



Friday 16th February

Menu (w/c 26 Feb))

Week 1

Monday 26th February

Year 4/5 Swim

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**Wednesday 28th
February**Year 5 visit to Audley
End

Year 1 Swim

Gala

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Thursday 29th FebruaryYear 4 visit to
Bhaktivedanta Manor

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we reach the end of this half term, I want to express my gratitude for your unwavering support. It has been a rewarding half term of achievement for our children. I hope the upcoming break offers you a chance to relax and enjoy quality time together. A HUGE thanks to all the staff who have worked so hard to make such a difference to the children. Looking ahead, we are excited about the next half term and all the lovely activities we have planned for the school community. Thank you for being an integral part of it.

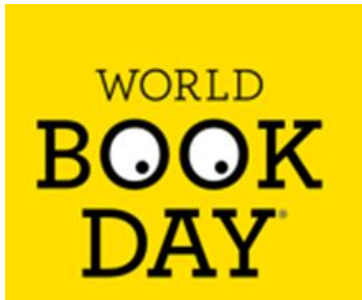
**This week in school:**

It was wonderful to learn about so many of the local activities that our children attend out of school. We have made up an information sheet highlighting lots of local clubs your child(ren) might be interested in. Please find it attached in Parentmail.

It was also wonderful watching the Year 2 class assemblies as they land their Topic of The Great Fire of London.

Mrs Eagleton took 2 teams to the Tag Rugby event at RAB on Thursday 15th February. Team Orange consisted of 9 Year 4 players and played in Division 1, they were all determined to do their best and they did! They won 3 games, drew 1 and lost one which resulted in 3rd place overall and qualify for the finals on 7th March. Team Green consisted of mostly Year 3 players, they played in Division 2, they won all 4 games and displayed great pace and teamwork, they came 1st in their division. Amazing work Tag Rugby players.

We have received 2 complaints this week – both concerning the safety of the children in our school. Please do not speed as you drive around Ross Close and please do not park on double yellow lines outside school – it makes it harder for the older children to see when it is safe to cross the road!



Please see the separate Parentmail which is being sent out today relating to our world book day event.

Family Impact Survey for All Schools

Essex Family Forum, Parent Carer Forum for SEND families in Essex, are conducting their fourth annual Family Impact Survey. They are asking parent/carers of children and young people with SEND to complete the survey to share their experiences of what life is like currently for families across Essex. They are aware that families' experiences may be inconsistent across the county, but there are good examples, which need to be highlighted.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FIS2024-Sch>

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 **second half of the Spring term.**

SPRING TERM	PE	Swimming	Forest School
EARLY YEARS	Wednesday & Friday	n/a	n/a
YEAR 1	Monday	Wednesday	
YEAR 2	Wednesday & Thursday	n/a	n/a
YEAR 3	Tuesday & Wednesday	n/a	
YEAR 4	Friday	Monday	n/a
YEAR 5	Thursday	Monday	5 th March - Jaguars 19 th March – Orangutans – NEW DATE
YEAR 6	Monday & Wednesday	n/a	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 4/5 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).



INFANT SCHOOL

Mothers' Day Visits

We are so excited to be holding our events to celebrate Mothers Day. The event usually lasts for just over an hour with the chance to observe your child's learning with their peers, as well as joining in some special activities with your child and hearing your child tell you why you are so special! If for any reason, you are unable to make the visit, please do not worry as your children will be buddied up with a friend and still get to have a special morning. We want to celebrate the special ladies in your child's lives so if you prefer Grannies/Aunties or any special person in your child's life can attend.

A polite reminder that we cannot accommodate preschool children on this visit and, as it will be a normal working morning for the other classes in school, we will not be able to staff a crèche.

The dates are as follows:

Monday 4 th March	Polar Bear
Tuesday 5 th March	Arctic Wolves
Wednesday 6 th March	Skylark
Thursday 7 th March	Red Squirrel
Friday 8 th March	Turtle
Monday 11 th March	Dolphin

The morning will run from 9.00 am – 10.15am.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

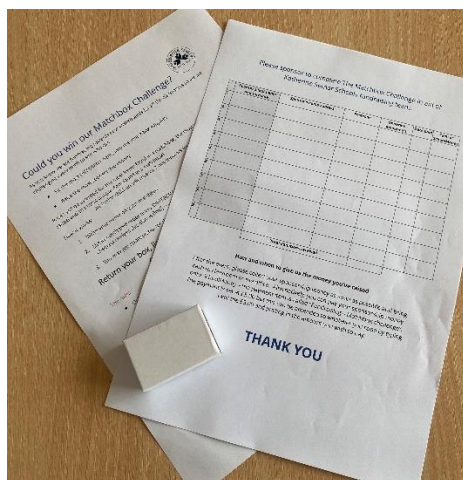
The boy at the back of the class

From 12-16 March "The boy at the back of the class" in being performed at the theatre in Cambridge. This is a well-loved text by many Junior children. Tickets can be purchased here <https://www.cambridgeartstheatre.com/whats-on/boy-back-class>

Junior Lunches

Just a reminder that Junior School lunches should be paid for in advance. We will be contacting anyone in arrears after half term who is in arrears and if debt is not settled you will need to provide a packed lunch for your child until your account is cleared.

FUNDRAISING



Half Term Matchbox challenge.

The children were told in assembly this week about our matchbox challenge which takes place over half term. Today the children will bring home information relating to the challenge, a matchbox and a sponsorship form. We hope the children have fun completing the challenge – sponsorship money can either be returned to the school office or you can donate via SchoolMoney. All the information on how to complete the challenge will be sent home with the matchbox today!



Fundraising meeting

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 th May	Local Garage Sale and Tabletop sale at Katherine Semar
Friday 14 th June	Summer Fayre
Thursday 4 th 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. Thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you all a lovely half-term.

Kind regards

Julie Puxley
Executive Headteacher