



Dear Parents/Carers



### This week in School:

There is something magical about this time of year in school. It's no coincidence that this week marks the halfway point of the academic year. Teachers know their children well, routines are firmly in place, and this is when learning really takes off. Suddenly, it's lightbulb moment after lightbulb moment.

This week, we have enjoyed wonderful class assemblies from our Year 4 children, as well as our Year 5 Maths workshops, which were very well attended by parents.

### Parent Consultations

Parent consultations will take place on **Monday and Wednesday next week**. A reminder of your appointment time will be sent on Monday morning.

- **Infant School:** Please go to the **Infant Hall** via the **Infant School entrance**.
- **Junior School:** Please enter through the **Junior Hall doors** (not the old entrance).

#### ✦ On Arrival:

- Sign in with a member of staff.
- View your child's work before your **10-minute** appointment. **Please respect the time limit of a 10-minute discussion with the teacher.**

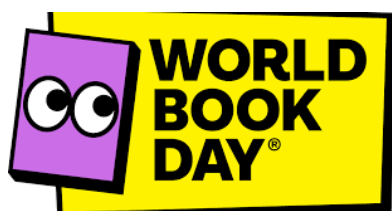
#### 😊 Child Supervision:

- A **creche** (run by school staff) will be available in the **Infant Hall only while you are meeting the teacher**.
- A **tv programme** will be shown in the **Junior Hall** for older children who do not need much supervision.
- **Please supervise your children** while looking at books and waiting for your appointment.

#### 🚫 Club Cancellations:

- **No Sports, Arts or Knitting clubs** will run on these days.
- **Mrs. Gardiner's clubs** will still run.
- Early Years magic markers club will not run

⚠️ **Due to space restrictions, please leave after viewing books and meeting the teacher.**



### Thursday 5th March 2026

2026 is The National Year of Reading, with a focus on Reading for Pleasure. This is in response to the steep decline which has been seen in children choosing to read for enjoyment.

With this in mind, we want our World Book Day to focus on Reading for Pleasure

Our theme this year is: **The Ultimate Character Champion Battle**

Children are invited to come **dressed as their favourite book character** (and bring in the book) – ready to do battle! In addition, the day will be peppered with buddy reading, mystery readers and the very popular, masked reader!

We will also be revealing some of the wildest reading places the children have read so do take part in our extreme reading challenge - you might even win a prize! Attached is more information.

## Menu (w/c 9 Feb)

Week 3

### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February

Year 3/6 Swim

3.30pm Parent Consultations

### Wed 11<sup>th</sup> February

Year 2 Swim

3.30pm Parent Consultations

### Thu 12<sup>th</sup> February

9.00 – 9.20am Arctic Wolf Class assembly

### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

9.00am – Fundraising meeting

9.00-9.20am Polar Bear Class Assembly

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.**



### Update from Smartphone Free Childhood

You might have seen in the news this week that the government made its most significant announcement yet on smartphones, social media and children. They announced:

1. A national consultation on children's use of technology

Over the coming months, the government will consult on big questions about social media age limits, addictive design features, and how children are protected online. Critically, they'll explore the details of how social media age limits could work and will visit Australia to learn from their approach.

2. A requirement for schools to be smartphone-free

This is more concrete. The government has taken a much stronger position on smartphone bans in schools, backed by clearer guidance and enforcement, with Ofsted checking schools' mobile phone poli- and how effectively they are implemented at every inspection.

For the first time, the national conversation is no longer about whether there's a problem with smartphones, social media and children; the conversation is about what the best solution is – which is a huge step forward.

Earlier this month The Amazing Generation by Jonathan Haidt and Catherine Price was published. This is a great read for 9-12 year olds on the topic of having a smartphone free childhood.

### Free course on zones of regulation

As a school we use zones of regulation to help our children understand their emotions and behaviour. We would highly recommend parents to join this free two-session online course on Zones of Regulation and learn practical strategies to support emotional wellbeing. Use the same techniques at home and school to help your family thrive.

<https://courses.aclessex.com/CourseDetailsView.asp?CODE=HO4A46OL25&NAME=Zones+of+Regulation&ID1=9000&ID2=300596&ID3=1>

## INFANT SCHOOL

### Class Assemblies

Year 2 class assemblies will be taking place next week, and parents/carers of children in these classes are warmly invited to attend. Each assembly will last no longer than 20 minutes. Parents are welcome to bring pre-schoolers or babies; however, please note that buggies and prams must be left in the foyer before entering the hall.

## JUNIOR SCHOOL

### School Meal Price Update

Due to the continued rise in food costs, we will unfortunately need to increase the price of school lunches to £2.70 per day from February half term. Our school kitchen is currently operating at a deficit, and although we have worked hard to avoid passing on these increases, we are not willing to compromise on the quality, freshness, or nutritional value of the meals we provide. We remain committed to offering children healthy, well-balanced dishes each day and appreciate your understanding and support. We would like to understand why your child may not always choose school dinners and kindly ask that you complete this survey - [School lunches survey – Fill out form](#)

Please don't forget parents are welcome to come and join us for a school lunch (£6 per adult) – just contact the office to book in! We would love you to see how amazing our meals are!

### Squads and Wet weather

Just a reminder that if it is raining on a morning the following clubs/squads will be cancelled (as we do not have an indoor space available)

**Monday** – Year 3/4 Football Club

**Tuesday** – Netball Squad

**Wednesday** – Netball Squad

**Thursday** – Tag Rugby Y3/4 (first half) and Tennis Squad Y3/4 (second half)

**Friday** – Cross County (1<sup>st</sup> half), Athletic Squad Y3/4 (second half) & Netball Squad





## REMINDERS

### PE Timetable

Please find below the timetable for PE for the first half of the **spring term**.

Spring Term – First Half	PE	Swimming	Forest School
EARLY YEARS	Tuesday & Friday	n/a	n/a
YEAR 1	Tuesday & Wednesday	n/a	n/a
YEAR 2	Friday	Wednesday	n/a
YEAR 3	Thursday	Monday	n/a
YEAR 4	Monday & Tuesday	n/a	n/a
YEAR 5	Monday	n/a	n/a
YEAR 6	Wednesday	Monday	n/a

- Children should come to school wearing their PE kit on their PE days.
- Year 2 children should also wear their PE kit to school with their swimming costume on underneath on swimming days.
- Year 3/6 children should wear their school uniform on Swimming days and bring their swimwear to change into at the pool.
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### 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.

## FUNDRAISING

### Plea for help – rescheduled date for meeting

As school budgets get tighter each year it is vitally important that we raise some additional funds from fundraising events or projects. Our school's success and ability to provide enriching experiences for our children heavily depend on the collaborative efforts of our dedicated parent community. We believe that with your creativity, enthusiasm, and organizational skills, we can orchestrate successful fundraising initiatives that will greatly benefit our school. In an ideal world we would have an active fundraising team with a committee that meets with staff members on a regular basis to help plan and run events. If this is not possible (and we know how busy parents are) then we would welcome parents volunteering to run one off events.

***We will be holding a coffee morning on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 9.00am where we would love to chat to anyone who might have ideas or be interested in running an event. If you are able to attend please just come to the main office after drop off – younger siblings are of course welcome!***

We know this time isn't ideal for everyone – so we will hold an evening meeting if there is enough interest. Please contact the office ([admin-inf@katherinesemar.net](mailto:admin-inf@katherinesemar.net)) if you would be interested in attending an evening meeting.

### Pre Loved Uniform

Should you ever need contact any preloved uniform please contact [preloved@katherinesemar.net](mailto:preloved@katherinesemar.net). Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Julie Puxley  
Executive Headteacher

