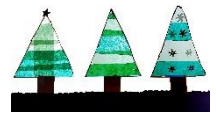




NEWSLETTER - 16th December 2022



VALUE: Compassion
Focus: Advent



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



Nativity (Ruby and Sapphire Classes)

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

What a week it has been and whilst the weather has certainly looked the picture postcard image of winter, it has had a huge impact. I never want to close the school but sometimes this is the only safe option. The impact has continued to some extent throughout the week. I know how frustrating it has been getting your children to and from school, with many of you sitting in traffic for very long periods, but the teachers and I are grateful, as we know the impact on the learning of keeping things going.

When we opened up the school on Tuesday, we were very concerned that we would not be able to clear the required parking space for the nativity to go ahead and that pick up at the end of the day would be very challenging, but thanks to some serious shovelling and gritting, ably assisted by a volunteer, we were able to clear enough space.

The nativity performances were superb. Christmas in school is not complete without this most enjoyable spectacle with the younger children performing the Christmas story and despite the massive challenge that this presents, they all rose to it admirably. I feel that when you are only four to seven years of age, this is a wonderful achievement. The songs were sung with great gusto and one reception parent expressed their amazement that their child had learned all of the words and was singing so confidently in front of an audience. The confidence that grows from opportunities like this, is one of the reasons that we put on



performances. One of the 'angels' even sang a solo and did so beautifully – it is a delight when teachers are able to provide opportunities for individual talent to blossom. All of the children performed really well; super costumes, confident narrating, enthusiastic acting and joyful dancing, plus a large dollop of 'aaah, how cute', made this very enjoyable and Mrs Smith, who took the lead in putting this together is worthy of a big thank you.



Our Christmas tree, kindly donated by the Milan's, has been decorated by all of the children and looks fabulous. We also have lovely decorations in the classrooms that were the product of the hard work on decorations day.

We have now enjoyed our Christmas dinner, which was absolutely delicious. Once the staff and governors had served the children and lunchtime team, and ensured they had a lovely time eating together, we were able to sit and enjoy our beautifully prepared Christmas food - as the children enjoyed the fresh air. We are fortunate to have such a good team in the school kitchen.

This afternoon, the children enjoyed a visit from Santa today. They went over into the woodland area to visit his grotto and receive a present. We also have our carols around the campfire this afternoon.

Finally we will end the term with Christmas Service at Great St Mary's Church on Wednesday 21st. What a happily hectic time it has been.

Have a lovely and safe weekend.



Jeremy Fisher



Christmas Dinner

MESSAGE FROM GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH



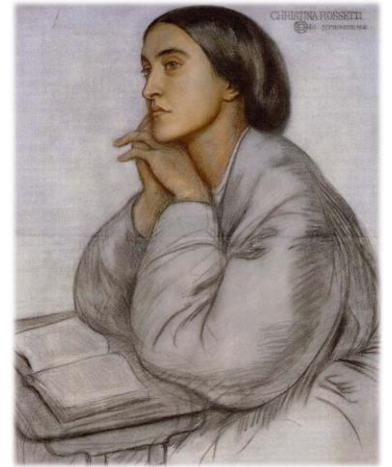
Father Simon writes:

As I've walked the paths around the church this week and seen the many evocative photographs on social media of our town being covered by snow, I've been reminded of the text of Christina Rossetti's beautiful Christmas carol '*In the bleak midwinter*' which, due to two well-known musical settings of it, occupies two places in Classic FM's top five of Christmas carols!



In her lifetime, Rossetti (1830-1894) didn't achieve the popularity of other poets such as Elizabeth Barrett Browning, and after her death her poetry faded further during the Modernist movement. However, in the latter part of last century the lyrical sweetness of her writing began to be recognised again - by both academics and poetry-lovers alike - and she's now held in high esteem.

Her poem '*In the bleak midwinter*' was originally published in January 1872. It perhaps remains close to the hearts of many because it has a way of transcending the various emotions of the Christmas season. On the one hand, it celebrates the birth of our Saviour Jesus but, on the other, it does so in a simple low-key fashion, and reflects upon the way that, even in the midst of the bleakest of circumstances, hope can flourish, and salvation can blossom.



'In the bleak midwinter' is therefore a carol which can resonate with the experiences of so many at Christmas - especially those finding it hard to smile despite all the holly and figgy pudding of the season: those who are grieving, feeling alienated or bewildered; those in pain, who are lonely or discouraged; those who are simply feeling blue.

At times like this - in the bleak midwinter of our lives - it's hard to believe we might have anything worthwhile to offer, poor as we often are spiritually. Yet for those who want to explore the meaning of Jesus' birth 2000 years ago, we have the opportunity to offer God something unique and precious to him: our own breaking, hopeful hearts, ever open to the new-born Prince of Love and Peace.



Yours in Christ,

Fr Simon

Links to the carol may be found here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAJT9df1lko> - and here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RihuTtlCxYo>

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK AND OVER THE CHRISTMAS BREAK



Ruby
Herbert

Sapphire
Jessie

Emerald
Alice
Louis

Diamond
Dominic
Maizee-Leigh
Ava

STARS OF THE WEEK

Ruby

- ✚ Samuel for his great effort and concentration.

Sapphire

- ✚ Wren for always giving 100% effort to everything she does.
- ✚ Harry F for good focus in English lessons.



Emerald

- ✚ Grace for her fantastic progress in Maths.
- ✚ Alice for her fantastic contributions in English lessons.

Diamond

- ✚ Teddy for always showing good learning behaviours.
- ✚ Harry S for good research in his Geography work.



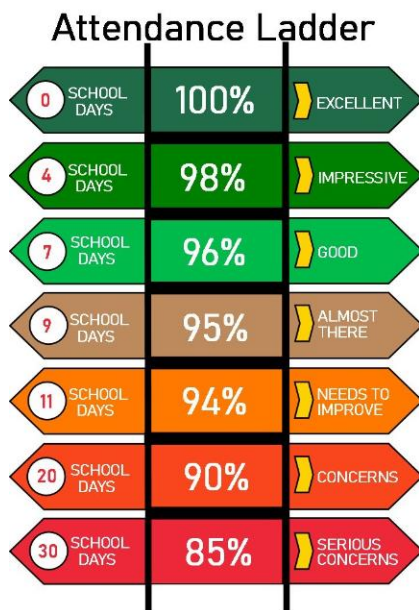
ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

**Whole School
Attendance – 89.76%**

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.



NOTICES

- ✚ **Change in menu next week** – due to supply issues, there is a slight change to the menu next week. Please see below for more details.
 - ✚ **Christmas Service at Great St Mary’s Church** is on **Wednesday 21st 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 9th January** at the usual time.
 - ✚ **Afterschool Clubs** – from **Tuesday 10th January**, our new provider – GJW Sports will be delivering our PE lessons as well as lunchtime and afterschool clubs. GJW Sports will be offering two afterschool clubs as follows:
 - Tuesday’s – Reception to Year 6 – Football (starting on Tuesday 10th January)**
 - Thursday’s – Reception to Year 6 – Dodgeball (starting on Thursday 12th January)**
- Afterschool clubs are priced at **£7.50** per session paid half-termly for a total of **£37.50**. To register for the club, please email enquiries@gjwsports.co.uk **All bookings are done directly with the club and not in Arbor.**
- ✚ **Sapphire Class Swimming** starts on **Wednesday 11th January to Wednesday 29th March**. The deadline for payment is **Friday 16th December**.

NEXT WEEK’S MENU

Day	Menu
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Roast Beef (Red) ❖ Lentil Roast (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"> ❖ Quorn Hot Dog (V) (Red) ❖ Cheese & Tomato Pizza (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
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

Website: www.spellbrook.herts.sch.uk



Amended Menu

Monday 19th December 2022

- Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding (Red)
 - Lentil Roast (V) (Green)
- Jacket Potato with various toppings (Yellow)

Tuesday 20th December 2022

- Chicken Pie with Herby Potatoes (Red)
 - Mild Vegetable Curry (Ve) (Green)
- Jacket Potato with various toppings (Yellow)

Wednesday 21st December 2022

- Quorn Hot Dog (V) (Red)
 - Cheese and Tomato Pizza (V) (Green)
- Jacket Potato with various toppings (Yellow)



THANK YOU

Spellbrook Primary

for raising a fantastic

£74.05

The money you have raised will be used to help change the lives of children and young people facing disadvantage in communities across the UK.

**BBC
CHILDREN
IN NEED**

BBC Children in Need has not verified the above fundraising. This is not a receipt.
© BBC 2007 Reg. charity England & Wales no. 802052 and Scotland no. SC039557.

FUN CLUB

At Spellbrook C of E Primary School



Football – Tuesday
Reception – Year 6



Dodgeball – Thursday
Reception – Year 6



After school 15:20–16:20

Skills, Match Play, Balance, Coordination, Fitness
Sending, Receiving, Tactics, Teamwork
Learn through play, keep active, have fun!

To make a booking please email: enquiries@gjwsports.co.uk £7.50 per session



Christmas at Great St Mary's

Decorate the Community Christmas Tree in the church

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

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 up for our celebration as your favourite Bethlehem character



Rotary Young Musician 2023

An exciting competition for young performers residing or in full-time education in postcodes CM21, CM22, CM23 and CM24

SATURDAY 22 APRIL 2023

Bishop's Stortford College



Junior, Intermediate and Senior Classes for:
BRASS; WOODWIND; STRINGS (including Guitar);
PIANO (including Organ); VOCAL

Although there are likely to be some very high standards of performance amongst the participants, we also wish to encourage entries from young instrumentalists and singers at the beginning of their musical journey, who will benefit from the experience of performing and from sympathetic and positive adjudication

For further information, please contact margaretwebb01@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES 11th MARCH 2023

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 or phone: 07549006777

Are you aged 8+?
Come and join us to complete
fun activities, chat about
books and make new friends!



Bishop's Stortford Library
Wednesdays 4pm - 5pm

18th January – Chinese New Year

Discover the story, make a dragon and write your own fortune cookie message.



25th January – Zebra Day

Find out some fascinating zebra facts in books and online and play a zebra making game.

1st February – National Storytelling Week

Use special dice to create your own story and tell it to each other.



8th February – St. Valentine's Day

Who was St. Valentine? Find out and make a Valentine picture frame.

£2.50 per session. Places limited please book at the library.

The Barringtons Jingle Bell Sleigh - Christmas Event December 2022

Friday 16th December 2022 - Bishop's Stortford
Saturday 17th December 2022 - Old Harlow & Harlow

Hello everyone,

We are back for the third year running, spreading some festive cheer through the streets of Bishop's Stortford, Harlow and Old Harlow with our Santa and 'sleigh' (horses and carriage) and team of elves. 'Barringtons Helpers' will be collecting donations on route for two important local charities, Isabel Hospice and St Clare Hospice.

Further details and updates on our Facebook page @barringtonsfuneraldirectors.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Lisa Weeks, Nikki Field, and all at Barringtons Funeral Directors

Barringtons Funeral Directors
50 Hockerill Street, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 2DW

Telephone (24 hour service): 01279 860055

Email: info@barringtonsfuneraldirectors.co.uk

Website: www.barringtonsfuneraldirectors.co.uk

- Our family, here for your family -



Full updates can be found on Facebook @barringtonsfuneraldirectors
Email: info@barringtonsfuneraldirectors.co.uk | Telephone: 01279 860055