



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



## The Swallowtail Federation

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# March 2026 Newsletter

## Message from the Executive Head

Dear families,

Welcome to our March newsletter and the last one of the Spring Term.

It may have been a short term but has certainly not been any less busy.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our World Book Day parent events. Thank you, also, for supporting your children with their wonderful costumes. They all looked fantastic!

A big highlight this half term was the Key Stage 2 visit to Young Voices where the children sang in a choir of thousands of children at the O2 arena. One child commented that it was better than a trip to Disney Land!

In the coming days we will be taking part in our Easter activities and celebrations. We look forward to welcoming you in to join us for these.

*Kind Regards*

*Natalie Butcher,*

*Executive Head, The Swallowtail Federation*

### Every day in school counts...



and every minute counts...



### Attendance YTD Catfield Primary Academy:

Lions: 94.67%

Cheetahs: 90.69%

Panthers: 93.67%

Well done Lions!



We are really saddened that now on more than one occasion there has been damage to the signs/ lighting in our school carpark. We know that accidents happen, however, schools are unable to budget for such unforeseen circumstances so the money for repairs will need to come from money assigned for other school resources. Therefore, we ask that more care is taken and when an accident occurs you inform school.

### **Attendance:**

Attendance - Responsibilities of pupils and families	
Pupil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware of the school's attendance policy and when and where they are required to attend. This will be communicated to them by school staff, parents and through the school timetable.</li> <li>•</li> <li>• Speak to their class teacher or another member of staff if they are experiencing difficulties at school or at home which may impact on their attendance.</li> <li>•</li> <li>• Attend all lessons ready to learn, with the appropriate learning tools requested and on time for the class.</li> <li>•</li> <li>• Follow the school procedure if they arrive late. This will help the school to monitor attendance and keep accurate records for the child's individual attendance. This is also vital for health and safety in the event of a school evacuation.</li> </ul>
Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask the school for help if their child is experiencing difficulties with any aspect of their schoolwork or home and family life so that we can offer support at the earliest opportunity.</li> <li>•</li> <li>• Take a positive interest in their child's work and educational progress.</li> <li>•</li> <li>• Ensure their child has regular attendance at school.</li> <li>•</li> <li>• Instil the value of education and regular school attendance within the home environment.</li> <li>•</li> <li>• Contact the school if their child is absent to let them know the reason why and the expected date of return, following this with a note wherever possible.</li> <li>•</li> <li>• Avoid unnecessary absences; for example, by making medical and dental appointments for outside of school hours.</li> <li>•</li> <li>• Inform the school of any change in circumstances that may impact on their child's attendance.</li> <li>•</li> <li>• Support the school by becoming involved in their child's education, forming a positive relationship with school, and acknowledging the importance of children receiving the same messages from both school and home.</li> <li>• Maintain effective routines at home to support good attendance.</li> <li>• Attend all meetings requested to discuss attendance issues.</li> </ul>

## Message from Mrs Smithson

Well this term has certainly flown, Spring has thankfully now arrived and we are looking forward to many events planned for over the next few weeks:

**Thursday 26th March**, 9-10am - Parents are invited to an Easter craft cafe to make their Easter Bonnets and some other fun Easter activities.

Following this, there will be a cake sale and a fundraising sale of Easter items. If you are unable to join us for the Easter cafe, an Easter cake sale and fundraising stalls will be available after school and on Friday.

**Thursday 26th March** - Non-school uniform day in exchange for a raffle prize. See below regarding Federation fete).

**Thursday 26th March** - Easter colouring competition deadline

**Friday 27th March** - Easter church service @ 9.30am

**Easter holidays - Monday 30th March - Monday 13th April inc.**

**Tuesday 14th April** - First day of Summer term.

**Wednesday 15th April** - SATS Club

**Friday 17th April** - No family worship.

**Thursday 23rd April**, 9.30-10.30am - Stay and play (for two year olds).

**Monday 27th April**, KS1 sports event at Hickling (Details to follow)

### Federation school Fete

At a recent planning meeting, it was agreed that our Summer Fete would be held at Hickling Barn; Hickling Barn has very generously been donated to us for the weekend of the Fete, allowing for effective preparation and an organised fete day! The Fete will be on **Sunday 7th June, 10am - 2pm**. During our meeting we categorised the planning and preparation and shared these between the members.

We feel very fortunate to be working with Eric Shram (Estate Agent) to advertise the school fete. If you live on a main/busy road and you are happy to have an advertising board up in your garden, please email your name and address to Miss Blake. These details will be passed onto Mr Shram for him to arrange the distribution of the boards. Thank you in advance.

We will be holding two non-uniform days -

**Thursday 26th March** - A suggested donation of a raffle prize

**Friday 1st May** - A bottle of wine (For the water or wine game)

If you wish to attend the next Federation Fete meeting, it is on **Thursday 23rd April at 2pm** at Sutton School.

Have a lovely Easter break and enjoy the time with your families.

Emma Smithson (Senior teacher)

## This Month's Curriculum Focus: Art

This year, we are continuing with our CUSP Art curriculum. So far, the children have enjoyed a wide range of activities from sketching to painting to collaging. They have learnt a variety of new techniques and put these into practice in their super sketchbooks!

In the Summer term:

- Year 1 & 2 will be looking at the work of John Kindness and creating some 3D sculptures.
- Year 3 & 4 will be exploring the work of Gilbert Ahiagble, experimenting with weaving and printing to create unique textiles.
- Years 5 & 6 will be investigating techniques used by Patrick Hughes to create printing blocks and produce resist art.

We cannot wait to share the children's artwork with you at the Summer Arts Festival!

Miss Everett



Norfolk County Council

# 2025-2026

Norfolk Model Calendar

This calendar applies to community schools, community special schools, VC schools and nursery schools and sets the days on which school transport will be provided. While most Foundation, VA, foundation special, free schools and academy trusts who are able to set their own dates, adopt the Norfolk Model, we advise you to check with your child's school before making holiday or other commitments.

September 2025							October 2025							November 2025							December 2025						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30												29	30	31					29	30	31					
January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							April 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
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May 2026							June 2026							July 2026							August 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
																					31						

Key : White dates - schools open to pupils  
 Yellow dates - pupil holiday  
 Red dates - bank holiday

Five staff training days will be selected from yellow dates, we suggest 1st & 2nd September, 5th January, 13th April and 20th July. Some may choose to use twilight hours for staff training instead of some or all of these.