



Friday 10th November

Menu (w/c 13th
Nov)

Week 3

Monday 13th
November

Year 4/6 swim.

Tuesday 14th
November

Grey Falcon Forest School

Wednesday 15th
November

Year 1 Swim

Gala

Friday 17th NovemberNON UNIFORM DAY
AND DONATION DAY
FOR THE CHRISTMAS
FAYREUPCOMING DATESThursday 23rd NovemberChristmas Fayre – after
schoolFriday 24th NovemberNon pupil day – school
closed

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It has been a really busy week in school and we are particularly proud of our dodgeball team for winning the Uttlesford dodgeball tournament as well as our fantastic cross country team.

**This week in school:**

What a wonderful sporting week we have had! Our Year 3&4 dodgeball squad attended the tournament at Lord Butler Leisure Centre and one team came first and another came second in their respective groups! Our Cross County Squad also attended the competition at Herberts Farm and 6 children have qualified for the next round. Well done to all involved!

We also held our remembrance assemblies this week.

We all took a moment of quiet reflection to remember those that have given their lives for us. At the end of the assembly, all the children added their pennies to the poppy as part of our contribution towards this year's poppy appeal.

*At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we
will remember them.*

**This weeks to do list (for Christmas)****NON UNIFORM/DONATION DAY IS FRIDAY 17th NOVEMBER**

Non Uniform and donation day is Friday 17th November – please see attached letter with this newsletter

Christmas Lunch and Party Day food order – TO BE COMPLETED FOR EVERY CHILD IN THE SCHOOL

To assist the kitchen with planning we require pre-orders for the school Christmas lunch (Wed 6th December for Juniors and Wed 13th December for infants) and for the Christmas Party lunch (Tue 19th December for the whole school). Please complete the form here by Thursday 23rd November to order your child's meal.

<https://forms.office.com/e/c9izudGvJr>

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP WITH THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Complete the form here - <https://forms.office.com/e/c9izudGvJr>

Uniform

Please can we ask that parents name all items of clothing. We cannot return or spend time looking for unnamed items. Please also remember to re-name any items you may have had handed down, so we don't pass back to the wrong child.

Flame Robin – temporary classroom move

Flame Robins will be taught in the ICT suite next week due to emergency heating repairs which need to take place in their classroom. The entrance to the ICT suite is right next to where they are currently dropped off so please just head to your usual drop-off/pick up point and you will see Mrs Savill.

Vaping

This week 2 children reported to a member of staff that they noticed an adult vaping in the playground at pick-up. Please can we remind you that the school is a smoke free environment.



Sickness & Diarrhoea

Just a reminder that we follow the NHS guidelines relating to sickness and diarrhoea. If your child has either, they will be required to stay off school for 48 hours after their last bout of illness. There is a sickness bug going around school this week and to help stop the spread it is essential that children stay off for the full 48 hours.

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.

School Trips & Swimming Payments

Sadly we are finding that many parents are choosing not to make the contributions for school trips and swimming. We understand that times are hard for some families however school budgets are also incredibly tight this year. It is beginning to look like we might have to scale back on some of the extra activities we fully fund for the children such as visits to Saffron Hall, Young Shakespeare, Christmas Pantomime, Owl Raptor visit, Author visits etc. In the past it had been suggested at Parent Forum that we offer an option for parents who are able to support another child to have the option to do so. Last year several parents made a donation to the school and we used it towards paying for those children whose parents can't make payment. If any parents would like to do this, payment can be made in the shop section – please contact the office if you would like to donate a different amount to those shown. Thank you for your support.

Football pitch

Our all-weather pitch is available for block bookings and ad hoc bookings if you know anyone who would be interested, please contact the school office on admin-inf@katherinesemar.net.

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 | Tuesday – new day! | Wednesday | |
| YEAR 2 | Wednesday & Thursday | n/a | n/a |
| YEAR 3 | Monday – new day! | 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).

INFANT SCHOOL

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).

Katherine Semar enter The National Gallery Take One competition

Last year, year 5 pupils studied the artwork *Surprised!* by Henri Rousseau as part of their collage unit in art. This is an oil painting of a tiger in a jungle and the current year 6 pupils took inspiration from this painting to make their own rainforest collage. Their whole journey was documented in their sketch books from researching all the way up to making and evaluating. Throughout the unit we also visited forest school as well as using the school outside areas to help collect bark rubbings, draw leaves and produce our own patterned materials. The year 5 teachers were so impressed with the children's work that we decided to enter The National Gallery Take One Picture competition 2024. The entry was submitted in October 2023 and we are currently awaiting the results. Attached is a pdf copy of the entry for your viewing. We hope you enjoy learning about their journey into the rainforest and well done to the whole year group for being superb artists throughout!

England Rocks TTRS competition

As part of our commitment to make maths exciting in our school, children in Year 3-6 will be taking part a friendly Time Table Rockstars competition involving schools in England. The competition is called 'England Rocks' and will run from 7:30am on Tuesday 14th November 2023 until 7:30pm on Thursday 16th November. The competition is all online at play.ttrockstars.com. Children can play in any game mode with every correct answer to a multiplication or division question earning themselves, their class and the school a point. **To support pupil wellbeing, there is a daily time limit of 60minutes per player.** We hope as many children as possible will participate helping Katherine Semar Junior school on their way throughout the competition. Every point counts!

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 5 – Norfolk lakes letter (for when they are in year 6) – Parentmail only

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards

Julie Puxley

Executive Headteacher