefore, during Autumn 1, the children have been reviewing their Spanish skills (or in the case of Year 3, immersing) independently whilst awaiting their swimming lessons to make the most of every minute! These tasks have been set and marked by the Spanish teacher, and will be taken up in due course.

This year, we will be studying: food, the body, asking for medical help, and Hispanic cultural similarities and differences around Valentine's Day. Our grammatical learning will link to our units of study wherever possible. Likewise, our writing pieces this year will link to our book studies on food, injuries, as well as writing cards for Mother's and Father's Day.

If you find that your child(ren) are particularly interested in learning Spanish or any second language for that matter, our MFL leader highly recommends the free App: Duolingo, as an engaging, motivating way of learning through digital play!

-Mrs. Pell

## This Month's Curriculum Focus continued: Modern Foreign Languages & Music

### Music

Our Music program aims to provide our children the opportunity to learn to play a variety of interesting instruments; celebrate individual performance and composition; as well as inspire and culturally unite them with a generous range of genres of excellent music throughout history. Sequencing and progression is catered to the ages of our pupils. We explore music through the inter-related dimensions of music: performing, listening, composing, and learning about the history of music.

On their musical journey at Swallowtail this year, children in Key Stage 1 will be using percussion and African djembes and a range of percussions as their untuned instruments; using their voices expressively through singing in class; learning to play glockenspiels as their tuned instrument; and exploring high-quality music from the 1930s, 40s and 50s. The children in Key Stage 2 will be advancing their skills with these instruments, particularly during their glockenspiel unit. They will sing before an audience in ensemble context. Finally, the Cheetahs will be listening to Contemporary musicians (1960-present) in their Music History unit, and the Panthers will focus on the Romantic Music era (1820-1900). This year, the KS2 children at Catfield are looking forward to attending the Young Voices choir at the O2 in London in February!

Music work is recorded in samples by the teacher and kept in a digital file by the Music Subject Leader. Once a year, when the children study Music History and Theory, their recorded work is kept in a treasury tagged folder, that will be passed up through their years at school.

If children have musical experience outside of school, we would love for them to share this with us during their music lessons or during our second annual Arts Festival in the Summer term so that we can celebrate their learning and developing talents! Please speak with the teacher that delivers their music lessons for assistance with keeping a personal instrument safely stored at school, should you wish to send it in. Alternatively, you could record them playing their instrument at home for us to share at school.

-Mrs. Pell