



Friday 5th September

Menu (w/c 8th Sep)

Week 2

Monday 8th September

Year 3 & 4 Swim

Year 6 PE today
(instead of
Wednesday) - this
week only!

Wednesday 10th
September

Skylarks Forest School

Year 5 PE today
(instead of Monday) -
this week only!

Year 2 Swim

Year 6 Norfolk lakes
medicine drop off –
8.30am in the library

Year 6 History off the
Page

Just a reminder squads
begin at 8.15am.
Please be punctual.
We cannot admit
children after 8.20am.
You will need to stay
with your child until
school starts if you
arrive late.

Dear Parents,

A big welcome back to you all! It was wonderful to see all the children happy to be back in school and we have loved hearing about all their summer adventures. We are so proud of our Early Years children who have settled so well already, and it is lovely to see their smiley faces as they enter the classrooms. We had a lovely assembly this week where we sorted the new Y3 children into houses using our sorting hat and had our house captain election – what a great way to end the week! Well done everyone for a successful start – it has been so lovely to all be back together.



PE Timetable

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

| AUTUMN TERM – FIRST HALF | PE | Swimming | Forest School |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| EARLY YEARS | Thursday & Friday | n/a | n/a |
| YEAR 1 | Thursday | n/a | Skylarks 10/17/24 September Red Squirrels 8/15/22 October |
| YEAR 2 | Friday | Wednesday | n/a |
| YEAR 3 | Thursday | Monday | n/a |
| YEAR 4 | Monday & Thursday | n/a | n/a |
| YEAR 5 | Tuesday | Monday | n/a |
| YEAR 6 | Wednesday & Friday | n/a | 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 3/5 children should wear their school uniform on Swimming days and bring their swimwear to change into at the pool.
- Year 1 children should wear their Forest School clothes into school on their Forest School day.

Absence & sickness

There is no entitlement for absence during term-time. Anytime off school for holidays/days out etc is likely to be unauthorised and Essex County Council could issue a penalty notice. If your child is going to be absent from school, you must complete a leave of absence form in advance. These are found on our website or available from the school office. You may wish to read our policy on attendance.

<https://www.katherinesemar.co.uk/page/?title=Attendance&pid=115> If your child is absent from school for illness you should call on 01799 521720. The school office is open from 8.15am.

Attached is the link to our term dates for the next academic year. It is so important that children do not miss the first day back of school each September as it is vital to help them settle in and learn the new routines. If booking a holiday for next summer, please do make sure the children don't miss the start of term. [Katherine Semar Schools - Term Dates](#)





School Lunches

The cost of a junior school dinner is £2.50 per day for children in the Junior school unless you are eligible for free school meals. (All infant children receive a government funded free school meal). The food is freshly prepared onsite daily and provides a well-balanced and tasty lunch option. Most children do have school lunches in the junior school. Please could Junior parents ensure lunches are paid for in advance. The menu can be found here on our website <https://www.katherinesemar.co.uk/page/?title=Meal+menus&pid=39>

We do offer the option for parents to come in and have lunch with their child. It's a wonderful opportunity for parents to see how delicious of school lunches are. This will be available for parents with children in the Junior School from Monday 16th September. To book please call or email the office advising which day you would like to come and which meal option you would like (yellow or green). Once we have confirmed availability for your chosen day, we will add the cost to your SchoolMoney account. (The cost is £6 for a 2-course meal). **We will offer this for parents with children in the infant school in a few weeks once all the children are settled and used to the routine. We will pop a note on here when we are ready to take bookings for infants.** The lunch starts at 11.55am for infants & 12.05 for Juniors. Just a polite reminder that mobile phones should not be used whilst in the dinner hall and once you & your child have finished eating your child will go out to play with their friends – parents are unable to join them in the playground.

Earrings

Just a reminder that if children do wear earrings to school, they must be small studs. Children must be able to remove them independently for swimming and PE lessons. – they cannot be taped. The school will not take responsibility for lost earrings.

SchoolMoney

A few helpful tips are listed below:

- If you have more than one child, you can view others by clicking on the arrow next to the name of the child you do see.
- Card details cannot be stored but Apple & Google pay should be an option.
- All payments can be viewed under the “payments” section. We do not use the “club” section – this is for schools that offer a drop-in facility.
- The date you see next to a payment item is the date a payment is due by – not the date of the event/club.
- In Juniors you can see what lunches you have been charged for by looking in “History/Dinner History on the app. Please note we only add lunches to the app 3 times per week so there may be in delay in seeing charges.
- Any items purchased in the shop selection by 5pm on a Thursday (Water bottles/badges etc) will be distributed on a Friday. We do not give out shop items at other times. The items will be taken to your child's classroom. Those with children in Juniors should only purchase a house point badge when you have been advised that your child has achieved the number of points for the badge – we will check this with the teacher before giving out a badge. Lost house badges (red/blue/green and yellow) can also be purchased if required.

Medicines in School

If your child is prescribed any medication that needs to be taken in school you must bring the medicine into the school office and complete a medical consent form. We are only able to administer medication that has been prescribed by your GP.

If you think your child may need Calpol during the school day you need to come to school to administer this. Please do not put medicine in your child's schoolbag.

INFANT SCHOOL

Play Equipment

Just a polite reminder that the play equipment in Early Years and in the infant playground should not be used when dropping off or collecting your children. The musical maze is available should the children wish to play after school. Please supervise your children in this area. Thank you for your cooperation.

Reading Mornings in the infant school

Last school year parents and carers were welcomed into school each week to share a reading book with their child in the classroom. We are happy to announce that from Friday 12th September this will start for children in Year 1 & 2. **Each Friday**, parents and carers are welcome to come into their child's classroom between **8.35am and 8.45am** to share a story book from our class collections. This is an opportunity for you and your child to enjoy sharing a book together before the start of the school day. If you are not able to stay and read with your child, you should drop them at the usual time of 8.40am.

If you have siblings in the infant school, then please choose one of their classrooms to go and read in, remembering to send your child to their own classroom for 8.45am. Please note, junior siblings should not join their infant siblings and be in their own classroom at the normal time.

Staff will be on hand to read with any children whose parents are unable to attend a session from 8.40am.

Reading mornings for children in Early Years will start in a few weeks when all the children are settled.





Clubs and Squads

Please see below information relating to start dates for squads (Juniors) and after school clubs. Clubs run until 4.15pm. Squad acceptances will be sent by Friday 12th September at the latest.

| SQUAD OR CLUB | DAY | DATE BEGINNING | NOTES: | Pick Up point |
|------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Football 5/6 Squad | Monday | Monday 15 th September | Trial is Monday 8 th | n/a |
| Dodgeball 3/4 Squad | Monday | Monday 22 nd September | Trial is Monday 8 th | n/a |
| Archery 3/4 squad (lunchtime) | Monday | Monday 22 nd September | Trial is Monday 8 th at lunchtime | n/a |
| Gymnastics 5/6 Club (first half term) | Monday | Monday 8 th September | First half term only | Junior Hall Doors |
| Drama and Music Y1/2 club | Monday | Monday 8 th September | No club on Monday 15 th Sep | Main Office Entrance |
| Art & Craft Club Y3/4 (first half term) | Monday | Monday 8 th September | First half term only | Main Office Entrance |
| Indoor Athletics 5/6 Squad | Tuesday | Tuesday 9 th September | Trial is Tuesday 2 nd Sep | n/a |
| Netball beginner group squad | Tuesday | Tuesday 9 th September | Trial is Tuesday 2 nd Sep (Y3-6 children not already in a netball squad) | n/a |
| Tag Rugby Squad Y5/6 (after school) | Tuesday | Tuesday 9 th September | Trials is Tue 2 nd Sep after school | Junior Hall Doors |
| Hockey Club Y3/4 | Tuesday | Tuesday 2 nd September | No club on Tuesday 16 th September | Junior Hall Doors |
| Art Club Year 2 | Tuesday | Tuesday 9 th September | First half term only | Main Office Entrance |
| Indoor Athletics 3/4 squad | Wednesday | Wednesday 10 th September | Trial is Wednesday 3 rd Sep | n/a |
| Netball Advanced squad | Wednesday | Wednesday 3 rd September | | n/a |
| Knitting & Crochet Club | Wednesday | Wednesday 10 th September | First half term only | Main Office Entrance |
| Girls Football Club Y3-6 | Wednesday | Wednesday 10 th September | No session on Wednesday 3 rd Sep | Old Junior Entrance door |
| Gymnastics Club Y1/2 | Wednesday | Wednesday 3 rd September | No Club on Wednesday 17 th Sep | Junior Hall doors |
| Football 3/4 squad | Thursday | Thursday 11 th September | Trial is Thu 4 th September | n/a |
| Dodgeball 5/6 squad | Thursday | Thursday 25 th September | Y5 children trial on Thu 4 th September & Y6 children trial on Thu 11 th September | n/a |
| Urban Cheer Y3-6 Lunchtime club | Thursday | Thursday 11 th September | | n/a |
| Choir 4/5/6 (during school afternoon) | Thursday | Thursday 11 th September | | n/a |
| Tag Rugby 3/4 Squad (AFTER SCHOOL) | Thursday | Thursday 11 th September | Trial is Thu 4 th September. No club on Thu 18 th September | Junior Hall Doors |
| Orchestra Y3-6 Club (invite only) | Thursday | Thursday 11 th September | | Main Office Entrance |
| Football Y1/2 Club | Thursday | Thursday 4 th September | | Junior Hall Doors |
| Cross Country 3-6 squad | Friday | Friday 12 th September | Trial Friday 5 th September | n/a |
| Netball Intermediate squad | Friday | Friday 5 th September | | n/a |
| Archery Y5/6 Squad | Friday | Friday 12 th September | Trial Fri 5 th September. No squad on Friday 19 th September | n/a |
| Hockey 5/6 Squad (after school) | Friday | Friday 12 th September | Trial is Friday 5 th September (after school). No squad on Friday 19 th September. | Old Junior Entrance Door |
| Gymnastics 3/4 Club (first half only) | Friday | Friday 5 th September | | Junior Hall Doors |
| Show Choir Y3 Club | Friday | Friday 5 th September | No club on Friday 19 th September | Main office Entrance |



JUNIOR SCHOOL

Wet Weather & Squads

If it is raining the following squad will not run:

- Monday – Football Y5/6
- Tuesday – Netball squad
- Wednesday – Netball squad
- Thursday – Football Y3/4
- Friday – Cross Country Squad

This is because these squads take place outside and we do not have space to move them inside on rainy days due to other squads already taking place in the hall. If it is raining please do not send your child to these squads – they should come to school at the normal time. **The office is not open early enough to send out an email informing you of the cancellation – however if you are unsure you can call the office from 8am.**

If we have to cancel any after school clubs due to bad weather, we will send an email out by 2pm informing you of the cancellation, please do check your inbox if the weather is bad.

Music Lessons

If you have not yet applied for your child to start music lessons but would like to, there are still spaces for the following instruments. The good news is if you choose an instrument on this list, your child will be able to start playing immediately.

- Guitar
- Brass
- Baritone Horn
- Clarinet
- Euphonium
- Trombone
- Trumpet/cornet

Please collect a music application form from the school office. Applications will be dealt with in order of receipt.

Year 6 Secondary Applications & Open Evenings

If your child is in year 6, you can apply for a secondary school (year 7) place between 12 September 2025 and 31 October 2025. You **MUST NOT** miss the application deadline! Here is the link to apply. [Secondary school places | Essex County Council](#)

Saffron Walden County High are holding their open evening on Thursday 2nd October 2025 from 4:30pm - 7:30pm. You do not need to book to attend but do need to book for the Headteacher presentation – please see their website for more details. [Saffron Walden County High School - Open Evenings](#)

Joyce Frankland have their open evening on Thursday 12th September from 5.30- 7.30pm. You need to book tickets and here is the link <https://joycefrankland.org/2024/07/17/open-evening-2024/>

Please speak to the office if you need assistance in applying for your place.

FUNDRAISING

Pre-Loved Uniform

If you ever need any preloved uniform please contact preloved@katherinesemar.net.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Julie Puxley

Executive Headteacher

