



## NEWSLETTER – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**VALUE: Trust**

**Focus: Knowing Jesus is with us in stormy times.**

**'My God is my strength in whom I trust.' Psalm 18.2**



**Placing our Poppies**

### FROM THE HEADTEACHER

This week, we have been preparing for Remembrance Day. The children have learned more about poppies and how the materials used for poppies has changed over time from cotton in the 1920's, to plastic in the 80's and now to plastic-free.



One of the children in Ruby class chose to paint this lovely picture of a poppy during her Child Initiated Learning time.

Each class has made poppies using a different technique and these are also plastic free.

The children showed their respect during a short Remembrance service and observed the minutes silence impeccably. They then walked silently outside to lay their poppies in the school meadow reflection area.



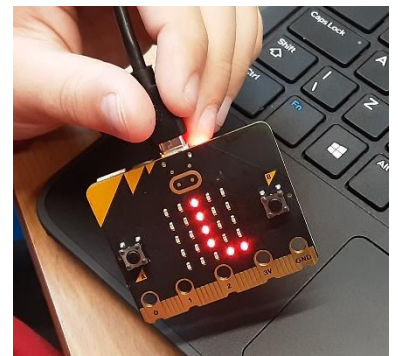




We have recently received a class set of Micro:bit coding devices and this week the children in Diamond Class had their first opportunity to use them. Looking into the history of these tiny computers has been a journey into my own computing past. It has been developed by BBC's Computer Literacy Project, who first introduced the pioneering BBC Micro into schools in the 1980s. I recall the BBC Micro as the machine I first used to start coding and using these, I completed both my Computer Science O-level and A-level (with

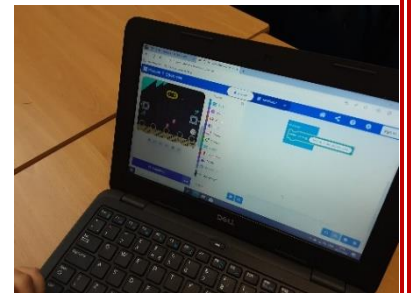


quite a lot of frustration at times due to their lack of reliability). Computers have come such a long way from those early machines whose display was a very large monitor with a noisy cassette recorder for data storage. The principles of coding and the fundamentals of algorithm design remain the same today.



The Micro:bit has been developed over the last decade with projects around the world. The Foundation who are leading the development have the goal to reach more than 100 million children worldwide. Version 2 is now being distributed free to schools across England.

The Micro:bit is simple to use, and yet, it's also engaging across a range of ages. The distributors aim is to inspire young people to understand and create with technology, not simply consume it. At Spellbrook, we share that aim and have just started our learning journey with the Micro:bit. The children use a laptop to access a web-based app, where they design code and test it out on a simulator. They then link their Micro:bit to the laptop and download the algorithm to make it operate.



This week, the children in Diamond class created name badges with their name scrolling across the LEDs. As the app is intuitive and similar to other coding apps they have used, they quickly mastered this and many went on to add additional messages, simple graphics and even sound effects. Again, that took me back to the artificial (and slightly annoying) sounds of the first consoles and early computers that I had enjoyed using as a child.



Judging by the enthusiasm and enjoyment of the first lesson, I am optimistic that the children will gain a lot from our project and have the opportunity to develop their skills and create many projects.

Have a super weekend,

Jeremy Fisher



Well done to Amelie in Emerald for placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Modern Solo category at the Colchester Festival of Performing Arts!

## MESSAGE FROM GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH

### *Father Simon writes:*

This coming Sunday, millions will gather together around the world in remembrance of those who died in two world wars, and those who have died in many other conflicts since – just as the school gathered today. With so much war and hostility in the news at the moment,



no doubt those being killed and injured in conflicts around the world this very day will also be in people's minds.



As we remember the sacrifice made by so many, we must realise we don't come to glorify war but to recognise its cost; the many human lives lost and the suffering caused to all involved and affected by war.



Many on Sunday will gather at 3pm at the War Memorial here in Great St Mary's churchyard - including the uniformed organisations - where a short

act of remembrance will take place to remember those killed in action or those innocent victims who were so many miles away from the front line. There we'll hold the Two-Minute Silence before laying wreaths. This act of remembrance will be followed by a short service

in church during which we'll come together to re-commit ourselves before God to be peacemakers. It's something Jesus asks all his disciples to become through the way we live our lives. We'll express our common humanity shared by pausing to recognise the true value of every life - both past and present.



Something which has been in the headlines recently is the nature of 'peace'. The Christian understanding of peace is more than the avoidance of war and more than the absence of conflict. It's about building



relationships between people, communities, and nations. It's something seen after the Second World War when the people of Coventry, led by its cathedral community worshipping in the bombed ruins of its building, acknowledged not only the devastation brought upon our own country by the Nazis but the devastation inflicted by us on cities such as Dresden. In the wake of that, new relationships of peace and reconciliation were forged.

Each Monday, at the end of our collective worships, we all make a pledge for the week ahead. It's the school's Bible verse from St Matthew's gospel (Matthew 7:12), known as The Golden Rule: 'In everything - in every circumstance - do to others as you would have them do to you.' As we remember the sacrifice of so many this weekend and reflect on how we might improve this world and our relationships, may the sentiments of this verse be our guiding light.

Yours with God's love,

*Fr Simon*

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK AND OVER THE HALF-TERM BREAK



Sapphire  
Teddy  
Niveth

Emerald  
Amelie



## STARS OF THE WEEK

### Ruby

- ✚ Cara for working creatively in her choosing time.

### Sapphire

- ✚ Eloise for super adjectives in English.
- ✚ Wren for her interest in the geography topic.

### Emerald

- ✚ Nicolas for his great independent work in English.

- ✚ Martha for her lovely ideas in poetry lessons.

### Diamond

- ✚ Jacob for making big improvements in his presentation.
- ✚ Michal for the kindness and support shown to his nursery buddy.

## ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

**Whole School  
Attendance – 95.82%**

**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

- ✚ **Breakfast Club** – we have had a few children turn up without being booked in. Children are also being dropped off without being brought into the building. Could we kindly ask parents to bring their child into the building for health and safety reasons please.
- ✚ **Children in Need Day** falls on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November**. To support this worthy cause, children are invited to come to school in **non-uniform** with a donation of **£1**. Donations can be made in Arbor by clicking on **Quick Actions < School Shop < Children in Need Donation**. You will be able to make a minimum donation of £1 or more should you wish to. Alternatively, you can send in cash on the day.
- ✚ **PTA Christmas Gift Shop** will be open from **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**. Gifts are priced at **£3.50** each. Children can either bring in their money during that week or parents can pay in advance using the link below:  
<https://spellbrookpta.sumupstore.com/>



## MENU w/b 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Day	Menu
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Quorn Burger (V) (Red)</li> <li>❖ Baked Bean &amp; Cheese Slice (V) (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>

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
16/11/23	Leventhorpe Tag Rugby
17/11/23	Children in Need Day
29/11/23	Nasal Flu Vaccinations
30/11/23	Christmas Decoration Day
01/12/23	Occasional Day – School Closed
07/12/23	Pantomime – South Mill Arts
11/12/23 – 15/12/23	PTA Christmas Gift Shop
11/12/23	Nativity – 1 <sup>st</sup> Performance @ 2.30 pm Ruby & Sapphire
12/12/23	Christmas Lunch/Christmas Jumper Day
13/12/23	Nativity – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Performance @ 2.30 pm Ruby & Sapphire
13/12/23	Emerald Class Last Swimming Lesson
15/12/23	PTA Christmas Carols – 3.30 pm (TBC)
18/12/23	Christmas Service @ Great St Mary's Church – 2.15-3.00 pm
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

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

# AFTER SCHOOL Sports Clubs

Spellbrook C of E Primary School

3:20 - 4:20pm

October 31st - Thursday 14th December

**Football**  
- Tuesdays

**£6**  
per session

**Dodgeball**  
- Thursdays

Book online at:  
[gjwsports.co.uk](http://gjwsports.co.uk)

SAWBO  
DESIGN CO.

**GJW  
SPORTS**

[www.gjwsports.co.uk](http://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!

## Address

Spellbrook C of E  
Primary School,  
Spellbrook

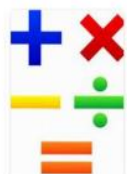
For Ages 5-11  
years

## Date:

Weekly starting on Friday 3rd  
November 3.20 - 4.20

## TO BOOK

[www.carolineclarkartist.com](http://www.carolineclarkartist.com) or  
Caroline Clark (Caz)  
07847269734



## Maths Homework Parent and Child Workshop

If you would like any support or help with understanding primary school maths and explanations as to the approaches we use to teach maths, Mrs Cook and Mr Fisher will be running an after school drop-in session every Wednesday for parents and children who would like any advice or support with maths homework.

All year groups are welcome.

Bring your homework book with you.

**Starts Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November**

3.20 - 4.20pm

every week





**SPELLBROOK PTA**

**CHRISTMAS**

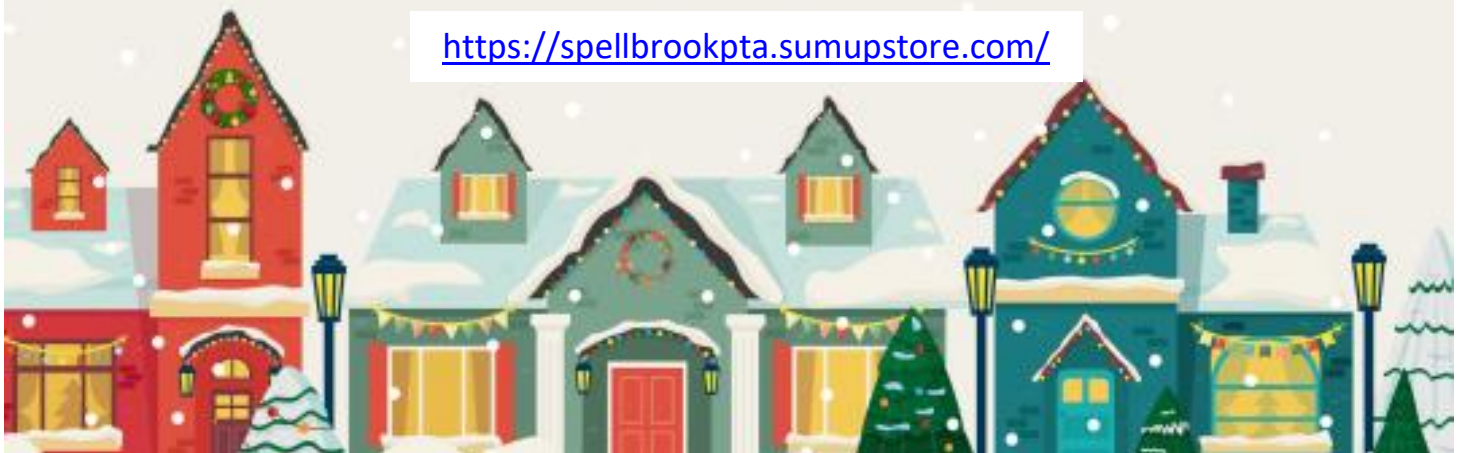


**SHOP**

**11TH - 15TH  
DECEMBER**

**GIFTS £3.50 EACH**

<https://spellbrookpta.sumupstore.com/>





## Hertfordshire Music Service

### Music Groups for all school ages

Join a music group or ensemble at

**Bishop's Stortford Music Centre**  
Based at Birchwood High School CM23 5BD



- excellent musical tuition
- highly experienced music teachers
- convenient venue
- friendly and helpful group members
- learning and playing modern and popular music
- performance opportunities at termly concerts
- groups from young beginners to seasoned instrumentalists
- teamwork
- reinforce learning from individual lessons
- develop musical connections
- two week try out
- warm welcome

### SATURDAY MUSIC GROUPS AND ENSEMBLES

**Junior Music Group**  
9.00-9.40am  
Ages 4-7 for beginners

**String Group**  
9.45-10.45am  
Anyone able to play 5 notes or more

**Senior Wind Band**  
9.50-10.50am  
Any wind and brass instrument grade 4 and above

**Orchestra**  
11.00-12.00 midday  
Any instrument

**On-line Theory Group**  
(book through Hertford Music Centre)  
9.00-9.40am  
Grade 3/4 and able to work independently

Ensemble sign up



### FRIDAY MUSIC GROUPS AND ENSEMBLES

**Junior Brass Ensemble**  
4.30-5.10pm  
Anyone able to play 5 notes or more on a brass instrument

**Training Band**  
5.30-6.30pm  
Anyone able to play 5 notes or more on any instrument

Each ensemble fee is £59.00 per term or, if you join more than one ensemble, consider the HMS Ensemble Membership for £109 per term to join and participate in more HMS ensembles for no extra cost; T&C's apply as per website

To register on line please visit <https://uk.hertfordshire.speedadmin.dk/registration/#/> or scan the Ensemble sign up QR code above  
For further information please e-mail [bstortfordmusicenquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:bstortfordmusicenquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk) or call 01992 556 752 (term time only)

Follow @HertsMusic



**Hertfordshire Music Service**

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



## Parent & Carer Support TALKING ASD & ADHD FREE Workshops



### Spring Term 2024

For parents and carers of children aged 2-25yrs with suspected or diagnosed Autistic Spectrum Disorder and/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

### Tech Use



### Sibling Struggles



- What you can do to keep your child safe online.
- Why it is so hard for them to switch off and what you can do to help.
- What you can do to support any difficulties with behaviour when your child is playing.
- The effect of using their devices as a reward or consequence.
- Managing difficult conversations with confidence.
- Teaching your child to develop their own methods of regulating device use and staying safe.

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**  
**7.30 to 9.15pm**

**Workshop 630**

**Book via Eventbrite Link:**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-and-adhd-tech-use-630-for-parents-carers-in-herts-registration-749092675357>

- What to do if your children are fighting or arguing
- Dealing with jealousy and unfairness
- Recognising the pressures & worries on siblings of a child with ASD/ADHD
- Helping your children develop a network of support
- Helping your children to communicate with each other without conflict
- Managing your own difficult feelings and helping your children to manage theirs
- Where to access further help and support.

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March**  
**7.30 to 9.15pm**

**Workshop 629**

**Book via Eventbrite Link:**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-and-adhd-sibling-struggles-for-parents-carers-in-herts-629-registration-749126606847>

### The Teenage Years

For parents and carers of children aged 11-25yrs



- Teenage brain development and how it affects a child with ASD/ADHD.
- Reducing conflict by learning how to respond effectively to difficult situations.
- Strengthening your parent/child relationship.
- How to agree appropriate boundaries and teach risk assessment.
- Adapting our parenting approach to help our teens become independent adults.

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**  
**7.30 to 9.15pm**

**Workshop 631**

**Book via Eventbrite Link:**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-and-adhd-the-teenage-years-for-parents-carers-in-herts-631-registration-749070348577>

Funded by Hertfordshire County Council's Targeted Parenting Fund



**Workshops are FREE to parents and carers living in Hertfordshire**

[info@supportinglinks.co.uk](mailto:info@supportinglinks.co.uk) [www.supportinglinks.co.uk](https://www.supportinglinks.co.uk)



# TALKING ANXIETY in FAMILIES



**Mondays 7.45-9.15pm Online Course: ID 621**  
**29th January, 5th, 12th, 26th February 4th, 11th March 2024**

**6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children under 12, supporting you to:**

- Understand why young people and adults get anxious.
- Develop strategies to handle anxiety in yourself and others within your family.
- Recognise the early signs of anxiety and be able to avoid escalation.
- Reduce stress and tension.
- Encourage resilient behaviour and strengthen relationships in the family.

**Our online support sessions are delivered weekly via Zoom.**

**Groups are open to parents, carers, grandparents and guardians living, or with a child in school, in Hertfordshire.**

'This course has helped us massively. We are responding so differently, and it's really helping us all to cope day to day.'

**Booking essential**

**Please quote the course ID**  
**To check eligibility and book a place, contact Supporting Links on:**

**07512 709556**

**[bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk](mailto:bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk)**

**[www.supportinglinks.co.uk](https://www.supportinglinks.co.uk)**

These courses are provided free to participants by Hertfordshire County Council's Targeted Parenting Fund



Information you share with us is used to process your booking. This will be held securely and only shared in accordance with our GDPR Policy.

**Click below to book**

[Talking ASD and ADHD: The teenage years. For parents/carers in Herts \(631\) Registration, Tue 23 Jan 2024 at 19:30 | Eventbrite](#)

[Talking ASD and ADHD: Tech Use \(630\). For parents/carers in Herts. Registration, Wed 28 Feb 2024 at 19:30 | Eventbrite](#)

[Talking ASD and ADHD: Sibling Struggles. For parents/carers in Herts \(629\) Registration, Mon 25 Mar 2024 at 19:30 | Eventbrite](#)