



NEWSLETTER – 20th October 2023

VALUE: Thankfulness

Focus: Giving thanks even when times are difficult

**"Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."
(Ephesians 5.20)**



Diamond Class at Duxford

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

We have enjoyed a very busy conclusion to this half term. As you know, I have been supporting another school for a couple of days each week since June and am delighted that the Local Authority has now come up with a long-term solution for that school, enabling me to back in Spellbrook full time after the half term.

At the end of last week, Diamond Class went to Duxford Imperial War Museum to build on their knowledge of World War II. This report was written by our School Journalists.



Diamond Class set out for an adventure on an old military base which had stuff from World War I, World War II and modern day. We first went to Hangar 3. In there, they had planes of all different shapes, sizes and backgrounds. One of the planes had been shot down but it still worked, and it could even take off. Then we became mini documentary makers. The coolest thing was that we all got to have a go, talking with mics, filming and using the clapperboard. Hangar 2 was where they were mending parts of planes. There were planes with entire fronts missing. The part we enjoyed the most was the smiley face that one of the workers drew. It did kind of look weird seeing a plane with massive googly-eyes on the front. Then we walked to Hangar 1 to eat lunch. After that we split in 4 groups. We went on different planes including Concorde and another that was used in World War II. We could see more planes hanging from the roof. There were information boards that had the name and details. There was a cargo plane filled with flour. At Hangar 4, we saw a plane that had dropped 400 bombs. It could drop 20 bombs at once. It was huge and there were other planes that had crazy patterns on. There was also a map of all the flights in the USA when the twin towers were destroyed.

One of the people in my group was telling facts after facts. He could not stop telling facts about war. He knew so much about war, I was amazed. Near the end of the trip, we thought one of the groups had got lost but we luckily found them. They were upstairs playing with some World War toys.

We saw lots of stuff, learned lots of things and had a really fun day.

By Alden and Josh.



Ruby Class: Whilst the weather was reasonable, Ruby Class continued their magnet explorations outside around different parts of the school site. The children had already discovered that some metal objects are attracted to magnets. They went looking for shiny metallic objects to test, but also tested some new materials such as trees.



Tag Rugby: On Thursday, Diamond Class went to a Tag Rugby Festival and our three teams each played four matches against other local primaries. We were lucky that the rain which was expected did not arrive and all of the children had a great time. Despite it not being competitive, there were many tries scored and games 'won' which they were delighted with. One of our parent governors, Mrs Booth (who knows a lot about rugby) joined us. She was very active in getting the children to warm up and practise their skills when they were not playing. It was super to see the skills that they have developed in their PE lessons this half term with a Bishop's Stortford RFC coach.



As part of our collective worship and our final week focusing on Thankfulness, we have worked collectively to write this 'Count Our Blessings' prayer.

Father God,
We have so many blessings to be thankful for.
Books, breakfast and birthdays,
Life, learning and love,
Elephants, electronics and Easter eggs,
Sweets, sun and silence,
Seaside, seasons and Saturdays,
Ice-cream, insects and ideas,
Nature, New Year and night skies,
Great teachers, gardens and God,
Snow, Santa and school,
Thank you for them all.
Amen

Excellent Homework Projects: It has been really pleasing to see the homework projects coming in. Reinforcing the learning and widening understanding whilst working with family has many benefits.

This is the first time we have used the new maths homework books, so please let the teachers know via Dojo if you would like more support and workshops to assist with this.

The Year 6 books have finally arrived so they can now access theirs.



Whatever the weather, I hope you all have some quality time with your children and some enjoyable moments. I certainly intend to.

Have a super weekend and half term,

Jeremy Fisher

MESSAGE FROM GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Father Simon writes:

So here we are, halfway through the term already, with so much already accomplished - not least, for a good number of the children, getting used to new classrooms and new teachers; indeed, for some of the youngest of the children, getting used to a brand-new school!



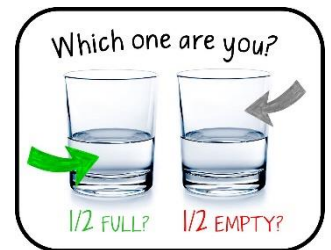
And, as Bruce Forsyth used to say: 'Didn't they do well?!'



That's, of course, not to say that there haven't been bumps in the road. But, whether or not you as a parent or carer have time off this coming week, perhaps it might be a good moment - halfway through the term - to play the 'Glass Half Full' game.

I'm sure we're all aware of someone who, no matter what life throws at them, can always see a silver lining to each dark cloud and can see their life or situation half full rather than half empty. Conversely, I'm sure we all know of somebody who, having been given the best news or gift that life can offer, would still find something to be concerned about.

Well, the 'Glass Half Full' game allows you to spend a few minutes with somebody else, taking it in turns to ponder how things are going, celebrating those things which have gone well, and exploring ways in which those things which haven't gone so well might not be as bad as they first appear and how they might be improved going forward.



Of course, at times, when you can only view something as glass half empty, it's difficult to see a silver lining to that grey cloud. And, at times, you feel like throwing the metaphorical contents of the half empty glass over the head of the person you might be playing the game with! But hopefully, having talked the situation through with the other person, one can see the possibilities for the future and life can seem a little less daunting, frustrating, or bleak.



And talking through something with somebody else is also precisely what prayer is about. Whether we've got somebody else to hand to lay all our concerns and cares before or not, we do all have God; though for most of us, God's the creator of all desperate to talk with us but whom we leave standing in the corner of our mind's room, trying to ignore.

With so much hostility towards one another in our world at the moment, I wonder whether God ever has to play the 'Glass Half Full' game? At least He can see the bigger, eternal picture of it all and can see that, as far as He's concerned, it will all end well. I pray that we might also be able to see that picture and have faith in Him so as to seek a more eternally minded path through life.

For all of you having some time off over the next week - including our wonderful school staff and teachers - I hope you have a refreshing, positive and fun time.

God bless,

Fr Simon

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK AND OVER THE HALF-TERM BREAK



Ruby
Maddison

Emerald
Harrison
Tristan

Diamond
Lexie



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ruby

- ✚ Jesse for joining in on the carpet.
- ✚ Silver for really persevering and working hard in read write inc.

Sapphire

- ✚ Emilia for working hard to use her phonics in her writing.
- ✚ Wren for all the effort and hard work in her writing.

Emerald

- ✚ Shakti for her fantastic work in maths this week.
- ✚ Poppy for being such a kind and helpful member of Emerald Class.

Diamond

- ✚ Zainab for great participation at tag rugby.
- ✚ John for great rugby skills.

ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Whole School
Attendance – 92.92%

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 resumes on Monday 30th October.**
- ✚ **Year 6 deadline to apply for secondary school place is Tuesday 31st October.** Applications after this date will be classed as late applications.
- ✚ **Parents Evening is on Tuesday 7th November from 1.00 to 6.30 pm.** Bookings are now available in Arbor. Please click on **Guardian Consultations** and follow the prompts to select a suitable time.
- ✚ **PTA Annual General Meeting** holds in school on **Wednesday 8th November from 7.45 pm** for an **8.00 pm** start. Parents are welcome to attend.
- ✚ **Gardening Club** will be returning **next year** after the **February half-term break.**

MENU w/b 30th October 2023

Day	Menu
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Mild Chicken Curry (Red) ❖ Macaroni Cheese (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
23/10/23 – 27/10/23	Half Term
31/10/23	Deadline to apply for secondary school place – Year 6

	❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)	07/11/23	Parent Consultations
Tuesday	❖ Veggie Sausages (Ve) (Red) ❖ Sweet Chilli Quorn (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)	08/11/23	PTA Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Wednesday	❖ Roast Pork (Red) ❖ Shepherdess Pie (Ve) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)	29/11/23	Nasal Flu Vaccinations
Thursday	❖ Beef Burger in a Bun (Red) ❖ Vegetarian Roll (Ve) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)	01/12/23	Occasional Day – School Closed
Friday	❖ Battered Fish Fillet (Red) ❖ Cheese & Tomato Pizza (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)	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
		16/01/24	Young Voices @ O2 Arena (Diamond)
		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

HOLIDAY CAMPS

Half-term: 23rd - 27th October

Sports & Activity Camp (years 3-7)

Football Camp (years 1-7)

Mini Camp (reception, years 1+2)



Ages 4-12

To make a booking please visit: gjwsports.co.uk
9am-3pm, advance booking £22 per day (£26 on the day)

Reedings Junior School, Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth, HERTS, CM21 9DD



www.gjwsports.co.uk



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 3rd
November 3.20 - 4.20

TO BOOK

www.carolineclarkartist.com or
Caroline Clark (Caz)
07847269734

Address

Spellbrook C of E
Primary School,
Spellbrook

For Ages 5-11
years



Parents can
drop off or
stay and relax
with a cuppa

BOO! HALLOWEEN FUN

With Artist Caroline Clark
Half Term Activities:

Saturday 21st October - Halloween Wreath Making 1pm - 3pm - £20
Monday 23rd October - Spooky Pumpkins and Ghosts Bubble Painting 10am - 12 noon £10
Tuesday 24th - Halloween Bag Painting - 10 am - 12 noon - £15
Wednesday 25th October- Sketchbook Making Workshop 3pm - 5pm - £12
Thursday 26th October - Halloween Wreath Making - 10 am - 12 noon -£20
Saturday 28th October - Pet or Favourite Animal Portraits on Canvas - 1 pm - 3 pm - £17

All materials provided - SPACES ARE LIMITED

Address

The Secret Art House
Opposite Sheering Village Hall
Sheering,
Near Bishops Stortford
CM22 7LX

Register interest

Caz Clark (Caroline)
07847 269 734



Workshops for
children aged
5-11 years

HOLIDAY CAMP SPECIAL EVENTS

October half-term

Bike/scooter skills: Tuesday 24th

Bouncy castle: Wednesday 25th

Water balloons: Thursday 26th

Cupcake decoration: Friday 27th



Events subject to change dependent on weather

Ages 4-12

To make a booking please visit: gjwsports.co.uk
9am-3pm, advance booking £22 per day (£26 on the day)

Reedings Junior School, Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth, HERTS, CM21 9DD



Great St Mary's
Sawbridgeworth

Passion for Christ - Compassion for all

ALL SOULS' MEMORIAL SERVICE

*Remembering our loved ones
with gratitude*

*Our annual opportunity to gather
and remember those who have died,
and to light a candle in their memory*

Sunday 5th November
3pm

Followed by light refreshments
in Church House



Funded by
UK Government

STEP 2 SKILLS
PREPARE FOR SUCCESS IN HERTS

FREE Half Term Family Workshops



Autumn Explorers

Help your child (aged 5-10) develop Literacy, Maths and other skills through making crafts with natural materials.

Waltham Cross
Tue 24th Oct
10am-12pm

Stevenage
Thu 26th Oct
10am-12pm



Story Sacks

Discover how to use 'found' materials to create a story sack/box with your child (aged 4-8).

Waltham Cross
Tue 24th Oct
1.30-3.30pm

Stevenage
Thu 26th Oct
1.30-3.30pm

Book your place: step2skills.org.uk 01992 556194

