

Friday 4th SeptemberMenu (w/c 7th
Sep)

Week 2

Monday 7th September

Year 3 & 4 Swim

Tuesday 8th September

Y6 History off the page

Wednesday 9th
September

Skylarks Forest School

Year 2 Swim

Just a reminder squads
begin at 8.15am.
Please be punctual.
We cannot admit
children who arrive
late.
You will need to stay
with your child until
school starts if you
arrive late.

Dear Parents,

A big welcome back to you all! It was wonderful to see all the children happy to be back in school and we have loved hearing about all their summer adventures. We are so proud of our Early Years children who have settled so well already, and it is lovely to see their smiley faces as they enter the classrooms. We had a lovely assembly this week where we sorted the new Y3 children into houses using our sorting hat and had our house captain election – what a great way to end the week! Well done everyone for a successful start – it has been so lovely to all be back together.



PE Timetable

Please find below the timetable for PE for the first half of the autumn term:

Autumn Term – first half	PE	Swimming	Forest School
EARLY YEARS	Tuesday & Thursday	n/a	n/a
YEAR 1	Tuesday	n/a	Skylarks – 9/16/23 September Red Squirrels – 30 Sep/7/14 Oct
YEAR 2	Friday	Wednesday	n/a
YEAR 3	Thursday	Monday	n/a
YEAR 4	Tuesday	Monday	n/a
YEAR 5	Monday & Thursday* (changed from original email)	n/a	n/a
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 3/4 children should wear their school uniform on Swimming days and bring their swimwear to change into at the pool.

Absence & sickness

There is no entitlement for absence during term-time. Any time off school for holidays/days out etc is likely to be unauthorised and Essex County Council could issue a penalty notice. If your child is going to be absent from school, you must complete a leave of absence form in advance. These are found on our website or available from the school office. You may wish to read our policy on attendance.

<https://www.katherinesemar.co.uk/page/?title=Attendance&pid=115> If your child is absent from school for illness you should call on 01799 521720. The school office is open from 8.15am.

Term Dates

Attached is the link to our term dates for the next academic year. It is so important that children do not miss the first day back of school each September as it is vital to help them settle in and learn the new routines. If booking a holiday for next summer, please do make sure the children don't miss the start of term. [Katherine Semar Schools - Term Dates](#)

Parent & Visitor Code of Conduct

At the start of term, we like to remind our families of our parent & visitor code of conduct, it can be read here - [Katherine Semar Schools - Parent and Visitor Code of Conduct](#)



School Lunches

The cost of a junior school dinner is £2.70 per day for children in the Junior school unless you are eligible for free school meals. (All infant children receive a government funded free school meal). The food is freshly prepared onsite daily and provides a well-balanced and tasty lunch option. Most children do have school lunches in the Junior school. Please could Junior parents ensure lunches are paid for in advance. The menu can be found here on our website <https://www.katherinesemar.co.uk/page/?title=Meal+menus&pid=39>

We do offer the option for parents to come in and have lunch with their child. It's a wonderful opportunity for parents to see how delicious school lunches are. This will be available for parents with children in the Junior School from 14th September. To book please call or email the office advising which day you would like to come and which meal option you would like (yellow or green). Once we have confirmed availability for your chosen day, we will add the cost to your SchoolMoney account. (The cost is £6 for a 2-course meal). **We will offer this for parents with children in the infant school in a few weeks once all the children are settled and used to the routine. We will pop a note on here when we are ready to take bookings for infants.** The lunch starts at 11.55am for infants & 12.05 for Juniors. Just a polite reminder that mobile phones should not be used whilst in the dinner hall and once you & your child have finished eating your child will go out to play with their friends – parents are unable to join them in the playground.

Earrings

Just a reminder that if children do wear earrings to school, they must be small studs. Children must be able to remove them independently for swimming and PE lessons. – they cannot be taped. The school will not take responsibility for lost earrings. We are unable to call parents to ask them to remove earrings.

SchoolMoney

A few helpful tips are listed below:

- If you have more than one child, you can view others by clicking on the arrow next to the name of the child you do see.
- Card details cannot be stored but Apple & Google pay should be an option.
- All payments can be viewed under the "payments" section. We do not use the "club" section – this is for schools that offer a drop-in facility.
- The date you see next to a payment item is the date a payment is due by – not the date of the event/club.
- In Juniors you can see what lunches you have been charged for by looking in "History/Dinner History on the app. Please note we only add lunches to the app 3 times per week so there may be in delay in seeing charges.
- Any items purchased in the shop selection by 5pm on a Thursday (Water bottles/badges etc) will be distributed on a Friday. We do not give out shop items at other times. The items will be taken to your child's classroom. Those with children in Juniors should only purchase a house point badge when you have been advised that your child has achieved the number of points for the badge – we will check this with the teacher before giving out a badge. Lost house badges (red/blue/green and yellow) can also be purchased if required.

Medicines in School

If your child is prescribed any medication that needs to be taken in school you must bring the medicine into the school office and complete a medical consent form. We are only able to administer medication that has been prescribed by your GP.

If you think your child may need Calpol during the school day you need to come to school to administer this. Please do not put medicine in your child's schoolbag.

Online E-safety newsletter

Today we have sent out our monthly online safety newsletter. This month's edition included information about new guidance issued due to concerns of AI-manipulated images, safety information about YouTube and more. 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.

INFANT SCHOOL

Reading Mornings in the infant school

Last school year parents and carers were welcomed into school each week to share a reading book with their child in the classroom. We are happy to announce that from 11th September this will start for children in Year 1 & 2. **Each Friday**, parents and carers are welcome to come into their 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 are not able to 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.

Staff will be on hand to read with any children whose parents are unable to attend a session from 8.40am.

Reading mornings for children in Early Years will start in a few weeks when all the children are settled.





Play Equipment

Just a polite reminder that the play equipment in Early Years and in the infant playground should not be used when dropping off or collecting your children. The musical maze is available should the children wish to play after school. Please supervise your children in this area. Thank you for your cooperation.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Wet Weather & Squads

If it is raining the following squad & clubs will not run:

- Monday – Football Y5/6
- Tuesday – Netball squad & Y3/4 Hockey OR Y5/6 Tag Rugby
- Wednesday – Netball squad & Tag Rugby Squad (after school)
- Thursday – Football Y3/4 & Y3/4 Archery Squad (after school)
- Friday – Cross Country Squad, Netball squad & Y5/6 Hockey club.

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.

Year 6 Secondary Applications & Open Evenings

If your child is in year 6, you can apply for a secondary school (year 7) place between 12 September 2026 and 31 October 2026. You **MUST NOT** miss the application deadline! Here is the link to apply. [Secondary school places | Essex County Council](#)

Saffron Walden County High are holding their open evening on Thursday 1st October 2026 from 4:30pm - 7:30pm. You do not need to book to attend but do need to book for the Headteacher presentation – please see their website for more details. [Saffron Walden County High School - Open Evenings](#)

Joyce Frankland has not yet got information on their website relating to their open evening but this is the link to their website [About Us – Joyce Frankland Academy](#)

Please speak to the office if you need assistance in applying for your place.

FUNDRAISING

Summer Term Scootathon – Sunday 20th September

We are excited to announce that we will be hosting a Sponsored Ride this summer for families to attend and to raise money for the school. Please find attached the event poster. (This is the event that was postponed in the summer term).

This will take place on Sunday 20th September on a course set up around the school grounds.

Call for support:

One of our parents, Peter Scott, is the lead organiser and has asked for volunteers to help run the event on the day.

To make this happen and ensure this is run safely, Peter needs support from parents.

If you can spare an hour or two to help marshal the course or run the stands, any time you can give would be much appreciated.

Please contact Peter via text or WhatsApp on 07525987111. He will then get in touch to arrange times and roles with you. Thank you in advance

Pre-Loved Uniform

If you ever need any preloved uniform please contact preloved@katherinesemar.net. We will be holding a pre-loved sale after school outside the Junior School on Friday 11th September.

Please see on the next page the club/squad schedule. Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Julie Puxley

Executive Headteacher



SUPPORTING
CONNECTING
INFLUENCING





Clubs and Squads

Please see below information relating to start dates for squads (Juniors) and after school clubs. Clubs run until 4.15pm.
Squad acceptances will be sent as soon as possible.

SQUAD OR CLUB	DAY	Starts	NOTES:	Pick Up point
Football 5/6 Squad	Monday	Monday 14 th September	Trial is Monday 7 th	n/a
Dodgeball 3/4 Squad	Monday	Monday 14 th September	Trial is Monday 7 th	n/a
Gymnastics 5/6 Club (first half term)	Monday	Monday 7 th September	First half term only	Junior Hall Doors
Drama and Music Y1/2 club	Monday	Monday 7 th September		Main Office Entrance
Art & Craft Club Y3/4 (first half term)	Monday	Monday 7 th September	First half term only	Main Office Entrance
Indoor Athletics 5/6 Squad	Tuesday	Tuesday 15 th September	Trial is Tuesday 8 th Sep	n/a
Netball beginner group squad	Tuesday	Tuesday 22 nd September	Trial is Tuesday 15 th Sep (Y3-6 children not already in a netball squad)	n/a
Tag Rugby Squad Y5/6 (after school)	Tuesday	Tuesday 15 th September	Trial is Tue 8 th Sep after school	Junior Hall Doors
Hockey Club Y3/4	Tuesday	Tuesday 8 th September		Junior Hall Doors
Art Club Year 2	Tuesday	Tuesday 8 th September	First half term only	Main Office Entrance
Indoor Athletics 3/4 squad	Wednesday	Wednesday 9 th September	Trial is Wednesday 2 nd Sep	n/a
Netball Advanced squad	Wednesday	Wednesday 2 nd September	Current squad	n/a
Knitting & Crochet Club	Wednesday	Wednesday 9 th September	First half term only	Main Office Entrance
Gymnastics Club Y1/2	Wednesday	Wednesday 2 nd September		Junior Hall doors
Tag Rugby 3/4 Squad (AFTER SCHOOL)	Wednesday	Wednesday 9 th September	Trial is Wed 2 nd September.	Junior Hall Doors
Football 3/4 squad	Thursday	Thursday 10 th September	Trial is Thu 3 rd September	n/a
Dodgeball 5/6 squad	Thursday	Thursday 10 th September	Trial is Thu 3 rd September	n/a
Urban Cheer Y3-6 Lunchtime club	Thursday	Thursday 17 th September		n/a
Choir 4/5/6 (during school afternoon)	Thursday	Thursday 17 th September		n/a
Orchestra Y3-6 Club (invite only)	Thursday	Thursday 10 th September		Main Office Entrance
Football Y1/2 Club	Thursday	Thursday 3 rd September		Junior Hall Doors
Archery Squad Y3-4 (after school)	Thursday	Thursday 10 th September	Trial is Thursday 3 rd September	
Cross Country 3-6 squad	Friday	Friday 11 th September	Trial Friday 4 th September	n/a
Netball Intermediate squad	Friday	Friday 4 th September		n/a
Archery Y5/6 Squad	Friday	Friday 11 th September	Trial Fri 4 th September.	n/a
Hockey 5/6 Squad (after school)	Friday	Friday 11 th September	Trial is Friday 4 th September (after school).	Old Junior Entrance Door
Gymnastics 3/4 Club (first half only)	Friday	Friday 4 th September		Junior Hall Doors
Show Choir Y3 Club	Friday	Friday 4 th September	No club on Friday 18 th September	Main office Entrance