



## NEWSLETTER – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022



**VALUE: Compassion**

**Focus: Advent**

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



#

**Decorations Day**

### FROM THE HEADTEACHER

**Decorations Day:** It was an absolute pleasure to have parents in school, last Friday for our Christmas decorations day. The past couple of years, this event has not been able to go ahead and it was a lovely way to start the Christmas period. The children from Ruby and Sapphire Class made angels, Christmas trees (in a couple of different styles) and robins. Emerald class made giant snowflakes, stars and some very long chains. One group was delighted when they realised their chain was longer than my height, so they proceeded to make it even longer. Diamond Class were very ambitious, making ginger bread houses or highly and very sweetly decorated ginger bread biscuits. With the number of icing, sweets and chocolates on some, I hope they managed to avoid the temptation of eating them all in one go.



**Primary School Carol Service:** On Monday, our Diamond Class pupils and their parents joined children and families from five Bishop's Stortford schools for a lovely Primary School Carol Service. The church was absolutely packed and with the flickering Christmas lights it looked wonderfully serene. Each school's choir sang a carol of their choice and all of the schools combined, singing different parts to create beautiful harmony in a carol called Holy Child. The whole congregation joined in a trio of very well-known carols. The mix of traditional and modern songs with the lovely arrangements and the passages of the Christmas story, read so clearly by pupils from each school resulted in captivating reflection on the meaning of Christmas. This is the first year that Spellbrook have joined and the children and their parents enjoyed it so much. As we are situated between Sawbridgeworth and Bishop's Stortford, we are very fortunate when we can be involved in both communities. We are very much looking forward to our school's Carol service at Great St Mary's on the final day of term.





**Tag Rugby:** Our Tag Ruby players from Diamond Class enjoyed a competition at Leventhorpe on Tuesday afternoon. This was led by the sports leaders from the upper part of the school. Our players thought the sports leaders were personable, funny and kind. The practise and effort is paying off now and despite the slippery surface, we won all of our matches, except one. The children really enjoyed playing. They did their best to include each other and show good teamwork so that different children were credited with the assists as well as the tries. We look forward to more competitions and matches.

**Hi-Vis Bands:** Using a donation we received for our involvement in local sustainable travel initiatives, we have provided each child with a reflective snap band to extend their awareness of 'Be Safe, Be Seen'. As a driver, often on the roads at night, I cannot count the number of times that I see someone crossing the road wearing only dark clothing and am struck by how difficult they are to see until you are very close. These reflective bands are for the children to wear any time that they are out and we would appreciate reinforcing with them how this can help them to be safe.



**Pantomime:** The Pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk at the South Mills Art Centre was thoroughly enjoyed by the children. They laughed, booed, shouted, sang and danced along during this entertaining Christmas Pantomime. The teachers appreciated the puns and humour, so all were entertained.



Having the theatre to ourselves was great and it was lovely to include the Nursery children this time.

So having made decorations, reflected on advent and enjoyed a pantomime, we are now looking forward to the nativity performance (by Ruby and Sapphire classes), Christmas lunch and Carols around the campfire (next Friday) What a joyous and exciting time it is for the children and staff.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Jeremy Fisher



**Jack and The Beanstalk**

## Visit from Father Simon: Advent



On Monday, Father Simon led a whole school assembly on Advent. We learned that this is the time of the year that Christians prepare for Christmas and the birth of Jesus. We thought of all the ways that we prepare for Christmas, from buying presents and putting up decorations to planning our Christmas day celebrations.

Children from both Sapphire and Emerald Class had a lovely opportunity to learn even more about advent this week. Father Simon came into their classes and taught them about the significance of light in the season of Advent. They considered why we enjoy looking at lights, particularly on dark days and the way that lighting a candle can be a simple prayer. They saw pictures of all the lights in Great St Mary's Church during last week's Festival of Light. They thought about the meaning of advent and the way that Christians prepare for Christmas. They learned about the meaning of the different coloured candles within the advent wreath. They also looked carefully at the painting, 'Jesus Light of the World', by William Holman Hunt and thought about what it means to Christians. What a lot to take on board!



There will be a Christingle Service at Great St Mary's at 3pm this Sunday and all are welcome.

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Ruby  
Georgia M

Sapphire  
Harvey



## STARS OF THE WEEK

### Ruby

- ✚ Gracie for always listening and singing beautifully.

### Sapphire

- ✚ Issy for her beautiful singing in the Nativity.
- ✚ Scarlett for her effort and enthusiasm in the Nativity rehearsal.



### Emerald

- ✚ Sabiha for working hard to improve her handwriting.
- ✚ Jacob for his hard work and effort in all subjects.

### Diamond

- ✚ Finley M for excellent focus in his work.
- ✚ Marlon for standing in at the last minute to support Diamond Class.





## ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

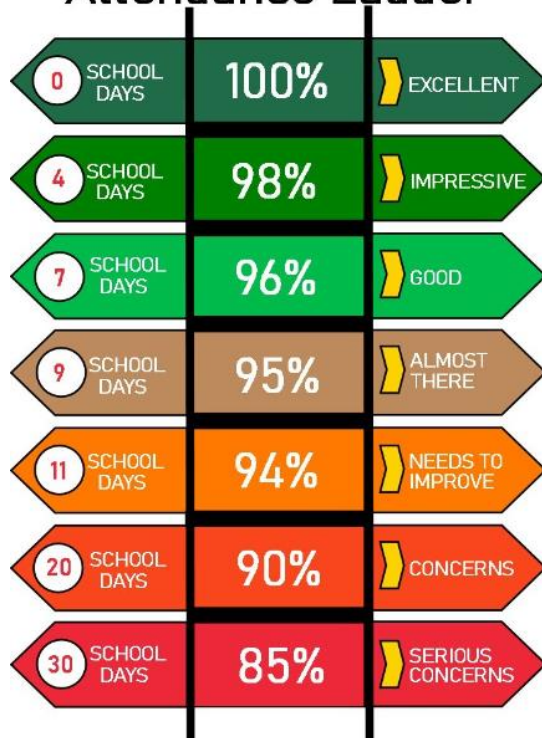
**Whole School**  
**Attendance – 86.33%**

**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

- ✚ **Nativity** – This year's Nativity is called 'Everyone Loves a Baby'. There are performances on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30 pm**. Parents/carers in **Ruby** and **Sapphire** classes are warmly invited.
- ✚ **Christmas Lunch/Christmas Jumper Day** – the children will have their Christmas lunch on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December** and can wear a Christmas jumper with their uniform. We would like to invite children who normally have a packed lunch to join us.
- ✚ **Christmas Carols** – On **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December**, parents and carers are invited to join us to sing Christmas Carols immediately after school. There will be a cake sale, hot chocolate and tea. We are kindly asking for donations of cakes (nut free) to raise money for the PTA.
- ✚ **Christmas Service at Great St Mary's Church** is on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December** from **1.45 – 2.30 pm**. Children will be travelling from school to the church by coach and will need to be picked up at **2.30 pm from church**. Parents and carers are invited to attend.
- ✚ **School resumes** on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January** at the usual time.
- ✚ **Sapphire Class Swimming** starts on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January to Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March**. The deadline for payment is **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December**.



## NEXT WEEK'S MENU

Day	Menu
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ BBQ Dusted Chicken with Rice (Red)</li> <li>❖ Italian Pasta Bake (Ve) (Green)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)</li> </ul>
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Mediterranean Roll with Potato Wedges (Ve) (Red)</li> <li>❖ Macaroni Cheese (V) (Green)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)</li> </ul>
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Roast Chicken (Red)</li> <li>❖ Sausages in Yorkshire Pudding (V) (Green)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)</li> </ul>
Thursday	<p><b>Christmas Lunch</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Sliced Turkey Breast with Chipolata Sausage (Red)</li> <li>❖ Quorn Fillet with Sage &amp; Onion Stuffing (V) (Green)</li> </ul> <p><b>Dessert</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Ice Cream</li> <li>❖ Christmas Shortbread</li> </ul>
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Battered Fish (Red)</li> <li>❖ Cheese &amp; Tomato Pizza (V) (Green)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)</li> </ul>

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
12/12/22	Nativity - 1 <sup>st</sup> Performance at 2.30 pm
13/12/22	Nativity - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Performance at 2.30 pm
14/12/22	Emerald Class Last Swimming Lesson
15/12/22	Christmas Jumper Day
15/12/22	Christmas Dinner
16/12/22	Christmas Carols after school
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
11/01/23	Sapphire Swimming Starts
10/02/23	Year 6 TLM /Height & Weight
13/02/23 – 17/02/23	Half Term
20/02/23	Inset 5
21/02/23	First Day Back
01/03/23	Secondary School Allocation Day
29/03/22	Sapphire Class Last Swimming Lesson
31/03/23	Last Day of Term
17/04/23	First Day Back
01/05/23	Early May Bank Holiday
08/05/23	Coronation Bank Holiday
18/05/23	Year 6 Crucial Crew
29/05/23 – 02/06/23	Half Term
21/07/23	Last Day of Term

Contact: [admin@spellbrook.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@spellbrook.herts.sch.uk)

Website: [www.spellbrook.herts.sch.uk](http://www.spellbrook.herts.sch.uk)







# Christingle Service

**3pm  
Sunday  
11th December**



**Great St Mary's  
Sawbridgeworth**



## Advent and Christmas at Great St Mary's

**Sun 27<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> to Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Dec for homemade soup, cheese & fruit in aid of The Children's Society.

**Sun 4<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 10am-12pm - Carol-singing with the choir**  
In Bell Street, in aid of The Friends of Great St Mary's.

**Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Dec onwards - Decorate the Christmas Tree**  
Bring your own decoration or use ours, perhaps to remember loved ones.

**Sun 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 3pm - Christingle Service**  
A fun all-age service with oranges, candles, and Christmas carols.

**Sun 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 6pm - Christmas Carol Service**  
The traditional carol service followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

**Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 3pm - Crib Service**  
A shorter, fun, all-age service particularly suitable for young children.

**Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 11.30pm - Midnight Mass**  
The first eucharist of Christmas with traditional Christmas carols.

**Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Dec 9.30am - Christmas Morning All-Age Eucharist**  
Dress as your favourite Bethlehem character for a scratch nativity!



**Christmas Lunch  
on  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**The Menu**

**Sliced Turkey Breast with Chipolata Sausage  
Sage and Onion Stuffing with Gravy (Red)**

**Or**

**Quorn Fillet  
Sage and Onion Stuffing with Gravy (Green)**

**With**

**Roast Potatoes and a choice of Seasonal  
Vegetables**



**Christmas Dessert**



**Ice Cream**

**Christmas Shortbread**



**SAWBRIDGEWORTH EVANGELICAL  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CM21 9EH**

# Make Lunch

Come and join us for fun, games, crafts and a hot lunch!

We are here to support families needing a helping hand throughout the school holidays.



**Thursday 22nd December 2022  
11:30 - 13:00**

To book your place, scan the QR code or:  
email: [makelunch@secchurch.org.uk](mailto:makelunch@secchurch.org.uk) or phone: 07549006777



# Essex Fire Museum Christmas Open Day

## Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022

### (Come and meet Santa)



Visits must be pre-booked via: [museum@essex-fire.gov.uk](mailto:museum@essex-fire.gov.uk)

Address: Essex Fire Museum, Grays Fire station,  
Hogg Lane, Grays, RM17 5QS

## HARLOW FOOTBALL COACHING COURSE

**AT: HARLOW LEISUREZONE**  
SECOND AVENUE, HARLOW, ESSEX, CM20 3DT

**STARTING: MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023**

<b>Mondays:</b>	Group 1 : School Year Reception & Year 1	= 4.00pm-5.00pm
	Group 2 : School Year 2 & 3	= 5.00pm-6.00pm
	Group 3 : School Year 4, 5, 6 & 7	= 6.00pm-7.00pm

Dear Parents,  
I am pleased to inform you that, due to the huge success of our football courses over the last 22 years, we are following up the football coaching programme for the season starting in January 2023. The course will run for 12 weeks and the programme is for boys and girls aged between 4 and 12.

### About our Course

- The unique practice techniques are specifically designed to work with children of all abilities, ranging from the absolute beginner to the more advanced player.
- The course is run by F.A qualified coaches, who are DBS checked, and hold an advanced premier skills qualification, they are currently working with children, enabling them to learn essential football techniques, building CONFIDENCE, improving FITNESS and providing the most important ingredient FUN!
- Children will be supervised at all times, although parents are welcome to stay and watch.
- Each child will be provided with a football for individual practice and their progress will be recorded each week.
- It is an indoor course held in the sports hall, therefore children should wear trainers.
- Ex Premier League Birmingham City, West Bromwich Albion and Leicester City player Geoff Horsfield quotes, "I've coached on these courses with the team and they are fantastic in the way they deliver their coaching sessions!"
- Ex England World Cup star and Sky Sports pundit Paul Merson quotes, "I have presented trophies to the children on these courses and it's great to see the smiles on their faces and sense of achievement!"

### Presentation of trophies and award

- On the final week of the course we hold a presentation, whereby **EACH CHILD WILL RECEIVE AN ENGRAVED TROPHY.**
- Children also have a chance to win many other special individual awards and trophies for various skills, including 'premier league' and 'penalty shoot out' competitions.
- Parents and friends are most welcome to attend the presentation and watch the children being presented with their awards, as this encourages a fantastic atmosphere.

The cost of the course is £7.50 per week; payment is made in 2 simple instalments, with the first payment of £45.00 for the first 6 weeks due on week 1. (Second payment will not be due until week 7 which will cover the second half of the course). **Please Note:** Places are limited, therefore bookings will be taken on a first come, first served basis.

Mark Frith (course co-ordinator)

[www.soccercoachinuk.co.uk](mailto:www.soccercoachinuk.co.uk)

### TO RESERVE PLACES PLEASE TEXT:

**HARLOW + CHILD'S NAME + AGE + GROUP NO. (1, 2 or 3)**  
and receive confirmation by text to:  
**07827 322780**



## 3 Steps To Effective Parenting

### Rules, Routines and Consequences!



An online workshop for parents & carers of children  
EYF52, KS1 and KS2  
hosted by Natural Flair Coaching

### Topics covered include:

- Tried and tested tips on motivation and discipline strategies that work
- Tips on boundary setting, conflict and dealing with feelings
- The power of positive language
- Strategies and practical tips on taking the "No" out of their vocabulary and feeling more positive in our approach

For booking enquiries contact  
Jo at Aspects

School's & Family Liaison Service email  
[admin@aspects.org.uk](mailto:admin@aspects.org.uk)



Thursday,  
19th January 2023



9.30AM-11AM



WEBINAR VIA ZOOM  
Recording available

£5.00 per  
household



ASPECTS