



Friday 10th November

Menu (w/c 20th Nov)

Week 1

Monday 20th November

Year 4/6 swim.

Tuesday 21st November

Red Squirrels Forest School

Wednesday 22nd November

Year 1 Swim

Gala

Thursday 23rd November

Children in Need

&

Christmas Fayre

3.15 – 5.15pm

Friday 24th November

Non pupil day – school closed

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you to those parents who have offered to help us at the Christmas Fayre. A rota will be sent out on Monday highlighting which stall you have been put on – please look out for your child's name on the rota rather than your own name.



This week in school:

We held our launch event for **Twenty is Plenty for Ross Close** campaign in conjunction with Tiny Tempo's.

We are asking that Essex Highways review their decision and install a zebra crossing on Ross Close, by the Katherine Semar Primary school as previously agreed and to consider reducing the speed limit in Ross Close to 20 mph. Our campaign is '20 is plenty for Ross Close'.

We have a petition which is now live: [Petitions > 20 is plenty for Ross Close \(essex.gov.uk\)](https://www.petitions-essex.gov.uk/petitions/20-is-plenty-for-ross-close) and we are asking all residents/parents/people who use Ross Close to email their Impact Statements about Ross Close to RossClose20@hotmail.com.

Thank you for your support and to Becky from Tiny Tempo's for leading this campaign.

We have this week had a very near incident where someone was almost knocked over outside of the school. To help keep our children safe please follow these simple rules.

- Please drive no faster than 20 miles along Ross Close
- Please park safely and considerately – not in or in front of residents driveways or on the yellow lines outside the school
- Please do not stop on the yellow lines outside the school to just drop children off or pick them up – please park up and turn off your engine.
- Please check for children and parents walking in front or behind your vehicle before pulling off

I am sure you will all agree that keeping our children safe should be our number one priority.

This weeks to do list (for Christmas)

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>

Christmas Production tickets – (All years except year 6 who are not taking part in a Christmas performance)

Bookings for these can be made via the shop section of SchoolMoney from **7pm on Sunday 19th November**. Please read the letter attached to this Parentmail carefully before you book your tickets. Please make sure you book for the correct performance and do not book more than your allocation.

Book for the Christmas Grotto – please see attached letter.



At Katherine Semar we will be celebrating Children in Need on Thursday 23rd November...

Our School Council has suggested ideas and voted how to fundraise for Children in Need. If your child would like to support Children in Need on Thursday 23rd November at school, please donate for each way your child would like to show their support (we suggest £1 for each) on School Money:

- Wearing colourful clothes (maybe even spotty) and/or a Children in Need headband with ears
- Bringing a teddy to school (not too large please!)



Parent Forum

We held our Parent Forum last Friday. Thank you to our Parent Representatives for attending. Minutes from the meeting can be found here.

<https://www.katherinesemar.co.uk/page/?title=Parent+Forum&pid=40>

- **You asked:** if reading morning could be rotated so it wasn't always on a Friday.
- **We responded:** Due to staffing levels, intervention groups and assemblies, Friday works much better for staff – however we will begin to hold a reading morning on weeks where we aren't in school on a Friday – so for this school year we will hold one on Thursday 23rd November (as we have inset on Friday 24th) and Wednesday 20th December & Tuesday 23rd July.
- **We mentioned:** that we would love to have a new fundraising committee or even small groups of parents to get together to arrange single events.
- **Parents forum responded:** Lots of parents think it is a big commitment – they hadn't realised it was possible to just help out for a singular event. School advised that they would hold a coffee morning in January and an evening event to explain to parents how they can get involved.

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 day's 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.

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	Wednesday	
YEAR 2	Wednesday & Thursday	n/a	n/a
YEAR 3	Monday	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.

Year 2 Visit to Saffron Hall



Year 2 had the most amazing morning at Saffron Hall today.

CBeebies star Yolanda Brown visited Saffron Hall. As well as a public evening jazz concert (which will be held this evening) with her band, she brought Yolanda's Band Jam to the hall this morning for a live version of the critically acclaimed children's TV show dubbed "Jools Holland for kids"!

With the aim of encouraging children to discover the joys of music through dancing, singing, and playing. Yolanda's Band Jam expanded the children's knowledge about music and instruments, attuned children's understanding of different musical sounds and styles, and inspired them to discover the wonders of music making.

We had a wonderful morning!

We would be grateful if you could make your contribution if you have not already done so.

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!



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.

Easyfundraising

With Christmas coming up and more people shopping online we wanted to ask as many parents as possible to register for Easyfundraising.

By signing up and then logging into Easyfundraising or downloading the app every time you shop online school earns a commission – it costs you nothing!

Please click here for more information

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/referrals/?efr_source=website&efr_medium=easyfundraising&efr_campaign=header-navigation

And use this link to sign up – we receive a £5 referral bonus if you use this link to sign up.

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=136044&invite=8HZMBT&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_campaign=refCROtest

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards

Julie Puxley

Executive Headteacher