

Friday 3rd NovemberMenu (w/c 6th Nov)

Week 2

Monday 6th November

Year 4/6 swim.

Tuesday 7th NovemberIndividual & sibling
photosRed Squirrels Forest
SchoolWednesday 8th
November

Lynx Class assembly

Year 1 Swim

Gala

Thursday 9th
November

Leopard Class assembly

Friday 10th November

Puma Class assembly

Deadline to return
orders for Christmas
cards.**UPCOMING DATES**Friday 24th NovemberNon pupil day – school
closed

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope you all had a lovely half term break. It has been lovely to welcome all the children to a new half term and see their excitement about their new topics.

**This week in school:**

Despite the windy weather Year 6 had a fantastic day visiting Duxford Air Museum.

Year 5 travelled back in time to experience life as Ancient Greek citizens. They participated in lots of different activities such as visiting market stalls, creating a range of Ancient Greek crafts and celebrating the festival of Dionysus with plays, music and food. The Year 5 teachers were very impressed with their involvement and engagement.

Year 4 also visited the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge to land their topic on the Egyptians.

Please see the website for more photos!

Remembrance Day

We are selling poppies around the school until 10th November. The children may bring money into school for these in a named envelope, or they are on sale from the school office. Also there is a limited supply of Friendship Bracelets, Wristbands, Reflectors or Snap Band Rulers available from the school office. Junior children can also purchase these from the school library at breaktimes and lunchtimes. On Friday 10th November we will hold a Remembrance Assembly. The children will then be invited to place loose change on a large paper poppy on the hall floor. Please send monies for this in a named envelope on Friday 10th November. All monies will be sent to the Royal British Legion.

Christmas at Katherine Semar

Christmas at Katherine Semar is a very exciting time, however it is also a very busy time. After previous feedback from the parent forum, we have compiled an information sheet for each school detailing all the activities we are holding and any deadlines for booking. We hope you will find this helpful.

School Photographs

School Photographs will take place on Tuesday 7th November. If your child attends a morning squad they should come to school in their PE kit and bring uniform to change into. Year 3 will still have PE and Red Squirrels will still attend Forest School in the afternoon – these children should come to school in their school uniform and bring PE kit/Forest School clothes to change into. There is no Year 5/6 Gymnastics club on Tuesday 7th November due to staff training taking place in the hall.

Ross Close "20 is Plenty" Campaign – date changed to due weather!

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 11th 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 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!

**Parent 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 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.

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 10th 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	EarlyYears@katherinesemar.net
Year 1	Elspeth Newman	YearOne@katherinesemar.net
Year 2	Christina Hammond & Gemma Archer	YearTwo@katherinesemar.net
Year 3	Hayley Cordall & Emilie Fisset	YearThree@katherinesemar.net
Year 4	Sarah Steer	YearFour@katherinesemar.net
Year 5	Hayley Cordall & Gosia Henik	YearFive@katherinesemar.net
Year 6	Madi Wilkie	YearSix@katherinesemar.net

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

We already have an agenda so comments relating to these items would be most welcome.

- Closing ACE in some of the school holidays in advance (currently making a loss)
- Opening after school places to past Katherine Semar pupils in ACE to Y7 children (if there are places that are not filled)
- Squads and clubs
- Parent workshops
- Fundraising

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	Wednesday & Thursday	n/a	n/a
YEAR 3	Tuesday	n/a	Grey Falcon 14 th & 28 th November Flame Robin 21 st & 5 th 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) except for school photo day – see info on the first page relating to this.



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.

Year 2-3 Transfer

It is now time for children in Y2 to apply for a place in Y3. You do now have to apply online via <https://www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/junior-year-3-school-places> between 6th November and 15th January 2024. Please note that applications made after this date will be considered 'late applications' and your application will only be considered once the other children have been allocated a Junior School place. Sadly, we had two cases in the last few years where children in our infant school did not get a place in our junior school as they did not apply in time so please make this a priority job.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Morning Squads & After School clubs.

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.

Now that the clocks have gone back it is getting too dark for children in Year 5 & 6 to walk home independently after an after-school club. Therefore please now collect your child from any after school clubs (they are still ok to walk home at 3.15pm).

Year 6 Class Assemblies

Next week Year 6 will have their class assemblies (see dates on the first page). Parents with children in these classes are invited to attend as are pre-school siblings. (Due to space any pushchairs will need to be left in the foyer). The assemblies will begin at 8.55am and should last no more than 30 minutes.

ACE

- ACE will be open on 24th November (staff training day) and available is to book via School Money
- ACE Christmas Holidays – Thursday 21st & Friday 22nd December and Tuesday 2nd January to Friday 5th January 2024
Please note that ACE will be closed as usual from 25th – 29th December. See below for booking form.
- **ACE May Half Term – Please note ACE will be closed for the May half term from Monday 27th May through to Friday 31st May 2024**
- Inset day June 3rd – ACE will be open

Activity schedule for Christmas and New Year:

December 21st - Christmas party & Gingerbread house

December 22nd - Christmas crafts & movie

January 2nd - Snow domes & Marshmallow Snowmen

January 3rd - Stone Art /Fairy garden & Fairy cakes

January 4th – “Ace has talent”

January 5th - Superheroes Day - come dressed up if you like?

Please book any Christmas and New Year dates via the link; <https://forms.office.com/e/afSi4EWG3X> by 9am on 17th November.

Once booked please be aware that no refunds will be available.





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.

Pre-Loved Uniform

Should you ever need contact any preloved uniform please contact preloved@katherinesemar.net. Thank you for your continued support.

Letters sent this week

Year 3 Forest School – Parentmail only

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards

Julie Puxley

Executive Headteacher