

15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents,

**Re: Squads**

We are pleased to be able to offer squads before school in a range of sports for the Junior children. Squads run every morning for children who show particular aptitude for a sport, and they will receive tailored coaching and represent the school in competitive sport against other schools. **Before accepting squad places, please discuss with your child if they are happy to take part if selected for competitions. It is important that children are willing to use the skills learnt in these sessions in order to offer the best team possible in the competitions they are being trained for.**

**IMPORTANT:**

**Some squads will remain the same as this term.**

**Please read the below information in full. New trials will be shown in red, squads that continue without trials will be shown in black.**

We will continue to run indoor athletics, cross country, netball, Tag Rugby for year 5 & 6 and swim gala. **Children who were in these squads this term will remain in these squads for the spring term (no trials will be offered for these squads)**

New squads for the spring term will be gymnastics and hockey. **We will be running trials for these squads.**

We will also be running tag rugby squad for year 3 and 4 and children who had a place in this squad this term will be given a place in this squad if they still want it, but we will also be trialling for new members.

Squads and trials will start from the first day back after Christmas, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January. **Please note: the trial taking place on the first Monday back will be held at lunchtime.**

Children need to attend squads and open trials dressed appropriately in PE kit and will remain in their PE kit all day. Please meet our sports coaches at the old junior entrance door. All squads are open to both boys and girls.

**IMPORTANT:**

**Please note that for hockey trials and all hockey squad sessions your child will require shin pads and a gum shield. For safety reasons, they will not be able to trial or take part in squad sessions without these.**

**For tag rugby they will require football boots and they will need to bring a change of shoes as their boots will be muddy.**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January –

Year 3 & 4 gymnastic trial – 12.30pm start with Mr Gilkes. Once selections have been made the squad will run on Monday morning from 8.15am. Only the trial will be held at lunchtime.

**IMPORTANT: This term there is a gymnastic performance at Saffron Hall. If your child wishes to trial for this squad, you will need to commit to taking your child to this performance which will be held at SWCHS after school on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024.**

Year 5 & 6 hockey trial – 8.15am start with Mrs Eagleton

**IMPORTANT:**

**Please note that for hockey trials and all squad sessions your child will require shin pads and a gum shield. For safety reasons, they will not be able to trial or take part in squad sessions without these.**

- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January – Year 5 & 6 indoor athletic squad begins – 8.15am start with Mr Gilkes  
(This is the same squad as autumn term – no new trials)
- Netball group C squad begins – 8.10am start with Mrs Ellis  
(This is the same squad as autumn term – no new trials)
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January - Year 3 & 4 indoor athletic squad begins – 8.15am start with Mr Gilkes  
(This is the same squad as autumn term – no new trials)
- Netball group A squad begins – 8.10am start with Mrs Ellis  
(This is the same squad as autumn term – no new trials)
- Year 3 to 6 swim gala squad – 2.30 to 3.30pm with Mrs Ellis  
(This is the same squad as autumn term – no new trials)
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January – Year 5 and 6 gymnastic squad begins – 8.15am start with Mr Gilkes  
**(trials will take place next Monday lunchtime, 18<sup>th</sup> December)**
- Year 3 and 4 tag rugby trial – 8.15am start with Mrs Eagleton. This trial should be attended by children who were in the squad last term and wish to continue and to new children wishing to join.**
- Year 5 & 6 Tag Rugby squad begins – After school 3.15 to 4.15pm with Mr Gilkes. (This is the same squad as autumn term – no new trials)
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January - Year 3 to 6 cross country squad begins – 8.15am start with Mrs Eagleton  
(This is the same squad as autumn term – no new trials)
- Netball group B squad begins – 8.10am start with Mrs Ellis  
(This is the same squad as autumn term – no new trials)

From the trials, we will be selecting squads to be trained before school during the spring term.

Squads that remain the same will also run before school during the spring term with the exception of Year 5 & 6 Tag Rugby squad which will continue to run after school on a Thursday.

#### Payment for squads

As you will know, school budgets have become extremely tight and where we have been able to subsidise the cost of squads in the past this is no longer possible. This means we are having to change the way squads are paid for. Squads will now be charged at £8 per squad for the whole spring term except for swim gala which will be charged at £20. These payments will be allocated to your School Money account once selections have been made by the sports coaches.

The charge for each squad is not per session it is a cost per squad for the term. Whilst we will try our utmost not to cancel squads, there will be occasions where this is unavoidable due to illness, weather or events.

Katherine Semar Schools are committed to ensuring that all students are able to access squads and clubs.

If your child is in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant, then the fee for all squads will be automatically paid out of the school budget and you do not need to make the payments unless you wish to do so voluntarily.

If your child is selected for a squad, they will be unable to take part if the payment has not been made. This will be available to pay on School Money once selections have been made.

Yours sincerely,  
Julie Puxley  
Headteacher

Tyler Gilkes  
PE leader

