

Dear Parents/Carers

**This week in School:**

This week has been full of festive cheer! On Wednesday our Junior School enjoyed their delicious Christmas lunch. On Thursday we had our festive movie night and this morning was the first of our Christmas performances in the Junior School.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Gundega and all our catering team for providing us with the most wonderful Christmas lunch. We are so fortunate to have such a talented catering team.



**Online e-safety**

Today we have sent out our monthly online safety newsletter. This month's edition includes links to parental control settings for games consoles (Nintendo Switch, PS5 and Xbox) and smartphones (iphones/ipads and android phones). There is also some advice on the risks and how to protect your children if they are using AI Chatbot and companion apps. You will also find detailed guidance on Roblox and Discord. 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



**Just a reminder to parents to please not film or take photographs during the school plays.**

We will be filming a performance, and the link will be made available to you before Christmas. We will also take photographs after the performance.

Please let your children perform to your smiling faces rather than a sea of mobile phones.

**Performances will start promptly at the time stated – please arrive early as late comers will not be permitted.**

**Menu (w/c 8 Dec.)**

Week 3

**Monday 8th December**

Year 5/6 Swim – No Orangutans Swim today – Jaguars big swim.

5pm Shepherds Production

**Tuesday 9th December**

9am Angels Production

5pm Shepherds Production

**Wednesday 10th December**

9am – Team Holly Production

2.15pm Team Ivy Production

5pm Angels Production

**Thursday 11th December**

9am Team Ivy Production

2.15pm – Team Holly Production

5pm Angels Production

**Friday 12th December**

Christmas Pantomimes in both schools & Party lunch. Children may wear a Christmas Jumper to school today (with their school trousers or skirt).

**Please ensure your child wears their jumper into school as we are unable to drop any round later in the morning.**



### Magazines needed

After Christmas year 2 will be creating artwork inspired by the Great Fire of London. For this we will cut up magazines to create collages. Please could you keep any magazines that you no longer want to bring in for us in the first week following the Christmas break. Thank you in advance.

### Metronome:

Mrs Savill is very grateful for the metronome that was donated recently. However, she does not know who donated this, so please accept apologies for the lack of personal thanks! It will be very useful for demonstrating tempo and teaching whole class instruments. Thank you.

### Data Collection forms

We have recently moved to a new school data management system, and while most information has been transferred successfully, some details may not have carried over correctly.

Today, your child will bring home a data collection sheet showing the contact information we currently hold. Please review this carefully and confirm that all details are accurate. If you notice any errors or need to make changes, update the sheet and return it to the school office as soon as possible. Your help ensures we have the correct information to keep you informed and contact you when needed. Thank you for your cooperation.

### 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.

### Parking at Golden Acre

Golden Acre Community Centre kindly opens its gates at drop-off and pick-up times to allow parents to park. However, during the day the centre hosts several lettings, and the car park must remain available for those hiring the hall.

**Please do not park at Golden Acre if you are attending one of the Christmas performances**, as the spaces are needed for hall users. If this arrangement is abused, Golden Acre may no longer allow us to use their car park at drop-off and pick-up times.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

## INFANT SCHOOL

### 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 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](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



