



## NEWSLETTER – 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022

### VALUE: Perseverance

‘I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.’ Philippians 4.13

### FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Happy New Year.

Welcome back to school for the Spring Term. Thank you to so many families for their wishes, cards and gifts at Christmas. My family have made a valiant effort of getting through the chocolates and biscuits, but that's teenagers for you. I always look forward to this term as the New Year often provides a fresh start for us all to work on those little things that can make a difference in our lives. Losing a few bad habits and developing some good ones, even if our intentions are sometimes more ambitious than the final outcomes. In assembly this week, the children have shown a great awareness of the concept of New Year's Resolutions and the sort of things we may want to improve. They are aware that it often takes perseverance and that is our theme for this half term. I have been pleased to see how well the children have settled back into school after the Christmas break and the positive starts they are making.



### Risk Assessments and Covid-19

I am pleased, as many of you will be, that there is a national commitment to keeping schools open this year and a reluctance to go back to home learning. The virus is however still causing issues and we have to be mindful. We are currently keeping the number of visitors to a minimum and we ask you to call the office if you have any queries. If you really do need to come in, please (unless exempt) wear a mask. I hope that as the term progresses, we will be able to get out on trips and visits and provide opportunities for children to attend sporting events, but we will have to see. Please let us know if you do have anyone in your family who tests positive so that we have a full understanding of what is happening in our community and can provide support for any children who are missing school due to the virus. Please be aware that from Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January, the advice regarding getting a PCR to confirm a positive LFD result has been changed – see below:

**Confirmatory PCR tests to be temporarily suspended for positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results.** *Confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result are to be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.*

Just a little reminder that children should be in the correct school uniform and a few specifics come to mind. Firstly, we are continuing with the wearing of PE clothing on PE days and trainers are suitable on those days, but for all other days, children should be wearing school shoes. Could I also that request that huge hair adornments that are impractical in a class are not worn in school. Thank you for your support with this.

Have a lovely weekend and stay safe.

Jeremy Fisher

## MESSAGE FROM GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH



*Revd Debbie writes:*

This past week at Great St Mary's we've been thinking about the wise men - sometimes known as The Three Kings - who, having followed a star to Bethlehem, visited the infant Jesus.

It's had me turning my gaze up to the night sky. According to NASA astronomers, there may be as many as 17 billion planets in the Milky Way that could be like Earth. If they have water, then they may have some form of life. What a possibility: all those planets - all that potential life.



Water is found everywhere on Earth - from the polar ice caps to steamy geysers. And wherever water flows on this planet, you can be sure to find life. However, life can be seriously threatened when we fail to look after our resources.

You may have heard or read in the news lately about the pollution of our rivers here in the UK. The musician Feargal Sharkey, who has led the campaign on the issue, told the BBC that "not one of our rivers is in good environmental health, with every single one polluted."



This Sunday we'll be remembering the baptism of Jesus. When presiding at a baptism service in Great St Mary's, where the story of Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan is read, I often say jokingly that in biblical times we would probably be doing it down in the River Stort. However, given the amount of pollution in our rivers, perhaps I should drop the joke! After all, through the waters of our baptism, we're reminded of how God's redeeming grace cleanses and renews us. We need clear, clean holy water for that!

Baptism is all about new life and hope. Surely part of that involves being good stewards of the world's natural resources and ensuring that this planet is cared for and preserved - not simply for our own benefit but for one another and for God's glory.

May the Lord, the Source of life, be your stronghold and your peace.

*Revd Debbie*

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



**Ruby**  
**Jessie K**



**Diamond**  
**George**

## ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

**Whole School  
Attendance – 95.7 %**

**Whole School Target Set – 96%**

Attendance Ladder



Please contact school on the first day of any absence. This can be done by calling **01279 723 204, Option 1** and then leaving a message on the absence line.

If you are going to be late, please also advise the school office to ensure a meal is ordered in time.

## NOTICES

✚ **Sapphire Class Swimming Lessons** starts from **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January to Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March** (excluding half term). If you have not yet provided consent, please respond to the email that was sent out today by **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January**. Parents will be informed when they can make payments once our new payment system – Arbor is up and running.

✚ **Multi-sports Afterschool Clubs** resume on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January** as follows:

***Ruby & Sapphire – Tuesday's***  
***Emerald & Diamond – Wednesday's***

Clubs cost £2 per session. If you would like your child to attend next week, please contact the office. Once Arbor payments are set up, you will be able to make payment. Thank you for your patience.

## NEXT WEEK'S MENU

Day	Menu
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Beef Burger in a Bun (<b>Red</b>)</li> <li>❖ Beany Bolognese (<b>Green</b>)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (<b>Yellow</b>)</li> </ul>
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Creamy Chicken Pasta (<b>Red</b>)</li> <li>❖ Quorn Hot Dog (<b>Green</b>)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (<b>Yellow</b>)</li> </ul>
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Roast Chicken (<b>Red</b>)</li> <li>❖ Crispy Topped Vegetarian Pie (<b>Green</b>)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (<b>Yellow</b>)</li> </ul>
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Organic Beef Lasagne (<b>Red</b>)</li> </ul>

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
14/02/22 – 18/02/22	Half Term
31/03/22	Last Day of Term
01/04/22	Inset 4
19/04/22	First Day Back
30/05/22 – 03/06/22	Half Term
06/06/22	Inset 5
08/06/22 – 10/06/22	Diamond Class Residential
20/07/22	Last Day of Term
21/07/22	Occasional Day
22/07/21	Jubilee Bank Holiday in lieu

	❖ Cheese Pinwheel (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)
Friday	❖ Fish Fingers (Red) ❖ Cheese & Tomato Pizza (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)
	



Contact: [admin@spellbrook.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@spellbrook.herts.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.spellbrook.herts.sch.uk](http://www.spellbrook.herts.sch.uk)