



Menu (w/c 23 Feb)

Week 1

Monday 23rd February

Year 4/5 Swim

Tuesday 24th February

Year 2 at Saffron Hall
for Yolanda's Band Jam

Wed 25th February

Year 1 Swim

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.

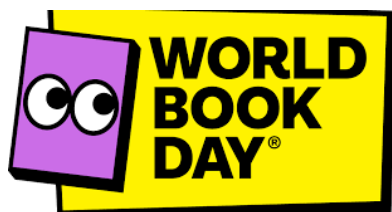
Dear Parents/Carers



This week in School:

Year 2 delivered two fantastic *Great Fire of London* class assemblies this week. They confidently shared facts, acted out key moments from 1666, and impressed everyone with their enthusiasm and teamwork. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and the wonderful performances they created!

Wishing all our families a lovely and restful half-term break. We hope you enjoy some well-deserved time together and return feeling refreshed. A reminder that school will reopen on **Monday 23rd February**, and we look forward to welcoming the children back ready for an exciting new half-term.



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.

School Lunch Survey

We would like to understand your thoughts on school lunches 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!

Parenting course

We are often approached by parents looking for extra support for themselves and their families. That's why we're delighted to recommend free Parenting Courses offered by Family Learning – ACL Essex.

These courses cover a wide range of helpful topics—from managing children's emotions to first aid, fussy eating, and more. They're designed to give parents practical strategies, confidence, and a supportive space to learn.

It's easy to get started: simply visit their website and sign up for any course that suits your family's needs.

[Family Learning - ACL Essex](#)



Opportunity in Saffron Academy Trust

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join Saffron Academy Trust as Chief Finance Officer. If you would like to find out more about this role, please visit the Trust's website via this link: <https://www.saffron.academy/blog/?pid=1039&nid=7&storyid=13>

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Squad trials after February half term (

Wednesday 25th 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 26th 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 26th February before school Year 3 & 4 Tennis squad trial.

This trial and squad is run by Mrs Egleton 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 27th February before school Year 5 & 6 Tennis squad trial.

This trial and squad is run by Mrs Egleton 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 27th 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.

Easter Orchestra Courses

Saffron Walden Children's Orchestra (SWCO) runs holiday courses for children, aged 7 and above, who play an orchestral instrument of a standard between grade 1-5. The Saffron Walden Children's Orchestra is a training orchestra for young musicians living in and around Uttlesford.

The Easter course 7-8th April, is 2 days long, 9.30am-3.30pm taking place at the Saffron Walden County High School. The course will be 2 whole days of orchestral playing with supervised lunch and playtime. The cost is £80 per child, with a second sibling discount of 50%, and financial assistance is available to those eligible for free school meals. SWCO is supported by the Saffron Walden Symphony Orchestra.

The aim is to provide a quality orchestral experience for children who are proficient on their instrument grade 1 - 5. It is an ideal place to play a range of music, meet new friends and have fun. Children come from a variety of schools, and everyone is most welcome. Visiting tutors give expert advice and support. Richard Hull is our conductor, and the final concert will take place in Saffron Hall at the end of the course. Our repertoire is varied, ranging from Pirates of the Caribbean to Beethoven's 5th.

For further information please contact Pippa Hopewell (course administrator) on swco.bookings@gmail.com or visit our web site www.saffronsymphony.org/childrens-orchestra and take a look at the gallery of recent courses.

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 – Tennis Squad Y3/4

Friday – Tennis Y5/6 & Netball Squad





REMINDERS

PE Timetable

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

Spring 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 & Thursday	n/a	n/a
YEAR 4	Tuesday	Monday	n/a
YEAR 5	Thursday	Monday	Orangutans – Tuesday 3 rd March Jaguars – Tuesday 17 th March
YEAR 6	Wednesday & Friday	n/a	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 4/5 children should wear their school uniform on Swimming days and bring their swimwear to change into at the pool.

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

Half Term Fundraising Event

Today your child will be bringing home a matchbox as they are invited to take part in our half-term fundraiser. Please see the attached document for more information and for the sponsorship sheet. We hope this activity will provide some fun and help keep the children busy during what looks likely to be a wet half-term!

Pre Loved Uniform

Should you ever need contact any preloved uniform please contact preloved@katherinesemar.net. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Julie Puxley

Executive Headteacher

