



NEWSLETTER - 12th May 2023

VALUE: Friendship

Focus: Encouraging One Another

“Encourage one another and build each other up.” 1 Thessalonians 5.11

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

SATS: SATs are standardised assessment tests administered by primary schools in England to children in Year 2 and Year 6 to check their educational progress. They are one marker used by the government, and hence parents, of the quality of the education at a school.

For the Year 6 children, we are expected to follow a formal exam style set-up. There are very strict conditions to ensure that the SATs are carried out according to the guidelines.

On Thursday we received a monitoring visit from a representative of HCC (informally referred to as the SATs police) to check that scripts were all stored securely, that the assessments were carried out correctly and all guidelines followed. There were of course no problems, and all conditions were met and ticked off.

Many of you will be aware that there have been reports in the national press and on social media, expressing concern about the difficulty of the assessments and the negative impact on the children. I am delighted to say that this has not been the case at Spellbrook. The children have been optimistic, calm and focused. The preparation work that Mrs Cook has provided has gone well and resulted in the children being ready to do their best. They have enjoyed starting each day together with breakfast and a walk outside and have maintained a positive manner throughout. The bacon butties and croissants were very popular on this, the last day.



They were definitely pleased and no doubt a little relieved to have completed them all this morning.

I am grateful to all of the staff for the way they pull together and support each other and the children, and of the calm, focused ethos that is maintained throughout, providing the best atmosphere for the children to do their best.



For the Year 2 pupils, we are able to carry out the assessments in a less intimidating format and they can be spaced out and take place within the usual classroom environment, as long as they are completed within May. We do have to ensure that the work is totally independent, and this does create a significant difference to the children as they usually receive help and support when they need it. They have however been practising that so that they are able to do their best without support.

Whilst Year 6 have been taking their SATs, Year 5 have been taught by Mrs Smith. It has been quite a change of routine for them. As well as their core learning, they have had an opportunity to do something different. Yesterday they were challenged to use their imagination, teamwork and sporting leadership by creating a carousel of activities for the Year 1 children to complete. The activities they came up with included target throwing, an obstacle course and a clever version of noughts and crosses that proved to be very popular. Fortunately, the weather held, so they were able to use the field. The encouragement and assistance from the Year 5's evidenced their leadership and care for their younger school friends and they all really enjoyed themselves.



Emerald Class: As part of their Ancient Egypt topic, Emerald Class have been finding out about cartouches. They have learned that this is a name plate on a sarcophagus. The name of the occupant was drawn using hieroglyphics and featured a surrounding cord or outline that represented eternity. The children have designed, made and painted their own super cartouches.



Flora

Tristan

Grace

Poppy

Lexie

Nikita

Sapphire Class: Sapphire are continuing their design and technology focus on structure and have been designing free standing structures. They have been exploring techniques to strengthen their structure. They found rolling paper very effective but rather tricky, especially sticking it before it unrolled.



Ruby Class: In Science and PSHE, Ruby Class are learning about 'Ourselves and Healthy Living'. They have talked about healthy eating and explored the balance of lots of different food categories. They focused on fruit and vegetables and the talked about eating five a day. They also discussed having foods the colour of the rainbow as that will mean eating lots of different nutrients that help make us well. They made rainbow fruit skewers that used fruits of all the colours of the rainbow.



HGVs: When granting planning permission, EHDC stipulated that HGVs, visiting the site in St. James' Park, should travel via St James Way and Bishop's Park Way, rather than using the A1184. We have recently been made aware that the developers have since appealed against this. Today we have sent out a survey asking whether you also object to the additional HGVs using the road outside the school. Please return your responses by **Thursday 18th May**. There is also a link on that survey for you to use if you are a local resident and wish to make your feelings known.

Have a lovely weekend,

Jeremy Fisher

MESSAGE FROM GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Father Simon writes:

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you."

Those words of Jesus from this Sunday's gospel reading (St John 14:15-21) must have brought both fear and comfort to his disciples. He spoke them sometime after his Easter resurrection, preparing his followers for the moment he would take leave of them on what we now know as Ascension Day (celebrated this Thursday 18th May). It's the moment - incredible as it might sound - when Jesus didn't die again but ascended - body and soul - back to be with God the Father in heaven. But in that moment, Jesus knew his followers might see themselves as akin to orphans with no one to care for them.





Two of the three schools I visited whilst training in Berkhamsted were associated with Thomas Coram, the English sea captain and philanthropist who established the London Foundling Hospital in Bloomsbury in 1739 to look after orphans abandoned on London's streets.

In 1935, the establishment moved to purpose-built facilities in Berkhamsted, now known as Ashlyns Secondary School, where I would lead their Christmas carol service. And then, in 1970, Thomas Coram CofE School was established in Captain Coram's memory - the school I visited almost weekly to lead collective worship.



On Founder's Day, we would honour Thomas Coram by retelling his story, and the story of the foundling school. Pupils would recount the way in which the captain returned to London after 40 years at sea, only to be appalled to see abandoned babies, and children starving and dying on the city's streets. The plight of the children left to perish touched Coram's heart, and so he began a 20-year campaign to raise money and obtain a royal charter to start a Foundling Hospital for Exposed and Deserted Young Children. He succeeded at the ripe age of 71.



So by suggesting his disciples may feel like orphans when he leaves them, there's perhaps no more powerful a symbol of their imminent loss. However, whilst telling them that he must leave them, he reassures them with the words "I am coming to you". Their vulnerable position wouldn't last indefinitely.

'Passion for Christ - Compassion for all' is our strapline here at Great St Mary's. As I'm reminded, by this Sunday's gospel reading, of the work of Thomas Coram and the compassion he showed to those infants and children on the streets on the capital, I'm reminded of all the heartache which continues to beset our world. So may we, through our acts of charity, compassion, and kindness, always be ready to reach out to the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves.



Yours in Christ,

Fr Simon

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Emerald
Alex



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ruby

- ✚ Esme for having an engaging attitude to learning.
- ✚ Eloise for progress in writing and working more carefully.

Sapphire

- ✚ Arthur for excellent effort and concentration when working independently.
- ✚ Issy for building independence when writing.

Emerald

- ✚ Ewan for his lovely descriptive writing.
- ✚ Georgia for her fantastic independent story.

Diamond

- ✚ John for his excellent contributions in maths lessons.
- ✚ All of Year 6 for their focus and resilience this week.

ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

**Whole School
Attendance – 96.43%**

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

- ✚ **Walk to School Week from Monday 15th to Friday 19th May** – parents, carers and children are invited to park and stride from the Three Horseshoes Pub and the laybys to school. Unfortunately, this time we will not have the help of the police due to prior engagements.
- ✚ **Diamond Class Swimming** – swimming will resume as usual on **Wednesday 17th May**.
- ✚ **Diamond Class Activity Week** – this is a reminder that full payment is due on **Friday 19th May**.
- ✚ **Class Photos** – the school photographer will be in on **Monday 22nd May**. Please ensure children are in full uniform including school shoes. If your child has PE on the day, they should come to school in full uniform (including school shoes) with a pair of trainers in a bag.
- ✚ **Lost Property** – we still have a large number of unclaimed uniforms in the lost property box in the reception area. Please do check for any lost items there. Any items that remain unclaimed will be cleared out by the PTA. There will be a second-hand uniform sale, more details to follow.

NEXT WEEK'S MENU

Day	Menu
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Caribbean Chicken (Red) ❖ Veggie Burritos (Ve) (Green)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
15/05/23 – 19/05/23	Walk to School Week
18/05/23	Year 6 Crucial Crew

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue) 	22/05/23	Class Photos
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Organic Beef Bolognese (Red) ❖ Savoury Puff Roll (Ve) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue) 	23/05/23 – 26/05/23	Diamond Class Activity Week
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Roast Pork Loin (Red) ❖ Quorn Fillet with Gravy (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue) 	29/05/23 – 02/06/23	Half Term
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Quorn Hot Dog (Red) ❖ Special Fried Rice (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue) 	01/07/23	PTA Summer Fair
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Crispy Coated Salmon (Red) ❖ Margherita Pizza Wrap (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue) 	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
<p>Contact: admin@spellbrook.herts.sch.uk</p> <p>Website: www.spellbrook.herts.sch.uk</p>			





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*:

*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
Mobile: 07817 528652

facebook.com/wellbeangardening
www.wellbeangardening.com

GJWSports
Promoting a healthy & active lifestyle

GJW Sports Afterschool Clubs

Spellbrook C of E Primary School

Dear Parents,

24.03.23

Mr Dave Biggs will continue to deliver after school clubs, which will begin on the 18th April.

Please visit www.gjwsports.co.uk to make a registration.

Tuesday
Football

Thursday
Athletics

Clubs will start at 15:20 with a collection time of 16:20.

Athletics will consist of sprints, relays, distance, timed runs, javelin and long/triple jumps.. Children will take part in athletics focused games, such as capture the flag, run-outs, box to box. They will also use ladders, hurdles during a SAQ (speed, agility, quickness) circuit.

To complete the registration, please use the payment details below.

NatWest Business Account
Gershon Williams- GJW SPORTS
Sort code – 557049
Account Number – 83780637
Reference – SurnameSBS

We will continue to offer a trial option for pupils who have yet to attend our after school clubs. The session price will be £7.50.

Should you have any further queries please email: enquiries@gjwsports.co.uk

Best wishes,

Mr Gershon Jack Williams B.A. (Hons)
GJWSports
07519 722135
www.gjwsports.co.uk

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

STARTS MONDAY 17TH APRIL

Craft Club

With Miss Prow in the Library

£5 per session
payable via arbor

Limited time offer – get FREE lifetime membership to FiveDinners.com!

We know how hard times are at the moment so the folks at FiveDinners.com – online meal planning service - have decided to give away FREE lifetime memberships to try and help you save money on food shopping and reduce the mental load of deciding what to eat every night. There's no catch or restrictions, simply full access to our meal plans to make your dinnertimes a little easier and cheaper.

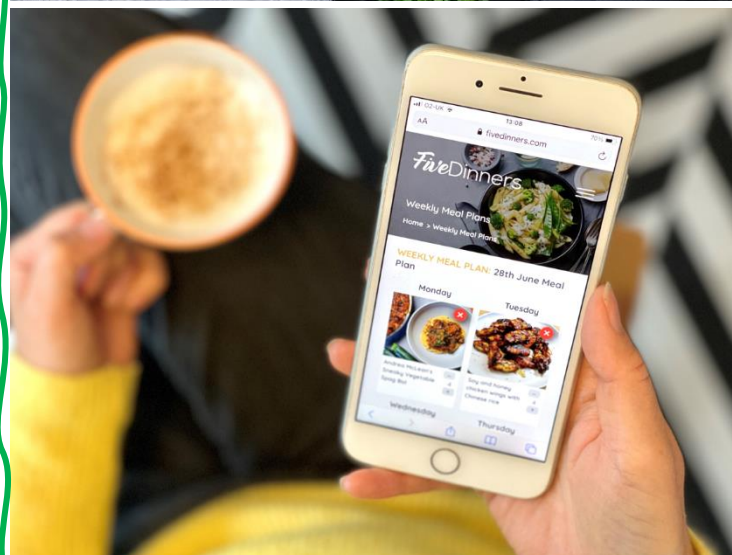
FiveDinners.com is an online meal planning service co-founded by author and TV chef Theo Michaels. To help with the cost-of-living crisis so many families and individuals are facing Theo has decided to offer their meal planning service for FREE (usually £49.99 per year); every week they publish a new meal plan with an automatically generated shopping list; set to your serving size so you know exactly what you need for the week ahead. It saves you time, money on food shopping and ultimately takes away the headache of deciding what to cook every night. You can even create and save your own meal plans choosing from hundreds of recipes.

Simply head to <https://FiveDinners.com> and click green Join button now.

FiveDinners

FREE Lifetime membership - sign up today!

Limited time offer!
was £49.99 - now £0!



MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

**1 DAY CHAMPION COURSE
FOR PARENTS & CARERS OF
8 TO 18-YEAR-OLDS
FREE TRAINING
09:30AM - 16:00PM**



WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- AN UNDERSTANDING OF COMMON MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AND HOW THEY CAN AFFECT YOUNG PEOPLE
- ABILITY TO SPOT SIGNS OF MENTAL ILL HEALTH IN YOUNG PEOPLE AND GUIDE THEM TO A PLACE OF SUPPORT
- KNOWLEDGE AND CONFIDENCE TO ADVOCATE FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS
- SKILLS TO SUPPORT POSITIVE WELLBEING

COURSE STRUCTURE

SESSION 1- ABOUT, WHAT IS MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL ILL HEALTH, STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION, DEPRESSION AND SUICIDE.
SESSION 2 MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS: ANXIETY, SELF-HARM, EATING DISORDERS, PSYCHOSIS, RECOVERY, RESILIENCE

For further information please contact:
hweicbhv.schoolsmh@nhs.net

[Mental Health First Aid \(MHFA\)- 1 day course for Parents & Carers Tickets, Fri 19 May 2023 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)

[Mental Health First Aid \(MHFA\) 1 day course for Parents & Carers- Stevenage Tickets, Tue 4 Jul 2023 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING



**BOOKING LINKS
1 DAY CHAMPION COURSE FOR
PARENTS/CARERS
09:30AM - 16:00PM**

Dates	Location	Booking Link	Parking
19th May 2023	The Hub, Fleetville Junior School, St Albans	Booking Link	Limited on site parking
15th June 2023	The Pod, Northfields Infant and Nursery School, Letchworth	Booking Link	Parking available on surrounding roads
4th July 2023	Oak Suite, Peartree Spring Primary School, Stevenage	Booking Link	

For further information please contact:
hweicbhv.schoolsmh@nhs.net



Hosted by Natural Flair Coaching

Moving On To Year 7

A parent/carer webinar that will offer tips on how to support your child with transition to secondary school

It can be a turbulent time for both parents and children. How parents and caregivers deal with these changes can mean the difference between a stressful or a manageable transition. We give practical tips on how to prepare and help you deal with your own emotions and concerns in order to best support your child in the best way.

A recording of the session will be available following the workshop.

Price - £5.00 per household
Date - Thursday 29th June 2023
Time - 7.00pm - 8.30pm
Online via Zoom



To register, please email admin@aspects.org.uk or call 01279 758134



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KIDS HOLIDAY CAMP



HALF TERM HOLIDAY SPORTS CAMPS

9:00-15:00 at Moss Bury

School, Stevenage

Ages: Reception - Year 6

BOOK
HERE!

MAY 30TH - 1ST JUNE



PHONE: 07950 717925

BOOKINGS@SPORTZONEUK.COM

WWW.SPORTZONEUK.COM



SUMMER HOLIDAY CAMPS 2023

Action-packed holiday camps for all children aged 4½ - 13 years

24 JULY - 18 AUGUST
At Bishop's Stortford College



SUMMER HOLIDAY CAMPS

AT BISHOP'S STORTFORD COLLEGE

24 July - 18 August 2023

"The best holiday camps in the local area. My daughter loves them and can't wait to come back."

College Camp is back at Bishop's Stortford College offering a range of holiday camps for all children aged 4½ - 13 years.

Choose from:

- High-energy **Action Activities** including daily swimming.
- A fun filled week of **Wildwood** adventures.
- The stage is set in our **Musical Theatre** combining drama, singing and dance.
- Ignite their imagination through **Creative Minds** arts and crafts.
- Discover the fun in science with **Super Science**.
- Rewild, unplug and go back to nature in **Bushcraft**.
- Hone sporting skills and have some fun in our **Football** and **Rugby** camps.

From £42
per day*
Cooked Lunch
included

For more information about all our holiday camps and to book please visit
www.BishopsStortfordCollege.org

Camps run from 9.00am - 3.30pm, early drop off and late pick up available at additional cost. All College Camps are run by Bishop's Stortford College Camp team. *From £42 per day based on a weekly booking. Full cooked lunch included. Childcare vouchers accepted.



Bishop's Stortford College
Co-educational Day and Boarding 4 - 18 years