



NEWSLETTER - 27th January 2023

VALUE: COURAGE

Focus: Doing the right thing, not the easy thing

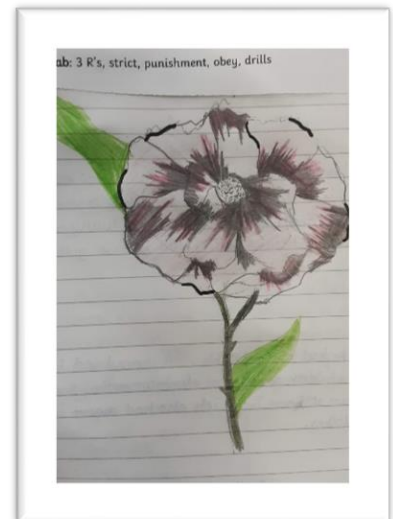
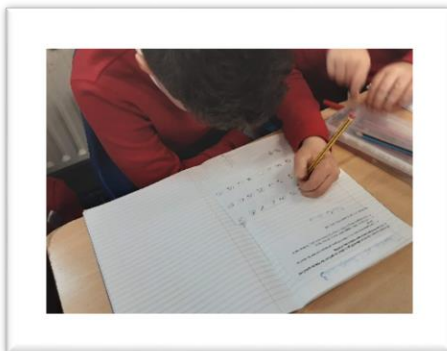
'Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.' Joshua 1.9

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

This week in Spellbrook. Diamond Class are learning about education during Victorian times and have been experiencing some of the activities that would have taken place in school. Finley our school journalist informed me that,

"On Thursday we (Diamond Class) pretended that we were in a Victorian school and we experienced a few activities that the children would have done. We drew nature drawings, wrote an extract from a Charles Dickens story, practised the ABCs - copperplate handwriting – and our PE was called drill where we all had to do some exercises such as bending and stretching."

The children were encouraged to reflect on the differences in the way that children were treated in school and the very strict regime that would have been enforced. They were fascinated by the ideas that pupils would be sent to sit in the corner with their backs to the others, made to wear a dunce's hat and could be sent to the headmaster for 'the cane'. This is so far from their own experiences that it took their best acting skills to take it seriously.



As well as learning about Christianity in religious education, we also learn about other major world religions. Emerald Class are currently learning about Islam and are finding out about some of the practices and customs that are important to Muslims.

They have been very fortunate that a parent of children in the school has been able to come and share her own experiences as well as bringing in some artefacts for the children to see. She expressed her pleasure in how well they listened and was impressed with the questions they asked.



As a school, we are committed to not only the professional development of our own staff, but also providing opportunities for others to gain the experiences and knowledge necessary for a successful career in education. The Ruby class children are very fortunate to have a couple of students helping out at the moment. The children love having the extra adults to engage with and provide specific help and assistance and the students themselves gain so much from working with our experienced team. It is a very positive experience all round. When I popped into Ruby Class this morning, a group of children had built a fantastic train track (see below) and were enjoying developing it and playing on it together. Other children were having their phonics lesson with the class teacher and others were completing an activity with an adult.

One of the children was keen to show me the caterpillars they have made. They have planted cress seeds and are hoping the seeds will grow and give the caterpillar a growing green body. I will certainly be popping back in specifically to see how well they grow.



Later on they were enjoying PE together (see below) and everyone was supported to join in and develop not only the physical skills but also the listening and participation skills that are so important at this early stage in their school life.

Car parking: Thank you for responding positively to my request last week regarding arrival times in the car park at the end of the day. It has been calmer and safer this week and I urge to continue to avoid arriving before 3:00 pm.

Teacher strike: As you will no doubt be aware there is a teacher strike next Wednesday and the school will be partially closed. Please see the email that was sent out yesterday and if you have any queries, please contact the school office.

This week, we also said thank you and goodbye to Reverend Debbie. Her support of the school over the last six years including regularly leading collective worship and being part of our services at Great St Mary's church has been greatly appreciated. We wish her all the best in her retirement.



Have a lovely weekend

Jeremy Fisher



Ruby Class

MESSAGE FROM GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Revd Debbie writes:



Dear friends,

It was on the evening of Wednesday 1st February 2017 that my name became officially linked to the history of Great St Mary's and, by extension, Spellbrook School. That evening I was licensed by Bishop Alan of St Albans and Archdeacon Janet as the Associate Minister of Sawbridgeworth.

Since then, I've experienced such pleasure in being part of this lovely community. As well as everything at the church, I've enjoyed the opportunity of getting to know your wonderful school. There have been many highs - school services in church, nativity plays, collective worships, and Christmas school dinners (to which I was able to wear my Christmas jumper!) - and poignant moments such as our remembrance memorial events. And then there's been the challenges of the Covid lockdowns.

Through it all, I've seen Spellbrook continue to grow as a caring family - the teachers and staff always putting the interests and development of the pupils at the very forefront of their daily labours.

But now my time in Sawbridgeworth has come to an end. My husband Richard and I are moving to the village of Great Oakley near Harwich in north-east Essex. I shall no doubt say 'yes' to what God has in mind as the next chapter of my ministry; I've no doubt God has a new purpose for a retired priest!



Even so, we will miss Sawbridgeworth and Spellbrook, and feel so very blessed to have been part of this community. Saying goodbye isn't easy. Nor should it be; we share so many memories of joys, celebrations, losses and challenges that have woven us together. But we do say goodbye - a word that originally meant "God be with ye!" - and pray that the Lord will bless you and keep you for evermore.



Yours,

Revd Debbie

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Ruby
Tillie



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ruby

✚ Samuel for great focus in lessons.

Sapphire

✚ Henry for making sensible behaviour choices.

✚ Connor for his amazing art work.

Emerald

✚ Elise for working hard to improve her focus and concentration in lessons.

✚ Tristan for always working hard and for sharing some great ideas during lessons.

Diamond

✚ Alfie for being considerate to others.

✚ Izzy for always trying her best in all she does.

ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

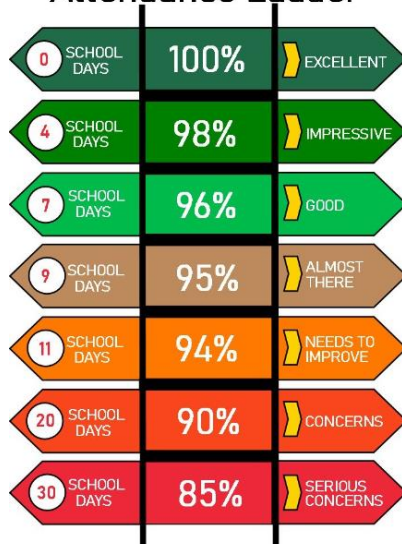
**Whole School
Attendance – 93.28%**

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

✚ **School Photos** – For any parents yet to purchase photos from last term, Pret-a-Portrait would like to extend the discount until **Tuesday 31st January!** Head to their website www.pret-a-portrait.net and enter your sitting ID and the 25% discount will automatically be applied. If you've misplaced your sitting ID, please contact **Pret-a-Portrait** directly on 0800 021 7626 or customerservice@pret-a-portrait.net

✚ **Craft Club** is cancelled on **Wednesday 1st February**. Parents who have already booked will be refunded, with the credit remaining on the account which can be used for future bookings. The club will resume on Wednesday 8th February. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

✚ **Emerald Trip to West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village** is on **Tuesday 7th February**. If you require a school lunch for the trip, please email or ring the office. Payment is due on **Friday 3rd February**.

✚ **Diamond Trip to the Royal Gunpowder Mills** is on **Wednesday 22nd February**. If you require a school lunch for the trip, please email or ring the office by **Friday 10th February**.

✚ **Gardening Club** starts again straight after half-term on **Wednesday 22nd February**. It's open to Years 3, 4, 5 & 6. New starters welcome. Registration forms available from the school office or email: wendy@wellbeangardening.com

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 (Ve) (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 (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
07/02/23	Emerald Trip to West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village
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
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
22/05/23	Class Photos
29/05/23 – 02/06/23	Half Term
21/07/23	Last Day of Term
01/09/23	Inset 1
04/09/23	Inset 2
05/09/23	First Day Back
23/10/23 – 27/10/23	Half Term
01/12/23	Occasional Day – School Closed
20/12/23	Last Day of Autumn Term 23
04/01/24	Inset 3
05/01/24	Inset 4
08/01/24	First Day Back
19/02/24 – 23/02/24	Half Term
26/02/24	First Day Back
28/03/24	Last Day of Spring Term
15/04/24	First Day Back
06/05/24	Early May Bank Holiday
27/05/24 – 31/05/24	Half Term
03/06/24	Inset 5
23/07/24	Last Day of Summer Term

Contact: admin@spellbrook.herts.sch.uk

Website: www.spellbrook.herts.sch.uk



SPORTS & ACTIVITY CAMP

SPECIAL EVENTS:

TUESDAY: BIKE/SCOOTER SKILLS

WEDNESDAY: BOUNCY CASTLES

FOODIE FRIDAY: CUPCAKE BAKING

MONDAY 13TH - FRIDAY 17TH FEBRUARY
YEARS 1-7

FOOTBALL CAMP

SKILLS + DRILLS, ATTACKING, DEFENDING,
SHOOTING, FREE KICKS, TACTICS + TEAM PLAY,
MINI TOURNAMENT

TUESDAY 14TH - THURSDAY 16TH FEBRUARY
YEARS 1-7

MINI CAMP

SCAVENGER HUNT, ARTS + CRAFTS, MULTI-SKILLS
ACTIVITIES, BUG HOTEL, SALT-DOUGH

MONDAY 13TH, TUESDAY 14TH, FRIDAY 17TH FEBRUARY
RECEPTION, YEAR 1, YEAR 2

TO MAKE A BOOKING PLEASE VISIT:

[HTTPS://FORM.JOTFORM.COM/230092753155049](https://form.jotform.com/230092753155049)

REEDGINS JUNIOR SCHOOL, BULLFIELDS,
SAWBRIDGEWORTH, HERTS, CM21 9DD

£22 PER DAY

<https://form.jotform.com/230092753155049>

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

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



CRAFT CLUB

NOW AVAILABLE FROM
RECEPTION TO YEAR 6

STARTS WED 18TH JAN
WITH MISS PROW
IN THE LIBRARY

£5 PER SESSION

PAYABLE VIA ARBOR



Well Bean Gardening

Learning through growing
Growing through learning

Join our After-School Gardening Club

Starting again on Wednesday February 22 from 3.20pm-4.30pm



- Spellbrook's Gardening Club meets on Wednesdays and is open to Years 3, 4, 5 & 6. Limited spaces available
- £36.00 for six sessions
- All equipment supplied but pupils must bring appropriate clothing as we will be outside in all weathers
- This half-term we'll be:
 - Working to improve the school gardens
 - Taking part in the RHS Campaign for School Gardening Award Scheme - LEVEL 4

If you would like your child to attend, please return the slip below to the school office before Wednesday February 22 and make a payment of £36 in cash/a cheque made payable to: WENDY GORDON or with a BACS payment to: Wendy Gordon/27441520/07-04-36 (Use your name as reference)

I would like my child to attend Spellbrook's After-School Gardening Club on Wednesdays:

Child's name: Year group:

Your name: Phone number:

Email:

Any allergies or medical issues that we need to be aware of?:

*Your child's safety is a priority, but we can only put measures into place if you let us know.

Well Bean Gardening has a Facebook page (please check it out and like) and every week an update of what we get up to at the club will be posted.

If you **DO NOT** want photos of your child to be used on Facebook please tick the box: (Please note that children are never named)

Payment of £36 has been made via Cash/Cheque/Bacs with the reference name of:

Email: wendy@wellbeangardening.com
Mobile: 07817 528652

[facebook.com/wellbeangardening](https://www.facebook.com/wellbeangardening)
www.wellbeangardening.com



MANAGING ANGER & CONFLICT IN THE FAMILY

An "in person" workshop for parents & carers of children aged 5-13

Topics covered to include:

- are you fed up with shouting?
- are you constantly repeating yourself?
- getting into constant power struggles with your child?
- do you want tips and strategies to deal with angry children?
- want to know how to model and teach safe ways of expressing anger?



Guest Speaker
Sarah Bojakwoski
of Natural Flair Coaching

Date: Thursday 9th March 2023

Time: 9.30am - 11.30am

Venue: Hillmead Primary School

Woburn Avenue, Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM23 4PW

(onsite parking available)

Price: £5.00 per household



For booking and payment enquiries contact Jo at
Aspects School's & Family Liaison Service
email admin@aspects.org.uk



February

Half Term

13-17 Feb

9-4pm
Extended Hours
7.30-6pm

Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Essex
Hertfordshire

From **£23**
Per Person
CCV vouchers &
TFC accepted

Ofsted
Registered

The Science Academy

The Activities
Science Academy
Sports & Dance
Crafts & LEGO
Pirate Day

Ages 5-13

Try us for the first time for **FREE!**

Web: MULTI-ACTIVE.CO.UK
Tel: 01462 351582

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www.Multi-Active.co.uk