



NEWSLETTER – 24th February 2023

VALUE: Forgiveness

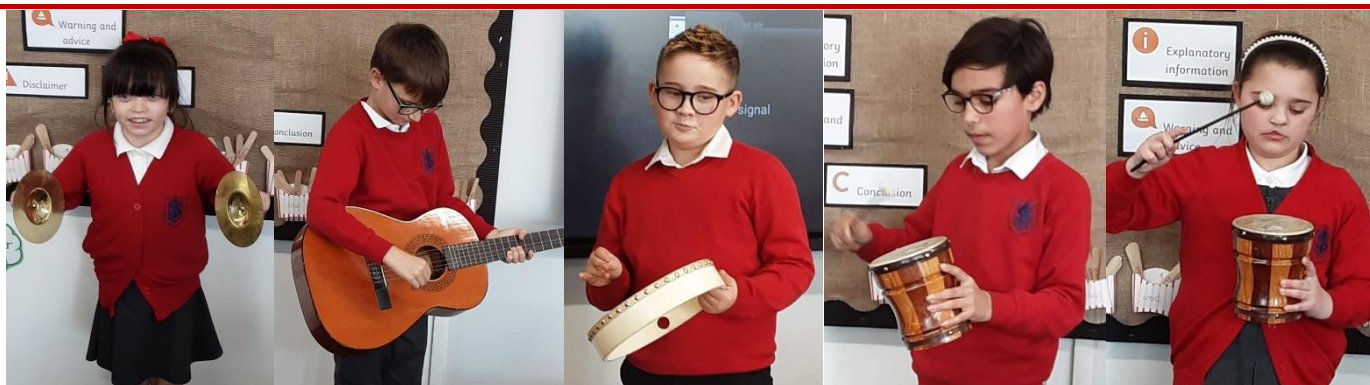
Focus: Wiping the Slate Clean

“Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive others.”

Colossians 3:13



Ruby Class Science: Plants



Emerald Class Science : Sound

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

This week, Ruby class have continued to use the outdoors to develop their understanding of living things. They are learning the names and functions of a plant. They talked about a plants roots, stem, leaves, and flower (and petals). They looked carefully, using magnifiers, at plants on our grounds and identified the different parts. Then, back inside, they organised a plant diagram and then helped label a plant using an app on the laptops.



Emerald class have been learning about sound. They have learned about volume and pitch. A couple of the children spoke to me about the lesson and explained their understanding. I was told that volume is about quiet and loud sounds. The children had experimented with a range of instruments, making sounds that were quiet and loud. Lots of fun was had making very loud sounds and care was taken to make the quieter ones. Pitch is when the sounds are low or high and the children had used different instruments and found out ways to change the pitch. The guitar was very popular and the concentration shows in the pictures. The children could feel the vibrations in the strings or on the drums and they looked at images of sound waves.

They will also be using an app on the tablet to see how sound waves change according to the pitch and volume.



Diamond Class had a visit to the Royal Gunpowder Mills as part of their History topic, the Victorians. I asked for some information from the school journalist Finley M and heard some interesting facts about the day. The class met a character from that time, Henry Gaunt (an actor in costume), who told them all about the lives of ordinary people who worked at the mills during the Victorian Era; about their work, their leisure and their schooling. The children were shown and allowed to examine artefacts such as the

one-legged stools that supervisors at the gunpowder mill sat on during their 14 hours shifts to ensure they stayed awake and alert at all times. Marlon particularly liked the artefacts. The children used tablets to access activities. One of which was creating gunpowder and being ready to react if it started to become dangerous and another was about the clothing. Apparently workers were not allowed to wear hob-nailed boots -the go to footwear of the day -, as they could produce sparks. Workers were also checked to make sure they were not carrying matches or anything else that could start a fire. They explored the grounds and looked at the buildings (the part of the day that Taliya particularly enjoyed). They found out about the technology of the time such as the fire alarm system on the site that sent an electromagnetic signal to operators who had to decode it to identify where the emergency was, and the Victorian alternatives to washing machines, taking turns to try the different laundry methods and discovering for themselves how much hard work it would have been. A very instructive day to help deepen their understanding of the life of the Victorians.



Meanwhile, Father Simon and Di joined us on Wednesday afternoon to lead an Ash Wednesday service. Our current Christian Value is forgiveness and we found out more about Lent in the Church calendar and how Christians use this time to prepare for Easter. Children and staff were able to take part and receive the sign of the cross in ash on their forehead or hand. The level of understanding the children demonstrate and the respect and thoughtfulness that they show never fails to impress me.

Strike Day: School will remain open for Diamond and Sapphire class. Sapphire Class will be going ahead with their swimming lesson. Children in Diamond and Sapphire will be expected to attend school at the usual time. In addition, we are making provision for pupils who are eligible for pupil premium and for those with a high level of SEND to be in school for the day, and if your child falls within this category and they are coming into school, please let the office know so that we can make plans.

Have a lovely weekend.

Jeremy Fisher



Diamond Class Trip to the Royal Gunpowder Mills

MESSAGE FROM GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH



Father Simon writes:

Some of you may recall me reflecting late last year in the *Sawbridgeworth Flyer* on Bronnie Ware's book 'The Top Five Regrets of the Dying'.



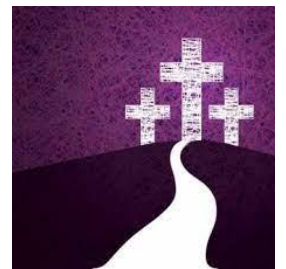
Bronnie is an Australian who, in her early years, found herself working in palliative care. Having got to know well those she cared for, she was struck by their common regrets as they neared the end of life. And from those regrets Bronnie produced a book featuring the advice to:



1. Live a life which is true to you, and not the life others might wish you to lead.
2. Don't work so hard to the exclusion of the simple, beautiful things of life.
3. Sensitively express your feelings; don't let things go unsaid.
4. Stay in touch with your friends.
5. Be happy and content with things now, else happiness will never arrive in your life.

Bronnie's book touches upon that sense of mortality which we're all faced with at times, and it reminds us that this one life is not only precious but that we should take responsibility to focus on what really matters, rather than all the other stuff which consciously or unconsciously distracts us.

It was great to be in school this past Ash Wednesday to share the beginning of Lent with the children. As our Lenten journey continues over the next 40 or so days, perhaps the sentiments of Bronnie's book are a good starting point, leading us to ask: What do I need to do to make the most of my one precious life?



That may raise a host of other questions: What do I value most in my life? What is it that I'm consciously doing to distract myself from living my life to the fullest? What is it that I could clear out of my life which is currently unconsciously encroaching on it and devaluing it? The result might be a very constructive Lenten journey. After all, our precious lives should be of infinite value in our eyes because they're certainly of infinite value in God's eyes.

Wishing you all a holy Lent,

Fr Simon

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Sapphire
Arlo
Connor

Emerald
Dylan

Diamond
James



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ruby

- Tillie for fantastic listening to instructions.
- Eloise for going the extra mile.

Sapphire

- Harvey for working hard to improve his writing.
- Arlo for excellent effort in lessons.

Emerald

- Billie for the amazing progress she's making with her reading skills.
- Flora for her fantastic independent writing this week.

Diamond

- Marlon for excellent participation on the school trip.
- Ella for her excellent presentation skills.

ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

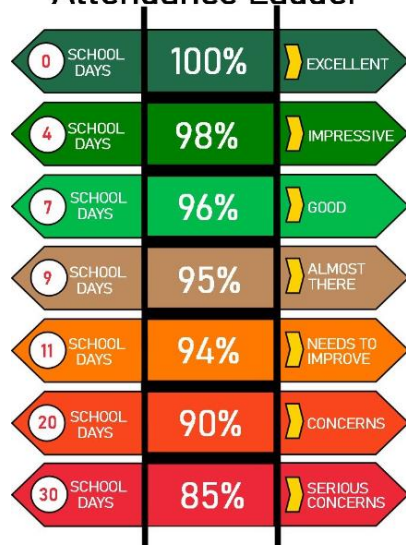
**Whole School
Attendance – 97.24%**

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

- Gardening Club** is back! It's open to Years 3, 4, 5 & 6. New starters welcome. Registration forms available from the school office or email: wendy@wellbeangardening.com

- Reception Vision, Hearing, Height & Weight Screening** is on **Tuesday 28th February**. If you do not want your child to participate, please ring the school nursing team on **0300 123 7572** or email them at: HCT.SHWBSWH@nhs.net

- EYFS Phonics & Reading Session on Tuesday 28th February** – Ruby parents are invited to a workshop at **2pm** in the hall, followed by a reading session in class. Please return the reply slip to confirm attendance by **Monday 27th February**.

- Teacher's Strike on Wednesday 1st March** – the school will be open to children in **Diamond** and **Sapphire**. Drop off and pick up times remain the same. The Breakfast and Craft Clubs will also be running as usual. Sapphire children will also have their usual swimming lesson on the day.

- End of Day** – this is a reminder that pick up times are as follows:

Ruby & Sapphire – 3.10 pm
Emerald & Diamond – 3.20 pm

- World Book Day** is on **Thursday 2nd March**. To celebrate this day, children are welcome to come to school dressed as their favourite book character should they wish to do so.

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 (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
28/02/23	EYFS Phonics & Reading Session
01/03/23	Secondary School Allocation Day
02/03/23	World Book Day
03/03/23	Year 5 Cross Country
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
19/04/23	Diamond Class Swimming starts
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
12/07/23	Diamond Class Last Swimming Lesson
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





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
www.wellbeangardening.com

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

GJWSports

Promoting a healthy & active lifestyle

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

ROTARY YOUNG MUSICIAN 2023

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

SATURDAY 22nd APRIL 2023

Bishop's Stortford College



**Classes for: BRASS; WOODWIND; STRINGS (including Guitar);
PIANO (including Organ); VOCAL**
in three age groups—Junior, Intermediate, Senior

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

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES — 11th March 2023

PLEASE NOTE—Because the Junior Piano Class had become too large to fit into the day, there will be a Novice Piano Competition on Friday 21st April after school in the Memorial Hall, Bishop's Stortford College for Novice Pianists of Grade 1-2 Standard. This will give very new pianists an excellent opportunity to perform to an audience and receive a certificate and critique from the adjudicator. There will be a winner, who will receive a small trophy, but who will not participate in the Evening Concert on Saturday 22nd. No other class is affected by the change.

Entry and payment for all classes can be made online at www.bsrotary.org, where the rules of the competition are also available.

For further information, please contact margaretwebb01@gmail.com

£18
per ticket

**HOSTED BY
HILLMEAD PTA**

SWIRL. SMELL. SIP. REPEAT!

WINE TASTING NIGHT

Friday 17th March at 7.30pm
in the School Hall

*With a Cheese
Tasting board*

Email -
vicechair@hillmead-pta.org.uk
for any enquiries or to book
tickets.

In association with
Waples Wines



Free Support for Hertfordshire Families



The Hertfordshire Family Centre Service have lots of fun activities for families this spring!

As the cost of living continues to rise, it helps that all of their sessions are free and also drop-in. Run by professional, qualified staff in Early Years, their groups offer a wide range of activities for you and your children to enjoy and play together. They are an opportunity for you to meet other local families and get advice and support from the Family Centre team. As well as lots for under 5's to enjoy! Their regular groups include

- Baby Group (pre-walkers) - drop in and meet other families with young babies in a supportive, stimulating and friendly environment. This session is for babies to play and for you to discover more about their development and support your own wellbeing as a new parent
- Active Rhyme Time (6-18 months) – a fun session including active rhymes and songs for you and your baby and toddler. The groups are a great way to meet other families and develop your child's communication and physical skills
- Physical Fun (18 months +) - join the team for a fun, active session. A way to meet other families and enjoy lots of fun games and play opportunities to support your child with their physical development

These groups run at different venues across Hertfordshire and you can drop into any of them, there is no need to book. Family Support staff will be on hand to answer any questions that you may have and if you need any extra help, they can point you in the right direction. For the latest What's On guide please see their website www.hertsfamilycentres.org

FREE FOOTBALL

**FOUR FREE FOOTBALL SESSIONS IN YOUR AREA
NO CATCHES! JUST FUN, FREE FOOTBALL!!
5-11 YEAR OLDS. COME AND JOIN US!!!
TO SIGN UP SIMPLY SEARCH 'MCDONALD'S FUN FOOTBALL'
OR DROP US AN EMAIL [INFO@FDEONLINE.CO.UK](mailto:info@fdeonline.co.uk)**

FREE

fde. 

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