SPELLBROOK CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

LEARN TOGETHER - ENJOY TOGETHER - SUCCEED TOGETHER

NEWSLETTER – 3rd March 2023

VALUE: Forgiveness

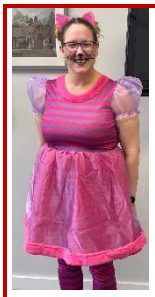
Focus: Turning Over a New Leaf

"Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive others."
Colossians 3:13

World Book Day 2023 – Character Spoons

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Yesterday, the 2nd March was World Book Day. World Book Day began in 1995 and is now marked in over 100 countries around the globe. Staff and children dressed up as favourite book characters. I decided to come as my namesake from the Beatrix Potter stories that were written in the early 1900s and I noticed the amusement of many of you during drop-off. It has taken me many years to come to terms with the fact that my parents gave me the same name as a frog. Over the day, children also commented and asked questions about the character, some of them recognising it as a character from the Peter Rabbit film. They also talked about their own characters and I would like to thank parents for getting involved and providing the costumes.



We even had one parent come to the office to show her costume. Maybe that is something that will catch on.

I have also seen the super spoons that have been made over the last couple of weeks and hope that this has provided any opportunity to talk about books and characters at home. There have certainly been some very creative and fantastic looking models.

During the day, children spent time thinking about reading. They thought about the kinds of books that they enjoy and shared whether their favourites are picture books, joke books, poetry books, comic books and information books. Some children talked about how they enjoy listening to stories on audio books. Children thought about where they like to read and some admitted that they like to hide under the duvet with a torch, even when parents think they have gone to sleep.

The children also considered their reading Superpower. We identified many such as:

- Talking about books
- choosing which books they like to read,
- making time to read,
- having fun and enjoying reading,
- listening to books being read,
- sharing books with family and friends
- identifying with their favourite characters

Some children said they had many of these superpowers. This was one of the best World Book Days I have enjoyed (and I have certainly lost track of how many since the mid-nineties) due to the way that so many got involved, bringing in the spoons, wearing costumes and sharing their love of books.

Strike Days:
I appreciate the impact of the strike days and the difficulty that families can experience with any disruption to the school week. I would like to say a huge thank you to parents who have brought their children in to those classes that we have been able to open, particularly when the children have siblings that have stayed at home as their class has been closed. I know the amount of persuasion that goes into this and how reluctant one child can be if they see brothers and sisters staying at home, so well done.

Have a lovely weekend.

Jeremy Fisher

MESSAGE FROM GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Father Simon writes:

I've spent a couple of days at a Church conference this week. At this purple time of the Church's year, there's always a chuckle to be had to break the ice over the question of who's given up alcohol - or anything else for that matter - for Lent.

It's a subject we've been looking at during our collective worships over the past couple of weeks: the reasons for giving something up - or, in more recent years, taking something constructive up - for Lent. Why do we do this each year?

So many of us are so fortunate to have so much in our lives. Yet there's often that nagging feeling that something is missing; that everything we have is still leaving us unfulfilled. You won't be surprised to hear that I believe that's because so many of us aren't paying proper attention to God. I believe too many of us find it too easy to drown God's voice out from our lives by over-indulging in the easy distractions which stop us having to face the big questions of life and, ultimately, finding a greater level of fulfilment.

Fasting - be it during Lent or any time of the year - is our opportunity to devote some time to finding that fulfilment. It's about creating the space in our lives - be it by giving something up such as a food type, or by refraining from something such as switching the TV on quite so early each evening - so that we can take something up: committing to our Bible or to something devotional for a few minutes a day, or perhaps simply to find a quite space around the home to spend a little time sitting in quiet contemplation.

Giving or taking something up for God is an age-old practice which reminds us of all that is surplus to the real value of our lives - all the things that may have become 'idols' in our lives - and all - namely, God - that is essential, whether we realise it or not yet, to live a fulfilling life.

May God bless your journey through Lent,

Fr Simon

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

No Birthday's this Week

STARS OF THE WEEK

Ruby

- Esme for brilliant group work.
- Herbert for great effort in some of his learning.

Sapphire

- Wren for excellent independent writing.
- Lisa for always participating enthusiastically in lessons.

Emerald

- Sabiha for the amazing progress progress she's made with reading and comprehension.
- Sid for the hard work and effort he puts into every lesson all of the time.

Diamond

- Jim for persevering when there is a challenge.
- Finley for excellent writing in English.

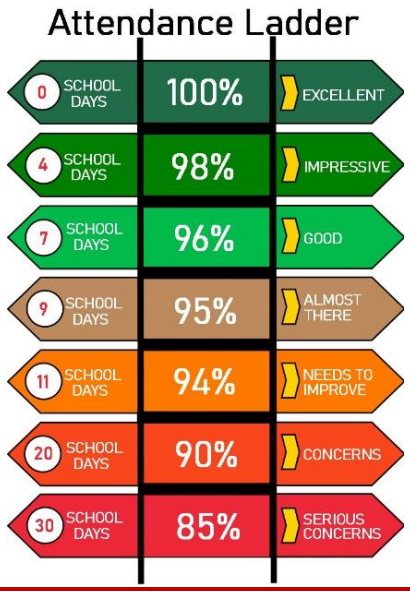
ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Whole School
Attendance – 93.95%

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

- **Diamond & Emerald Faith Tour Trip** is on **Wednesday 8th March.** Children should arrive at school by **8.15 am** and will be back by **3.15 pm.** Children will require a packed lunch.

- **Sapphire Trip to Great St Mary's Church** is on **Thursday 9th March.** Children will be travelling to the church by coach at 2 pm. **End of day collection is from the church at 3 pm.** Please return permission slips by **Monday 6th March.**

- **Gardening Club –** we still have spaces available in the Gardening Club which runs on a Wednesday afternoon for children in **Years 3-6.** To book a space, please fill out the registration form which was sent out today.

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

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

NEXT WEEK'S MENU

Day	Menu
Monday	❖ Meatballs in Homemade Tomato Sauce (Red) ❖ Cheese Pinwheel (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)
Tuesday	❖ Mild Chicken Curry (Red) ❖ Omelette, Grilled Tomatoes & Baked Beans (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)
Wednesday	❖ Roast Pork (Red) ❖ Tomato Bolognese (Ve) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)
Thursday	❖ Beef Burger in a Bun (Red) ❖ Cheese, Potato & Broccoli Bake (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
08/03/23	Diamond & Emerald Trip – Faith Tour
09/03/23	Sapphire Trip to Great St Mary's Church
17/03/23	Red Nose Day
20/03/23 – 31/03/23	Big Walk & Wheel Week
28/03/23	EYFS Meeting
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
09/05/23 – 12/05/23	KS2 SATs Week
15/05/23 – 19/05/23	Walk to School Week
18/05/23	Year 6 Crucial Crew

Friday	❖ Fish Fillet Fingers (Red) ❖ Cheese & Tomato Pizza (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)

22/05/23	Class Photos
23/05/23 – 26/05/23	Diamond Class Activity Week
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

MODESHIFT STARS EDUCATION
SILVER: VERY GOOD TRAVEL PLAN 2022

sustrans BIG WALK AND WHEEL
20–31 March 2023

SCHOOL GAMES GOLD 2021/22

Well Bean Gardening

Learning through growing
Growing through learning

We have spaces in our After-School Gardening Club

- Spellbrook's Gardening Club meets on Wednesdays and is open to Years 3, 4, 5 & 6. 3.20pm-4.30pm.
- £24.00 for remaining four 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 March 8 and make a payment of £24 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*: .....

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*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 £24 has been made via Cash/Cheque/Bacs with the reference name of: .....

.....

Email: wendy@wellbeangardening.com **facebook.com/wellbeangardening**
Mobile: 07817 528652 **www.wellbeangardening.com**

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

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

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

HAPpy Camps are back!

this Spring, all over Hertfordshire!

This Spring, school aged children eligible for benefits related free school meals, can enjoy **free food, free sports** and **free craft activities!**

Get your **HAPpy Booking Code** from your child's school now, to access all this and more!

Bookings open on
Monday 6th March

All camps are free!

Book now by scanning the QR code

Hertfordshire's Holiday Activity Programme
HAPpy

Hertfordshire

herts sports partnership

boomkids

Meet the Experts is back with a brand new series and looking for expert children to take part!

MEET THE EXPERTS

Does your child have an interesting hobby that they are extremely passionate about?

Would they like to showcase their talent and expertise on Channel 5's Milkshake?

We want to hear from entertaining and outgoing children between 7-8yrs old, of all different backgrounds and abilities.

For more information please email: MTE@boomcymru.co.uk or call: 07436 097767

Calls to this number may incur charges. Please contact your provider for more details.
We welcome applications from all sections of the community including from ethnically diverse groups.
The closing date for applications is 1st August 2023
Boom will process your information in accordance with the privacy policy of the company (available on our website)
Due to the high volume of responses, we cannot reply to everyone

milkshake!

5

Heath Players present

Once Upon a CRIME

The Trial of Goldilocks

By Flip Kobler & Cindy Marcus

Produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service Inc. Denver, Colorado

Is she GUILTY or NOT GUILTY?
You - the audience - decide!

THURS 13th, FRI 14th, SAT 15th APRIL 7.30pm
MATINEE SAT 15th 2.30pm (doors open 30 minutes before curtain up)
TICKETS: £10 conc: £8 (children 12 & under and OAP's)
www.ticketsource.co.uk/heathplayers
Or Call: 0333 666 3366 (booking fee applies)

Tickets also available from FOOTPRINT

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fab science HOLIDAY CAMPS

Join us for 5 hours of Fab Science fun in the holidays! Camps run 10am to 3pm and are open to all children aged 5-11 years.

For more information visit the Fab Science website.

£35 per child

Sibling discount available

SUPER SOUND

Feel, see and hear the vibrations that make sound. Investigate sound-proofing, create your own instruments and see couscous dance to your favourite tunes!

Monday 3rd April
Hertford (St Joseph's in the Park)

Tuesday 4th April
Saffron Walden (RAB)

Wednesday 5th April
Bishop's Stortford (Windhill)

Wednesday 12th April
Cambridge (Queen Edith)

Thursday 13th April
St Albans (Garden Fields)

BOOK NOW AT: WWW.FABSCIENCE.CO.UK ...AND WE DO FAB SCIENCE PARTIES TOO!

www.facebook.com/FabScience | 07799 624777 | clubs@fabscience.co.uk

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join us!

Sundays 12pm

Monks Walk Pool
319 Knightsfield,
Welwyn Garden City
AL8 7NL

ABOUT US

Artistic Swimming is the most fun you can have in water, It combines dancing and gymnastics/ acrobatics, come and give it a try!

We learn synchro with KS Swim school, when you're competition ready you will get promoted to our sister club Aqualina.

If you can swim 200m comfortably and happy in deep water this is the activity for you!

ARTISTIC SWIMMING (FORMERLY SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING)

KS SWIMSCHOOL

ALL AGES WELCOME!

We have won a plethora of medals: National, regional and county.

Two swimmers currently in Team GB, The current mixed duet!

CONTACT Kerri, head coach at: ksswimschoolegmail.com to book a space.

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

AGED BETWEEN 5 - 18?
COME AND BE PART OF...

21 Herts Inclusive Theatre

The Story of Alice's Merry Unbirthday

...with Herts Inclusive Theatre and their Stevenage Theatre Groups!

REHEARSALS EVERY THURSDAY EVENING AT LONSDALE SCHOOL, STEVENAGE

GET IN TOUCH & BOOK YOUR PLACE!

FREE TASTER SESSIONS!

ADMIN@HIT-THEATRE.ORG.UK
01923216951

HIT is a registered charity 1180955

Be ready for cold weather

We are expecting a spell of cold weather – please take care

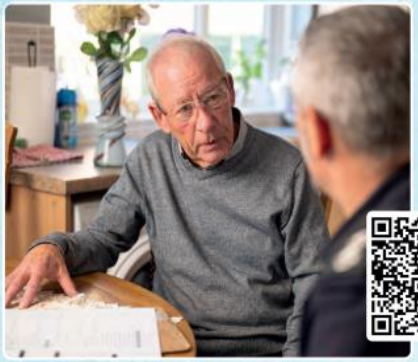
It's important to protect yourself and others as much as possible from cold weather conditions. Older people, children, babies under five and residents with underlying health conditions are amongst those particularly vulnerable to the effects of cold weather.

Cold weather health advice:

- Keep an eye on the weather so you can prepare for a cold spell – stock up on home medicines for minor illnesses from your supermarket or pharmacy.
- Take care if it is slippery. If you do need to go out, wear shoes with a good grip, and consider keeping salt and sand mixture handy to grit paths.
- Have torches handy around the home (with some spare batteries too) in case of power cuts and try to keep your mobile phone fully charged.
- If you're not very mobile, are 65 or over, or have a health condition, such as heart or lung disease, heat your home to at least 18C.
- Keep your bedroom at 18C all night if you can – and keep bedroom windows closed.
- If you're under 65, healthy and active, you can safely have your home cooler than 18C, as long as you're comfortable.
- Use a hot water bottle or electric blanket to keep warm in bed – but do not use both at the same time. Turn off blankets when you get into bed, unless there is a thermostatic control for safe all-night use.
- Have at least one hot meal a day – eating regularly helps keep you warm.
- Have hot drinks regularly.
- To reduce the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), babies should sleep in rooms heated to between 16C and 20C.
- Draw curtains at dusk and keep doors closed to block out draughts
- Get your heating system checked regularly by a qualified professional.

Hertfordshire

Please check in on anyone who may struggle in cold weather.



If you or anyone you know is struggling to heat their home, or someone may need help to get shopping or medicines, please contact HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044 or use this QR code.

If you are concerned about yourself or someone else, please call NHS 111, contact your GP or get advice from your local pharmacy.

Get financial support

If you are worried about money, or you are in debt, help is available.

Citizen's Advice can give you help and advice. You may also be able to get help from the government with energy bills, transport, childcare and household costs. Never ignore bills.

More information: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/costofliving or call 0800 144 8848 or use this QR code for more cost-of-living advice.

Get a flu vaccine

If you're eligible for a free flu vaccine (this includes all those aged 50 or over), you can book an appointment at your GP surgery. You can also book online to get a flu vaccine from a local pharmacy that offers it on the NHS.

Get a Covid vaccination

You can book your 1st or 2nd jab or your Covid seasonal booster (if you are aged 50 or over, or have certain health conditions or work in front-line health and social care).
Go to: www.nhs.uk or call 119.

St Albans City & District Council · Borough of Broxbourne · East Herts Council · Hertsmere · NHDC · Watford Borough Council · Stevenage Borough Council · Welwyn Hatfield · Three Rivers District Council

The Essex Fire Museum at Grays

Special Open Day to Celebrate Essex County Fire and Rescue Service's 75th Anniversary

Saturday 1st April 2023

(10.30am to 4.00pm)

Visits must be pre-booked via:
museum@essex-fire.gov.uk

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