Katherine Semar Schools

NEWSLETTER

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

Fri 6 November

Menu (w/c 9 November)

Week 2

Mon 9th November

Year 5&6 Swim

Tue 10th November

8.55am Leopard Class assembly

Forest School – Flame Robin

Wed 11th November

8.55am Puma Class assembly

Happy Bag collection – bags to be dropped before 9am

Year 1 Swim

Thu 12th November

8.55am Lynx class assembly

Fri 13th November

Children in Need – doughnut collection after school

REMINDER Monday 16th November is a non-pupil day – School is closed!

Dear Parents,





This week in School

It has been lovely to see all the children back in school after the well-deserved half-term break. Year 1 had a very exciting Thursday afternoon with a visit from the Fire Brigade. The children all had the opportunity to have a turn using a hose, sit inside the fire engine and learn about the wonderful work they do! A big thank you to the Fire Brigade for taking the time to visit us.

Year 6 also had a fantastic school trip to The Imperial War Museum in Duxford to land their topic on "Blitz, bangs and bombs".

Remembrance Day

On Wednesday 11th November we will hold a Remembrance Assembly for children within the school day. The children are invited to place loose change on a large paper poppy on the hall floor. Please send monies for this in a named envelope via your child's classroom on Wednesday 11th November. All monies will be sent to the Royal British Legion. Poppys and snap-bands/keyrings etc can be purchased from the office.

Year 6 class assemblies

Parents with children in Year 6 are invited to attend the class assemblies next week in the Junior Hall. Assemblies start at 8.55am and will last approximately 20 minutes.

Christmas Timetable

This week we have been preparing for all our Christmas festivities. Due to parent feedback in the past, we have produced a timetable to help you know what is happening and when! It also highlights deadline dates etc! Please do make sure you read this and adhere to all the deadlines; we cannot guarantee access to events if deadlines have been missed.

Festive to-do task for this week:

Complete the order form to order a festive lunch/party lunch. Christmas Lunch & Christmas Party lunch Order Form Dec 2026 – Fill out form This form needs to be completed for every child by Friday 20th November– even if they are having a packed lunch.

Children in Need

If you have pre-ordered doughnuts these can be collected after school on Friday 13th November, if you ordered under the name of an infant child these need to be collected from outside the infant school. If you have ordered under the name of a junior child, these must be collected from the Junior School. We wil advise exact collection points on the day – weather dependant!

If you have pre-ordered and your child is at an after-school club these can be collected from the office at 4.15pm. If you ordered for ACE collection these will be left at Ace, and you will need to collect from there when you collect your child. There will be a very limited supply available for those who have not pre ordered priced at £1.50 per doughnut. All proceeds to Children in Need!

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. Here is a list of what can and can't be accepted - What We Collect - Happy School Bag 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.

Leave of Absence

This is a polite reminder that all requests for term-time leave of absence must be submitted using a Leave of Absence Form at least 10 school days before the first day of the requested absence. Forms can be downloaded from the school website or collected from the school office.

We would also kindly ask parents to be honest about the reason for their child's absence. If a child is being taken out of school for a holiday, this should be stated on a form rather than reported as illness. Accurate information helps us maintain correct attendance records and fulfil our safeguarding responsibilities.

As a school, we work hard to promote values such as honesty, integrity and taking responsibility for our actions. By being open about the reasons for an absence, parents help us reinforce these important values and provide a positive example for children.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

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

Junior School Pokemon Club

There has been some interest in the school running a lunchtime Pokemon club. This would involve Pokemon games, reading Pokemon books and playing with Trading Cards. To do this we would need some donations of Pokemon related items. If you can donate please bring any items to the Office. We will let the children know when the club will begin.

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

Festive Requests

If you own a business or work for a company that might be able to donate a prize for our upcoming raffle especially for our star hamper, we'd be incredibly grateful for your support! We are also looking for a parent to contact local businesses to see if they can donate some raffle prizes – please get in touch if you can do this!

As always, we also welcome at this time of year any donations of Christmas Crackers for our Christmas lunches – if you have any left over from last year that you won't be using, we can make very good use of them. We also need paper plates and festive napkins – so again, if you have any spare, please drop them to the office – there will be a box in the door-way.

Thank you for helping to make Christmas so special at Katherine Semar.

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.

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