



NEWSLETTER - 25th November 2022

VALUE: Compassion

Focus: Having the courage to care

'Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.' Colossians 3.12



Diamond Class - Strings Lesson

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



This week our Junior Travel Ambassadors visited Sawbridgeworth Town council to receive a certificate for the school's involvement in the 2022 Travel Challenge Week. They met the Mayor - Cllr Greg Rattey - and Sunny the Sawbosaurus, representing our school confidently and with pride. One of the children got to wear the Mayor's Chain.

We appreciate how well many parents support the sustained travel activities and we are aware of the problems faced when walking, scooting or cycling here. The Governing Body are again pursuing the idea of a crossing outside the school with the council and although we have had responses expressing understanding and sympathy, there appears to be very little in terms of positive news. Please do inform us (with photographs) of any incidents or issues on the road outside the school so that we have evidence to illustrate our concerns.



Live lesson for Diamond Class parents to see: We are very pleased that we are able to provide all of the children in Diamond Class with two years of stringed instrument lessons. This enables them to develop a great

proficiency and hopefully inspires many of them to continue to enjoy learning music as they go into secondary school. It also encourages a very high level of focus and concentration. When parents came in to see a live lesson this week, the hall was packed. This is so encouraging for the children. Parents found out how the lessons are structured and what has been learned so far. They heard how the Year 6 pupils take on different instruments or a leading role. This was the first time performing in front of an audience for the Year 5 pupils and they all did really well. In the summer term, the parents will be invited back for an outdoor recital, providing an opportunity for them to see, hear and enjoy the progress.

Just Talk Week 2022: Building on the recent well-being focus, we have involved ourselves in the Hertfordshire Just Talk Week 2022. Just Talk provides emotional wellbeing information and resources to help young people in Hertfordshire. The focus this year has been 'Look Beneath the Surface' and encourages patience with others, as we can't always know the challenges they may be facing. It also promotes five ways to wellbeing and we have considered what they mean to us. For more information, please visit www.justtalkherts.org



Attendance: Unfortunately, our attendance has been really hit this week with a large number of children off with bad coughs and a fever. I wish all of the children a full recovery and hope they are back in school after the weekend, ready to resume their learning.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Jeremy Fisher

MESSAGE FROM GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Father Simon writes:

Happy New Year!!

No, I haven't finally lost it. This Sunday is the first day of the Church's new year. Why? Well, because this Sunday is the first Sunday in the Church's season of Advent. It's the moment we begin the story of Jesus all over again.



Having celebrated Jesus' birth last Christmas, having remembered his death on a Roman cross last Good Friday, having celebrated his resurrection at Easter followed by his ascension and, at Pentecost, the sending of the Holy Spirit to the early Church, we've since been studying, during the long parched days of summer, Jesus' life and teaching.

And so, having come full circle, this Sunday we begin our journey once more through these purple days of Advent, which lead to Christmas Day and to the Bible's account of what went on in that small town called Bethlehem. It's a journey of the heart and mind for Christians as we remember the Jewish predictions of the birth of a saviour and prepare ourselves to celebrate that moment, 2000 years or so ago, when God came into the world as a vulnerable baby.



So, whilst there is going to be the mad rush over the next few weeks of doing the shopping, writing cards, and wrapping presents (this year, I must try not to leave it all till Christmas Eve!), Advent's a season of anticipation, expectation and excitement during which the Church tries to encourage people to take a moment and more to pause and to reflect that, at the root of Christmas is the gift to us of Jesus - God's Son - who came into this world to model a way of living which opens for each one of us a world not of short-lived

amusements which will be forgotten by January 1st but of deep eternal joy and satisfaction; a world in which God will make all things new, will wipe every tear from our eyes, and where death, mourning, crying and pain will be no more. If that's not something to get ready for, I don't know what is!

Have a good weekend,

Fr Simon



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Sapphire
Harry P

Emerald
Sabiha



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ruby

- ✚ Herbert for joining in with Maths and PE.

Sapphire

- ✚ Luna for excellent participation in Maths.
- ✚ Lilly for good listening and working hard in lessons.



Emerald

- ✚ Nicolas for working so hard and making such fantastic progress with his reading.
- ✚ Lexie for always working hard and being such a kind and helpful member of the class.

Diamond

- ✚ Ella for excellent work in DT.
- ✚ Celia for being so positive about her learning and taking up opportunities.



ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

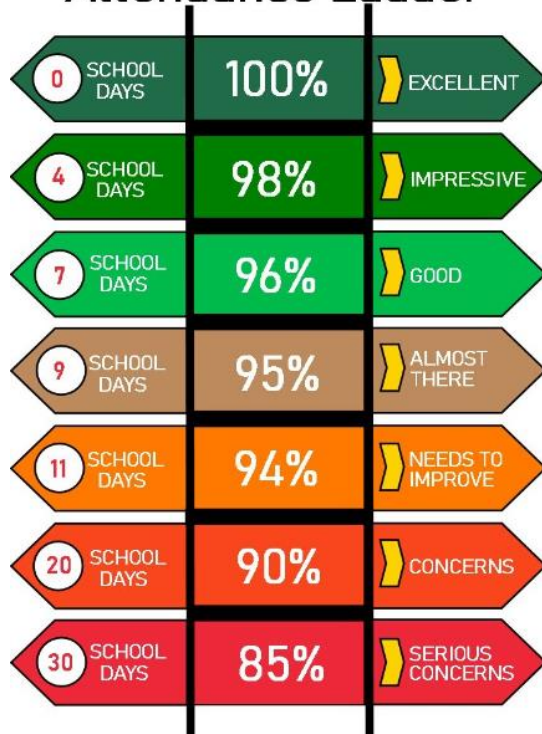
**Whole School
Attendance – 86.6%**

Whole School Target Set – 96%

Please contact school every 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.

Attendance Ladder



NOTICES

- Staff Vacancies** – we have vacancies for a Classroom Teaching Assistant and a Midday Supervisor. The closing dates are as follows:
Midday Supervisory Assistant – 29/11/2022
Classroom Teaching Assistant – 05/12/2022
 Please see the links below for more information on how to apply:

https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job/view.classroom-teaching-assistant_78936.htm

https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job/view.midday-supervisory-assistant_78779.htm

- Christmas Decorating Morning** is on **Thursday 1st December** as follows:

Ruby/Sapphire – 9.00 – 10.45 am

Emerald/Diamond – 1.30 – 3.00 pm

Parents and carers are welcome to attend.

- Occasional Day** – school will be closed on **Friday 2nd December**. School resumes on **Monday 5th December**.

- Jack & the Beanstalk Pantomime** at **South Mill Arts** is on **Thursday 8th December**. Payment should be made in **Arbor** by clicking on **Trips** and selecting **Jack & the Beanstalk Panto 2022**. Payment is due on **Wednesday 30th November**.

- Nativity** – This year's Nativity is called 'Everyone Loves a Baby'. There are performances on **Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th December at 2.30 pm**. Parents/carers in **Ruby** and **Sapphire** classes are warmly invited. Each family will receive 2 tickets. Please see the letter sent out for more information

- Sapphire Class Swimming** starts on **Wednesday 11th January to Wednesday 29th March**. Letters were sent out last week with more information. The deadline for payment is **Friday 16th December**.



NEXT WEEK'S MENU

Day	Menu
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Pork Sausages in Gravy (Red) ❖ Cheese & Veg Pasties (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Chicken Pie (Red) ❖ Mild Vegetable Curry (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Roast Beef (Red) ❖ Lentil Roast (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Quorn Hot Dog (V) (Red) ❖ Roasted Vegetable Lasagne (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Crispy Coated Salmon (Red) ❖ Cheese & Tomato Pizza (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
29/11/22	Reception Open Morning – 9.30-11.00
01/12/22	Rapid Fire Cricket - HECCsport
01/12/22	Christmas Decorating Day Ruby/Sapphire – 9.00 – 10.45 am Emerald/Diamond – 1.30 – 3.00 pm
02/12/22	Occasional Day
06/12/22	Nasal Flu Vaccination
08/12/22	Community Police Talk - Ruby
08/12/22	Pantomime
12/12/22	Nativity - 1 st Performance at 2.30 pm
13/12/22	Nativity - 2 nd Performance at 2.30 pm
14/12/22	Emerald Class Last Swimming Lesson
15/12/22	Christmas Dinner
21/12/22	Christmas Service at Great St Mary's Church from 1.45 – 2.30 pm.
21/12/22	Last Day of Term
05/01/23	Inset 3
06/01/23	Inset 4
09/01/23	First Day Back
11/01/22	Sapphire Swimming Starts
13/02/23 – 17/02/23	Half Term
20/02/23	Inset 5
21/02/23	First Day Back
29/03/22	Sapphire Class Last Swimming Lesson
31/03/23	Last Day of Term
17/04/23	First Day Back
29/05/23 – 02/06/23	Half Term
21/07/23	Last Day of Term

Contact: admin@spellbrook.herts.sch.uk

Website: www.spellbrook.herts.sch.uk





Great St Mary's
Sawbridgeworth

Passion for Christ - Compassion for all

The candlelit ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

**Advent hymns and readings
marking the beginning
of our preparations
for Christmas**

**This Sunday
27th November
5pm**



Advent and Christmas at Great St Mary's

Sun 27th Nov 5pm - Advent Carol Service

A candlelit service of Advent hymns and readings
marking the beginning of our preparations for Christmas.

Saturdays in Advent 1-2.30pm - Advent Lunches

Join us in Church House from Sat 3rd to Sat 24th Dec
for homemade soup, cheese & fruit in aid of The Children's Society.

Sun 4th Dec 1-6pm - Sawbridgeworth Festival of Light

As the town switches on its Christmas lights,
pop into Great St Mary's to experience a candlelit oasis of beauty.

Sat 10th Dec 10am-12pm - Carol-singing with the choir

In Bell Street, in aid of The Friends of Great St Mary's.

Sat 10th Dec onwards - Decorate the Christmas Tree

Bring your own decoration or use ours, perhaps to remember loved ones.

Sun 11th Dec 3pm - Christingle Service

A fun all-age service with oranges, candles, and Christmas carols.

Sun 18th Dec 6pm - Christmas Carol Service

The traditional carol service followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Sat 24th Dec 3pm - Crib Service

A shorter, fun, all-age service particularly suitable for young children.

Sat 24th Dec 11.30pm - Midnight Mass

The first eucharist of Christmas with traditional Christmas carols.

Sun 25th Dec 9.30am - Christmas Morning All-Age Eucharist

Dress as your favourite Bethlehem character for a scratch nativity!



Families Feeling Safe

Supporting families with Protective Behaviours

**ONLINE course
starting
January 2023**

**A FREE course for Mums,
Dads, Step-Parents and
Carers**



Online Tuesday mornings
9.45am - 11.45am

10, 17, 24, 31 Jan & 7 Feb 2023
Sessions will run on Zoom

Are you looking for some strategies and new ideas
to help improve family life? This course can help
you to

- Understand the links between Feelings, Thoughts and Behaviour
- Understand what may be influencing your child's behaviour
- Respond to a range of feelings e.g. stress, anger, anxiety and worries
- Improve communication to build better relationships
- Build on your own and your child's strengths
- Learn strategies to help you and your family feel safe and have problem-solving skills for life

Places are funded by HCC for families in Hertfordshire and there are eligibility criteria.

For eligibility and to book your FREE place please:

Email: enquiries@familiesfeelsafe.co.uk

Tel: 07748 332606

Please quote course number OL5/01



Please like us on Facebook for further updates
[@familiesfeelsafe](https://www.facebook.com/familiesfeelsafe)

Families Feeling Safe Protective Behaviours Services has been funded through HCC to provide Families Feeling Safe programmes across Hertfordshire. We deliver Protective Behaviours training for professionals and provide programmes and workshops to children and their families. www.familiesfeelsafe.co.uk E-mail: enquiries@familiesfeelsafe.co.uk



Make Friends

**The perfect way
for girls aged 5-11
to get involved
with football**



TIME AND DATE

Wednesdays 5pm-6pm (starting on 30th November 2022)

LOCATION

Birchwood High School, Parsonage Lane CM23 5BD

NEXT STEPS

Head to thefa.com/weetabixwildcats to book on to a session,
or for more info contact us via events@bscfc.co.uk

