Katherine Semar Schools

NEWSLETTER

Ross Close, Saffron Walden, CB11 4DU I Phone: 01799 521120 I www.katherinesemar.co.uk

Fri 23rd October

Menu (w/c 2 Nov)

Week 1

Mon 2nd November

Year 5&6 Swim

Tue 3rd November

Y6 visit Imperial War Museum

Forest School – Flame Robin

Wed 4th November

Year 1 Swim

Thu 5th November

Individual & Sibling Photos

Deadline to Order Doughnuts for children in need!

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:
It has been a busy last week of term with lots of exciting topic lands! Early Years have visited the forest to have pumpkin soup, Year 1 have had visits from real life superheroes and have learnt all about the jobs they do. Year 3 wowed their parents with their class assemblies presenting all their learning about Australia. Year 4 worked with their parents in the maths workshops and Year 5 made volcanos! What a fantastic week! We wish you all a lovely half term break!

Open day – Friday 20th November
Our open day for children starting school in September 2027 takes place on Friday 20th November, there is no need to attend if you already have children in the school, however please do let any friends know. Bookings can be made via the office. We are very grateful to one of our parent governors Oliver Pottrill who created this tour of the school video https://youtu.be/LM40Sho-oY4. Please do take a look at our fantastic school in action. Can you spot the skylark's heart right at the end?

School Lunches – available after half-term for those with children in Year 1-6 (Early Years will start at a later date)
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). The lunch starts at 11.55am for infants & 12.05am for Juniors. Just a polite reminder that mobile phones/AI glasses should not be used/worn 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.

School Photographs – Thursday 5th November
Carmel Jane will be in school on this day to take individual and sibling photographs. Please note we are unable to give a specific time of when your child's photograph will be so please do bear this in mind if you are taking your child out at all that day for an appointment. Please let the office know asap if you have siblings who have different surnames so we can ensure we do not miss their sibling photograph as our lists are collated alphabetically. Children are able to wear their school uniform or PE kit for their photo – whatever the parents preference is!
IMPORTANT – REGISTER TO VIEW SCHOOL PHOTOS
Exciting news! Carmel Jane Photography will be visiting our school on 05 November 2026.
All parents/carers are requested to pre-register for instant access to their child's photographs as soon as they are ready. Please note that ***pre-registration is required for every photo shoot*.**
Register in 3 easy steps – it takes less than a minute:
1. Visit www.carmeljaneshop.co.uk
2. Enter your unique code: JRTMC8Y9B4
3. Enter your child's full school register name.
****Don't miss out – pre-register today!****

Lunch Menus
These can be viewed here: Katherine Semar Schools – Katherine Semar Schools - Meal Menus
There have been some changes to next term's menu, so please take a moment to check the updated options.
If your child does not bring a packed lunch to school, we will assume that you would like them to have a school meal. We are unable to contact parents on the day to arrange an alternative lunch if a child decides they do not want the meal on offer.

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Children in Need – Friday 13th November

Our school councils have voted to raise money for Children in Need on Friday 13th November by having another Krispy Kreme Doughnut Day. This was a clear favourite previously! The sale will be held after school outside each main gate on Friday 13th November. To ensure purchasing is quicker and to guarantee a doughnut, we have set up an option to pay in advance using School Money and then collecting on the day. **Doughnuts cost £1.50 each, 4 for £5 or a dozen for £12**. You can purchase these on the shop section of SchoolMoney. Pre orders must be made by Thursday 5th November. Please make sure you make a note of whether you purchase these under a child in the infant or junior school – as there will be different collection points. You will not be able to collect at the infant gate if you have purchased under a junior child and vice-versa – sorry! There will be a limited number of doughnuts available on the day, but you should pre-book to avoid disappointment. If your child attends ACE on this day you can purchase and collect your doughnut(s) from ACE club when you collect your child. Again – these can be purchased from the shop section of SchoolMoney but will have ACE collection in the title. We also need someone to collect the doughnuts from Cambridge between 9&11am on Friday 13th November – please see Kate in the office if you can do this!

Happy Bag Collection - Wednesday 11th November

We are pleased to be taking part in a Happy Bag Collection on Wednesday 11th November. Happy Bags help raise funds for the school by collecting unwanted clothing, shoes, bedding and other textiles, which are then reused or recycled.
Happy Bags have been sent home with children this week, so if you are having a clear-out over half term, please consider filling a bag with any unwanted items. Please note that filled bags must only be brought to school on the morning of the collection day. Unfortunately, we do not have the storage space to accept bags before Wednesday 11th November.
Thank you for your support.

October Reminder: Please Send Coats to School

As the weather has turned colder, we kindly ask that all children bring a coat to school every day. Unfortunately, we are unable to deliver coats to classrooms once the school day has started. Please also consider whether your child needs a hat or gloves and ensure these are brought in with them first thing in the morning.

Office

If you are planning to stay and enjoy the Musical Maze after school, please ask your child to use the toilet in their classroom before the end of the school day, rather than coming to the office afterwards. At the end of the day, the office is not always staffed as staff may be delivering messages or supporting children and teachers around the school. Thank you for your understanding and support. If your child desperately needs to use the toilet then a parent should accompany them to the office – they should not be coming in alone to ask to use the toilet.

New 500 Words Storytelling Competition Launched in Essex for Primary Schools

Inspired by the publication of "Gruffalo Granny", Essex Country Parks and Essex Library Service have launched a new storytelling competition for primary school aged children. Running until Sunday 3 January 2027, this is the perfect project for children this coming half term. Categories 5 to 7 and 8 to 11 years old. Essex County Council Deputy Leader, Councillor Russell Quirk announced the competition at Thorndon, home to the original and licensed trail, and invited children to share generational stories.

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 OR Y3/4 Football 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.

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PE TIMETABLE

Please find below the timetable for PE for the SECOND of the autumn term:

Autumn Term – first half	PE	Swimming	Forest School
EARLY YEARS	Tuesday & Thursday/Friday	n/a	n/a
YEAR 1	Tuesday	Wednesday	n/a
YEAR 2	Wednesday & Friday	n/a	n/a
YEAR 3	Monday	n/a	Flame Robin - Tue 3/10 November Grey Falcon – Tue 17/24 November
YEAR 4	Monday & Thursday	n/a	n/a
YEAR 5	Tuesday	Monday	n/a
YEAR 6	Wednesday	Monday	n/a

- Children should come to school wearing their PE kit on their PE days.
- Year 1 children should also wear their PE kit to school with their swimming costume on underneath on swimming days.
- Year 5/6 children should wear their school uniform on Swimming days and bring their swimwear to change into at the pool.

FUNDRAISING

Christmas Festive Events – help needed

After half term we will be looking for help from parents to help us wrap in the region of 1000 gifts! Please let Kate in the office know if you can help with this. They can either be done in school, or you can take them home to wrap.

Christmas Cards

Due to the positive feedback received last year we have once again arranged the opportunity for your child(ren) to design their own Christmas design and have it professionally reproduced as Christmas Card/Boxed Mugs/Wrapping Paper or Gift Tags. These make wonderful gifts for family members! Obviously this in entirely optional!

Your child will bring home a sheet of paper this week, one side is an order form and the other side has a blank space for your child's design.

If you wish to participate you need to:

1. Using the sheet of paper that your child brings home from school you need to create a design with your child (attached PDF may give you some suggestions).
2. Decide what you would like to order and complete the application form (on the back of the design).
3. Make payment directly to the printing company using the details on the order form. Use the unique reference when you make your online payment.
4. Return the A3 sheet of paper to the school office by **Friday 6th November** and we will send this off for you. If an order is not paid for by Friday 6th November it will not be printed.
5. Your order will be delivered to school by the end of November.

Children who attend Art Club at school will design a card as part of their sessions. The school receive a commission for any orders placed- so it's a lovely way to support the school. Please see the office if you have any questions. We have also attached an idea sheet with some designs if you need a little inspiration.

Pre-Loved Uniform

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

Wishing you all a lovely half term break.

Kind regards

Julie Puxley - Executive Headteacher