



Friday 9th February

**Menu (w/c 12 Feb)**

Week 3

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**Monday 12th February**Year 1 & 2 Out of school  
achievement assembly.  
9am

Year 3/6 Swim

**Parent Consultations****3.30pm – 6.30pm – No  
after school clubs**

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**Tuesday 13th February**Beech & Oak Out of  
school achievement  
assembly 8.55am

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**Wednesday 14th February**Horse Chestnut and  
Sycamore Out of school  
achievement assembly  
8.55am

Year 2 Swim

Gala

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**Thursday 15th February**Class assembly – Polar  
Bears 9am**Parent Consultations****3.30-6.30pm – No after  
school clubs**

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**Friday 16th February**Class assembly – Arctic  
Wolves 9am

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**Half Term**

19-23 February

Dear Parents/Guardians,

There is something magical about this time of year in school. It is no coincidence that this week marks halfway through the academic year. Teachers know their children and routines are set. This is when learning takes off and there is lightbulb moment after lightbulb moment. It was an absolute pleasure to see the Year Four class assemblies this week as well as teach Year Three who impressed me with their computing skills. I was extremely proud of our Year Four public speaking team who represented us superbly alongside the other Uttlesford schools in Great Chesterford.

**This week in school:**

Our Year 6 children have continued to be "Mystery Readers" on a Friday afternoon.

Each week Year 6 children visit each of the classes in the infant school to read an end of day story.

We love seeing the enthusiasm from the Year 6 children and the infants get very excited when they see who their mystery reader is. They also love hearing a story from the older children.

**Parent Consultations**

These take place on Monday and Thursday next week. For children in the infant school please come to the infant hall (via the infant school entrance) and the Junior school via the Junior Hall doors (not the old junior entrance). On arrival, please see a member of staff to sign in, you will then have the opportunity to view your child's work before seeing the teacher. A reminder that appointments are for 10 minutes, and we ask you to please respect this. There will be a creche in the infant hall run by Mrs Puxley so children are able to play here whilst parents meet the teacher. There will also be a movie showing in the Junior Hall for children who need less supervision.

**Out of school achievement assemblies**

If your child is participating in the out of school assembly next week please ensure they bring along anything they may need to show (certificate etc) on the day of their assembly. If you are coming to watch in the infants please arrive via the old infant office entrance, for Juniors please arrive via the Junior Hall door.

**PE Timetable**

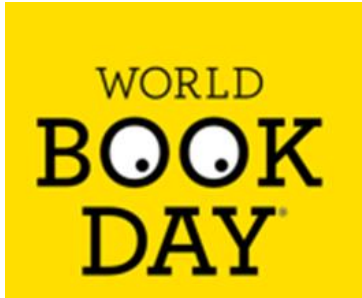
Please find below the timetable for PE for the **first half of the Spring term**.

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 <sup>th</sup> March - Jaguars 12 <sup>th</sup> 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).



## Heads -Up!



This year, to celebrate World Book Day, we have decided to have a focus on book illustrations.

We will use this as a vehicle for promoting the 6 elements of Reading for Pleasure:

- Being read to regularly
- Having books at home and at school
- Having a choice in what to read
- Finding time to read
- Having trusted help to find a book
- Making reading FUN!

Instead of dressing up, this year we would like the children to get creative.

We will soon be sending home a short story, starring our core value characters! The story will have no illustrations and the challenge will be to illustrate the story in any way your child chooses e.g. comic strip, story box, collage, painting, drawing, photograph.

More details and ideas will be sent home shortly.

### Safer Internet Day

This week we celebrated safer internet day on 6.2.24 and held assemblies in both the infants and juniors. The theme this year is 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'. The safer internet day resources are all still available and more details can be found in the safer internet day newsletter we have sent out today. Unfortunately, the Apple online event that is mentioned has already taken place but information on parental control settings for iPhones and iPads can be found here <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201304>

### Ross Close – 20 is plenty campaign.

We still need lots more people to sign the campaign to reduce the speed limit on Ross Close and to have a zebra crossing in the area. We regularly receive complaints of careless driving and are very concerned by the number of near misses that are reported to us. Please do sign the petition at <https://cmis.essex.gov.uk/essexcmis5/Petitions/tabid/106/ID/163/20-is-plenty-for-Ross-Close.aspx>. It takes less than 2 minutes and will benefit ALL our children.

### Short Story Competition

We have so many talented writers in our school – if any children are interested there is a very exciting competition on the Royal Mint museum website.

[https://www.royalmintmuseum.org.uk/learning/short-story-competition/?fbclid=IwAR0vPxtu2wYEHtFsXs\\_ApBXuOESIOBlqzc3f03eBejJ2uUrvtL2-D5K\\_Ao\\_aem\\_AbX8NKZ8YjIMfxd5wtekOuoHePMixWEBp\\_Ksv0OZA2I-e5fLnTYyLxVf\\_R3uM4dWhGG2aRQi7dTCEbezNtG2P3GL](https://www.royalmintmuseum.org.uk/learning/short-story-competition/?fbclid=IwAR0vPxtu2wYEHtFsXs_ApBXuOESIOBlqzc3f03eBejJ2uUrvtL2-D5K_Ao_aem_AbX8NKZ8YjIMfxd5wtekOuoHePMixWEBp_Ksv0OZA2I-e5fLnTYyLxVf_R3uM4dWhGG2aRQi7dTCEbezNtG2P3GL)

### Parent School dinners

Just a reminder that parents/grandparents are welcome to join children for lunches. The cost of food is rising, and we are struggling with the school budget for catering. Every meal you take supports our kitchen and we really value the opportunity to welcome you to sample our school menu.

The cost of a parent meal is £5.00. **To book please email the office on [admin-inf@katherinesemar.net](mailto: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. Our menu choices for after half term can be found on our website.



## FUNDRAISING

### Fundraising meeting

Last week we held a fundraising meeting – a big thank you to those who attended and are interested in helping. We have set a target for the year of raising £11000. We desperately need new interactive whiteboards in school – they are a fantastic learning aid and many of the current ones are no longer functioning. We have put together a fundraising plan for the rest of this school year. Please see below:

February Half term	Matchbox challenge with sponsorship (aiming to raise £2024 - info to follow next week)
DATE TBC	Mr Aikens quiz night! (for adults)
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Local Garage Sale and Tabletop sale at Katherine Semar
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Summer Fayre
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Outdoor Movie Event (children will vote for the movie)
DATE TBC	Colour Run on the school field! We can only do this if we have at least 25 volunteers – if you might be able to help with this please let the office know.

More info will follow on these. We will also start our “ICE CREAM FRIDAYS” in the summer term – where once a week we ask parents to buy an ice lolly from school rather than the ice cream van which parks up over the road! It is our aim to raise £1000 from these in the summer term. Our ice lollies will be cheaper and will benefit our children!

We are so grateful to our school community who are often so generous, we will set up a Whiteboard donation option on SchoolMoney for any parents who may wish to donate towards this – obviously this is entirely optional. It will be called “Whiteboard fundraising” and any amount can be donated. Thank you in advance for any donations.

### How can you help?

We are already looking for sponsorship opportunities for the outdoor movie night. There is the opportunity to sponsor the event and your company logo or advert will be shown on the big screen prior to the movie beginning. Sponsorship starts from £50. Please get in touch if your business or workplace may be interested! It is vital that we gain sponsorship to help fund the cost of the screen hire (which is over £1000).

### Pre-Loved Uniform

Should you ever need contact any preloved uniform please contact [preloved@katherinesemar.net](mailto:preloved@katherinesemar.net). Thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend

Kind regards

Julie Puxley  
Executive Headteacher



