



With friendship, trust and kindness, we fly!

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September 2026 Newsletter

Message from the Executive Head

Dear families

Welcome to the first newsletter of the school year.

It has been wonderful to welcome you all back and the children have made a flying start. Learning behaviours across all the schools are exceptional and we have lots of very happy children.

You may have spotted that lots of work has taken place over the Summer holidays, with some still continuing. We have developed the outside spaces to include (but not only) a new bird hide in the Forest School area at Sutton, a new EYFS shelter at Catfield and an outside story telling area at Hickling. None of this would have been possible without the wonderful support of parents in our fundraising events. This has taken place at individual schools, but the real difference has been when everyone came together for the federation events. Sadly, school budgets are becoming more and more stretched, so your commitment to these events has made all the difference. Thank you and we look forward to working with you all again this year.

Kind Regards

Natalie Butcher

Executive Head, The Swallowtail Federation



Message from the Senior Teacher

Dear families,

As we unlock the gate for a brand-new school year, there is a special kind of energy in the air, the buzz of new beginnings, fresh books and sharpened pencils, reunited friendships, and the excitement of all the learning opportunities ahead. We are so glad to welcome children and families back.

Attendance to school isn't just about being present, it is about being part of something bigger. Every day in school is a day filled with opportunity: New learning that builds confidence and curiosity, shared experiences that help children feel connected and supported, routines that strengthen wellbeing and independence and moments of success that children remember long after the school year ends.

Best wishes,

Miss Blake

Message from Governors

Hi everyone

As Chair of Governors, I wanted to reach out to you all to say welcome to the new school year. I hope you were able to enjoy some great family time over the summer and are settling back into routine.

I am confident that the year to come will be rich and rewarding with great opportunity for all to be immeasurable more in the way that is possible for them, at Swallowtail Federation we are passionate about creating opportunity for all our children to be able to fly and be able to live by our values of friendship, trust and kindness. Thinking about this I felt it is a good moment to reflect on, what for me, represents our vision and ethos, I hope these thoughts also resonate with you.

- Our Federation Days when we come together are always enjoyed by the children and the Arts Festival in July is so delightful. Our minibus has enabled more chances for the children to come together so we really appreciate the funding that has made that possible.
- I am so proud of the children that worked hard towards the Archbishops Ambassador Award and were commended for their efforts.
- There were so many wonderful enriching activities and events, I will never mention them, carol concerts and nativity performances, summer fetes, the Young Voices trip to the O2, raising money the Macmillan charity by walking which was a brilliant result, our Arts Festival with singing, dancing, art work and picnics.

I am confident we can all look forward to what the coming year will bring and would like to thank all of you for the contribution you will make to further enable the wonderful work of the Swallowtail staff. Now I have your attention, it would be remiss of me not to mention that if anyone is interested in joining us in the rewarding role of school governor, just contact the school office and they will put you in touch with me, I am happy to have an informal chat and share some info, no commitment, no hard sell, just a chat at your convenience. We really could benefit from some extra help and you will not be thrown in at the deep end, we will support and guide you in what you feel comfortable doing.

Thank you for your time reading this

Sheila

News

Important Reminder: Whilst you will already know that we are a peanut aware 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. Thank you for ensuring we keep everyone safe in school.

Please be aware that there is a change to the school office hours which are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday - 8.45am - 11.45am, please leave a message if you need to get in touch outside of these hours, as staff will monitor phone.



KS1 Computing with Mrs Bales



OC - Sorting



KS1 Maths - Representing Numbers

School Attendance

Attendance to date for Hickling Infant Academy

Harrriers Class: 94.05%

Is my child too ill for school?



Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)?

YES Keep them off school until it goes away.

NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.	Cold sores Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.	Impetigo They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.	Ear infection If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.
Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	Conjunctivitis Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.	Ringworm See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.	Measles They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.
	Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.	Scarlet fever They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.	Vomiting & diarrhoea Please consult with school staff who will work with you to determine how long your child needs to be off school for.
	Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.	Chickenpox Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	
	Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.		

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

Diary Dates (all subject to change):

AUTUMN TERM 2026

- Tuesday 22nd September – KS1 Sainsbury's Centre Trip
- Monday 5th October – Phonics Workshop Reception families only 7pm, Hickling
- Tuesday 13th October – Harvest Festival at the Church. 9am
- Friday 16th October – Federation Family Bingo night, Catfield Primary School. 6pm.
- Wednesday 21st October – Stay and Play 1.30pm – 2.30pm
- Monday 9th November – EYFS and KS1 parent consultations
- Wednesday 11th November – Remembrance Worship. 8.50am. Families welcome
- Friday 13th November – Children in Need celebration
- Thursday 19th November – Non-uniform day in exchange for a gift donation
- Wednesday 25th November – Christmas Craft afternoon – 2pm
- Tuesday 1st December – Christingle – 2.30pm
- Monday 7th December – Nativity Dress Rehearsal
- Tuesday 8th December – Nativity – 2.15pm
- Wednesday 9th December – Nativity 9.30am
- Thursday 10th December – Christmas Jumper Day
- Monday 14th December – Federation Day at Catfield
- Monday 14th December – Christmas Fayre at Catfield – 3.20pm onwards.
- Wednesday 16th December – Stay and Play 1.30pm – 2.30pm
- Thursday 17th December – Christmas lunch
- Friday 18th December – Christmas Church Service – 2.30pm

SPRING TERM 2027

- Tuesday 19th January – EYFS Federation Day at Sutton
- Tuesday 2nd February – KS1 Federation Day at Catfield
- Wednesday 10th February - Stay and Play 1.30pm – 2.30pm
- Monday 22nd February – EYFS Parent Consultations
- Thursday 4th March – World Book Day Reading Café – 8.50am
- Friday 5th March – Mother's Day Worship – 3pm
- Tuesday 22nd March – Easter Craft afternoon – 2pm
- Wednesday 24th March - Stay and Play 1.30pm – 2.30pm
- Thursday 25th March – Easter Church Service – 9am
- Thursday 25th March – Colour Run fundraising event – Catfield

SUMMER TERM 2027

- Friday 30th April – Key Stage One reports out
- Wednesday 19th May – KS1 Ranworth Broad trip
- Wednesday 26th May - Stay and Play 1.30pm – 2.30pm
- Monday 7th June – KS1 parent consultations
- Wednesday 16th June – Sports Day and picnic – 11.30am
- Thursday 17th June – Father's Day Worship and Forest School – 2pm
- Friday 25th June – EYFS reports out
- Wednesday 14th July - Stay and Play 1.30pm – 2.30pm
- Wednesday 21st July – End of term and leavers celebration at church – 2pm

Next week

Day	Information
Monday	
Tuesday	KS1 Sainsburys trip
Wednesday	Family Reading
Thursday	PE- KS1
Friday	Forest School EYFS Friday Worship

Stay up to date:

Website: 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/>



