



## Menu (w/c 29<sup>th</sup> Sep)

Week 2

### Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September

Year 3 & 4 Swim

Flu vaccinations

### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October

8.45am - Leopard & 1/2 Puma class reading workshop

Red Squirrels Forest School

Year 2 Swim

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

8.45am – Lynx and half of Puma class reading workshop

SWCHS Open Evening for current Y6 children

**Just a reminder squads begin at 8.15am. (8.10am for netball). 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/Carers



#### **This week in school:**

Orangutan class had fun making a delicious, healthy pizza dinner this week. They designed, planned and made their own pizza and accompanying side salad using in season ingredients and the knowledge they gained from their investigating phase a few weeks ago. The dinners all looked great and they had great fun tasting them and evaluating after. Jaguar class will also get the opportunity to do this next week.

The Junior girls also enjoyed the USSP Football Tournament on Thursday which was held on our school field.

#### **Parent Consultations**

Our Parents Evenings will be on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October and Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** and will be held face-to-face in school. The focus of the meeting will be to discuss how your child has settled in, their wellbeing and the teacher's current assessment of their progress to date. It is also a time for you to share any information that will help your child's learning and well-being. The meetings will last no longer than 10 minutes and we ask that all parents respect this. It is also a valuable opportunity to look at your child's books with them. If you need to bring your child along, Mrs Puxley and other staff can look after them in the infant school whilst you have your appointment. The halls can get busy so please take your children home as soon as you have seen the teacher and viewed your child's work. Please note we cannot offer separate appointments for separated parents.

#### **Bookings open this Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm.**

A booking link will be sent to you today. You just click on the link from 7pm on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September to book a slot. We recommend booking as soon as you can if you need specific appointment times.

#### **Harvest Festival**

9.00am – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October – Early Years

2.45pm – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October - Year 1

9.00am - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October – Year 2

Parents are welcome to attend the Harvest Festival Assembly for their child's year group. Pre-school children are also welcome, but we ask that any prams/pushchairs are left outside each school hall, due to space restrictions inside school.

As we usually do at this time of year, we are asking parents to donate food to our local Foodbank. We have asked for specific donations from each year group as the foodbank is supplying crates for each classroom as it reduces the number of volunteers needed. If you can donate from the appropriate year group that is great however anything is greatly appreciated. **Please could you bring items into your child's classroom on the morning of Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October (there will be crates in each classroom)**

Early Years	Cereal & Oats
Year 1	Tinned Vegetables & Tinned Fruit
Year 2	Tinned Rice Pudding & Custards
Year 3	Cooking and Pasta sauces
Year 4	Rice (including Microwave) and Noodles
Year 5	Fruit Squash and Long-life juice or UHT milk
Year 6	Toilet Rolls & Sanitary items

#### **Parent Forum**

Our Parent Forum is a good opportunity for parents to share their views. Each year has their own representative, who will listen to your views and suggestions and then bring them to our termly Parent Forum meeting. They will also have a key role to play in the fund-raising group which will form part of every agenda. Please see our website for minutes of last terms meetings. We are looking for at least one volunteer from each year group – please contact Kate Brown in the office if this is something you may be interested in or if you would like more information.



## Uniform Standards

At Katherine Semar, we take great pride in the high standards we set for all aspects of school life, including our expectations around uniform. As we begin this academic year, I am writing to ask for your continued support in ensuring that all children adhere to our uniform policy.

## Why Uniform Matters

Wearing the correct school uniform is not just about appearance; it is a key part of our school ethos and helps to foster a sense of belonging, equality and pride among our children.

## Uniform Policy Highlights

- All children are expected to wear the full school uniform every day. On PE days or if your child is in a sports club or squad they can also wear a PE kit.
- Smart black shoes (not trainers) should be worn when children wear their school uniform.
- Full details of the uniform, including PE kit requirements, can be found on our school website. [Katherine Semar Schools - School Uniform](#) Trainers can only be worn if the children is wearing their PE kit.
- Please ensure that all uniform items are clearly named so any items that may be misplaced can easily be returned to their owner.

## Prohibited Items and Appearance

To maintain our high standards, the following items and styles are **not permitted**:

- **Footwear:** Trainers, canvas shoes, or shoes with high heels are not allowed. Only smart, low-heeled, leather or leather-effect shoes are acceptable.
- **Outerwear:** Hoodies must not be worn (except if children are in Year 6 and they have ordered them through the school).
- **Jewellery:** We understand that pierced ears need earrings to avoid the holes closing up. So, to this end, children are allowed to wear plain stud earrings. They should not wear earrings if they are unable to remove them themselves for PE. Wristwatches may be worn in the Junior School at the child's own risk, but children need to be able to remove and replace them independently. Smartwatches or any watches with cameras or microphones are not permitted. No other jewellery is allowed.
- **Hair and Make-up:** Students may not dye their hair an unnatural hair colour and highlights/streaks and dip dyed ends are not allowed. No students may have their hair cut shorter than a barbers' number 2. Hair must be tied back if it is shoulder length or longer, with a plain coloured hairband. Hairbands must be plain and a colour that compliments the school uniform, such as navy, black, white or grey. All novelty hairbands, such as cat ears, flowers and large bows are not permitted. Make up or nail varnish should not be worn.

## How You Can Help

- Please check your child's uniform each morning to ensure it meets our requirements.
- Remind your child of the importance of wearing their uniform with pride.
- Please contact the school if you have any questions about the school uniform. If your child needs to wear trainers for a medical reason, this will need to be recommended by a medical professional and evidence seen by the school with a clear timeframe of how long this requirement is needed.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

## INFANT SCHOOL

### Phonics Workshops

We will be holding Phonic Workshops for all infant year groups next month. These are very popular events as they allow you to watch a phonics lesson in the school and gives you valuable information on how to teach your child to read. Following are the dates for your diary and please note that **unfortunately we are not able to invite pre-school children to these workshops** as it would be distracting for our children during the lesson demonstrations. Please sign up by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

Early Years	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October 9.00am	<a href="https://forms.office.com/e/TUMt0NujhW">https://forms.office.com/e/TUMt0NujhW</a>
Year 1	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October 9.00am	<a href="https://forms.office.com/e/tC1ZbARFJe">https://forms.office.com/e/tC1ZbARFJe</a>
Year 2	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October 9.00am	<a href="https://forms.office.com/e/vRKZ0eqEdC">https://forms.office.com/e/vRKZ0eqEdC</a>

Please click on the form by your child's year group(s) to inform us whether you will be attending.





## JUNIOR SCHOOL

### Junior School Lunch Payments – Reminder

We kindly remind parents that junior school lunches should be paid in advance.

We completely understand that life gets busy, which is why we encourage families to load funds ahead of time to avoid any disruption. On SchoolMoney, there is a green highlighted box for lunch payments, pre-set to £12.50 (the cost of one week’s lunches), but this amount can be increased if you’d prefer to pay for a longer period.

To help manage this smoothly, we will offer a one-week grace period (£12.50). After this, if payment hasn’t been received, we will contact you to request immediate payment. If the debt remains unpaid, unfortunately, we will be unable to offer a lunch until the balance is cleared.

We really appreciate your cooperation with this. It would be a great help to our office staff, who spend a considerable amount of time chasing overdue payments. If we find that we are persistently having to follow up, we will call to advise that lunches must be pre-paid going forward.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

### Year 4 Maths Workshops & Year 6 Reading Workshops

Just a reminder for parents to sign up for the upcoming workshops

Year 4 parents should sign up here - <https://forms.office.com/e/AmGvf1rNmK>

Year 6 parents should sign up here - <https://forms.office.com/e/d2rMYPcB93>

### 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](#)

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

## PE TIMETABLE

Please find below the timetable for PE for the first half of the autumn term

Autumn Term – first half	PE	Swimming	Forest School
EARLY YEARS	Tuesday & Thursday	n/a	n/a
YEAR 1	Tuesday	n/a	Skylarks – 10/17/24 September Red Squirrels – 1/8/15 October
YEAR 2	Friday	Wednesday	n/a
YEAR 3	Thursday	Monday	n/a
YEAR 4	Tuesday	Monday	n/a
YEAR 5	Monday & Wednesday	n/a	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 3/4 children should wear their school uniform on Swimming days and bring their swimwear to change into at the pool.





## REMINDERS

### 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.**

### 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.

## FUNDRAISING

### Pre-Loved Uniform

If you ever need any preloved uniform please contact [preloved@katherinesemar.net](mailto:preloved@katherinesemar.net).

### Save the Date – Quiz night

Mr Aiken will be running his very popular quiz night on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November. This will be an evening event for parents/carers. Tickets can be booked now from the shop section of SchoolMoney. Tickets cost £7.50 per person, there will be a bar selling drinks however you are welcome to bring along nibbles (no nuts please). Maximum of 8 people per team, please email the office ([admin-inf@katherinesemar.net](mailto:admin-inf@katherinesemar.net)) at least 7 days before the event letting us know your team’s name and team members. If you are coming in a small group and would like to pair up with others, please let us know. This event always sell-outs so please book your ticket asap.

### Bag to School Collection

We hold a few textile collections each year with Bag2School. They will collect specific textile items and pay us commission for each kilo collected. More info can be found here <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect> **The next collection is Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November.** Bags will need to be dropped outside the junior hall on that morning.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Julie Puxley

Executive Headteacher

