

Friday 12th JanuaryMenu (w/c 15th January)

Week 2.

Monday 15th January

Year 3/6 Swim

9am Orangutan Maths workshop

Wednesday 17th January

Year 2 Swim

Gala Swim

Friday 19th January

9am Jaguar Maths workshop

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy New Year to you all. It's been great to welcome all the children back into school this week and hear all about their Christmas breaks. I loved going to the theatre with Year One on Tuesday – the children loved it especially when it snowed in the theatre!



Headlice & Threadworms

We have had reports of headlice & threadworms within school. Please check your children for both and treat accordingly. NHS guidelines are below for your info:

Headlice - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

Threadworm -

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/threadworms/>

This week in school:

On Wednesday our Gala children attended the competition at the Lord Butler Leisure Centre. The children swam incredibly, and we won the event! This means we are through to the next round at Great Dunmow after Easter. I felt so proud of them and their hard work as well as impeccable behaviour.

Year 3 became Roman soldiers and Boudicca's warriors for the day, with Marcus Antonius Proculus. They learnt so much about the Roman Empire, the invasion and conquest of Britain by Emperor Claudius, how and why the Romans extended their rule of Britain and the rebellion of the Britons led by Boudicca. Proculus showed artefacts and shared information about Roman and British weapons, styles of fighting, homes, lifestyles and equipment. There was even a recreation of the final defeat of Boudicca. And of course, the gladiator fighting was exciting!

Attendance

There has been a lot of media attention on school attendance recently, with reports of an epidemic of persistent absence amongst children. At Katherine Semar we are feeling the effect of this as our attendance has never quite recovered to pre-pandemic levels – but this doesn't tell the whole story, as the good news is that most children at Katherine Semar are attending as well as ever. To find out more, please read the attendance letter attached to this email. Next week you will receive a personalised breakdown of your child's attendance since joining Katherine Semar. We hope it will be helpful to you.

Online Safety Newsletter

Today we have sent out our monthly online safety newsletter. In this edition you will find information about group chats, location sharing and blocking/report on Whatsapp; links for parental control settings on consoles, mobiles and tablets; links to a safety guide about the game LEGO Fortnite and safety information and settings for YouTube accounts including posting videos. Just a reminder that this website <https://esafetytraining.org/> is a great site for signposting you to other sites for all sorts of areas related to online safety.

School Shoes

We have noticed that lots of youngest children are wearing lace-up shoes or boots to school and they are not yet able to tie their own shoe laces. It would be much easier if children wore Velcro shoes into school until they have learnt how to tie-up their own laces.

Parent School dinners

Just a reminder that parents/grandparents are welcome to join children for lunches. The cost of a parent meal is £5.00. **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.



PE Timetable

Please find below the timetable for PE for the **first half of the Spring term**.

SPRING TERM	PE	Swimming	Forest School
EARLY YEARS	Wednesday & Friday	n/a	n/a
YEAR 1	Monday & Wednesday	n/a	
YEAR 2	Thursday	Wednesday	n/a
YEAR 3	Tuesday	Monday	
YEAR 4	Friday & Wednesday	n/a	n/a
YEAR 5	Thursday	n/a	5 th March - Jaguars 12 th March – Orangutans
YEAR 6	Wednesday	Monday	n/a

- Children should come to school wearing their PE kit on their PE days.
- Year 2 children should also wear their PE kit to school with their swimming costume on underneath on swimming days.
- Year 3/6 children should wear their school uniform on Swimming days and bring their swimwear to change into at the pool.
- Year 5 children should wear their Forest School clothes into school on their Forest School day (with wellies in a plastic bag).

Childcare Survey

Essex County Council is committed to supporting the national wraparound program as part of the childcare reforms announced in the 2023 spring budget. It is the Government's ambition that by 2026, all parents and carers of primary school-aged children who need it, will be able to access termtime childcare, in their local area, from 8am-6pm to enable parents to access employment.

As a parent or carer of a child who attends primary school we want to know your requirements for wraparound care and we are asking you to complete this short survey – <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=TzK0qFwVFUKg8X7YzJqZLwjRBQ0e02BCvDZWV2-UaK9UQVhXVetPOE9RT0hYWTJaSVdJRJOWDdHNC4u>

Your answers will help us understand where Essex County Council should target support and/or funding. Participation is completely voluntary, and we really do appreciate your time in doing this. This survey will remain open until 28th of January, 2024.

If you need support with completing this form, or if you have any questions please email- wraparound.childcare@essex.gov.uk

Out of School achievement assemblies

We are delighted to be holding more "Out of School achievement" assemblies for children in Years 1-6. These assemblies give children the opportunity to share their outside school successes with their peers. The kind of successes we would like to hear about should relate to out of school activities or clubs the children attend (such as Brownies/Cubs/Dance/Football/Swimming etc rather than home achievements such as learning to ride a bike or baking a cake).

The dates of the assemblies are listed below as well as a form to complete should your child wish to participate. The closing date to complete the form is Wednesday 7th February at 9am. We will not be able to share achievements if the form has not been completed by the deadline.

Year 1 & 2 - Monday 12th February 9am- <https://forms.office.com/e/T1GY6ejYVH>

Juniors – Oak and Beech – Tuesday 13th February 8.55am - <https://forms.office.com/e/uB0Pubgney>

Juniors – Horse Chestnut & Sycamore – Wednesday 14th February 8.55am - <https://forms.office.com/e/PMsbPwismG>

You are invited to come along and share their successes. Please remember to bring the certificate/ medal/ trophy to share their triumphs.

Hoodies and cold weather in PE

We have been informed that Grey Palmers are selling hoodies as part of our school uniform. Only children in Y6 can wear hoodies as part of their school uniform. Other children are not permitted and especially in PE will be asked to remove them as they are not safe particularly in chasing games. We will speak to Grey Palmer to ask them to stop selling this item too. Base layers are advised in this cold weather as the hall is sometimes not available for children to go in and children will do PE outdoors.



After School Clubs & Squads

Please see below start dates for clubs & squads.

Infant clubs			
DAY	CLUB	START DATE	Pick up point – 4.15pm
Monday	Football Y1/2	Starts Monday 8th Jan	Junior sports hall doors
Tuesday	Art - Y2	Starts Tuesday 16th Jan	Outside Main office
Wednesday	Drama & Music Y1/2	Starts Wednesday 17th Jan	Outside Main office
Thursday	Multiskills Y1/2	Starts Thursday 11th Jan	Junior sports hall doors

Junior clubs			
DAY	CLUB	START DATE	Pick up point – 4.15pm
Monday	Musical Theatre Y3-6	Starts Monday 15th Jan	Outside Main office
Tuesday	Football Y5/6	Starts Tuesday 9th Jan	Old Junior Entrance
Tuesday	Public speaking Y4	Starts Tuesday 9th Jan	Outside Main Office
Wednesday	Dodgeball Y5/6	Starts Wednesday 10th Jan	Junior Hall doors
Wednesday	Football Y3/4	Starts Wednesday 17th Jan	Old Junior Entrance
Thursday	Art Club Y3/4	Starts Thursday 11th Jan	Outside Main office
Thursday	Art Club Y5/6	Starts Thursday 29th Feb	Outside Main office
Friday	Dance Y3-6	Starts Friday 12th Jan	N/A as at lunchtime
Friday	Dodgeball Y3/4	Starts Friday 12th Jan	Junior Hall doors
Friday	Choir	Starts Friday 12th Jan	N/A as in school day
Friday	Orchestra	Starts Friday 12th Jan	Outside Main office

Junior Squads			
DAY	CLUB	START DATE	Entry point
Monday	Gymnastics Y3/4	Monday 15th Jan	Old Junior entrance
Monday	Hockey Y5/6	Monday 15th Jan	Old Junior entrance
Tuesday	Indoor Athletics Y5/6	Tuesday 9th Jan	Old Junior entrance
Tuesday	Netball Group C	Tuesday 9th Jan	Old Junior entrance
Wednesday	Indoor Athletics Y3/4	Wednesday 10th Jan	Old Junior entrance
Wednesday	Netball Group A	Wednesday 10th Jan	Old Junior entrance
Thursday	Gymnastics Y5/6	Thursday 11th Jan	Old Junior entrance
Thursday	Tag Rugby Y3/4	Thursday 11th Jan (plus trials)	Old Junior entrance
Friday	Cross Country Y3-6	Friday 12th Jan	Old Junior entrance
Friday	Netball Group B	Friday 12th Jan	Old Junior entrance



FUNDRAISING

Plea for help

As school budgets get tighter each year it is vitally important that we raise some additional funds from fundraising events or projects. Our school's success and ability to provide enriching experiences for our children heavily depend on the collaborative efforts of our dedicated parent community. We believe that with your creativity, enthusiasm, and organizational skills, we can orchestrate successful fundraising initiatives that will greatly benefit our school. Our staff have planned an indoor movie night for later this term, a disco just before Easter and an outdoor movie night for the summer however we would welcome any parents/carers who were happy to plan and run additional events. In an ideal world we would have an active fundraising team with a committee that meets with staff members on a regular basis to help plan and run events. If this is not possible (and we know how busy parents are) then we would welcome parents volunteering to run one off events. ***We will be holding a coffee morning on Friday 26th January at 9.00am where we would love to chat to anyone who might have ideas or be interested in running an event. If you are able to attend please just come to the main office after drop off – younger sibling are of course welcome!***

We know this time isn't ideal for everyone – so we will hold an evening meeting if there is enough interest. Please contact the office (admin-inf@katherinesemar.net) if you would be interested in attending an evening meeting.

Marjia

We have used the surplus money from tickets from the Christmas production to sponsor a little girl in Bangladesh called Marjia. On Monday the children in the infants learnt a little more about Marjia and the different life that she has. We spoke about how we are going to help her have access to education, better housing, clean water, and a meal every day. I will repeat the assembly for the juniors next week. I was so impressed by the empathy and kindness showed by the children and many children chose to write letters to Marjia during their lunchtime. What a compassionate community of children we have in our school!



Pre-Loved Uniform

Should you ever need contact any preloved uniform please contact preloved@katherinesemar.net. Thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend

Kind regards

Julie Puxley
Executive Headteacher

