



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

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# October 2026 Newsletter

## Message from the Executive Head

Dear families

What an amazing half term we have had!

The teaching across the schools has continued to go from strength to strength, with Trust advisors complimenting staff on what they have achieved. We have had a particular focus on securing strong foundations, ensuring all pupils have the skills and knowledge they need as a secure base for future learning. In particular, this includes handwriting, spelling, phonics and number sense. In our upcoming parent consultations, your child's class teacher may refer to these as an area your child is developing. We ask that you support your child; by ensuring they complete home learning regularly, for example regular reading and TT Rockstars.

Thank you to all of you that completed our parent survey. Senior leaders have read through all your responses and fed into our actions. It was also wonderful to read so many positive comments about the staff and culture in our schools.

We are currently working hard to continue to develop the personal development programme we offer, something that sits strongly at our core values. Please watch out for information about clubs and other enrichment opportunities. It has also been fantastic to see committed and passionate parents stepping forward to support with fundraising opportunities. In this day and age, where financial strains impact us all, it really does make all the difference to helping our small schools thrive. Thank you!

All that leaves me to do is wish you a fantastic half term break.

Kind Regards

Natalie Butcher

Executive Head, The Swallowtail Federation

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

## Message from the Senior Teacher

Dear families,

I can't believe we have come to the end of the first half term, it feels like we have been back for such a long time as we have packed so much in over the past few weeks.

This half term Dragonflies visited the Sainsburys centre and shared their learning during a family worship, they came back with some beautiful paintings that they had made using unconventional materials e.g. shaving foam, natural objects etc. These will be displayed on our art wall in the hall after half term, where you will be able to look at them before and after family worship on a Friday.

Butterflies have worked extremely hard with learning their first set of phonemes, reading 3 tricky words and blending CVC words to read. They have all shown impeccable learning behaviours and excitement during these lessons.

Caterpillars have been making the most of the outdoor area with Butterflies, they have been making 'Autumn soups', experimenting with autumn items to see if they float or sink. They have also been singing nursery rhymes and making up silly sentences within them.

Last week we were very lucky to welcome Open the Book into school. Open the Book is an exciting project that shares stories from the Bible in a fun, interactive and memorable way. Pupils loved their session and are looking forward to the next one after half term. These will be regular visitors to school and will enhance our Christian ethos greatly. Please ask your child about these sessions.

I hope you all have a fabulous half term and look forward to seeing you on Monday 2nd November.

*Sabrina Holmes*

*Senior teacher and DSL; Sutton CE Infant Academy*

*EYFS, R.E and D.T Lead Teacher*

*Swallowtail Federation of Church Schools*

## School attendance

### Attendance to date for Sutton Infant Academy

Butterflies class: 96.11%

Dragonflies class: 96.38%

[The Barriers to Education \(BtE\) Assessment Tool](#) has been developed as part of Norfolk's revised staged intervention pathway for promoting school attendance. It provides a structured, holistic framework to help schools understand and address the underlying reasons why a child is struggling to attend school.

The Assessment Tool is designed to:

- Identify the root causes of attendance difficulties at the earliest opportunity.
- Capture and prioritise the voice of the child and family.
- Promote a whole-family and whole-system understanding of barriers.
- Support co-produced planning and intervention.
- Improve consistency of practice across schools and services.
- Enable effective multi-agency collaboration around children experiencing persistent or severe absence.

The tool will be implemented as the foundation of the Support First Approach. Crucially, the BtE Tool provides an assessment framework to bring together different professional perspectives and create a shared understanding of what is preventing a child from fully engaging in education.

We look forward to using this tool to support your child in attending school.

Take care

Abby Blake

Senior Teacher, Hickling Infant Academy

Assistant Head Teacher and Attendance Lead, Swallowtail Federation

## News

- For Children in Need, we will be completing 26 laps of the field to raise funds. Can all monies raised be donated directly to Children in Need online or via the QR code on the posters in school.
- Please ensure if you book breakfast and wraparound care after the Friday of each week for the following week to also email the school office, as registers are created in advance and we don't get notifications from Parent Mail of parents booking.

## Stay up to date...

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

Facebook page – Search for Sutton CEVC Infant School

## Safeguarding

Some links for e-safety:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

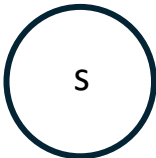
## Feedback and Marking summary

Children are provided with timely and purposeful feedback that further their learning.

Immediate feedback takes place at the point of teaching and is offered verbally through the method of live marking.

Evidence of this will be seen in a child's book, in line with our Feedback Codes. Feedback closest to the point of teaching and learning is likely to be most effective in driving further improvement and learning and preventing embedding misconception.

Written marking and comments are used where meaningful guidance can be offered, which it has not been possible to provide at the point of teaching. In most cases, written comments are focused on extended pieces of written work. Children will always be given the opportunity to read these comment ahead of starting their next piece of work within the sequence.

| Feedback Codes                                                                      |                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | Staff write a pink dot next to an error to direct the pupil to correct a mistake.                                                     |
| Think Pink                                                                          | Pink pen or highlighter used to indicate an element of work that needs revisiting and actioning.                                      |
| Go green                                                                            | Green pen or highlighter used to celebrate success in work.                                                                           |
| ✓                                                                                   | Work has been checked by an adult                                                                                                     |
| ✓✓                                                                                  | Learning objective has been achieved.                                                                                                 |
| Purple pen                                                                          | Children correct their work and make improvements and changes in purple.                                                              |
|  | This is used where support has been required beyond scaffolding. An accompanying annotation explaining the support given is required. |

## Diary Dates (all subject to change): **Highlighted dates are new from last month**

### Autumn term

**Friday 23rd October-30th October-** School half term.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November-** Outdoor classroom day. More information to follow.

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November-** Remembrance worship at 8.50am, families welcome.

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November-** EYFS and KS1 parent consultations. Bookings to be made on Parent mail.

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November-** Children in Need community event 9.00-10.00am, everyone welcome. More details to follow.

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November-** Children's flu spray appointment, 12.30pm onwards.

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November-** Tempest: Portrait and sibling photos from 8.45am. **If your child is in pre-school, you are more than welcome to bring them along at 9.00am for a school photo.**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November-** EYFS Stay and play 9.30 – 10.30am

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November-** Non-school uniform day in exchange for a gift.

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November-** Christmas crafts 9.00am– 10.00am followed by Christingle at 2.30pm. Families welcome to attend both. **Christingle will be held at school this year.**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December-** Nativity dress rehearsal pm

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December-** Nativity 2.15pm. More information to follow.

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December-** Nativity 9.30 am. More information to follow.

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December-** Christmas quiz and snacks 3.20-5.00pm, Christmas jumper day

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December** -Christmas federation day at Catfield. More information to follow.

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December-** Christmas lunch, menu available closer to the time. Please book on Parent mail.

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December-** Christmas church service at 9.00am, can families please drop their children off at church Christmas party lunch, more information to follow.

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December-Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January-** Half term. Children return to school Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.