



NEWSLETTER – 13th January 2023

VALUE: COURAGE

'Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.' Joshua 1.9



Ruby Class looking closely and deciding what to photograph

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

The school has so quickly got back into the swing of things that it would be easy to forget that we even had a break for Christmas and the New Year. For me, and I hope for many of you, it was a joyful but also fairly relaxing time with family. On behalf of the staff, we thank you so much for your generosity and the cards and gifts you so kindly gave before the end of term. Thank you also for joining us at Great St Mary's for the Carol Service. It was a lovely way to end the term. Your generosity was also appreciated in relation to the Christmas Jumper Day and the donations we received, totalling £87.60. We were delighted to pass that on and, as this year the government have pledged to match each donation, Save the Children will get twice that amount to use for their fantastic worldwide projects.

This week, children have shared their lovely experiences and talked about the lovely items they have received, and one of the highlights has been to hear that our Ukrainian pupils have visited their home country and had a lovely time with family that they had not seen for a long time.

This term will be another well-packed one with trips, visits and sports events. Sapphire class (Y1/2) have started their swimming this week and the staff had their work cut-out helping thirty, five and six year olds to manage the dressing before and after their swimming lesson and trying to be organised with their clothing and kit. We know that these personal skills soon develop and hopefully there will not be too many lost socks or missing towels before good habits are established. We are also aware that next week the children should be in their different groups and able to get on with making progress as swimmers.

We have welcomed three new children to Ruby Class, one to Reception and two to Nursery and they have settled so well, playing happily with their new friends. When I joined Spellbrook, the nursery was not running, so it has been very pleasing to see the steady growth of this provision. The children benefit so much, and if they are then able to stay with us in Reception, they already have friends and are a part of the school community, helping them so much with the transition. We do still have spaces, so would love to hear from anyone who is looking for a Reception or Nursery place for their child.

Ruby class have been exploring outside and they are developing their close observation and photography skills. The photos above show them taking the photos and the ones below are some of the ones that were taken.

We have also welcomed two new staff. Mrs Wellington is now working with Ruby class on Mondays and Fridays, supporting the learning of the nursery and reception children and Mrs Hanci has joined the lunchtime team. We also have a new sports coach, Mr Biggs, who provides activities outside for two of the lunchtimes and leads one PE session for each class each week.

With the staff changes in mind, we have been reviewing the lunchtimes and I have spent time in the dining hall in order to ensure the hall runs as smoothly as possible. I am pleased to say how calm and quiet it has been and

we have been very pleased to give out empty plate or empty lunchbox stickers to over a third of the children each day. For some, this incentive is enough to help them overcome their reluctance to eat the vegetables or other healthy parts of the meal and this is great. Year 3 and year 4 are pleased that they now sit with their year group friends regardless of whether they have packed lunch or school dinners, something that we started before Christmas, as some children had requested this.



I am aware that the number of children having school dinners is slightly lower now than it has been and know that for many it may be related to the cost



of living issues that many families face. In order to assure myself that the kitchen provide a good meal, I have been looking at the food provided. As you can see from these pictures (taken this week) the food does look appealing and it is planned to provide a balance. I am aware that whatever is on the menu, some children will like some of the choices and not others. I will add some more pictures next week to show the portion size and some of the different meals throughout the week. I have requested a taster session for parents to find out for themselves what the food tastes like.

We have also started to consider our new value, courage, and Fr Simon helped us to reflect on the courage shown by the magi, when they travelled so far to see Jesus, but also when they risked Herod's wrath by not doing as he had asked – namely reporting back to him. Over the next few weeks, we will consider different aspects of courage such as doing the right thing, even when it is not the easy thing and facing and overcoming fears. We will use stories from the bible to learn from those who have shown courage and will be trying to show courage in our own daily activities, building this value into our actions so that we are all able to cope with life's challenges bravely and effectively and together as a school.

Internet Safety – below is a magazine extract to help parents with choosing the best and most appropriate games for their children.

Game Finder: Finding games for children which are appropriate for their age, which work on the devices the children use and the children will actually enjoy playing can be a minefield, particularly when parents are being bombarded with the 'but everyone else is playing this game' guilt trip. Game Finder is a new (free) service available from Taming Gaming which walks parents through various aspects, such as how old is your child? What devices do they have? What types of games do they like to play? And then gives a list of recommendations of suitable games. I've used this a few times and it is brilliant, you can find Game Finder [HERE](https://www.taminggaming.com) or by going to www.taminggaming.com

Have a lovely weekend.

Jeremy Fisher



Some of Photographs Taken by Ruby Class

MESSAGE FROM GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Father Simon writes:

Have you ever been on a leadership course? The nearest thing I've experienced - bar working through a number of tricky hypothetical scenarios in a classroom during training - was to stand in the middle of a room with my back to another person who was standing behind me ready to catch me. Would I trust them enough not to allow me to fall backwards to the floor?



I do, however, know a couple of people who've been sent on far more adventurous leadership courses; the kind where you end up rock-climbing or scuba diving. Then, on day two, they have you taking it in turns to plan and lead small groups in building rope bridges or rafts made out of oil drums. And all the time there are people observing you so that, once back inside, your leadership strengths and weaknesses can be dissected.



As Jesus established a team of followers around him, he was continually highlighting people's strengths as he built trust amongst them. In church on Sunday, we'll be hearing about Jesus recruiting his first two disciples: the fishermen Andrew and Simon. There and then, Jesus could see Simon's potential as a leader: he gave Simon the name 'Cephas' or 'Peter', which means 'rock'.



It would take the rest of Jesus' earthly life - about 3 years - for his many disciples to truly understand the depth of Jesus' strengths... and the scale of their own vulnerability. But I think Jesus knew how important it was for his followers to make that journey of self-discovery if they were ever to be united as a team and find the vision and strength to continue his work following his ascension back to heaven.

After collective worship on Monday, Mr Fisher and I were briefly reflecting on how far we've come as a school since those days of lockdown. From being a school family broken up and only meeting over the internet, we're now - well and truly - a community again, working and caring together for each others welfare.



That's only been possible because we've faced our strengths and our vulnerabilities and have had vision to chart a way forward. And then it's relied on everybody - most of all the the teachers and school staff - working hard to ensure everybody has an equal opportunity and nobody is left behind.

There's still work to do, but, at the beginning of this new school term, I visit Spellbrook - not just as your vicar but as a governor - and see a team working so well together... a school family of which you should all be very proud.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Simon

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Emerald
Billie
Millie



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ruby

- ✚ Rowan for a very mature start back.

Sapphire

- ✚ Kaden for excellent learning behaviour and always following the golden rules.
- ✚ Martha for making a big effort to improve her handwriting presentation.



Emerald

- ✚ Hudson for great improvement in his focus and concentration.
- ✚ Millie for the hard work and effort she's been putting in to improve her handwriting.

Diamond

- ✚ Charlie C for excellent accuracy in English writing.
- ✚ Teddy for fantastic joining in with activities.
- ✚ Oscar for good supportive team work in PE.



ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

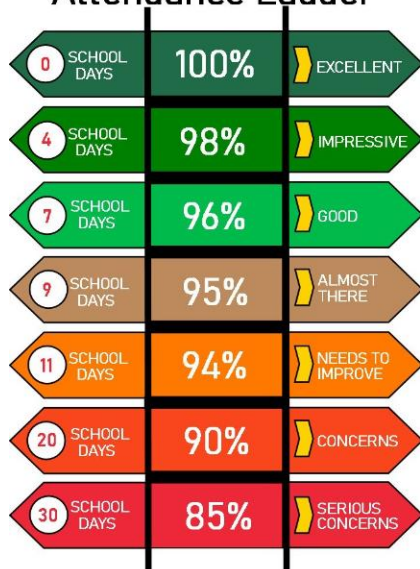
**Whole School
Attendance – 93.18%**

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

Charity Fundraising – we raised **£87.60** on Christmas Jumper Day for the charity – Save the Children UK. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to this worthy cause.

Reception Application Deadline – this is a reminder to nursery parents that the deadline to apply for a Reception place is **Sunday 15th January**.

Afterschool Clubs – our new provider – GJW Sports runs our PE lessons as well as lunchtime and afterschool clubs. GJW Sports offers 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.

Craft Club – Due to popular demand, we are extending the club to include children from **Reception to Year 6**. The club runs on a **Wednesday** from **3.20 - 4.20pm** and costs **£5 per session**. More information on how to book will be sent out on Monday.

Emerald Trip to West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village is on **Tuesday 7th February**. Please see the email that was sent out yesterday for more information. If you require a school lunch for the trip, please email or ring the office by **Friday 3rd February**.

Diamond Trip to the Royal Gunpowder Mills is on **Wednesday 22nd February**. Please see the email that was sent out yesterday for more information. If you require a school lunch for the trip, please email or ring the office by **Friday 10th February**.

NEXT WEEK'S MENU

Day	Menu
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Vegballs in Homemade Tomato Sauce (Ve) (Red) ❖ Cheese Pinwheel (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
15/01/23	Reception Application Deadline
07/02/23	Emerald Trip to West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village
10/02/23	Year 6 TLM /Height & Weight

Tuesday	❖ Mild Chicken Curry with Rice (Red) ❖ Omelette, Grilled Tomatoes and Baked Beans (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)	13/02/23 – 17/02/23	Half Term
Wednesday	❖ Roast Pork (Red) ❖ Tomato Bolognese (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)	20/02/23	Inset 5
Thursday	❖ Beef Burger in a Bun (Red) ❖ Cheese, Potato & Broccoli Bake (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)	21/02/23	First Day Back
Friday	❖ Fish Fillet Fingers (Red) ❖ Cheese & Tomato Pizza (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)	22/02/23	Diamond Trip to Royal Gunpowder Mills
		01/03/23	Secondary School Allocation Day
		08/03/23	Diamond & Emerald Trip – Faith Tour
		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			



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



Great St Mary's
Sawbridgeworth

Passion for Christ - Compassion for all

Mustard Seed -
our monthly
short, informal
service
with crafts and
activities



Followed by a
party tea for
children
and hot
refreshments for
grown-ups



**Why not join us this Sunday at 4pm
as we celebrate the arrival of
the kings in Bethlehem?**



BREAKFAST CLUB

8am - 8.40am everyday
cooked breakfast
served at 8am



£4.50 per
session
payable
via arbor

NB late
arrivals will
not be
catered for
cooked
breakfast

Please book 24
hours ahead to
ensure
availability



2023 Camps Open

Code

Create

Learn

TECH

HOLIDAY CAMP

BISHOP'S STORTFORD COLLEGE
 School House, Maze Green Road,
 Bishop's Stortford, CM23 2PQ

FIND YOUR NEAREST CAMP ON OUR WEBSITE
www.nextthing.education

FEB HALF TERM 2023

What's on?

Movie Making | Video Game Design | Robot Coding | STEM Experiments | Engineering



Curious Coders



Ingenious Inventors



Virtual Reality



Expert Engineers



Media Madness

Example weekly theme only, please see website for your camp specific activities

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 5 - 11

13TH - 17TH FEBRUARY LIMITED SPACES

AGES 5 - 11 MULTI DAY BOOKING DISCOUNTS!

Rave Reviews

* My son gave the camp **rave reviews**. The type of activities on offer were **perfect** for him and it was nice that they also had outdoor time during the breaks. He **loved so many of the activities** on offer, it was a **nice alternative** to a purely sports based camp. **We will be back!**

★★★★★

How to book

STEP 1

SCAN THE QR CODE



STEP 2

FIND YOUR NEAREST CAMP



STEP 3

USE OUR COUPON TO GET £5 OFF

5FEB





W: WWW.NEXTTHING.EDUCATION

E: INFO@NEXTTHING.EDUCATION T: 01442 873150



Rotary

Club of Bishop's Stortford

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