



NEWSLETTER – 15th September 2023

VALUE: Thankfulness

Focus: Praising God in Creation

'Always be thankful.' 1 Thessalonians 5.16



New Clamber Stack outside Sapphire Class

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Over the summer, we were able to start installing some new play equipment outside Sapphire Class, however when the children came back after the break, it was only partially done. The children have had to be exceedingly patient waiting for the safety surface to be laid down. Finally, it has been finished enabling them to explore and have fun with their friends. (see above)

The children in Sapphire Class are thoroughly enjoying their Guy Fawkes topic and have been using puppets to reenact the plotters dastardly deeds to overthrow the King. The children were shocked by the whole idea that someone wanted to blow the King up. The children were also surprised that many of the problems came from the divisions within the Church. You had to have the same denomination as the King or else.

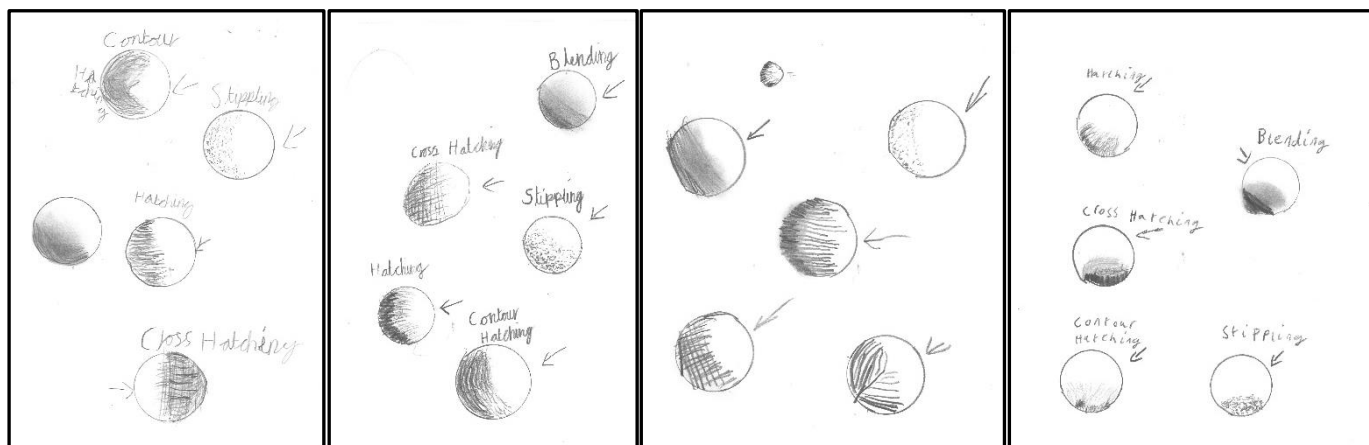


In their RE lessons, they are exploring the question, "What do Christians believe God is like?" They have been learning and thinking about the parable of The Lost Son. In response they created hidden meaning boxes,

drawing the story on the outside of the box and placing the hidden meaning inside. The children understood that the hidden meaning was that God is seen as loving and forgiving just like a parent or guardian.



Emerald Class have a science topic about rocks. Later on, during this topic, they will be making their own observational drawings of different types of rock. In order to do this well, they will have to create a 3D effect. As this requires skill and knowledge, they have started to learn a number of techniques. They drew circles and were taught a number of techniques that they have started to have a go at. These include stippling, blending, contour hatching and cross hatching. Mrs Todd is very pleased with their first effort, and I shall look forward to seeing the progression of their skills.



Homework Journals for maths. Although our last Year 6 children all reached the expected level for maths in their SATs (well above the national average), we are aware that this is still an area of challenge for many children. Research indicates that fluency practice makes a huge difference and if children have a chance to repeat a strategy that they have learned quite soon afterwards, they are more likely to internalise it and be able to build upon it, as well as being able to recall it in the future. White Rose, whose scheme we use, are continually carrying out and accessing research in order to help schools to be successful with maths. They have produced these journals, and the activities directly match what we have been teaching that week. They will be coming home for Sapphire, Emerald and Diamond Class today. Please have a look. A separate letter has been emailed to you providing more information. We are aware that the format will be more familiar to the children than many parents. We have therefore arranged a drop-in on Thursday 21st September at 2.50pm for anybody who would like to find out more. Anyone who anticipates difficulties with helping their child to complete these would benefit from coming in as would any parent who has any questions. We believe this could really help all children to become confident and capable mathematicians and working together on this could be of huge benefit.

Have a lovely weekend.

Jeremy Fisher

MESSAGE FROM GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Father Simon writes:

In the 1960s, a three-year meeting of Roman Catholic heads from around the world was called by Pope John XXIII to "open the windows of the Church to let in some fresh air".



Pope John was a popular and reforming pope - those two words don't always go hand-in-hand! In convening what has become known as the Second Vatican Council, Pope John called on people to "consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do."

As we get into our stride at the beginning of this new school year (the mad panic to get out of the house in time for the school run never changes!), I think Pope John's quotation might be something to inspire our year ahead. There are new opportunities at Spellbrook for our school and pupils - indeed, for all of us - to aspire to.

With people back from holidays and groups meeting again, it also feels like a fresh start for us at Great St Mary's. In fact, this Sunday we have our first Mustard Seed gathering of the new school year.

Mustard Seed is our monthly (on most third Sundays of the month) gathering for the younger members of our community. As usual, there will be fun, activities, crafts, and party food a plenty. And being the first gathering of this new school year, we're going to be giving thanks for new beginnings and the opportunity to start things afresh.

So, if you're around on Sunday afternoon for an hour from 4pm, why not pop in and join the Mustard Seed throng? You'd be most welcome.

See you there!

God bless,

Fr Simon



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Ruby
Ralph

Emerald
Lara



STARS OF THE YEAR

Ruby

- ✚ Jesse for great talking in class groups.
- ✚ Devon for using all of our indoor areas sensibly.

Sapphire

- ✚ Sam for trying hard all week.
- ✚ Connor for great focus in lessons.

Emerald

- ✚ Lara for her fantastic work in English this week.
- ✚ Henry for his super independent maths work.

Diamond

- ✚ Dominic for great contributions in lessons.
- ✚ Sienna T for explaining her learning clearly in maths.

ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

**Whole School
Attendance – 97.37%**

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

- ✚ **School Meals Online** – From **Monday 18th September**, parents will now be able to order school lunches online in Arbor. Children in Reception to Year 2 and those in receipt of free school meals will not be charged when lunches are ordered. Please see the email sent out for more information.

- ✚ **Change to the Menu** – due to overwhelming feedback from the children, we are reverting back to having jacket potatoes daily as the yellow option. Cheesy pasta is available on request by informing the class teacher on the day.

- ✚ **Walk to School Week** starts on **Monday 25th to Friday 29th September**. Parents, carers and children are invited to walk, cycle, scoot or park and stride to school that week.

NEXT WEEK'S MENU

Day	Menu
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Chicken & Sweetcorn Meatballs (Red) ❖ Bean & Vegetable Grill (Ve) (Green)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
16/09/23	Hockerill Open Morning – Y6
21/09/23	Boys High Open Evening – Y6
25/09/23 – 29/09/23	Walk to School Week
26/09/23	Year 2 Scooter Training

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue) 	28/09/23	Leventhorpe School Open Evening – Y6
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Chicken Pie (Red) ❖ Mild Vegetable Curry (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue) 	02/10/23	School Photos - Individual
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Roast Beef (Red) ❖ Potato Topped Vegetable Pie (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue) 	04/10/23	Avanti Grange Open Evening – Y6
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Quorn Hot Dog (V) (Red) ❖ Beany Pasta Bake (Ve) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue) 	05/10/23	Birchwood High Open Evening – Y6
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Fish Fillet Fingers (Red) ❖ Cheese & Tomato Pizza (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue) 	13/10/23	Y6 TLM & Height/Weight
		23/10/23 – 27/10/23	Half Term
		07/11/23	Parent Consultations
		29/11/23	Nasal Flu Vaccinations
		01/12/23	Occasional Day – School Closed
		07/12/23	Pantomime – South Mill Arts
		13/12/23	Emerald Class Last Swimming Lesson
		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>			



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

GJW Sports Afterschool Clubs

Spellbrook C of E Primary School

Dear Parents,

1.09.23

Mr Dave Biggs will continue to deliver after school clubs, which will begin on Tuesday 12th September and run for 6 weeks.

Please ensure full payment is received by **Monday 10th September**. We cannot accommodate attendance should payment not be received.

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

Tuesday

Football

Thursday

Dodgeball

Clubs will start at 15:20 with a collection time of 16:20. Please ensure the collection time is adhered to.

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

Each session will now be priced at a 'back to school' offer of **£6**. I intend to revert rates back to full price after the October half term break.

Best regards,

Gershon Jack Williams

GJWSports

07519 722135

www.gjwsports.co.uk

www.gjwsports.co.uk



Well Bean Gardening

Learning through growing
Growing through learning

Start growing with our After-School Gardening Club

Wednesdays 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 September 13 to half-term
- 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 September 13 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



Club Fee
£6.50 a week

THE SECRET ART CLUB

With Artist Caroline Clark

Activities:

- Painting
- Printing
- Drawing
- Pottery
- Collage
- And more!

Date:

Weekly starting on Friday
15th September 3.20 - 4.20

Register interest

Caroline Clark (Caz)
07847269734

Address

Spellbrook C of E
Primary School
Spellbrook





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.*

Join us
on Sunday 17th September
at 4pm
for fun, food, and crafts
as we give thanks for a new
school year and new beginnings



fab science

**HALLOWEEN
SPOOKTACULAR**

£36
per child

Sibling
discount
available

Monday 23rd October
St Albans (Garden Fields)

Tuesday 24th October
Cambridge (Queen Edith)

Wednesday 25th October
Saffron Walden (RAB)

Thursday 26th October
Hertford (St Joseph's in the Park)

Friday 27th October
Bishop's Stortford (Farnham)

Professor Fab and her
gaggle of wizarding
scientists will help you make
colour-changing potions,
flying broomsticks,
toothpaste for giants and
truly gruesome ghoulish snot.

Camps run 10am to 3pm and are open
to all children aged 5-11 years.

For more information visit the Fab
Science website.

BOOK NOW AT: WWW.FABSCIENCE.CO.UK

*...AND WE DO
FAB SCIENCE
PARTIES TOO!*

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



Essex Fire Museum Open Days
Sunday 24th September 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**

Hello, Parents & Guardians!



We are BeeZee Bodies, and we work with Hertfordshire Council to provide FREE (and FUN!) healthy lifestyle support for families.* We run [BeeZee Families](#) courses after school across Hertfordshire. Please see our timetable below for venues, dates and time. Come along for free!

Sign up for your family's free spot today!

Scan the QR code

or visit: www.beezeebodies.com/for-families



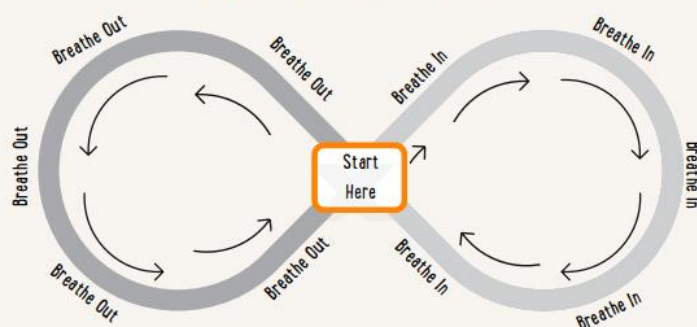
September is ...
back to school
routines



INFINITY BREATHING

You and your child may be going through a lot of change this week by returning to school or even starting a new school. Breathing exercises is one of the best tools to reduce anxiety.

Using your finger, slowly follow the line of the infinity loop. Take a deep breath in as your finger follows the right hand side, then breathe out as your finger follows the left hand side. Aim to take 3 to 4 seconds to complete each half of the loop. Repeat this loop 7 times, focusing on your finger as you do so.



Or you can join our free online programme. Visit our website:

www.beezeebodies.com/programs/families-live

BeeZee Live times
5-8 yrs Tuesday 4:30pm
5-8 yrs Monday 5:30pm
9-12 yrs Monday 6:30pm
9-12 yrs Tuesday 5:00pm
9-12 yrs Tuesday 6:30pm

*To be eligible for this awesome free service, your family must live/go to a school in Hertfordshire and include one child who is above their ideal healthy weight.



www.beezeebodies.com

BeeZee Families

01707 248648



[Healthy Lifestyles and Weight Management Support for Children \(beezeebodies.com\)](http://www.beezeebodies.com)

Bishop's Stortford Running Club – Training for 9- to 16-year-olds

The Bishop's Stortford Running Club is providing training sessions for 9- to 16-year-olds for the academic year starting September 2023. The weekly coached sessions incorporate a wide range of activities with a focus on sprinting and endurance running.

There are ten sessions per term; sessions are on Saturday mornings between 10.15am and 11.15am, with registration from 10.00am.

For the Autumn term, sessions run from 16th Sep to 2nd Dec 2023 with a two-week half-term break on 21st Oct and 28th Oct 2023.

The sessions take place at our clubhouse (shared with Hockerill Sports and Social Club) in Beldams Lane, Bishops Stortford CM23 5LG. Sessions take place on the enclosed playing field and on nearby trails.

The cost is an annual membership of £35, sign-up at <https://www.myclubhouse.co.uk/BSRC>

All sessions are held under the guidance of UK Athletics qualified coaches who have the appropriate DBS checks.

For a free initial trial session or any other enquiries please contact Feridun Kadir at juniors@bsrc.org.uk

