

Swallowtail News



With friendship, trust and kindness, we fly!

office@catfield.norfolk.sch.uk (01692 580568) office@hickling.norfolk.sch.uk (01692 598355) office@sutton.norfolk.sch.uk (01692 580608)

January 2026 Newsletter

Message from the Executive Head

Dear families,

Happy New Year to you all!

We certainly had an eventful start, with the snow and ice. Thank you for all your support to ensure we managed those few days safely.

A warm welcome to Romany Womack who has joined the team at Catfield as our new EYFS teacher. We also see Emma Smithson stepping up to senior teacher, who is already showing to be an incredible leader in her new role.

This term is shorter than the last but with no less to fit in. Spring term is often when we find children really fly with their learning and make significant progress. At the end of the term teachers in our key stage 1 and key stage 2 classes will be writing your child's report which you will receive on the 1st May. The idea behind this is that targets will be set for child to work on in the Summer term. EYFS reports are sent out later in the summer term, in line with statutory guidance.

Kind Regards

Natalie Butcher

Executive Head, The Swallowtail Federation

Message from Miss Blake

Dear families,

At our school, we believe that children thrive when they feel safe, valued and supported. Our vision, "*With friendship, trust and kindness, we fly,*" captures our hopes for the children within our setting.

We teach children that friendships matter. They learn how to listen, share, collaborate and celebrate one another's successes.

Kindness is the thread that runs through everything we do. Through modelling, teaching and celebrating. When children experience kindness every day, they develop empathy, resilience and a sense of belonging.

Trust grows when children know that adults believe in them, support them and keep them safe. We build trusting relationships with families too, working together so every child can flourish.

When friendship, trust and kindness come together, children feel brave enough to take risks, try new things and be ambitious. They learn that mistakes are part of learning and that they are capable of achieving more than they imagined.

Kind regards,
Miss Blake

This month's curriculum focus - English

The **Strong Foundations Framework** highlight the significance of **reading, writing, and maths**. It emphasises on what high quality teaching looks like in the early years and Key Stage 1, and it helps schools make sure every child builds secure, confident skills from the beginning of their schooling journey.

Children who develop strong early foundations are more likely to: feel confident in reading, writing, and maths, maintain the curriculum as it becomes more challenging, developing an enjoyment for learning, rooted in a secure understanding and prevent gaps widening.

Securing strong foundations for all pupils



Word reading



Spelling



Handwriting



Early mathematics



High-quality interactions

A deeper look into the application of Securing Strong Foundations to English:

Word reading	<p>Systematic, Synthetic Phonics (SSP) Little Wandle is a rigorous, well sequenced phonics programme. Children are taught grapheme-phoneme correspondences (GPCs) in clear progression. Daily phonics takes place, with opportunities to apply new knowledge in reading and writing. Decoding Accuracy Children learn to blend sounds and read words.</p> <p>Practice Through Decodable Texts Reading books match taught phonics. Decodable books allow children to practise taught GPCs and build confidence. Rapid Identification of children requiring additional intervention Regular assessment identifies children who need additional support. Interventions: Keep Up and Catch Up are delivered in line with our phonics scheme. Language and Vocabulary as Supporting Foundations Oral language development, vocabulary exposure and comprehension foundations</p>
Spelling	<p>Spelling is taught through systematic synthetic phonics Children learn to segment words into phonemes and record these as graphemes. Spelling instruction follows the Little Wandle Spelling progression. Common Exception Words are taught explicitly. Sequencing matters Children are not expected to spell words containing GPCs they have not yet been taught. Rapid Identification of children requiring additional intervention Early assessment is essential to identify children who need extra support through intervention.</p>
Handwriting	<p>Letter formation including orientation and size is taught rigorously. Children are supporting in developing the correct pencil grip; Nip, Flip, Grip has been implemented to support this. Children are taught to leave spaces between words.</p>

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.

Have you ordered your school photos yet? A polite reminder that the closing date for **free delivery** back to school is **Sunday 1st February 2026**. Order through the Tempest website using your unique link that was emailed to you, or if you have received paper order forms visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk

If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 5).

We are sensitive to the needs of the child and are there to help all pupils. If you are worried about your child's attendance, give the school a call, asking for Miss Blake.

You can also contact the Healthy Child Service team by calling Just One Number on 0300 300 0123 or texting Parentline on 07520 631590. Opening hours are 8am-6pm Monday-Friday (excluding bank holidays).

Did You Know?

One full school year at 90% attendance is the equivalent of 4 weeks of learning missed!

Over 5 years of school, this adds up to half a school year missed.

This is known as persistent absence.



Attendance Year-to-Date for Harriers: 96.37%



Federation Day



Forest School

Diary Dates

- **Friday 6th February** – Federation Day for all children at Sutton – NSPCC Number Day
- **Monday 9th February** – Children’s Mental Health Week

HALF TERM HOLIDAY – 16th – 20th February

- **Monday 23rd February** - Spring 2 begins
- **Thursday 5th March** – World Book Day Reading Café – 8.50am – Families welcome
- **Friday 13th March** – Mother’s Day Worship – 2pm
- **Wednesday 18th March** – Early Years consultations
- **Tuesday 17th March** – EYFS Gressenhall trip
- **Thursday 19th March** – Key Stage 1 RE visit
- **Friday 20th March** – Down Syndrome Awareness Day – Wear odd socks!
- **Thursday 26th March** – Easter Craft morning – 8.50am
- **Friday 27th March** – Easter Service at St Mary’s Church – 2pm

Next week:

Day	Information
Monday	PE (Reception, 1 and 2) Gymnastics Club – 3.20pm – 4.20pm
Tuesday	
Wednesday	Family Reading PE (Reception 1 and 2)
Thursday	Forest School (ALL) Cookery Club - 3.20pm - 4.20pm
Friday	Family worship - 3pm

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/>

Follow us on Facebook at **Hickling Infant Academy**