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

Message from the Senior Teacher

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of the first half of the autumn term, it is lovely to pause and reflect on what has been such a positive and rewarding few weeks at school.

We are incredibly proud of how well the children have settled into their routines, embraced new challenges and continued to grow in confidence and independence. It has been a joy to see friendships flourish, curiosity spark and so many wonderful moments of kindness, determination and achievement, truly showing off our school vision!

One of the special things about our 'smaller than small' school is the intense sense of community we share. Every day, the children remind us how much can be achieved when we learn, play and grow together. The half term highlights for me are: our committed worship visitors whom we have seen so much of, the arrival of our story chair, allergy awareness work with the children, cooking, our Autumn walk, beautiful handwriting and outstanding presentation of our exercise books!

As we head into the half-term break, we hope you enjoy some well-deserved time together, making memories, enjoying the autumn colours and having a little time to relax and recharge if you are able to.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back for the second half of the term, refreshed and ready for more learning and adventures together!

Take care,

Miss Blake

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.

- The Pleasure Boat are holding a quiz night on 26th November at 8pm to raise money for the school, tickets will cost £4 per person, more info to follow.

- Please can we have help with donations of plastic bags for times when wet clothes need to be sent home.

- We invite your child to come into school in non-school uniform on Thursday 19th November in exchange for a gift, suitable to be given to a family member, including parents, grandparents or a younger or older sibling. Families will then be prompted via ParentMail to purchase a gift. Gifts will be £5 each and families can purchase multiple gifts. Where gifts are purchased, children will be given the opportunity to select from the donations, wrap the gift and attach a tag, bringing it home to give at Christmas. This allows the children to independently 'shop' for someone special to them and allows them opportunity to give something over the festive period.Gifts need to be purchased via ParentMail by Wednesday 25th November. After purchase on ParentMail, please email the office to outline how many you have paid for and who they are for so that the adults in school and support your children in selecting appropriately. Wrapping will take place the week commencing the 30th November. Gifts will be sent home after this.



Exploring Autumn

Autumn Walkaround Village





Number bonds to 10

School Attendance

Attendance to date for Hickling Infant Academy

Harrriers Class: **96.24%**

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.

Diary Dates (all subject to change):

AUTUMN TERM 2026

- Monday 9th November – EYFS and KS1 parent consultations
- Wednesday 11th November – Remembrance Worship. 8.50am. Families welcome
- Friday 13th November – Children in Need celebration
- Monday 16th November – School individual and sibling photos
- 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

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/

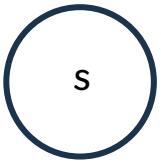
https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

Curriculum

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 comments 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.