

Friday 6th October

Menu (w/c 9 Oct)

Week 3

Monday 9th October

Bag to school textile collection – please bring items to the Junior Hall door by 9am

Year 3/5 swim.

Tuesday 10th October

Skylarks Forest School

2.30pm Year 3 & 4
Harvest Festival

Wednesday 11th October

9am Early Years
Harvest Assembly 9am

Year 2 Swim

Gala

Thursday 12th October

9am Year 1 Harvest
Assembly

Friday 13th October

9am Year 2 Harvest
Assembly

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It has been a wonderful week in school. I have been able to observe lots of fantastic teaching and learning. We also welcomed our director of school improvement and other leaders in the Trust to showcase our superb computing curriculum. They were very impressed with the knowledge and skills of the children. We have worked hard to ensure our computing curriculum is the best it can be especially now with our new computing suite. We were also delighted to welcome so many parents to our infant phonics workshops. I would like to say a HUGE thanks to the teachers for teaching an extra large class this week! Thanks for all your support - it makes a real difference. We have attached the presentations for anyone who could not make it.



This week in school:

This week Year 5 celebrated the start of Autumn and National Poetry day (5th October) by writing poems about Autumn. Jaguar class brainstormed together on a class poem before then writing individual poems of their own. Orangutans worked collaboratively to create a class poem with each child contributing one line to the poem. The poems are beautiful and the Year 5 teachers thoroughly enjoyed immersing themselves in them, well done. We hope you enjoy reading the poems at the end of this newsletter.

Parents Evening

Our Parents Evenings will be on Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th October and will be held face-to-face in school (results from our last survey indicated this was the preferred format). The focus of the meeting will be to discuss how your child has settled in, their wellbeing and the teacher's current assessment of their progress to date. It is also a time for you to share any information that will help your child's learning and well-being. The meetings will last no longer than 10 minutes and we ask that all parents respect this. It is also a valuable opportunity to look at your child's books with them. If you need to bring your child along, Mrs Puxley and other staff can look after them in the infant school whilst you have your appointment.

Bookings open this Sunday evening – 8th October at 7pm via Parentmail. For families new to the school and less familiar with this process, this is a simple process of signing on to your ParentMail account or accessing your ParentMail app, then follow the instructions for Parents Evening Manager. You will be able to make your appointment(s) from 7pm this Sunday 8th October. If you have any problems booking an appointment please refer to the Parent 'help' menus in ParentMail. If you still cannot book your appointment please contact the school office.

Flu-spray

Just a reminder that you have until 13th October to complete the consent form for the Flu spray which will take place in school in Tuesday 17th October. If you do not complete the form your child will NOT be offered the spray. Please note when you complete the form the information goes straight to the vaccination team – we cannot access the form to check whether you have completed it. The vaccine team will come to school on the day and advise us which children are having the spray. If you have any questions please contact the vaccination team on 0300 790 0597

<https://forms.microsoft.com/e/SKUfKZTyKK>



Harvest Festival

Dates for the Harvest assemblies are:

Year 3 & 4	Tuesday 10 th October at 2.30pm
Early Years	Wednesday 11 th October at 9.00am
Year 1	Thursday 12 th October at 9.00am
Year 2	Friday 13 th October at 9.00am

Parents are welcome to attend the Harvest Festival Assembly for their child's year group. Pre-school children are also welcome but we ask that any prams/pushchairs are left outside each school hall, due to space restrictions inside school.

As we usually do at this time of year, we are asking parents to donate food to our local Foodbank. We have asked for specific donations from each year group as the foodbank is supplying crates for each classroom as it reduces the number of volunteers needed. If you can donate from the appropriate year group that is great however anything is greatly appreciated. **Please could you bring items into your child's classroom on the morning of Thursday 12th October (there will be crates in each classroom)**

Early Years	Tinned Fruit
Year 1	Tinned Vegetables
Year 2	Jams/peanut butter/marmite/ketchup/mayo
Year 3	Microwave sponges/custard/Jelly/Rice pudding etc
Year 4	Cooking sauces (not Pasta sauce)
Year 5	Toilet Rolls
Year 6	Noodles/Pot Noodles

Data Forms

Your child will be bringing home a data form this week. This form shows the information we hold on your child in school. It is vital we have the correct information in case of an emergency. Please check the information on the form and make any corrections. We do require at least two emergency contacts for every child. You can return the form via your class's classroom or the school office. Please return forms ASAP.

School dinners

Just a reminder that parents/grandparents are welcome to join **JUNIOR** children for lunches. The cost of a parent meal is £5.00. **To book please email the office on admin-inf@katherinesemar.net with the date you wish to attend (3 days notice is required) and the colour meal (green or yellow) you would like.** We will then confirm whether we have availability on this date and how you can make payment. Once all the Early Years children are settled we will extend this invitation to parents/grandparents with children the infant school.

Our menu can be found here: <https://www.katherinesemar.co.uk/page/?title=Meal+menus&pid=39>

ACE

Booking is now open for ACE for the October half-term. Please click on the link if you would like to book in – please note any sessions booked will be charged. <https://forms.office.com/e/bGz17ZHAYm>. **Bookings must be made by 16th October**

Car Parking

This week not only have we received complaints from our neighbours about inconsiderate parking but we have also had a parent raise a concern about parents parking on the double yellow lines outside/near school making it difficult for children to see when crossing the road. Lots of our Year 5 & 6 children are beginning to start walking home from school and when cars are parked on the double yellow lines it makes it very difficult (and unsafe) for them to cross safely. Please do not park illegally (double yellow lines) or block our neighbours driveways/use their parking space.

Online E-safety Newsletter

Today we have sent out our monthly online safety newsletter. In this edition you will find information about the risks around watching livestreams, links to parental controls for Playstation, Xbox and Nintendo Switch and advice on online gaming including where to find information on whether a game is age appropriate. Just a reminder that this website <https://esafetytraining.org/> is a great site for signposting you to other great sites for all sorts of areas related to online safety.

Parent Forum

Our Parent Forum is a good opportunity for parents to share their views. Each year has their own representative, who will listen to your views and suggestions and then bring them to our termly Parent Forum meeting. They will also have a key role to play in the fund-raising group which will form part of every agenda. Please see our website for minutes of last terms meetings. We are looking for at least one volunteer from each year group – please contact Kate Brown in the office if this is something you may be interested in or if you would like more information.





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 10/17/31 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.
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The Big Ambition

The Children's Commissioner recently launched 'The Big Ambition' to hear directly from children and young people across the country about what they need to make their lives better. As we approach the General Election, it is a crucial moment to take children and young people's voices to policymakers and the Government, to make sure they are heard.

'The Big Ambition' survey wants to hear from children and young people about their schools, communities, family life, and the wider world, as well as what they want for their future, their hopes, dreams, and aspirations.

This survey is for all children and young people aged 0 to 18. Children aged 6 to 18 can complete the survey themselves. For those who may need additional support or for children under six parents and other adults can complete the survey on their behalf.

The survey can be completed here: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition

Maths competition

The Lord Lieutenant Competition has Launched Across all Schools in Essex The Lord Lieutenant has launched a competition to kick-off the Essex Year of Numbers. We're inviting children and young people to create a 2D/3D display (maximum size 1m2 or 1m3), with a short video presentation creatively showing the many ways numbers are used in everyday life. Entries can include number patterns, diagrams, calculations, explanations, photographs and models. The competition offers students the chance to think creatively about maths and its everyday use. More information can be found here.

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/2023/lord-lieutenant-competition-has-launched-across-schools-essex>

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>

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



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The Change Challenge

We will be holding a change challenge during October and November. In the main reception area there is a giant bottle which we hope to fill with loose change (ideally silver, but any coins are fine). Once the bottle is full children are invited to guess how much is in the bottle. There will be a prize for whoever guesses the closest. The money raised from this will help pay for the Pantomimes we have booked for the children to enjoy just before Christmas – Treasure Island for the Infants and Cinderella for the Juniors. Please bring any change to the reception area.

Pre-Loved Uniform

Should you ever need contact any preloved uniform 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. Please fill up any carrier bags, bin-bags etc with unwanted items and drop to the entrance of the Junior Hall by 9am. We receive payment per kilo collected. Thank you.

Letters sent this week:

Year 6 Henry Moore trip – Parentmail only

Year 5 Ancient Greek Day – Parentmail only

Year 2 Colchester Zoo – Parentmail only – FORM TO COMPLETE BY 9th OCTOBER

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Julie Puxley

Executive Headteacher

Autumn by Orangutan class

Everyone knows the wonders of Autumn.

Walking through a golden archway there may be...

Brown, bare, mossy trees standing like towering skyscrapers

Saddened, slim saplings sobbing for their lost golden cloak

Red leaves like spreading fire on swaying branches

And a crazy, cracking conker cacophony.

Walking through a golden archway there may be...

Conkers laying under the weeping trees in coats of spiky, green shells

Golden, dry leaves littering the forest floor

Decaying mist scattering the invisible street

And blood falling from axe-scarred branches.

Autumn by Jaguar class

Autumn is a scarlet archway,

enveloped by nature's jewels.

Like snowflakes, sunset yellow leaves
twirl and scatter,

a carpet of golden gems.

Dark bolts of lightning dart through
the sky,

Grey mist wraps like a scarf around
old, bald trees.