



NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers



This week in school:

It's been a busy and rewarding week at school! We were delighted to host a series of phonics workshops in the Infant School, and it was wonderful to see so many parents joining us to support their children's learning. Your enthusiasm and involvement make a real difference, and we're grateful for your continued partnership in helping our pupils thrive. Year 2 also had a wonderful day visiting Colchester Zoo as part of their learning in Science.

Harvest Festival

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

Children in Need



Our school councils have voted to raise money for Children in Need on Friday 14th November by having another Krispy Kreme Doughnut Day. This was a clear favourite previously! The sale will be held after school outside each main gate on Friday 14th November.

To ensure purchasing is quicker and to guarantee a doughnut, we have set up an option to pay in advance using School Money and then collecting on the day. **Doughnuts cost £1.50 each, 4 for £5 or a dozen for £12.** You can purchase these on the shop section of SchoolMoney. Pre orders must be made by Friday 7th November. Please make sure you make a note of whether you purchase these under a child in the infant or junior school – as there will be different collection points. You will not be able to collect at the infant gate if you have purchased under a junior child and vice-versa – sorry! There will be a limited number of doughnuts available on the day but you should pre-book to avoid disappointment.

If your child attends ACE on this day you can purchase and collect your doughnut(s) from ACE club when you collect your child. Again – these can be purchased from the shop section of SchoolMoney but will have ACE collection in the title.

We are also in need for a volunteer to collect the doughnuts from the Grand Arcade Krispy Kreme store in Cambridge between 9-11am on Friday 14th November – please get in touch with the office if you can do this.

Menu (w/c 13 Oct)

Week 1

Monday 13th October

Year 3 & 4 Swim

Tuesday 14th October

9-9.20am EY Harvest Assembly

2.45pm- Year 1 Harvest Assembly

Wednesday 15th October

8.45am Elephants Maths Workshop

Red Squirrels Forest School

Year 2 Swim

Thursday 16th October

8:45am Okapi Maths Workshop

Friday 17th October

9.00am Year 2 Harvest Assembly

Harvest Donations to be brought in

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.



Quiz night – over 70% of tickets already sold.

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. We have some people coming alone, or in smaller groups so please let the office know if you would like to be placed into a team!

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 days' 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.

Reception Deliveries – A Kind Reminder

We've noticed an 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.

Going forward 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.

Metronome needed

Does anyone have an unused metronome at home that they could donate for use in music lessons? Mrs Savill, our music leader. would be very grateful if you could!

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>





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.

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



