



Friday 24th November

Menu (w/c 27th Nov)

Week 2

Monday 27th November

Year 4/6 swim.

Tuesday 28th November

Grey Falcon Forest School

Wednesday 29th November

Year 1 Swim

Gala

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It has been another busy week in school. Thank you all for your support this week with our Christmas Fayre – we hope the children have a wonderful time! We will let you know next week how much we raised.



This week in school:

The children (and staff) were **SO** excited when they arrived at school on Monday and found Mr Vinson (our resident and favourite Christmas elf) had been busy all weekend putting up Christmas trees and seasonal displays around school. We have to say the biggest thank you to Mr Vinson – for all the time and effort he spent in making our school look so festive. All of the decorations belong to him personally (not the school) and we are so grateful that he loans them to us for the Christmas period. It is just another example of how dedicated our staff are and I feel so fortunate to work with such a fantastic member of our site team.

It's starting to look a bit like Christmas.....

This weeks to do list (for Christmas)

Book for the Christmas Grotto – If you wish for your child to see Father Christmas please make the payment by Friday 1st December. We cannot accept late payments as Father Christmas needs time to purchase the gifts.



Ross Close 20 is plenty petition

A petition, which has already received more than 150 signatures, is available to sign on Essex County Council's website <https://cmis.essex.gov.uk/ess/excmis5/Petitions/tabid/106/ID/163/20-is-plenty-for-Ross-Close.aspx>

The Winter Reading Challenge for all Schools Returns for Another Year

Our plucky penguin is back once again, but this year, she's setting off on an even bigger journey! Join Lyra as she travels around the world, finding out all about endangered animals. There will be 12 challenges for children to choose from. Lyra will be leaving on Saturday 25 November 2023 and returning on Saturday 3 February 2024, but you can join her on her travels at any time. Find out more on the Essex Libraries website.

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.

**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.

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.

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.

ACE for pupils in Year 7

As discussed at parent forum, we have had a few parents in Year Six who are concerned their children will not be ready to be left alone after school in Y7 or worry about them being left with an older sibling. We are investigating if there would be sufficient demand for us take Y7 children in ACE after school and potentially in school holidays. Obviously as they are older, it will not affect us offering places to children in the school currently and children at primary school will always be given priority.

We would call you by 4.15pm if they do not come to ACE on a booked evening and feed them a nutritious meal. Your child would need to be booked in on your selected after school slots and their sessions would need to be paid in advance however you could stop your place at ACE at any time without notice as your child matures and is ready to relinquish their place. If you may be interested in your child attending ACE in Y7, please email the school office so we can gauge interest.





FUNDRAISING



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

Bag to school textile collection.

We are holding our next collection on Tuesday 5th December. If you have any items to be recycled please drop to the front of the Junior Hall by 9am on Thursday morning. A list of what can be recycled can be found here - <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards

Julie Puxley

Executive Headteacher



Katherine Semar Schools

NEWSLETTER

Ross Close, Saffron Walden, CB11 4DU | Phone: 01799 521120 | www.katherinesemar.co.uk