

Friday 18thMenu (w/c 21st
Sep)

Week 1

Monday 21st
September

Year 3 & 4 Swim

Wednesday 23rd
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,

**This week in school:**

Our Year 6 had the most incredible week at Norfolk Lakes. The children took part in such a huge range of activities such as kayaking, canoeing, archery, climbing and much more!

We were so proud of the children's resilience and confidence.

Our Early Years children have continued to settle into school, and we could not be prouder of how well they've settled in. They've loved meeting their buddies and sharing stories together.

School Lunches

We 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 of school lunches are. 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. Please also advise at the time of booking if you have any allergies.

Harvest FestivalEarly Years – Tuesday 13th October 9amYear 1 – Tuesday 13th October at 2.45pmYear 2 – Friday 16th October at 9am

Parents are welcome to attend the Harvest Festival Assembly for their child's year group. Pre-school children are also welcome, but we ask that any prams/pushchairs are left outside each school hall, due to space restrictions inside school. Assemblies last between 15-25 minutes.

As we usually do at this time of year, we are asking parents to donate food to our local Foodbank. We have asked for specific donations from each year group as the foodbank is supplying crates for each classroom as it reduces the number of volunteers needed. If you can donate from the appropriate year group that is great however anything is greatly appreciated. **Please could you bring items into your child's classroom on the morning of Friday 16th October (there will be crates in each classroom)**

Early Years	Cereal & Oats
Year 1	Tinned Vegetables & Tinned Fruit
Year 2	Tinned Rice Pudding & Custards
Year 3	Cooking and Pasta sauces
Year 4	Rice (including Microwave) and Noodles
Year 5	Fruit Squash and Long-life juice or UHT milk
Year 6	Toilet Rolls & Sanitary items such as toothpaste or deodorant

Vacancies at Katherine Semar

We are saying a fond farewell to Mrs Eagleton, who is leaving Katherine Semar to pursue an exciting new career in Youth Development with Cambridge United. We thank her for the enthusiasm, care and commitment she has shown throughout her time with us and wish her every happiness and success in her new role.

Mrs Eagleton has played many important roles within our school community, not only as our Sports Coach, but also as ACE Club Finance Manager and Office Administrator. Her dedication and hard work have made a significant impact, and she will be greatly missed by staff, pupils and families alike.

As a result, we currently have an Office vacancy and another Sports Coach position available. Please visit our website for more details: [Katherine Semar Schools - Vacancies](http://www.katherinesemar.co.uk)



Reception Deliveries – A Kind Reminder

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.

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.

Domestic abuse

[Step by Step | Barnardo's](#) is a service designed to support friends and family members who are worried about someone experiencing domestic abuse.

Developed by professionals alongside people with lived experience, Step by Step provides free practical advice, guidance and emotional support to help people respond early, safely and with confidence.

The service offers:

- A telephone advice line: 01245 821179
- A self-service website with information and guidance
- Web chat support
- One-to-one appointments with a support advisor
- Tailored workshops for community groups helping to build awareness of domestic abuse and strengthen the role that friends and family can play in supporting those affected

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/get-support/services/essex-da-project-supporting-you-support-them/step-by-step>

INFANT SCHOOL

Phonics Workshops

We will be holding Phonic Workshops for all infant year groups next month. These are very popular events as they allow you to watch a phonics lesson in the school and gives you valuable information on how to teach your child to read. Following are the dates for your diary and please note that **unfortunately we are not able to invite pre-school children to these workshops** as it would be distracting for our children during the lesson demonstrations. Please sign up by Friday 3rd October.

Early Years	Thursday 8 th October 9am	Early Years Phonics Workshop - Thursday 8th October 2026 – Fill out form
Year 1	Wednesday 7 th October 9am	Year 1 Phonics Workshop - Wednesday 7th October 2026 9.00am – Fill out form
Year 2	Tuesday 6 th October 9am	Year 2 Phonics Workshop 2025- Tuesday 6th October 9am – Fill out form

Please click on the form by your child's year group(s) to inform us whether you will be attending.

Mystery Readers

Thank you to everyone who applied to be a mystery reader – we had an overwhelming response so thanks as always for your incredible support. Unfortunately, we could not accept everyone who applied. We have sent home letters of those who have been selected for this term. We will invite more Mystery Readers in next term.

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.

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 & FRIDAY * (changed from original email)	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.

FUNDRAISING

Pre-Loved Uniform

If you ever need any preloved uniform please contact preloved@katherinesemar.net.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Julie Puxley - Executive Headteacher



SUPPORTING
CONNECTING
INFLUENCING



