



Dear Parents/Carers

Menu (w/c 24Nov)

Week 1

**Monday 24th
November**

Year 5/6 Swim

**Tuesday 25th
November**

Grey Falcon Forest
School

**Wednesday 26^h
November**

Year 1 Swimming

Friday 28th November

Pre-loved uniform sale
after school



Thank you to those who brought Doughnuts last week for Children in Need. We raised an impressive £357.55

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.

This week in school:

Katherine Semar attended 2 Dodgeball Tournaments in recent weeks for Year 3&4 and Year 5&6 at Lord Butler. We went with 6 teams (48 children), they dodged, caught, and attacked with high energy and determination. The outcome: We came joint 2nd in both tournaments so 4 out of 6 teams have qualified for the Finals at the beginning of December. The squads continue to work hard on their tactics and are excited to compete at a higher level and hoping to bring home Gold!



Festive to do tasks for this week:

Sit back and relax! You should have already booked your tickets to see your child(s) Christmas performances and let us know whether your child(ren) will have a Christmas/Party lunch.

The only thing we need is donations of any bottles of Mulled Wine, Christmas Crackers, paper plates or festive napkins. If you have any you will not use we will gladly take them off your hands – there is a box in the office to drop any donations into!

You can also return any raffle ticket stubbs to the office! Please see th attachment in this email.

Thank You for Your Support

We're delighted to share that punctuality has improved across the school, especially for collection at the end of the school day - thank you for helping make this happen!

We have noticed, however, that on cold and frosty mornings there's often a surge in lateness. While this may be due to extra traffic or needing time to defrost your car, we kindly ask that you try to leave a little earlier on those days to help keep everything running smoothly. Please do remember as the weather turns colder to make sure your child has their warm coat, hat and gloves in school every day.

A big thank you also to parents for only dropping off essential items. Not only are classes being disrupted less, but the children are learning one of our core values: **resilience**. They're discovering that they can manage for one day without non-essential items, which is an important life skill.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us create a calm, organised, and positive environment for all our children.

Upcoming Christmas Movie Night (for those who booked the silver or gold packages)

This movie night takes place straight after school on **Thursday 4th December**. Children will be able to enjoy a Christmas movie. There will be hot chocolate and some festive treats. If your child has a food allergy and is coming to the movie night, we will contact you to discuss suitable treats for them. The infant finishes at 4.45pm & the Juniors at 5pm. Please collect from the classroom doors.



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.



INFANT SCHOOL

Reading Mornings – for all infant year groups from Friday 21st 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.

Applications for Year 3 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>

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.

Smartphone Free Childhood

With Christmas presents looming on the horizon, we just wanted to remind families of our smartphone policy that children in Year 4 and below will not be allowed smartphones in school when they reach Year 5.

We invite parents to visit the Smartphone-Free Childhood website for more information, ideas on alternatives to smartphones, or to join the SFC mailing list or a local / regional WhatsApp group. <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>



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

REGULAR 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. 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



