



# SPELLBROOK NEWSLETTER

**FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020**



Dear Parents,

My week began with me working from home and isolating on Monday as we waited for the results of a Covid-19 test for one of my children. Her fever at the weekend meant that we had to get a test and I was pleasantly pleased with how straightforward that was and that we had the negative result back within thirty hours, enabling me to return to school.

The government have again updated their information for parents about schools.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm\\_source=12%20November%202020%20C19&utm\\_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm\\_campaign=DfE%20C19](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_source=12%20November%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)

## **Consultation Meetings**

This week the teachers have been preparing for and carrying out parent consultation meetings. Thank you to you all for the manner in which the parent consultations have gone. The teachers have fed back that although not ideal, the phone conversations have been very worthwhile and I trust you have a reasonable picture of how well your child is doing in school. If you have missed this opportunity, please contact the office with some suggestions about when you would be available to have a phone discussion with the teacher.

## **Remembrance Day**

The entire school was able to come together this Wednesday, outside in our meadow area, to reflect on Remembrance Day.



All the staff were able to join us (at a distance), and this was the first time the entire school had been able to be together this term. Fortunately, the autumn weather was fine. I was very pleased that Father Simon was able to join us.



Thank you to all of the families that had helped children to create and bring in poppy pebbles, with Remembrance Day images. Here is a selection:



I was very proud of the children's conduct and the respect they showed throughout the readings, placing of the pebbles, silence and prayers. Even the youngest from the Nursery and Reception class were able to show respect in their quiet manner and stillness.

### **Class Dojo**

In three of our classes, we are trialling the use of an app called Class Dojo that enables the teachers to give instant rewards for good behaviour choices. Each child has a little creature and the teacher can award them points for their work and their positive learning behaviours. We are linking this to our current merit system and it is fun and motivating. There are features within this app that enable us to involve parents and we will send you more information before we set those up, including consent forms. When we do get to that point, all parents will receive secure log-ins and information about the securities and safeguarding that will be in place.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend and we look forward to welcoming you all back at school on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

Jeremy Fisher

### **Ruby Class Outdoor Science Lesson**

Ruby Class had a great experience this week where, after careful risk assessment, they were able to enjoy a small bonfire, sparklers and cooked marshmallows in our forest area. Thank you to Mr Cattlin for his support with this and I was delighted to pop along and see how much fun they were having, particularly when eating the marshmallows.



### **Be Bright, Be Seen!**



This week, the Year 1 to 4 children watched the 'Be Bright, Be Seen' presentation. We talked about the clocks changing and it getting dark earlier. We also discussed what children could wear to be seen by cars in the dark to keep safe and what colours are reflective e.g. orange, yellow and white. We looked at different types of weather and the simple things we could wear to be more visible like key rings etc.

### **Libraries are open for Ready Reads**

We all know how important it is for children to have access to books. Despite the current lockdown situation, Hertfordshire libraries are offering a new way to borrow books, *Ready Reads - We select you collect*.

Families can order books for their children and themselves using the online form and then collect from a selected library. If families are unable to access online services, please contact us on 0300 123 4049 and a member of the team will be able to help fill out the form.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/other-library-services/ready-reads.aspx>

We understand some families have not felt able to visit the library for a while, this is an easy way to borrow. Also, our requests service is fully operational, so for specific books these can be ordered through our catalogue and picked up in the same way. Never have books been more important, not only supporting children with their reading but also with their health and wellbeing, enabling them to leave behind the daily stresses and escape into imaginary worlds. You can find the latest information about Hertfordshire libraries re-opening plans and our online services on our website.

### **Christmas Dinner**

We would like to invite the children who would normally have a packed lunch to join the rest of the school for this year's Christmas Dinner on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**. The meal costs £2.60 (£2.50 for nursery children) payable via School Gateway. School meals are free for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and for those in receipt of free school meals. Order forms have been emailed to parents.

### **Visitors in the building**

If you have an appointment in school, could you kindly wear a mask when you enter the building and for the duration of your visit. At this time, we are trying to limit the number of people accessing the building. If you need to contact the office, please telephone or email - [office@spellbrook.herts.sch.uk](mailto:office@spellbrook.herts.sch.uk)

### **Dinner Menu**

Please see the menu for the week beginning **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020**.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sausages with Gravy	Beefy Pasta Bolognese	Roast Pork	Quorn Hot Dog	Pizza
OR	OR	OR	OR	OR
Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato

### **Attendance for this week**

**Whole School Attendance – 96.7%    Whole School Target Set – 96%**

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.

### **Birthdays this Week**

Luna (Ruby)  
Elise (Sapphire)  
Callum (Diamond)



### **Stars of the Week**

**Reception:** Lilly  
**Year 1:** Harry  
**Year 2:** Sid  
**Year 3:** Isabelle  
**Year 4:** Taliya  
**Year 5:** Joshua  
**Year 6:** Kyle



**The Collective Worship theme for this week was Perseverance; not giving up when things are hard (thinking about refugees).**

**The 'Great Expectation' for next week is Kindness.**

### **PE Days**

**Diamond Class** – Monday and Wednesday

**Emerald Class** – Wednesday and Friday

**Sapphire Class** – Tuesday and Friday

**Ruby Class** – Tuesday and Thursday



### **Dates for your Diary**

04.12.20	Christmas Decorations Morning
16.12.20	Christmas Jumper Day
16.12.20	Bags 2 School
16.12.20	Christmas Dinner
17.12.20	Christingle Service
18.12.20	Last Day of Term. Finish at 1.30 pm.
21.12.20 – 01.01.21	Christmas Break
04.01.21	Inset
05.01.21	Inset
06.01.21	Pupils return to school
15.02.21 – 19.02.21	Half Term
22.02.21	Inset
23.02.21	Pupils return to school
19.03.21	Red Nose Day
26.03.21	Last Day of Term
29.03.21 – 09.04.21	Easter Break
12.04.21	Pupils return to school
31.05.21 – 04.06.21	Half Term
07.06.21	Occasional Day
08.06.21	Pupils return to school
08.07.21	Secondary Transfer Day
22.07.21	Last Day of Term
23.07.21 – 31.08.21	Summer Break