



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

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# April 2026 Newsletter

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## Message from the Executive Head

Dear families,

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back after the Easter holidays. It sounds like they all had a wonderful time.

In the schools we continue to be focusing on writing. A particular push for all pupils has been on presentation and handwriting. The children have been working really hard on this and it is evident in their work. They are showing great pride in what they are achieving and are able to better showcase their brilliant ideas.

You will have received various types of communication around fundraising for Macmillan, as a team of staff are taking on the 26 mile Mighty Hike in May. Hearing about this, the children have been inspired to join in the fundraising. Fundraising events include a EYFS/KS1 sports challenge, a KS2 Swallowtail Mini Hike and a 'Wicked' movie night. We hope that many children will be able to take part.

*Kind Regards,  
Natalie Butcher  
Executive Head, The Swallowtail Federation*

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## Message from the Senior Teacher

Dear families,

As part of our Federation commitment to reducing landfill waste, we are encouraging families to try zero waste lunches. A zero-waste lunch may include: Food in reusable containers instead of packed in plastic wrap, ziplock bags, foil or wax paper. Drinks in refillable containers instead of juice pouches, cartons and bottles. Food bought in bulk and portioned out into reusable containers instead of pre-packaged single-serve snack items. A reusable lunchbox instead of a paper bag.

Packing zero waste lunches not only reduces our environmental footprint and diverts waste from the landfill, it also helps teach the importance of waste reduction. Buying in bulk is cheaper than purchasing individually packaged items, and using resealable containers means uneaten food can be saved for later. We will be discussing with the children about what foods they enjoy and how much they can realistically eat. Children should be encouraged to be involved in packing their own lunch. We understand this might not be possible every day for every family, but even small changes can add up over time. Thank you for supporting this effort to reduce waste and support a healthier school environment.

We undertook a baseline assessment of package waste and will complete another assessment of our waste, following the work we do in school with the children. The next time we will capture this data is Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

*Kind regards,  
Abby Blake  
Assistant Head Teacher, Swallowtail Federation*

## Message from the Governors

Dear Everyone,

Welcome back after the Easter Break, I always think this is a great time of year as the evenings get longer and the days brighter and the warmth of the sun has been wonderful to enjoy. I wanted to take a moment to say hello to everyone and let you know that I welcome any feedback or do contact me if you have any questions. I do enjoy hearing about the wide range of activities at Swallowtail and it was great that some of our KS2 children were able to sing at the O2 in the Young Voices choir event and just as great to hear about Easter bonnet making, singing at a care home, visits to the Cathedral, the Synagogue, Gressenhall and everyone's efforts for World Book Day. Such a wide range of different things happen at Swallowtail Federation.

As governors we meet once every term and in between those meetings go into school to support and review various aspects of school life and to meet with pupils, teachers and leaders. Whilst I work full time and am not able to get into school very often, when I do, I am always struck by the friendly welcoming environment. If anyone is interested in becoming a governor do let me know, it's so rewarding and interesting. If you are even a bit interested and not sure, let's have a chat.

I am looking forward to our Summer Fete on Sunday 7th June and the Arts Festival on 9<sup>th</sup> July so if you see me there just come and say hello and if you not sure who I am just ask someone to point me out.

Sheila Watts- Chair of Governors

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## News

**Important Reminder:** Whilst you will already be aware we are a nut-free school, I wish to express 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. Thankyou for ensuring we keep everyone safe in school.

P.E. will now be on Wednesday afternoon.

### **NHS Mental Health Support**

*Catfield School has been selected to work with the NHS Mental Health Support Team and due to our Federation, some of their services are open to both Sutton and Hickling too.*

*You are welcome to attend an initial introductory presentation from the team on Friday 8th May at around 9am. This will be held at Catfield but families from all three of our schools are most welcome. Please see further information about the service attached.*



**Learning about pilgrimage, baptism and christenings at St Marys church**

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## School Attendance

Attendance to date for Hickling Infant Academy

Harriers Class: **93.40%**

Attendance - Responsibilities of school staff and Attendance Leaders	
School staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Form positive relationships with pupils and parents.</li><li>· Contribute to a whole school approach which reinforces good school attendance; with good teaching and learning experiences that encourage all pupils to attend and to achieve.</li><li>· Comply with the regulations and other relevant legislation.</li><li>· Implement systems to report, record and monitor the attendance of all pupils, including those who are educated off-site.</li><li>· Ensure that registers are recorded accurately and in a timely manner.</li><li>· Contribute to the evaluation of school strategies and interventions.</li><li>· Work with other agencies to improve attendance and support pupils and their families.</li></ul>
Attendance Leader	<p>Monitoring and analysing pupil attendance data.</p> <p>Undertaking weekly attendance meetings with the Senior Attendance Champion, Designated Safeguarding Lead, SENCO, and other relevant staff members.</p> <p>Implementing the identified strategies for promoting excellent whole school attendance.</p> <p>Implementing the identified strategies for tackling unsatisfactory attendance.</p> <p>Managing individual pupil casework files.</p> <p>Ensuring first day calling procedures are adhered to if a child is absent from school without contact from parents.</p> <p>Taking an active lead in delivering whole school initiatives such as awards assemblies and reward schemes.</p> <p>Making referrals to appropriate external agencies. Actively promote the importance and value of good attendance to all pupils and their parents.</p>

*Abby Blake*

*Assistant Head Teacher, Swallowtail Federation*

## Diary Dates (all subject to change):

### Summer term

- **Friday 1st May** – Key Stage 1 reports to families
- **Friday 1st May** – Non-school uniform day in exchange for a bottle (water or wine day for our federation fete)
- **Friday 8th May** – NHS Mental Health Support Team Introduction and Drop- In for families. Hosted at Catfield 9am.
- **Friday 8th May** – David Attenborough Day
- **Monday 11th May** – EYFS and KS1 Macmillan Sports Challenge at Hickling
- **Friday 22nd May** – Maths café – 2pm – Families welcome
- **HALF TERM HOLIDAY – 25th May – 29th May**
- **Monday 1st June** – Summer 2 begins
- **Tuesday 2nd June** – Key Stage 1 – Rock pooling and Changing Coastlines trip to West Runton
- **Thursday 4th June**- EYFS Federation Day at Catfield. Please drop your child off at 9am and collect at 3pm unless accessing breakfast club (arrive at 8am) or wraparound (your child would be transported back to Hickling on the minibus)
- **Sunday 7th June** – Swallowtail Summer Fete at Hickling Barn 10am -2pm
- **W/C Monday 8th June** – Year 1 Phonics Screening
- **Friday 12th June** – Federation Day for all children at Hickling
- **Thursday 18th June** – Father's Day Worship and Forest School session – 8.50am
- **Friday 26th June** – EYFS reports to families
- **Monday 29th June** – Sports Day and Picnic – 11.30am onwards
- **Tuesday 30th June** - EYFS Wroxham Barns trip **date amended from previous weekly news.**
- **Wednesday 1st July** - Sports day and picnic - 11.15am onwards
- **Wednesday 8th July** – Reserve Sports Day and Picnic – 11.15am onwards
- **Thursday 9th July** – Swallowtail Arts Festival
- **Wednesday 15th July** – Reserve Swallowtail Arts Festival
- **Thursday 16th July** – Year 2 Leavers Service – 8.50am
- **Friday 17th July** – End of term service at St Mary's Church – 2pm

## This month's curriculum focus – DT

Our design technology CUSP curriculum is on a two-year rolling programme which enables our pupils to build on their prior learning and hone the techniques that they use.

In the early years our pupils are introduced to a variety of materials, tools and fixings, sculpting and evaluating, these are covered through the early years Expressive Arts and Design area of development. Key stage one and key stage two build upon these early foundations and upon each other.

While working as designers our pupils follow the design, make, evaluate and apply process. There are connections with architects, designers and structures etc, giving historical aspects to the units. All units have specific oracy and vocabulary learning along with the evaluation process.

Across this academic year key stage one and two pupils have covered and are covering the following areas:

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
<b>Key stage 1</b>		
<p><b>Textiles:</b> <i>How can you repurpose an item of clothing?</i></p> <p>Learning how to use a template to create a simple patchwork. Repurposing clothing to create something practical and useful. Developing skills using a needle and thread to create small, even stitches.</p> <p>Connections: Frank Havrah 'Kaffe' Fassett. An American-born, British-based artist.</p> <p><b>Food and Nutrition</b> (linked with the science unit Living things): <i>What does healthy mean?</i></p> <p>Learning what healthy means and that eating a variety of vegetables provides the body with the nutrients it needs. Making products that use a range of vegetables and minimally processed foods.</p> <p>Techniques: claw, ribboning, bridge.</p>	<p><b>Mechanisms:</b> <i>Are bigger wheels always better?</i></p> <p>Learning how wheels and axles work together. Building simple wheel mechanisms and exploring how the size of the wheel and position of the axles affects the movement of simple vehicles.</p> <p>Connections: Karl Friedrich Benz. A German mechanical engineer</p> <p><b>Understanding materials</b> (linked with the science unit Use of everyday materials): <i>How can you waterproof a hat?</i></p> <p>Investigating materials to discover whether they absorb or resist water. Creating a 3D object by creasing and folding paper. Using wax or oil crayons to create a waterproof coating for a paper hat.</p> <p>Connections: Arthur Wellesley. First Duke of Wellington, soldier, political statesman and designer of the Wellington boot.</p>	<p><b>Food and Nutrition:</b> <i>How healthy is your food?</i></p> <p>Learning how foods that are pre-made and processed are often less healthy. Practising skills to make food that will help improve energy, mood and future health.</p> <p>Techniques: grating, claw, bridge.</p> <p><b>Structures:</b> <i>How strong is a piece of paper?</i></p> <p>To know the strength and stability of paper can be increased by folding. Testing and recording paper structures. Designing a paper tower that is at least 50cm tall and can bear a 1kg weight.</p> <p>Connections: Dame Zaha Mohammad Hadid.</p>
<b>Lower key stage 2</b>		

<p><b>Food and Nutrition:</b> <i>What's really in your food?</i></p> <p>Exploring the difference between freshly made food and mass-produced food. Learning how to make food that is commonly shop bought. Exploring the nutritional benefits of homemade food.</p> <p>Techniques: shaping, rolling, sautéing.</p> <p><b>Mechanisms:</b> <i>How many ways are there to open a door?</i></p> <p>Investigating how hinges work. Selecting a range of modelling materials and tools. Making and evaluating hinged products.</p> <p>Connections: London's Tower Bridge uses huge hinges to lift up the road to allow boats to pass on the Thames.</p>	<p><b>Textiles:</b> <i>How do you keep a tea towel from slipping off a hook?</i></p> <p>Identifying the different functions for fastenings and learning how to sew a button onto fabric. Creating a solution to the problem of a towel slipping off a hook.</p> <p>Connections: George de Mestral. Swiss electrical engineer and inventor of Velcro®.</p> <p><b>Structures:</b> <i>Which shapes will give a structure stability?</i></p> <p>Exploring which shapes can be used to ensure stability in structures. Using a range of materials to investigate 3D shapes and collaborating on a class geodesic dome structure.</p> <p>Connections: Roma Agrawal. Indian-British-American structural engineer.</p>	<p><b>Electrical systems</b> (linked with the science unit electricity): <i>How useful are switches?</i></p> <p>Learning how different types of switches work within electrical circuits. Learning how switches can be used to perform a function in a product.</p> <p>Connections: Samuel Bagnó. American inventor.</p> <p><b>Food and Nutrition</b> (linked with the science unit animals including humans): <i>Is cheap food always worse for you?</i></p> <p>Learning how to make healthy food from low-cost ingredients. Considering how cheap processed foods will affect health in later life.</p> <p>Connections: rubbing in, rolling and shaping, slicing.</p>
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Upper key stage 2

<p><b>Food and Nutrition:</b> <i>Can street foods save us?</i></p> <p>Studying and making street foods from different cultures. Considering their own diet and snacks and how they might be improved.</p> <p>Techniques: finely dicing, kneading, folding and shaping.</p> <p><b>Mechanisms:</b> <i>How do pulleys and gears let you see the world?</i></p> <p>Investigating how pulleys and gears work. Designing and making a gears product. Selecting and using a variety of modelling materials.</p> <p>Connections: The London Eye.</p>	<p><b>Food and Nutrition:</b> <i>Does food affect the way you feel?</i></p> <p>Learning how to cook foods that are often pre-made and processed. Learning and applying techniques to make dishes designed to help improve energy levels, mood and future health.</p> <p>Techniques: dicing, ribboning, sautéing.</p> <p><b>Structures:</b> <i>How strong is a piece of spaghetti?</i></p> <p>Testing the strength of spaghetti and constructing a tower that is at least three levels tall.</p> <p>Connections: Blackpool Tower by architects James Maxwell and William Charles Tuke.</p>	<p><b>Electrical systems</b> (linked to the science unit electricity): <i>Can switches perform more than one function?</i></p> <p>Learning how switches can be combined with electrical components in different ways to change the functionality of a product.</p> <p>Connections: Albert Sadacca. American inventor of Christmas tree lights.</p> <p><b>Textiles:</b> <i>How can we reduce, recycle and repurpose?</i></p> <p>Learning how to reduce waste by recycling and repurposing snack packets and plastic bags into useful items.</p> <p>Connections: Isatou Ceesay. Gambian activist and social entrepreneur.</p>
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Mrs Holmes  
DT lead

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## Stay up to date...

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

Facebook page – Search for Hickling Infant Academy

## 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/>

### Week ahead:

Day	Information
Monday	Forest School Club 3.20pm – 4.20pm
Tuesday	
Wednesday	Family Reading PE
Thursday	Forest School (ALL) Cookery Club 3.20pm – 4.20pm
Friday	Family Worship Non- uniform Day – in exchange for a bottle