

Friday 1st December

Menu (w/c 4th Dec)

Week 3

Monday 4th December

Elephants Double Swim
and Year 6 (No Okapi
swim this week).

Tuesday 5th December

Flame Robin Forest
School

Wednesday 6th December

JUNIORS CHRISTMAS
LUNCH – Junior
children may bring a
Christmas Hat to wear.

Double swim for Red
Squirrels – no swim for
Skylarks today

Gala

Thursday 7th December

9.15am Team Ivy
Infants Production

2.00pm Team Holly
Infants Production

Friday 8th December

9.15am Team Holly
Infants Production

2.00pm Team Ivy Infants
Production

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped at or attended our Christmas Fayre last week. We hope all the children had a wonderful time – it was fantastic seeing their excitement and happy faces.



This week in school:

We were amazed this week when we totalled up our Christmas Fayre takings to discover we had raised just over £4000. Due to school budgets being so much tighter this year compared to previous years we use this to purchase additional workshops and items needed to supplement our learning. For example, we recently funded the Owl visit for Early Years and we be funding a bee visit for Year 3 next term. We are also funding a Young Shakespeare performance of Henry V for Year 4 & 5 in March.

Holidays in termtime

We are delighted that most families in our school have excellent attendance. However, we are increasingly concerned by the number of families taking holiday in term time. We track all our children's progress and attainment and the majority of children who are struggling academically and sometimes socially are those who have the poorest attendance. However, we are grateful when families are honest about taking term-time holidays and although we will never authorise a holiday in term time, we appreciate families informing us in advance that they intend to do this. Recently several children have returned to school after what we were told their absence was due to illness only to reveal to a member of staff (or their friends) that they had actually been on holiday. A more worrying scenario is when children say that have been told to say they were poorly but that they were really on holiday. This puts the child in a difficult position. We would urge parents not to take holiday in term time or at least to be honest with school and apply for the holiday.

If you are interested in your child's attendance, this will be in your termly report in the juniors and in a January attendance letter for the infants. There is also a useful link here to Essex guidelines.

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-attendance-and-absence>

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.

Glue sticks

I was teaching in Y3 this week and it struck me how few children had their own glue stick, which caused lots of delays as they shared the school glue sticks between them. It would make lessons flow so much more smoothly if every child had their own glue stick. If you can provide your child with a glue stick (ideally print stick) we would be so grateful.



RE learning

We have recently changed our RE scheme of learning which focuses on a range of enquiry questions in line with the Essex syllabus that we need to use. It has proved so popular that now 208 Essex schools have brought it from our Trust so we know it is very high quality! During their time at Katherine Semar, the children study a range of different religions such as Islam, Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism and Humanism. Our RE curriculum celebrates diversity, community and culture. This is something we would love to bring to life further for the children. If you are a member of a religious community and would be interested in sharing your religion through a school visit or by sharing artefacts, we would love to hear from you. This could be to learn more about a religious festival or share religious traditions and artefacts. Just let the office know and we will be in touch. We know how supportive our families are and look forward to hearing from you.

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 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.

Infant Performances

The children have been rehearsing and are so excited to be performing for you next week. Just a few reminders that no younger siblings will be permitted to the performances – the creche is available for each afternoon performance. This should have been pre-booked by 23rd November. If you have not booked a place and do need one please contact the office **today** – we will try to accommodate any additional bookings – however cannot guarantee this due to staff ratios. Please do not turn up with a pre-school child on the day as we will not be able to admit them to the performance or the creche.

All tickets have been sold and we are at full capacity for both performances. Please do not ask our staff to admit anybody who has not pre-booked as we cannot accommodate any extra people due to health and safety. Please arrive through the infant entrance – the doors will open at 1.45pm.

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.



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 Tuesday morning. A list of what can be recycled can be found here - <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>



Christmas Crackers needed

We need **210** more Christmas crackers for our Christmas party lunches – if you have any spare ones that you don't need and would like to donate to us to use there is a box in the main office area!

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards

Julie Puxley

Executive Headteacher





Katherine Semar Schools

NEWSLETTER

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