



## NEWSLETTER – 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**VALUE: Trust**

**Focus: Being Trustworthy**

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

### FROM THE HEADTEACHER

#### School Council Shoebox Collection

Our School Councillors organised the 'Operation Christmas Child' shoeboxes collection this year. A list of recommended items was sent out to families and included ideas like, "include a toy that a child will immediately love as soon as they open the box." The shoeboxes came into school and the School Councillors packed and wrapped them.



Thank you to our School Councillors for their hard work and to the families for their generosity to those in need.

#### Ruby Class Early Literacy Skills



Ruby class have daily phonics where they learn the sounds and put them together in green words (ones they will read in their books).

To build on this the children are encouraged to use the sounds and to write during their child-initiated play and learning time.

Practicing saying the sounds with a friend is a great way to reinforce their learning and practising writing letters very carefully is a vital foundation for writing fluently as they progress through the school.

## Sapphire Class learning about Judaism

In Sapphire Class, the children have been learning about Judaism. In Judaism, helping those in need is a commandment, a sacred obligation.



The Hebrew word for giving to those in need is "Tzedakah" but it doesn't just mean charity. A Tzedakah box is not for saving money like a piggy bank, but for giving money to help other people.

In a Jewish family it is a mitzvah (religious duty) to give tzedakah every Shabbat to help other people. Some people give money, but they can give anything that will help others.

The children all made a Tzedakah box and wanted to take them home to fill up with loose coins and donate to charity (completely optional!)



## Tag Rugby

Children from Diamond Class walked along to Leventhorpe on Thursday afternoon to take part in a tag rugby event. It was led by the Year 10 sports leaders, who did a superb job of organising the event and taking the children through warm up activities at the beginning.

Four primary schools took part and we played each of the other schools. Our team scored lots of tries. They enjoyed it despite the freezing cold. Well done to them.



## Pick up at the end of the day and safety in the carpark

At the end of the day, some parents are blocking the drive-through by parking up in inappropriate places. I am very concerned about the safety implications of this for the children and anyone getting over to a vehicle.

One of the causes, is a reluctance to park in the bays in the car park. Another is the lack of bays, which is why we open the playground.

We do not open the playground gates until 3:00 for safeguarding reasons and to ensure a secure site whilst children are still involved in activities on the field and MUGA, therefore a large number of parents arriving before 3:00 pm causes problems.

Please do your best to time your arrival so that you are not here before 3:00 pm. Diamond Class do not come out until 3:20, therefore those parents have a little more time.

Thank you for your support with this.



## Yellow Book Song – Notes of Thanks

The song that has been written and recorded to accompany the Yellow Book is being released today. Some of our children were lucky enough to be part of the choir that features in it. You get glimpses of them in the video.

You can download the song from these links for just under £1 and this will cover the costs of releasing the song. The song does have the opportunity to make the charts next weekend, but it would require over 4,000 downloads!



<https://rethinkyourmind.co.uk/news/the-primary-school-choir-joins-notes-of-thanks/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/rethinkyourmind/posts/749890723848642>  
<https://x.com/rethinkyourmind/status/1725021958788567150?s=20>  
<https://rethinkyourmind.co.uk/news/>

## Hedges around the road and layby

A local farmer - David, has kindly cut back the hedges around the road and the layby. We would like to say a huge thank you for the kind gesture.

Have a super weekend,

Jeremy Fisher

## MESSAGE FROM GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH

### Father Simon writes:



The Church year has only a couple more weeks to run. Then the new Church year - marked by the purple season of Advent - will be upon us, allowing us to prepare once again for our annual celebration of the beginning of the Christian story - God's arrival in the world 2000 years ago as a baby born in Bethlehem.



So, like all year ends - calendar, financial - this time of year is one in which to take stock. That's what we're going to be doing this Sunday afternoon at our monthly *Mustard Seed* gathering. In keeping with the Spellbrook bible verse ('In everything - in every circumstance - do to others as you would have them do to you.' - Matthew 7:12), we'll be exploring not just our relationship with one another, but also our relationship with God and asking the question: 'What have we been doing with our lives this past year?'

During the gathering we'll be making the *Mustard Seed* Christmas tree for inclusion in next month's Great St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival (Sat 9<sup>th</sup> & Sun 10<sup>th</sup> December). So - as always - there will be not only plenty of fun and plenty of mess at *Mustard Seed*, but plenty of party food too. I hope to see you there.

With God's blessings,

Fr Simon



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



Sapphire

Luna  
Vogue

Emerald

Arthur

Diamond

Elise



## STARS OF THE WEEK

Ruby

- ✚ Jacob for being very settled in nursery.
- ✚ Arthur for consistently trying and working hard.

Sapphire

- ✚ Herbert for participating in lessons.
- ✚ Kaden for more focus in his work.

Emerald

- ✚ Harvey for his fantastic work and focus in maths.
- ✚ Nikita for fantastic team work and helping others.

Diamond

- ✚ Hudson for great participation in maths.
- ✚ Joshua for using good manners around the school.

## 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

- ✚ **Nasal Flu Vaccinations** - the school nursing team will be in school on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November** to administer the nasal flu spray to children whose parents have provided consent. Please click on the link below if you'd like your child to be immunised.  
[Vaccination UK East Anglia Immunisation \(schoolvaccination.uk\)](http://schoolvaccination.uk)

- ✚ **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 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023

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

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
24/11/23	PTA Festive Friday - After School
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

<b>Tuesday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Veggie Sausages with Gravy (Ve) (Red)</li> <li>❖ Sweet Chilli Quorn (V) (Green)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)</li> <li>❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)</li> </ul>	<b>08/12/23</b>	<b>PTA Festive Friday - After School</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Roast Pork (Red)</li> <li>❖ Sheperdess Pie (Ve) (Green)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)</li> <li>❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)</li> </ul>	<b>11/12/23 – 15/12/23</b>	<b>PTA Christmas Gift Shop</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Beef Burger in a Bun (Red)</li> <li>❖ Vegetarian Roll (Ve) (Green)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)</li> <li>❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)</li> </ul>	<b>11/12/23</b>	<b>Nativity – 1<sup>st</sup> Performance @ 2.30 pm Ruby &amp; Sapphire</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Battered Fish Fillet (Red)</li> <li>❖ Cheese &amp; Tomato Pizza (V) (Green)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)</li> <li>❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)</li> </ul>	<b>12/12/23</b>	<b>Christmas Lunch/Christmas Jumper Day</b>
		<b>13/12/23</b>	<b>Nativity – 2<sup>nd</sup> Performance @ 2.30 pm Ruby &amp; Sapphire</b>
		<b>13/12/23</b>	<b>Emerald Class Last Swimming Lesson</b>
		<b>15/12/23</b>	<b>PTA Christmas Carols – 3.30 pm (TBC)</b>
		<b>18/12/23</b>	<b>Christmas Service @ Great St Mary's Church – 2.15-3.00 pm</b>
		<b>20/12/23</b>	<b>Last Day of Autumn Term 23</b>
		<b>04/01/24</b>	<b>Inset 3</b>
		<b>05/01/24</b>	<b>Inset 4</b>
		<b>08/01/24</b>	<b>First Day Back</b>
		<b>16/01/24</b>	<b>Young Voices @ O2 Arena (Diamond)</b>
		<b>19/02/24 – 23/02/24</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
		<b>26/02/24</b>	<b>First Day Back</b>
		<b>28/03/24</b>	<b>Last Day of Spring Term</b>
		<b>15/04/24</b>	<b>First Day Back</b>
		<b>06/05/24</b>	<b>Early May Bank Holiday</b>
		<b>27/05/24 – 31/05/24</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
		<b>03/06/24</b>	<b>Inset 5</b>
		<b>23/07/24</b>	<b>Last Day of Summer Term</b>
<p><b>Contact:</b> <a href="mailto:admin@spellbrook.herts.sch.uk">admin@spellbrook.herts.sch.uk</a></p> <p><b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.spellbrook.herts.sch.uk">www.spellbrook.herts.sch.uk</a></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

# 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

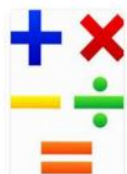
For Ages 5-11  
years

## 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

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



Hertfordshire's  
Holiday Activity Programme  
**HAPpy**

**FREE kids' fun, food &  
physical activity through  
the festive break!**



**Does your child get benefits-related free school meals?**  
If so, you can book them into HAPpy camps for free, during school holidays.

Get your child's booking code from their school and either scan  
the QR code below or book online at [bit.ly/3FV6DOD](https://bit.ly/3FV6DOD)

**Winter bookings are live from 12 noon on 22 November 2023.**  
With limited places at each venue, book your child's place soon to  
make sure they have a HAPpy school holiday!



Department  
for Education



Hertfordshire  
Community  
Foundation

**herts**  
sport & physical activity  
partnership



Hertfordshire

We are the  
**Journey  
Makers**

**magic  
breakfast**  
fuel for learning

**medcare**  
A future for legendary children  
The  
Children's  
Society

# Charity Drive-In Cinema

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December

JetParks Car Park, CM24 8QE

100% of the profits will go towards MAG's 3 amazing charities:  
Medcare, Magic Breakfast and The Children's Society

Showcasing a mix of family favourites and Christmas classics  
on our giant LED screen, all from the comfort of your own  
vehicle

We will even have a food truck and popcorn for sale for the  
ultimate cinema experience! Book your ticket now using the  
QR code here:



SCAN ME



MAG  
London Stansted  
Airport



# CHRISTMAS TECH CAMP

Next Thing

3D FESTIVE DECORATIONS

VIRTUAL REALITY

ELF ENGINEERING

ROCKING ROBOTS

Ofsted Registered

SEE REVERSE FOR MORE ACTIVITIES

**WINDHILL21 SCHOOL, CM23 2QJ**

21st - 22nd, 29th December and 2nd - 3rd January

AGES 5-11 | ONLY £49 PER DAY

9AM - 4PM DAILY

Find your nearest location on our website:

[www.nextthing.education](http://www.nextthing.education)

CHILD CARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS 2023

What else is on?

Festive Filming

Cosmic Crackers

Ingenius Inventions

Magical Minecraft

Light-Up Cards

Different activity theme each day, please check website for your camp activities

### WHAT TO BRING...

Packed Lunch and Snacks (NUT-FREE)

Water Bottle

Medication If Required

Weather Appropriate Clothing

### HOW TO BOOK

CLICK HERE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE

FIND YOUR LOCATION

GET £5 OFF! USE CODE AT CHECKOUT

[www.nextthing.education](http://www.nextthing.education)

CC5

**The BEST camp around!**

My daughter is fully inspired and will not stop talking about the amazing time she had. The Staff were experienced, welcoming and encouraging."

- Happy Parent 😊

[www.nextthing.education](http://www.nextthing.education)

E: [info@nextthing.education](mailto:info@nextthing.education)  
T: 01442873150

Mini Dolphins Baby Swimming

## PRIVATE SWIMMING SCHOOL

Swimming lessons for children aged 0 months - 7 years old.

- ACCREDITED INSTRUCTORS
- SMALL CLASSES
- PRIVATE POOL

BOOK NOW

[minidolphins.co.uk](http://minidolphins.co.uk)

info@minidolphins.co.uk

07305 845642

The Essex Fire Museum at Grays

**Essex Fire Museum Open Days**

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023

10.30am to 4.00pm

(Last suggested entry time: 2.30pm)

Visits must be pre-booked via:

[museum@essex-fire.gov.uk](mailto:museum@essex-fire.gov.uk)

Address: Essex Fire Museum, Grays Fire station, Hogg Lane, Grays, RM17 5QS