Katherine Semar Schools

NEWSLETTER

Ross Close, Saffron Walden, CB11 4DU I Phone: 01799 521120 I www.katherinesemar.co.uk

Menu (w/c 3 Nov)

Week 1

Monday 3rd November

Non Pupil day – school closed.

Wednesday 5th November

Year 1 Swimming

Thursday 6th November

Individual & Sibling photos

Friday 7th November

Deadline to order Krispy Kreme doughnuts

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:

We've had a fantastic final week, filled with creativity and hands-on learning across the school!
Year 3 impressed everyone with their class assemblies, showcasing all they've learned about Australia through engaging performances and presentations. In Early Years, the children landed their very first topic with an exciting forest visit, where they explored nature and made pumpkin soup just like in their adapted story of Goldilocks. Meanwhile, Year 1 became flapjack connoisseurs—investigating, tasting, and finally baking their own delicious creations today as part of their DT topic. The infants also enjoyed an assembly with Rachel Foster – a local author whose children attended Katherine Semar. As well as reading the book, Rachel also told the children what inspired her to become an author and explained how her book "Mr Offaly" was published.
What a brilliant way to end the half-term!

New tumble tots groups

We are interested in starting a new tumble tots group for your babies and toddlers which would run during the school day for parents and pre-schoolers with our staff. This would focus on

- *Speech & Language*: Through singing, storytelling, and interactive play.
- *Physical Development*: Through gross-motor play, movement games and tummy time activities.

Please fill in this form if you would like to find out more. https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/AJG7K4Ntzm

Remembrance Day

We are selling poppies around the school until 11th November. The children may bring money into school for these in a named envelope, or they are on sale from the school office. Also, there is a limited supply of Friendship Bracelets, Wristbands, Reflectors or Snap Band Rulers available from the school office. Junior children can also purchase these from the school library at breaktimes and lunchtimes. On Tuesday 11th November we will hold a Remembrance Assembly. The children will then be invited to place loose change on a large paper poppy on the hall floor. Please send monies for this in a named envelope via your child's classroom. All monies will be sent to the Royal British Legion.

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.

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IMPORTANT – REGISTER TO VIEW SCHOOL PHOTOS

Exciting news! Carmel Jane Photography will be visiting our School on the 6th of November 2025, to take Individual & Sibling Photos.
All parents are requested to pre-register for instant access to your child's photographs once they are ready, pre-registration is required for every photo shoot.

Register in 3 easy steps in less than a minute:

1. Head to www.carmeljaneshop.co.uk
2. Enter your unique code : **JRMMVZF6W6 for the Infant school and JRUBFUEFRM for the Junior school**
3. Include your child's full school register name.

Don't miss out - pre-register today!

As we operate two different systems across our schools, we are unable to automatically identify siblings with different surnames. If your children have different surnames, please inform the school office so we can ensure a sibling photo is taken

Reminder: Please Send Coats to School

As the weather has turned colder, we kindly ask that all children bring a coat to school every day. Unfortunately, we are unable to deliver coats to classrooms once the school day has started. Please also consider whether your child needs a hat or gloves, and ensure these are brought in with them first thing in the morning.

Parent Lunches

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.

Lost Property

We are finding more and more unnamed clothing, waterbottles, snack pots and items of clothing. If an item is not named we cannot return it back to the child. Unnamed items will be donated to our preloved uniform bank or thrown away. Please name everything! If you need to purchase stickers for your childs belongings we recommend Stikins who donate a % back to our school. The website is https://www.stikins.co.uk/ The fundsraising code to enter is 10784

Help needed

We are looking for parents/carers to help wrap Christmas gifts for our grotto. This can be done in your own home at your conveneince. Please see Kate in the office if you can help.

School Menu

Our menu for the next half term can be viewed here - Katherine Semar Schools - Meal Menus

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 5 & 6 Hockey

Please be advised that from the start of November 2025 your child in Year 5&6 will be taught Hockey in their PE lessons. It is essential that they wear mouthguards and shin pads in all PE lessons to keep everyone safe.
We have supplied a few suggested links below to help with the purchase of the essential protective equipment required;

Opro mouthguard; Bronze Level Blue Mouthguard
Opro Adidas Mouthguard Bronze – Hockey Factory Shop
Snap fit (no moulding) OPRO Snap-Fit Mouthguard — Martin Berrill Sports

Shin pads; Brabo Shinguard F4 with Ankle Sock #Black/Orange – Hockey Factory Shop
Sondico | Ankle Shinguards | Shin Guards | SportsDirect.com

We will ask the children to keep their labelled mouthguards in school for the first term to reduce children losing or misplacing them. We will have a stock of "snap fit mouthguards" in school and available to buy via the Shop section. If children attend a PE lesson without a mouthguard, we will supply them with one and add a payment to your "School Money" account, so they will not miss a Hockey lesson. Playing Hockey at Katherine Semar allows us to utilise our amazing facilities.
Many thanks in advance for your support

PE TIMETABLE

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

Autumn Term – second half	PE	Swimming	Forest School
EARLY YEARS	Tuesday & Friday	n/a	n/a
YEAR 1	Tuesday	Wednesday	n/a
YEAR 2	Wednesday & Friday	n/a	n/a
YEAR 3	Monday	n/a	Flame Robin – 4/11 November Grey Falcon – 18/25 November
YEAR 4	Monday & Tuesday	n/a	n/a
YEAR 5	Thursday	Monday	n/a
YEAR 6	Wednesday & Friday	Monday	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 5/6 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.

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.

FUNDRAISING

Christmas at KSS

✨ **Christmas Packages**

We're offering **three magical Christmas packages** as part of our fundraising efforts. Each child can choose one — but we need to know their selection **in advance** so our elves have time to prepare everything perfectly!

Please select which package you would like for your child by the end of October half term (Friday 31st October). You can pay a deposit now and the rest nearer the time, but we do need to know which package you would like for your child.

The Junior Christmas Movie will be Arthur Christmas & the Infant Movie will be Snow Dog. The Junior festive photo shoot will be a festive class photo (all children will feature in the photo even if they have not purchased the silver or gold package. Please let the office know by 31st October if you do not wish for your child to be in the photo).

Please purchase or part-pay (by amending the amount highlighted in green) for your choice by 31st October on SchoolMoney.

All money raised from these festive events will go towards enhancing the additional provision available for your children.

Christmas Cards

Due to the positive feedback received last year we have once again arranged the opportunity for your child(ren) to design their own Christmas design and have it professionally reproduced as Christmas Card/Boxed Mugs/Wrapping Paper or Gift Tags. These make wonderful gifts for family members! Obviously this in entirely optional!

Your child will bring home an A3 sheet of paper this week, one side is an order form and the other side has a blank space for your child's design.

If you wish to participate you need to:

1. Using the A3 sheet of paper that your child brings home from school you need to create a design with your child (attached PDF may give you some suggestions).
2. Decide what you would like to order and complete the application form (on the back of the design).
3. Make payment directly to the printing company using the details on the order form. Use the unique reference when you make your online payment.
4. Return the A3 sheet of paper to the school office by **Friday 8th November** and we will send this off for you. If an order is not paid for by Friday 8th November it will not be printed.
5. Your order will be delivered to school by the end of November.

Children who attend Art Club at school will design a card as part of their sessions. The School receive a commission for any orders placed- so it's a lovely way to support the school. Please see the office if you have any questions. We have also attached an idea sheet with some designs if you need a little inspiration.

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.

Wishing you all a lovely half term.

Kind regards

Julie Puxley
Executive Headteacher