



## Menu (w/c 17 Nov)

### Week 3

#### Monday 17th November

Year 5/6 Swim

#### Tuesday 18th November

Grey Falcon Forest  
School

#### Wednesday 19th November

Year 1 Swimming

#### Friday 21st November

**Non Uniform Day** – children may come to school in home clothes. If your child has any PE/Sports Clubs or Squads to day please ensure they are either wearing clothing suitable for sport OR they bring PE kit to change into.

Deadline to order  
Festive lunches

#### SUNDAY 16th NOVEMBER – 7pm

Bookings open in the shop section of SchoolMoney to order tickets for the Christmas Performances. No more than 2 tickets per child to be booked.

Dear Parents/Carers

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

A big thank you to Lyla in Early Years who won the Guy Fawkes competition at the Saffron Walden Fireworks Display. The Saffron Walden Round Table have given Lyla £250 to donate to the school or charity of her choice – and Lyla chose to donate to us! A very big well done and thank you to Lyla!

Another big thank you to Audley End House and Gardens—especially the Kitchen Garden team—for generously supplying us with apples and pears for our autumn fruit crumble.

We love working with locally sourced produce, and it's a real privilege to use fresh ingredients grown right here in our community. With food prices continuing to rise, receiving donations like these makes a huge difference to our budget and helps us to keep delivering great meals. Please see the photos on the next page!

Our Y3 had a lovely afternoon at Forest School this week – a big thank you to the parent helpers who came along!



#### **Festive to do tasks for this week:**

- 1) If you haven't already done so, please complete the order form to order a festive lunch/party lunch.

#### [Christmas Lunch & Christmas Party lunch Order Form – Fill out form](#)

**This form needs to be completed for every child by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November– even if they are having a packed lunch.**

- 2) Book your tickets for the Christmas Performances – tickets go on sale on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm** (Shop section of SchoolMoney. PLEASE read the accompanying letter before booking your ticket.



#### **Online E-Safety Newsletter**

Today we have sent out our monthly online safety newsletter. This month's edition includes information on CapCut, a video editing app which is growing in popularity with children. There is also some guidance for parents on the use of parental School Whatsapp groups, information about Age Ratings of popular social media and gaming apps and some information on the term 'online roasting' – a form of cyberbullying. Just a reminder that this website <https://esafetytraining.org/> is a great site for signposting you to other great sites for all sorts of areas related to online safety.



### Applications opening for Early Years/Year 3 school places

If you have a younger child due to start Early Years with us in September 2026 you must make the application to Essex County Council between 10<sup>th</sup> November & 15<sup>th</sup> January. The link is below.

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/primary-school-places>

Children in Year 2 need to apply for their place in the Junior School – this MUST be done or your child will not have a place with us in the Junior School in September. <https://www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/junior-year-3-school-places>

### Pokemon/Trading Cards

We kindly ask that Pokémon cards and other trading cards stay at home, as they can sometimes lead to upset among friends at school

### 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](mailto: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

### Reading Mornings – for all infant year groups from Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November

Each Friday, parents and carers are welcome to come into their infant 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 cannot 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.

## 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.





## 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	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.

### 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

## 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

### Festive Requests

If you own a business or work for a company that might be able to donate a prize for our upcoming raffle, we'd be incredibly grateful for your support! We also could use any empty hampers or nice boxes for our hampers. Any items or vouchers can be dropped into the office.

As always, we also welcome at this time of year any donations of Christmas Crackers – if you have any left over from last year that you won't be using, we can make very good use of them during our school Christmas lunches. We also need paper plates and festive napkins – so again, if you have any spare, please drop them to the office – there will be a box in the door-way. We can also use bottles of mulled wine if you have any that you won't be drinking! (to sell to parents at the junior carol service).

**Thank you for helping to make Christmas so special at Katherine Semar.**

### Help needed

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

### Pre loved Uniform

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

Kind regards

Julie Puxley

Executive Headteacher



