



Dear Parents/Carers

Menu (w/c 6 Oct)

Week 3

Monday 6th October

Year 3 & 4 Swim

Tuesday 7th October

9am – Year 2 Phonics workshop

Wednesday 8th October

9am – Year 1 Phonics workshop

Red Squirrels Forest School

Year 2 Swim

Thursday 9th October

9am – Early Years Phonics Workshop

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.

Upcoming Dates

Mon 27-31 Oct

Half term.

Monday 3rd Nov

Non pupil day – school is closed!



This week in school:

Year 5 had a great time being part of a live lesson with Steve Backshall this week. In the session they learnt all about different types of forest around the world, the layers of the rainforest as well as seeing a variety of rare plants and animals that live within these habitats. Year 5 have been learning about the rainforest in their dance lessons and will continue this learning next half term in their geography lessons so it was a great launch for their learning. Children asked a number of questions after the session and showed great enthusiasm for the topic as well as looking after our planet and its forests.

Parent Consultations

Our Parents Evenings will be on **Monday 20th October and Wednesday 22nd 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 opened last weekend – please see the office if you need help booking your appointment.

Reception Deliveries – A Kind Reminder

We've noticed a huge increase in the number of items being dropped off at reception during the school day. While we completely understand that things can be forgotten in the morning rush, we kindly ask families to consider whether these items are truly essential, as frequent deliveries can disrupt lessons.

From Monday, we will only be able to accept and deliver the following items:

- Medication
- Glasses
- PE kits
- Swimming kits

Please note: Homework, planners, and reading books will not be accepted for delivery, particularly for children in Years 5 and 6, in line with SWCHS policy which does not allow items to be dropped to the classrooms. We hope this will support children in building resilience and independence.

If your child forgets their water bottle, please don't worry — cups are available in classrooms so they can stay hydrated. However, having their own water bottle is always preferable.

Punctuality

We've also seen a rise in lateness at both the start and end of the school day. To help us keep children safe and accounted for:

- If your child arrives after the gates have closed, you'll need to sign them in at reception and complete a Late Arrival slip.
- If you are late collecting your child, we kindly ask that you sign our Late Collection slip

We understand that occasional delays happen, but please be aware that **persistent lateness may be considered a safeguarding concern**. Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a calm, organised, and safe environment for all our children.



Save the Date – Quiz night

Mr Aiken will be running his very popular quiz night on Friday 14th 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) 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.

Car Park & Considerate Parking

A gentle reminder that the school car park is reserved for staff and those with a Blue Badge. If you hold a Blue Badge and would like access to the school car park, please email the office with:

- A copy of your badge
- Your car’s registration number

Thank you for helping us keep the site safe and accessible for everyone.

Harvest Festival

9.00am – Tuesday 14th October – Early Years
2.45pm – Tuesday 14th October - Year 1
9.00am - Friday 17th 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 17th 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 term’s 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.

Parent Lunches – available every day for those with children in Y1-Y6 – Early Years parents/carers can join them after October Half term.

Just a reminder that parents/grandparents are welcome to join children for lunches. The cost of a parent meal is £6.00. **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.





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 3rd October.

Early Years	Thursday 9 th October 9.00am	https://forms.office.com/e/TUMt0NujhW
Year 1	Wednesday 8 th October 9.00am	https://forms.office.com/e/tC1ZbARFJe
Year 2	Tuesday 7 th October 9.00am	https://forms.office.com/e/vRKZ0eqEdC

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

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 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](#)

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 & Netball 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 but this can be temperamental!
- 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. We welcome donations of good quality and clean school uniform. Kindly ensure items are free from holes and stains so they can be reused and appreciated. There is a box outside to main office to you to donate items.

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 13th 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

