

Friday 15th SeptemberMenu (w/c 18 Sep)

Week 3

Monday 18th
September

Year 3 & 5 swim.

Tuesday 19th
SeptemberRed Squirrels Forest
SchoolWednesday 20th
September

Year 2 Swim

Year 5&6 Gala

Friday 22nd SeptemberHelp yourself to non-
logo uniform after
school (by the musical
maze).

Dear Parents,

We would like to say a HUGE thanks to our site team this week. We are blessed to have two site managers: Sonia Sault and Dan Vinson. They had to work very hard over the summer in supporting the extension of Early Years, refurbishment of Y4 toilets and the relocation of the computing suite as well as re-painting many areas of the school. We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated team who take such pride in our school.

**This week in school:**

Our Year 6 had the most incredible week at Norfolk Lakes. The children took part in such a huge range of activities such as kayaking, paddle boarding, fencing,

We were so proud of the children's resilience and confidence.

I'd like to say a huge thank you to the staff who took the children on this visit. Two of our staff are saying goodbye to their own children who are heading off to university this weekend so their commitment on such a busy week for their own family is particularly appreciated.

Both the Infants and Juniors celebrated International Dot Day this week with an art assembly. Children enjoyed having the book 'The Dot' read to them, then discussed the wonderful artwork by Peter H Reynolds. We researched his work and tried our own dot creations. It was amazing how creative the children were and how their artwork was all different!





PE Timetable

Please find below the timetable for PE for the first half of this term.

AUTUMN TERM – FIRST HALF	PE	Swimming	Forest School
EARLY YEARS	Wednesday & Friday	n/a	n/a 3
YEAR 1	Monday	n/a	Red Squirrels – Tue 19/26 Sep & 3 October. Skylarks Tue 9/17/31 October
YEAR 2	Thursday	Wednesday	n/a
YEAR 3	Tuesday	Monday	n/a
YEAR 4	Wednesday & Friday	n/a	n/a
YEAR 5	Thursday	Monday	n/a
YEAR 6	Monday and Wednesday	n/a	n/a

- Children should come to school wearing their PE kit on their PE days.
- Year 2 children should also wear their PE kit to school with their swimming costume on underneath on swimming days.
- Year 3/5 children should wear their school uniform on Swimming days and bring their swimwear to change into at the pool.
- Year 1 children should wear their Forest School clothes into school on their Forest School day.

SchoolMoney

Most parents are now signed up to use the SchoolMoney app – thanks so much for your support with this. A few helpful tips are listed below:

- If you have more than one child, you can view others by clicking on the arrow next to the name of the child you do see.
- Card details cannot be stored but Apple & Google pay should be an option.
- All payments can be viewed under the “payments” section. We do not use the “club” section – this is for schools that offer a drop-in facility.
- The date you see next to a payment item is the date a payment is due by – not the date of the event/club.
- In Juniors you can see what lunches you have been charged for by looking in “History/Dinner History on the app. Please note we only add lunches to the app 3 times per week so there may be in delay in seeing charges.
- Any items purchased in the shop selection by 5pm on a Thursday (Water bottles/badges etc) will be distributed on a Friday. We do not give out shop items at other times. The items will be taken to your child’s classroom. Those with children in Juniors should only purchase a house point badge when you have been advised that your child has achieved the number of points for the badge – we will check this with the teacher before giving out a badge. Lost house badges (red/blue/green and yellow) can also be purchased if required.

Vacancies at Katherine Semar & RA Butler

We are looking for a 1-1 Teaching Assistant and a Kitchen Assistant. Please see our website for more information or pop into the office. If you know anyone who may be interested, please do suggest they apply. We cannot wait to welcome some more staff to our friendly school -It really is such a great place to work! The posts are obviously ideal for anyone with children as you can work school hours and be there for your own children in the holidays and weekends. RA Butler also has a number of vacancies – these can be seen on their website <https://www.rab.academy/vacancies>

Medicines in School

If your child is prescribed any medication that needs to be taken in school you must bring the medicine into the school office and complete a medical consent form. We are only able to administer medication that has been prescribed by your GP.

If you think your child may need Calpol during the school day you need to come to school to administer this. Please do not put medicine in your child’s schoolbag.

Earrings

Just a reminder that if children do wear earrings to school, they must be small studs. Children must be able to remove them independently for Forest School, Swimming and PE lessons. – they cannot be taped. The school will not take responsibility for lost earrings.





Nut Allergies

Please note we have a number of children in school with nut allergies – some very severe. Please ensure you do not send any nuts in any form into school as snacks or part of your child's pack lunch. This includes peanut butter, Nutella, hazelnut crepes or Madeleines (which contain almonds). Houmous should also not be sent into school as this contains sesame.

Clubs and Squads

SQUAD OR CLUB	DATE BEGINNING	Pick Up point
Football Squad Y5/6 (Mon)	Y5 Trial Monday 11 th , Squad starts 18 th September.	n/a
Dodgeball Squad Y3/4 (Mon)	Trial is Monday 11 th September, squad starts 18 th September	n/a
Show Choir Club Juniors (Mon)	Starts 18 th September	Main Office
Football Club Year 1/2 (Mon)	11th September	Junior Hall doors
Indoor Athletics Squad Y5/6 (Tue)	Starts 12 th September	n/a
Netball C Squad (Tue)	Starts 12 th September	n/a
Gymnastics Club Y5/6 (Tue)	Started 5 th September	Junior Hall doors
Art Club Y1/2 (Tue)	Starts 12th September	Main Office
Indoor Athletics Squad Y3/4 (Wed)	Starts 13th September	n/a
Netball Group A Squad (Wed)	Starts 13 th September	n/a
Gymnastics Club Y3/4 (Wed)	Started 6th September	Junior Hall doors
Hockey Club Y5/6 (Wed)	Started 6th September	Old Junior Entrance
Drama and Music Club Y1/2 (Wed)	Starts 20th September	Main Office
Football Squad Y3/4 (Thu)	Starts 14th September	n/a
Dodgeball Squad Y5/6 (Thu)	Starts 14 th September	n/a
Art Club Year 3/4 (Thu)	Started 6 th September	Main Office
Multisports Club Year 5/6 (Thu)	Started 7 th September	Old Junior Entrance
Tag Rugby Squad (After School Thu) Y3-6	Starts 14 th September	Old Junior Entrance
Cross Country Squad Y3-6 (Fri)	Starts 15th September	n/a
Netball B Squad (Fri)	Starts 15 th September	n/a
Urban Cheer Lunchtime Club Y3-6 (Fri)	Starts 22 nd September	n/a
Choir Y4/5/6 during the school day (Fri)	Starts 22 nd September	n/a
Orchestra Club Y3-6	Starts 22 nd September (Invitation only)	Main Office
Gymnastics Club Y1-2 (Fri)	Starts 8 th September	Junior Hall Doors

INFANT SCHOOL

Reading Mornings

Last school year parents and carers were welcomed into school each week to share a reading book with their child in the classroom. We are happy to announce that has re-started again for children in Year 1 & 2. **Each Friday**, parents and carers are welcome to come into their child's classroom between **8.35am and 8.45am** to share a story book from our class collections. This is an opportunity for you and your child to enjoy sharing a book together before the start of the school day. If you are not able to stay and read with your child you should drop them at the usual time of 8.40am.

If you have siblings in the infant school, then please choose one of their classrooms to go and read in, remembering to send your child to their own classroom for 8.45am. Please note, junior siblings should not join their infant siblings and be in their own classroom at the normal time.

Staff will be on hand to read with any children whose parents are unable to attend a session from 8.40am.

Reading mornings for children in early Years will start in a few weeks when all the children are settled.

Phonics Workshops

We will be holding Phonic Workshops for all infant year groups next month. These are very popular events as they allow you to watch a phonics lesson in the school and gives you valuable information on how to teach your child to read. Following are the dates for your diary and please note that **unfortunately we are not able to invite pre-school children to these workshops** as it would be distracting for our children during the lesson demonstrations.

Year 2 Monday 2nd October at 9.00am <https://forms.office.com/e/hVcY0tFcuw>

Early Years Tuesday 3rd October at 9.00am <https://forms.office.com/e/t5CR1S1M9L>

Year 1 Wednesday 5th October at 9.00am <https://forms.office.com/e/9EQT2UDexZ>

Please click on the form by your child's year group(s) to inform us whether you will be attending.





JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 6 Secondary Applications & Open Evenings

If your child is in year 6, you can apply for a secondary school (year 7) place between 12th September 2023 and 31 October 2023. You **MUST NOT** miss the application deadline! Here is the link to apply. <https://www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/secondary-school-places>

Saffron Walden County High are holding their open evening on Thursday 28th September - you must book to attend this at www.swchs.net.

We are aware that the Joyce Frankland open day was this week and we have suggested to the school that parents may contact them requesting additional slots to visit the school.

Please speak to the office if you need assistance in applying for your place.

Year 4 Maths Workshops and Year 6 Reading workshops

We will be holding Maths workshops for Year 4 parents and Reading workshops for Year 6 parents on the following days:

Elephants Maths workshop – Monday 25th September at 9.00am

Okapi Maths workshop – Tuesday 26th September at 9.00am

Lynx & half of Puma Reading workshop – Wednesday 27th September at 9.00am

Leopard & half of Puma Reading workshop - Thursday 28th September at 9.00am.

We will send out a letter next week with a form for parents to complete to confirm whether they will be attending.

FUNDRAISING

Pre-Loved Uniform

Thank you for all the donations over the summer, we are overwhelmed by the amount of donations by the families.

We now have a wide range of items: logo jumpers and cardigans, logo polo shirts, non-logo jumpers, cardigans, polo shirt, trousers, shorts, dresses, skirts, joggers, PE short sleeves and long sleeves, PE shorts, skirts, swimming shorts and costumes, swimming hats, jackets and fleeces, winter hats, plimsoles and book bag / backpack.

- Logo items are £2
- Non logo items are £1
- Old PE Kit are £2
- New PE kit £3 (no current stock)

Over the years the preloved uniform has raised £1 741 for the school, and over 500 items have been reused. Each quality item reused has an environmental impact of 1-3Kg CO2 saved and 1000 to 3000 litres of water saved.

At the end of the day on 22nd September the preloved uniform team will hold a "help yourself" to non logo uniform for free. This will include: non-logo jumper, cardigan, trousers, shorts, dresses, skirts and plimsoles.

In the meantime, if you need some uniforms please contact preloved@katherinesemar.net. Thank you for your continued support.

Bag to school Textile Collection:

Bag to School will be collecting any used textiles on Monday 9th October. A list of what can and can't be accepted is here. <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>. We receive commission per kilo collected.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Julie Puxley

Executive Headteacher



