

## Katherine Semar Infant & Junior Schools

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www.katherinesemar.essex.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Julie Puxley



**11<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

Dear Parents,

We only have one new squad at the start of next term, gymnastics, and Mr Gilkes will be holding trials for this next week. All other squads that are continuing will be for the current squad members, so no trials are necessary. The squads that are continuing are because of upcoming events in the spring or summer term.

Squads that are continuing are Netball, Indoor Athletics, Cross Country, Archery, Tag Rugby (Yr 3 & 4), Hockey (Yr 5 & 6) and Swim Gala. Please see full details below of when these squads will be running and the cost for the spring term.

Please note that if your child has special educational needs and wishes to attend the gymnastic trials, you must email the school office by latest this Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> December, informing us that your child wishes to attend so we can discuss this with Mrs Moy and make appropriate plans to support your child at the trial if needed. **Children with an EHCP who have not been in contact with the school prior to the trial will be turned away as support will not have been arranged for your child.**

Gymnastic squad trials are being held before we break up for Christmas.

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 8.15am - Year 5 and 6 Gymnastic trials

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 8.15am – Year 3 and 4 Gymnastic trials

Selections will be made from these trials and emails will be sent home before we come back in January.

**Please note: the actual squad sessions will run after school on Monday and Tuesday (see details below)**

Most squads will start as soon as we come back in January, but details of start dates are detailed next to each individual squad.

Children need to attend squads dressed appropriately in PE kit and will remain in their PE kit all day. Please meet our sports coaches at the old junior entrance door.

**IMPORTANT: Please note that for hockey squad sessions and league matches your child will require shin pads and a gum shield. For safety reasons, they will not be able to take part in squad sessions without these.**

**Squads in black will run for the whole of the spring term. Squads in blue will run for a half term.**

**Mr Gilkes and Mrs Eagleton's squads start at 8.15am, Mrs Ellis starts her netball squads at 8.10am**

Please see below full list of squads

**Monday after school Year 5 & 6 Gymnastic squad** – This squad is run by Mr Gilkes starting on the 12<sup>th</sup> January.

Cost will be £12 for the term. This squad will run for the whole spring term and children in this squad will perform at the Gym and Dance festival at 4.15pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March. **Please ensure your child can attend this event before you accept their place in this squad.**

**Tuesday before school Netball beginner squad** – This squad is run by Mrs Ellis for the whole of the spring term starting on the 6<sup>th</sup> January. Cost will be £12 for the term.



**Tuesday after school Year 3 & 4 Gymnastic squad** – This squad is run by Mr Gilkes starting on the 6<sup>th</sup> January. Cost will be £12 for the term. This squad will run for the whole spring term and children in this squad will perform at the Gym and Dance festival at 4.15pm on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March. **Please ensure your child can attend this event before you accept their place in this squad.**

**Wednesday before school Year 3 & 4 Indoor Athletic squad** – This squad is run by Mr Gilkes starting on the 7<sup>th</sup> January. This squad will run for just the first half term. Cost will be £6 for the half term.

**Wednesday before school Netball Advanced squad** – This squad is run by Mrs Ellis for the whole of the spring term starting on the 7<sup>th</sup> January. Cost will be £12 for the term.

**Wednesday afternoon Year 3 to 6 swim gala squad** – This squad is run by Mrs Ellis for the whole of the spring term starting on the 7<sup>th</sup> January. Further details of this particular squad will be sent out to those in the swim gala team. Cost will be £20 for the term.

**Thursday before school Year 5 & 6 Indoor Athletic squad** – This squad is run by Mr Gilkes starting on the 8<sup>th</sup> January. This squad will run for just the first half term. Cost will be £6 for the half term.

**Thursday before school Year 3 & 4 Tag Rugby squad** – This squad is run by Mrs Eagleton for just the first half of the spring term starting on the 8<sup>th</sup> January. Cost will be £6 for the half term.

**Friday before school Year 3 to 6 Cross Country squad** – This squad is run by Mr Gilkes for just the first half of the spring term starting on the 9<sup>th</sup> January. Cost will be £6 for the half term.

**Friday before school Netball Intermediate squad** – This squad is run by Mrs Ellis for the whole of the spring term starting on the 9<sup>th</sup> January. Cost will be £12 for the term.

**Friday before school Year 5 & 6 Archery squad** – This squad is run by Mrs Eagleton for just the first half of the spring term starting on the 9<sup>th</sup> January. Cost will be £6 for the half term.

**Friday lunchtime Year 3 & 4 Archery squad** – This squad is run by Mrs Eagleton for just the first half of the spring term starting on the 9<sup>th</sup> January. Cost will be £6 for the half term.

**Friday after school Hockey squad starting on the 9<sup>th</sup> January with Mrs Eagleton** – Exciting news! Katherine Semar have once again joined the Year 5/6 Schools Hockey league which starts in January, players who are currently in the Year 5 & 6 Hockey Squad will have an opportunity to play at Joyce Frankland Academy.

Matches will go from January up until Easter starting at 3.45pm and finishing at approximately 4.20pm. Parents are welcome to come and watch and support.

On the weeks there are no fixtures, training will continue at Katherine Semar from 3.15 to 4.15pm. The cost for this per player is £20, this includes transportation both ways by school minibus, league entry and the afterschool squad.

This is a great opportunity for children to play competitive hockey and develop their skills.

#### Payment for squads

The charge for the Spring term is noted next to each squad.

Please remember this is not per session it is a cost per squad for the term. Whilst we will try our utmost not to cancel squads, there will be occasions where this is unavoidable due to illness, weather or events. We anticipate that your child will get a minimum of 7 sessions during a full-term squad and 4 sessions during a half term squad and the cost has been worked out on this basis.

Katherine Semar Schools are committed to ensuring that all students are able to access squads and clubs.

If your child is in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant, then the fee for all squads will be automatically paid out of the school budget and you do not need to make the payments unless you wish to do so voluntarily.

If your child is selected for a squad, they will be unable to take part if the payment has not been made. This will be available to pay on School Money once selections have been made.



## Squad trials after February half term

### **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February before school Year 3 & 4 Cricket squad trial.**

This trial and squad is run by Mr Gilkes and will run for the second half of the spring term and all of the summer term. Cost for a term and a half will be £18.

### **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February before school Year 5 & 6 Cricket squad trial.**

This trial and squad is run by Mr Gilkes and will run for the second half of the spring term and all of the summer term. Cost for a term and a half will be £18.

### **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February before school Year 3 & 4 Tennis squad trial.**

This trial and squad is run by Mrs Eagleton and will run for the second half of the spring term and all of the summer term. Cost for a term and a half will be £18.

### **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February before school Year 5 & 6 Tennis squad trial.**

This trial and squad is run by Mrs Eagleton and will run for the second half of the spring term and all of the summer term. Cost for a term and a half will be £18.

### **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February before school Year 3 & 4 Athletic squad trial.**

This trial and squad is run by Mr Gilkes and will run for the second half of the spring term and all of the summer term. Cost for a term and a half will be £18.

Please note that if your child has special educational needs and wishes to attend any of the above trials, you must email the school office by latest the Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 informing us which trials your child would like to attend. This will then be discussed with Mrs Moy so we can make appropriate plans to support your child at the trial if needed. **Children with an EHCP who have not been in contact with the school prior to the trial will be turned away as support will not have been arranged for your child.**

Yours sincerely,  
Julie Puxley  
Headteacher

Tyler Gilkes  
PE leader