



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

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# May 2026 Newsletter

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## Message from the Executive Head

Dear families

I can't believe that is another half term that has passed by and what a busy one it has been!

A huge shout out to Year 6 who completed their end of Key Stage 2 statutory tests last week. They were all so positive and tried their very best. We are incredibly proud.

Another celebration has to be to all of those who took part in the amazing fundraising for Macmillan. It started with the staff team completing the 26 mile marathon. I am sure you spotted many of us limping on the Monday. It was truly one of the most challenging things we have ever done but the sense of achievement made it all worthwhile. Next our EYFS and KS1 children completed the sports challenge. They showed great enthusiasm and positivity and worked so hard on the day. Finally, KS2 completed the Swallowtail school hike, walking an amazing 7.5 miles. They showed great resilience and determination and were all so positive and reflective about what the experience gave them. We are delighted to announce that between us we have raised an outstanding **£5000** for Macmillan. Thank you so much for your support.

Wishing you all a happy and safe half term. Here's hoping that the sun shines!

Kind Regards

Natalie Butcher

Executive Head, The Swallowtail Federation

*(Catfield CofE Primary Academy, Hickling CofE Infant Academy, Sutton CofE Infant Academy)*

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## Message from the Senior Teacher

Dear families,

As we reach the end of this half term, we would like to wish the children and families a safe and enjoyable break. The children have shown great effort and enthusiasm in their learning, and this pause in the term is a valuable opportunity to recharge.

We encourage everyone to take care during the holiday, enjoy our beautiful rural surroundings, and return ready for the second half of the summer term. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Miss Blake

Senior Teacher

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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.

\*EYFS federation day at Catfield on Thursday 4th June will not be going ahead. Children to attend as normal.



## School Attendance

Attendance to date for Hickling Infant Academy

Harriers Class: **92.69%**

Dear Families,

At our schools, we are advocates for children deserving the best possible chance to learn, grow, and succeed. One of the most important parts of this is **regular, positive attendance**. When children are in school consistently, they build strong relationships, feel more confident, and make better academic progress.

To support this, we are strengthening our **support-first approach to attendance**. This means that whenever a child's attendance begins to dip, our first step is always to understand what's happening and how we can help.

Our approach focuses on:

**Early support** — noticing concerns quickly so we can work together before they become bigger challenges.

**Working in partnership** — building open, honest communication with families.

**Removing barriers** — whether it's anxiety, routines, transport, or something else, we aim to find solutions together.

**Clear expectations** — helping children understand why attendance matters for their future.

When children attend regularly, they are more engaged in lessons, more connected to their peers, and better prepared for learning. Even small improvements in attendance can make a meaningful difference to their academic outcomes.

We are here to help. If you ever have concerns about your child's attendance, please reach out. Together, we can make sure every child feels supported, valued, and ready to thrive.

Thank you for your continued collaboration with us.

**Best wishes,**

**Miss Blake**  
**(Attendance Lead)**

## Diary Dates (all subject to change):

### Summer term

- **HALF TERM HOLIDAY – 25th May – 29th May**
- **Monday 1st June** – Community garden visit
- **Tuesday 2nd June** – Key Stage 1 – Rock pooling and Changing Coastlines trip to West Runton
- **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> 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
- **Tuesday 30th June** - EYFS Wroxham Barns trip
- **Wednesday 1st July** - Sports day and picnic - 11.30am onwards
- **Wednesday 8th July** – Reserve Sports Day and Picnic – 11.30am onwards
- **Wednesday 15th July** – Swallowtail Arts Festival

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### First week back:

Day	Information
Monday	
Tuesday	KS1 – West Runton Trip (Year 1/2)
Wednesday	No Family Reading this week PE
Thursday	Forest School (ALL) Singing Club – 3.20pm – 4.20pm with Mrs Pell
Friday	Family Worship

## This month's curriculum focus – Maths

This year, our Reception and Key Stage 1 children have been actively participating in the NCETM's Mastering Number programme. For our early years students, this serves as their daily maths instruction. Meanwhile, our older children benefit from it as an additional session to enhance their math fluency

The programme helps children to build strong foundations in maths from an early age. Through short, engaging sessions each day, pupils develop confidence with number facts, counting, and calculation strategies. The programme focuses on helping children gain a deep understanding of numbers rather than simply memorising procedures.

By exploring numbers in different ways, children learn to spot patterns, explain their thinking, and solve problems more efficiently. This supports the development of mathematical fluency and literacy, enabling pupils to use mathematical language accurately and confidently.

Research shows that secure early number understanding has a significant impact on later success in maths. The Mastering Number approach helps children become flexible thinkers who can apply their knowledge across different areas of learning and everyday life. Parents may notice their child becoming quicker with recall of number facts, more confident when tackling maths tasks, and increasingly willing to explain how they reached an answer.

Mrs S Gilbert  
Swallowtail Maths 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/>