



Friday 20th October

Menu (w/c 30<sup>th</sup>  
Oct)

Week 1

(please see new  
menu)Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October

Year 4/6 swim.

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October

Skylarks Forest School

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>  
November

Year 1 Swim

Gala

**UPCOMING DATES**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> NovemberIndividual & sibling  
photos

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It has been such a lovely half term filled with laughter and learning. We hope you have a restful half term and look forward to welcoming the children back for that special half term before Christmas!!

**This week in school:**

Early Years landed their topic with a visit to the forest to eat pumpkin soup.

Year 1 landed their Superhero topic by making healthy flapjacks to enhance their Superhero strengths. They also had visits from some real-life Superhero's – a Nurse, a Police Officer and the Fire Brigade. A big thank you to our visitors for taking the time tell the children all about the wonderful work you do!

Year 2 visited Colchester Zoo to land their topic on Amazing Animals!

We had wonderful class assemblies from Year 3 landing their topic on Australia. Year 4 have been producing leaflets for a Theme-Park and we were so impressed by the persuasive texts used.

Year 5 completed their geography learning this week by erupting their volcanoes they built in the topic launch. Children were very excited to see what chemical reaction took place when the bicarbonate soda mixed with the vinegar and there were lots of excited faces gathered around the volcanoes as they started to erupt.

Year 6 visited the Henry Moore Studios and Gardens to help inspire their artwork.

**Ross Close "20 is Plenty" Campaign**

We are kick starting our campaign to make Ross Close a safer road for children and residents by staging a large photo shoot on Saturday 4th November on the field behind Golden Acre Community Centre.

We would love as many children to be part of this as possible to make it very clear how important this issue is to everyone. Please wear a bright coloured top and join us on the field at 1:45pm to take a big aerial photograph to launch our campaign.

We will soon be sharing the online petition asking Essex Highways to put in the Zebra crossing outside the school that they have already signed off on and to make Ross Close a 20MPH zone making it a safer area to live, travel to school, community centre, playground and Herberts Farm **before** anyone gets injured.

We need to achieve 2000 signatures to be considered so we are also asking for Impact Statements from parents and local residents about the problems they face daily. Please email your statements to [RossClose20@hotmail.com](mailto:RossClose20@hotmail.com) so we can collate them all and give them in alongside our petition.

This is a joint campaign with Becky Oliver and the students of Tempos Performing Arts and Katherine Semar School as well as other local community groups. If any parents would like to be actively involved in helping run this campaign please do email Becky on the Ross Close email address above. We need specific help with printing, graphic design, sourcing prizes for a children's competition so all offers gratefully received!

**School dinners – NOW EXTENDED TO THE INFANT SCHOOL!**

Just a reminder that parents/grandparents are welcome to join children for lunches. The cost of a parent meal is £5.00. Now that we feel that the children are all settled in the infants this is open to all year groups. **To book please email the office on [admin-inf@katherinesemar.net](mailto: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. If you have booked to come for lunch in the infants please go to the main office at 11.55am, for the Juniors please go to the main office at 12.05. Please note parents will eat lunch with their child but are not permitted to go out into the playground afterwards – this is for safeguarding reasons. Parents are also not permitted to use their mobile phones whilst in the dinner hall. Our new menu for the next half term has also been sent out via Parentmail today. It can also be found on the website.

**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. Our next meeting will be held at 2.15pm on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November. If you have any topics you would like to be mentioned please contact the rep for your child's year group below. Please note the Parent Forum is a forum for whole school issues. If you have an individual concern this should be brought up with your child's teacher or the office.

Our Reps are:

Year	Parent Reps	Contact email
Early Years	Elspeth Newman & Emily Small	<a href="mailto:EarlyYears@katherinesemar.net">EarlyYears@katherinesemar.net</a>
Year 1	Elspeth Newman	<a href="mailto:YearOne@katherinesemar.net">YearOne@katherinesemar.net</a>
Year 2	Christina Hammond & Gemma Archer	<a href="mailto:YearTwo@katherinesemar.net">YearTwo@katherinesemar.net</a>
Year 3	Hayley Cordall & Emilie Fisset	<a href="mailto:YearThree@katherinesemar.net">YearThree@katherinesemar.net</a>
Year 4	Sarah Steer	<a href="mailto:YearFour@katherinesemar.net">YearFour@katherinesemar.net</a>
Year 5	Hayley Cordall & Christina Hammond	<a href="mailto:YearFive@katherinesemar.net">YearFive@katherinesemar.net</a>
Year 6	Madi Wilkie	<a href="mailto:YearSix@katherinesemar.net">YearSix@katherinesemar.net</a>

**If you have anything that you would like to be raised at the meeting please contact your rep by Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November.**

**PE Timetable**

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

AUTUMN TERM – SECOND HALF	PE	Swimming	Forest School
EARLY YEARS	Wednesday & Friday	n/a	n/a
YEAR 1	Monday	Wednesday	Skylarks Tue 31 October Red Squirrels Tue 7 November (catch up session)
YEAR 2	Thursday	n/a	n/a
YEAR 3	Tuesday	n/a	Grey Falcon 14 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> November Flame Robin 21 <sup>st</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> December
YEAR 4	Friday	Monday	n/a
YEAR 5	Monday & Thursday	n/a	n/a
YEAR 6	Wednesday	Monday	n/a

- Children should come to school wearing their PE kit on their PE days.
- Year 1 children should also wear their PE kit to school with their swimming costume on underneath on swimming days.
- Year 4/6 children should wear their school uniform on Swimming days and bring their swimwear to change into at the pool.
- Year 1/3 children should wear their Forest School clothes into school on their Forest School day (with wellies in a plastic bag).

**Request for donations**

We are looking for donations of Sylvanian Families and PlayMobil for our Junior children to play with at lunchtime. If you have any to donate please drop into the office. Thank you in advance.

**Headlice**

We have had reports of headlice in the school this week, please check and treat your children in necessary. A reminder also that children with long hair should wear their hair tied back every day.



## INFANT SCHOOL

### Reading Mornings – now for all infant year groups!

Each Friday, parents and carers are welcome to come into their infants 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. We look forward to seeing lots of you in the classroom on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 8.35am!** Happy Reading!

## 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Morning Squads

Just a reminder that if your child attends an outside squad (Football/Netball or Cross Country) and it is raining then the squad will be cancelled and your child should come to school at the normal time. We do not have an indoor space to use for these squads as we also have an indoor squad & ACE club running at the same time. We cannot send a Parentmail out as it is too early – the office opens at 8.15am.

## FUNDRAISING



### ***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.

### Christmas Fayre

We are starting to plan our Christmas Fayre. We always hold a raffle and are looking for some raffle prizes. Do you own your own business and could you provide a gift voucher or prize for one of our hampers? We will send out a form next week asking for offers of help as we cannot run the fayre without some parental involvement. Please see Kate in the office if you can help in any way!

### Pre-Loved Uniform

Should you ever need contact any preloved uniform please contact [preloved@katherinesemar.net](mailto:preloved@katherinesemar.net). Thank you for your continued support.



## GOVERNOR NEWS



"As Chair of Governors, I feel very privileged and fortunate to work alongside such a dedicated group of Governors as well as our extremely hard working staff, who are passionate in ensuring that each and every child at Katherine Semar is in a safe and caring environment, where they are supported in reaching their full potential."

### Letters sent this week

Y6 Duxford – Parentmail only  
Year 4 Fitzwilliam – Parentmail only  
Y2 Music Visit – Parentmail only  
Y1/4/6 Swimming – Parentmail only  
Year 5 Bikeability – PAPER COPY ONLY  
Year 3 Forest School – Parentmail only

Wishing you all a lovely half term break.

Kind regards

Julie Puxley

Executive Headteacher