



## NEWSLETTER – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

### VALUE: Thankfulness

Focus: Praising God in Creation

‘Always be thankful.’ 1 Thessalonians 5.16



**Ruby Class Floating and Sinking**

**Ruby Class:** In Science, Ruby Class have been learning about floating and sinking. They talked about the objects last week that were good at floating and compared to those that sank. They noticed that the wooden items floated best.

This week our baby triceratops dinosaur wanted to travel on the water but as it can't swim it sinks. Ruby Class needed to help it to travel across the water. They tested to find out if they could use one wooden block but that didn't work to keep the dinosaur afloat, so they connected more blocks together to make a raft.

### FROM THE HEADTEACHER

**SCARF Live Tent:** We use a PSHE programme created by Coram Life, called SCARF: Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship. This week the whole school had a visit from the Coram Life Education Team, with their live tent. Each class spent time in this inflatable learning space, that takes up most of our hall, focusing on different topics.

**Diamond:** Decisions - Making tough decisions and standing up for what you know is right for you. The children had a lot of questions and were keen to show that (in theory at least) they are aware of how they should react even if others around may not make the healthiest and safest decisions. They discussed the personal qualities that help you make those decisions and stick to them.

**Emerald:** It's great to be me - the children also spent time with Harold, but they thought about themselves, and how in some ways we are all the same but also that we are unique, with our own characteristics and qualities. They heard that to be healthy they need to look after their bodies and their minds and considered the five steps to mental wellbeing.

**Sapphire:** Feelings - Sapphire learnt about what the human body needs; food, water, a balanced diet, and where different organs are in the body. They also had a feelings party and learnt about different emotions and what colours might represent each emotion. The children were really interested in the human body and knew that oxygen travelled around the human body through blood vessels (Mrs McDonald was delighted that one of the children knew this term) and that food travelled down through the intestines and small intestines (another word provided by one of the children).

**Ruby (Nursery/Reception):** All about me.

Ruby class really enjoyed meeting Nancy and her friend Harold the Giraffe. They learnt how to keep Harold healthy and happy and what sorts of food keep us healthy too. Ruby Class also helped Harold to pack an overnight bag as he was going for a sleepover at his grandparents.



#### SCARF PSHE LIVE TENT 2023



All About Me  
Feelings

It's Great to be Me  
Making Tough Decisions



**Walk to School Week:** The Junior Travel Ambassadors helped Mrs Hasty to present an assembly on Walk to School Week. As a school we will take part in the challenge along with five other schools from Sawbridgeworth. Each day there will be different focus.

At the end of the assembly, there was great excitement as Sunny the Sawbosaurus dropped in to say hello. I hope that everyone will try to join us in walking to school next week. You are welcome to park in the laybys as well as the Three Horseshoes where there will be police and the town council and staff walking the children to school.



**Online Safety:** Something for parents to consider – Samsung Kids Parental Controls. Samsung Kids is a parental feature which you can set up on your child's device which can be used to apply restrictions such as app access, downloading, screen time, privacy and more. It's really easy to set up and use and will help you to manage your child's online activity. To learn more, including a setup guide, see **HERE**. or type in <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/smartphones-and-other-devices/samsung-kids-parental-controls/>

In the past I have tried to organise online safety presentations in school and have often been disappointed by the turnout. As a parent myself, I have gained a great deal from increasing my knowledge of the potential risks of



online access and how to keep my own family safe. An expert whose guidance and advice I use a lot has produced a series of 7 short videos for parents. I am keen to gauge the interest and if any parents think this would be useful, please email the office with the message online safety videos please. If we receive more than 10 requests we will order the videos, then send these out to parents free of charge.

**Car Park:** We have noticed more children being let out of cars in the car park in the morning, to take themselves directly into class, rather than waiting to be let out at the drop off. Whilst I don't wish to discourage independence, safety is paramount, and I urge you all to make sure your child either waits in the car or uses the pavement in the centre of the carpark and the zebra crossing and that all little ones hold an adult's hand as they cross.

Have a lovely weekend.

Jeremy Fisher

## MESSAGE FROM GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH

### *Father Simon writes:*

You may be aware that for the first half of term we're focussing on the theme of 'thankfulness' in our school collective worships.



However, when I began looking at this Sunday's readings for church, it wasn't a theme of thankfulness that immediately sprang out at me. But, the more I explored the story of Jonah, the more I realised the reading was reflecting on thankfulness.

The VERY reluctant Jonah has been sent by God to tell the people of the ancient city of Ninevah to shape up or expect destruction. During his sea journey, Jonah's blamed for a huge storm and is thrown overboard by his shipmates. He's then rescued from the sea by a large fish which swallows him before choking him up on a nearby beach!

Eventually, Jonah does what he's told by God and curses Ninevah. But rather than being destroyed, the people repent and the city is saved by God.

Rather than being thankful though, Jonah is angry. He feels humiliated by God because all the destruction he's foretold hasn't come about. So, he sits around being grumpy, saying that things just aren't fair!

In this increasingly egocentric world, I get the impression that that phrase - 'It's not fair' - is one which many people are not only used to hearing from the lips of children but increasingly from many grown-ups - particularly on social media - who, when they feel in the least bit slighted - when they feel their ego has been in the least bit disrespected - throw their toys out of the pram.



We can all sometimes see ourselves as the recipients of unfairness. Whether we complain or not surely requires discernment: are we truly being wronged or is it simply a case that our ego has got the hump? That can often be the case when we see other's good fortune which we think is undeserved. "That's not fair," we might cry, and go into a sulk. Yet, perhaps not surprisingly, I think it's rarer for us to highlight unfairness when things are going well for us.



What's that old World War I marching song? 'Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit-Bag, and Smile, Smile, Smile.' Perhaps we should be taking a leaf out of that musical book and, despite its irony (it was sung as soldiers marched to the Western Front), be glad to see other people's fortune. After all, envy is extremely corrosive in both public and personal life. Meanwhile thankfulness - not always easy - can be life-enhancing and can lead to great generosity of spirit.

Yours in Christ,

*Fr Simon*

### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Ruby  
Esme

Diamond  
Joshua



### STARS OF THE YEAR

#### Ruby

- ✚ Evie for a positive attitude in all her learning.
- ✚ Florence for fantastic retelling of a story.

#### Sapphire

- ✚ Jessie for great effort in her English writing.
- ✚ Eloise for excellent mastery of numbers.

#### Emerald

- ✚ Donnie for a really big improvement in focus and effort.
- ✚ Millie for her fantastic attitude to learning.

#### Diamond

- ✚ Ewan for creativity in his writing.
- ✚ Ella for her helpfulness to adults and other children.

### ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

**Whole School  
Attendance – 96.95%**

**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.

### NOTICES

- ✚ **Walk to School Week** starts on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September**. Parents, carers and children are invited to walk, cycle, scoot or park and stride to school next week.
- ✚ **Secret Art Club (Rec – Y6)** runs on a Friday afternoon with limited spaces still available. Please contact Caz on 07847 269 734 to book your child's place.
- ✚ **Year 2 Scooter Training** – a reminder that scooter training is on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September**. Children

If you are going to be late, please also advise the school office to ensure a meal is ordered in time.

### NEXT WEEK'S MENU

Day	Menu
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Quorn Burger (V) (Red)</li> <li>❖ Baked Bean &amp; Cheese Slice (Ve) (Green)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)</li> <li>❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)</li> </ul>
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Beef Bolognese (Red)</li> <li>❖ Sweet Potato &amp; Pea Samosa Burrito (Ve) (Green)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)</li> <li>❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)</li> </ul>
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Roast Chicken (Red)</li> <li>❖ Roast Quorn Fillet (V) (Green)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)</li> <li>❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)</li> </ul>
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Pork Sausages with Gravy (Red)</li> <li>❖ Cheese Pinwheel (V) (Green)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)</li> <li>❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)</li> </ul>
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Fishcake (Red)</li> <li>❖ Cheese &amp; Tomato Pizza (V) (Green)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)</li> <li>❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)</li> </ul>

should bring in their scooters and a helmet if they have one.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
25/09/23 – 29/09/23	Walk to School Week
26/09/23	Year 2 Scooter Training
28/09/23	Leventhorpe School Open Evening – Y6
02/10/23	School Photos – Individual - AM
02/10/23	Harvest Festival Service at Great St Mary's Church – 2.15 – 3.00 pm
04/10/23	Avanti Grange Open Evening – Y6
05/10/23	Birchwood High Open Evening – Y6
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

Contact: [admin@spellbrook.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@spellbrook.herts.sch.uk)

Website: [www.spellbrook.herts.sch.uk](http://www.spellbrook.herts.sch.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

**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](http://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](http://www.gjwsports.co.uk)

[www.gjwsports.co.uk](http://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](mailto:wendy@wellbeangardening.com)  
Mobile: 07817 528652

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







Hertfordshire  
Music Service

## Hertfordshire County Training Choir

We are piloting a Hertfordshire County Training Choir  
this Autumn Term!

### Why not give it a try?

Hertfordshire County Training Choir is aimed for children in  
Years 6 to 8 who may have an interest in singing in a county choir!

To secure your place, please email  
[countymusicenquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:countymusicenquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

### Rehearsals

Mid Herts Centre for Music and  
Arts  
5 - 6pm

Wednesday 01 November 2023

Wednesday 15 November 2023

Wednesday 29 November 2023

### End of term concert - Saturday 16 December

Venue: St Etheldreda's Church  
(Hatfield)

Rehearsals: from 1pm  
Concert: 6pm

E-tickets will be made available  
closer to the concert.

Cost: £60 (includes rehearsals and end of term performance)  
Teacher: James Slimings (Principal Conductor, Hertfordshire County  
Youth Choir)  
Contact us: [countymusicenquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:countymusicenquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

For more up-to-date information and to find out about more events follow us on Twitter  
and Facebook - @hertsmusic @hertscymg

Follow @HertsMusic



Hertfordshire Music Service

[hertsmusicservice.org.uk](http://hertsmusicservice.org.uk)



Are you aged 8+?  
Come and join us to complete  
fun activities, chat about  
books and make new friends!



Bishop's Stortford Library  
Wednesdays 4pm - 5pm

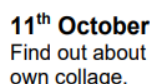
### 27<sup>th</sup> September – **New Friends**

Welcome to Page One, meet new friends and make a  
friendship bracelet.



### 4<sup>th</sup> October – **Black History**

Discover the Hidden Figures behind world famous  
historical events.



### 11<sup>th</sup> October – **Art and Artists**

Find out about famous artists and create your  
own collage.



### 18<sup>th</sup> October – **Food for Thought**

Uncover fruity facts and make a fruit snack.

£2.50 per session. Places limited please book at the library.

Inspired

Further details: 0300 123 4049

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries)



## OCTOBER HALF TERM WATER ACTIVITIES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS 8-14 YEARS OLD



16-27 OCTOBER 2023

### Multi-Activity Days

23 - 27 Oct - Sit on top kayak,  
katakanu, canoe, SUP, rafting,  
SUP football, wobble board on  
SUP and mega SUP

### Sailing Courses

Stage 1 - 23-24 Oct  
Stage 2 - 26-27 Oct  
Stage 3 - 23-25 Oct  
Start Racing - 16-17 Oct  
Sailing Improver Day - 25 Oct

Please contact ESSA Bookings for more details  
[bookings@essa.org.uk](mailto:bookings@essa.org.uk) 07483 336741 [www.essa.org.uk](http://www.essa.org.uk)  
ESSA Water Activities Centre, Central Lagoon, Meadgate Road, Nazeing,  
EN9 2PB

## Town Walk

Saturday 30th September 2023  
11am to 2pm

Please join us for an hour or so and explore the town on a short walk  
(1 hour) by visiting our 'Stop-Off' points. Map supplied.

Have a fun time taking your 'Selfies' and sharing them with friends!

Sunny the SawboSaurus will be joining us too

For more information please visit our website

[www.sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk](http://www.sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk)

"Come and meet me  
~ have lots of fun on  
the town walk"



Location—Bell Street Car Park (look for the signs  
directing you to collect your map)

Please note that 'Stop-Off Points' will finish at  
2pm, so give yourself plenty of time to get  
around.



Event Organisers: Sawbridgeworth Town Council

