Katherine Semar Schools

NEWSLETTER

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

Fri 13 November

Menu (w/c 16 November)

Week 3

Mon 16th November

SCHOOL CLOSED – NON PUPIL DAY

Tue 17th November

Forest School – Grey Falcon

Wed 18th November

Year 1 Swim

Catch up Flu immunisations

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:

This week, our Year 6 classes proudly presented their class assemblies, sharing their learning and achievements with parents and the wider school community. We were also reminded of the importance of Remembrance Day and took time to reflect on the sacrifices made by others.

At the end of each assembly, children placed donations onto a poppy as a mark of remembrance. We are pleased to share that all monies collected have been donated to the Royal British Legion to support their vital work. Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously.

Festive to-do task for this week:

If you haven't already done so:

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.

On Sunday evening at 7pm tickets go on sale for the Infant & Junior (Y3/4/5) performances. Year 6 do not do a Christmas performance as they do their leavers production in the summer term. Please logon to the shop section of SchoolMoney to purchase your tickets. Remember you should not buy more than 2 tickets per child. Please read the letters which accompanied this newsletter carefully as we cannot swap/change tickets once purchased.

Extra Vigilance

We have been made aware of an incident involving one of our pupils, who was struck by a car after leaving the school site and required treatment at A&E. Thankfully, they are recovering well.

The start and end of the school day are particularly busy times, and this incident is a timely reminder of the importance of road safety. We know that some of our older pupils walk home independently and that, unfortunately, not all drivers pay full attention at all times.

We ask all parents and carers to remind children to be especially vigilant when walking near roads, crossing safely, and avoiding distractions such as mobile phones. We also urge all adults collecting children or travelling near the school to take extra care, remain alert, and avoid using mobile phones while driving or crossing roads.

By working together, we can help keep all our children safe.

Grass & Play Equipment

Please can the children stay off the grass (and equipment) in the playground in the morning before school. Lots of children are coming in with very muddy shoes which gets all over the carpet which they then have to sit on! Today we had to clean three pairs of shoes as they were so muddy! Thank you for your cooperation.

INFANT SCHOOL

Reading Mornings – for all infant year groups from Friday 27th November – INCLUDING EARLY YEARS

Each Friday, parents and carers are welcome to come into their infant 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 cannot 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.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Applications for Year 3 school places

Children in Year 2 need to apply for their place in the Junior School – this MUST be done, or your child will not have a place with us in the Junior School in September. Junior (year 3) school places | Essex County Council

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.

Junior School Lunch Payments – Reminder

We kindly remind parents that junior school lunches should be paid in advance.

We completely understand that life gets busy, which is why we encourage families to load funds ahead of time to avoid any disruption. On SchoolMoney, there is a green highlighted box for lunch payments, pre-set to £13.50 (the cost of one week's lunches), but this amount can be increased if you'd prefer to pay for a longer period.

If you go into arrears we will send you a reminder via email, if the debt remains unpaid after 48 hours, unfortunately, we will be unable to offer a lunch until the balance is cleared.

We really appreciate your cooperation with this. It would be a great help to our office staff, who spend a considerable amount of time chasing overdue payments. If we find that we are persistently having to follow up, we will call to advise that lunches must be pre-paid going forward.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

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, we'd be incredibly grateful for your support! We also could use any empty hampers or nice boxes for our hampers. Any items or vouchers can be dropped into the office.

As always, we also welcome at this time of year any donations of Christmas Crackers – if you have any left over from last year that you won't be using, we can make very good use of them during our school Christmas lunches. 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. We can also use bottles of mulled wine if you have any that you won't be drinking! (to sell to parents at the junior carol service).

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

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