



NEWSLETTER – 24th November 2023

VALUE: Trust

Focus: Being Trustworthy, Not Gossiping

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



Ruby Class Bonfire

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Ruby Class Bonfire: With well-established routines to keep the children safe and ensure they had a great time, Ruby class enjoyed their annual bonfire in the woodland area. They looked at the fire and saw how it burned down, and enjoyed songs, sparklers and marshmallows.

The children were ever so patient as they waited for their sparkler. The sparklers were skewered into a piece of fruit to make them easier to hold as they waved them around to make various shapes in the air. They all understood the routines and rules that made sure they were safe.



They enjoyed marshmallows that were toasted for them and were all careful to wait until they'd cooled enough to eat.

They said the marshmallows were gigantic like the gigantic turnip and one loudly exclaimed that this was the best day ever. Thank you to Mr Priestley for making and tending the bonfire.

Sapphire Class Train Ride: Sapphire Class recreated a train in the classroom to help with their new writing unit "The train ride". They participated in different roles as the conductor and the train driver. They watched clips of views from trains, discussing all the sight and sounds they could see. They then used drama to explore the train ride experience, encouraging excitement about every stage (e.g. buying tickets, taking seats, setting off). Their "trains" then went outside. They had to navigate round bends, stop at signals for other trains to pass and learn how to reverse and move in the opposite direction. The children had so much fun!



Chess Club: There hasn't been a chess club at Spellbrook for a number of years and this week, a lunchtime club began. As so many children showed an interest, those with prior experience were the first to begin, playing friendly matches to check their knowledge of the different moves. They all played well, concentrated on their matches.



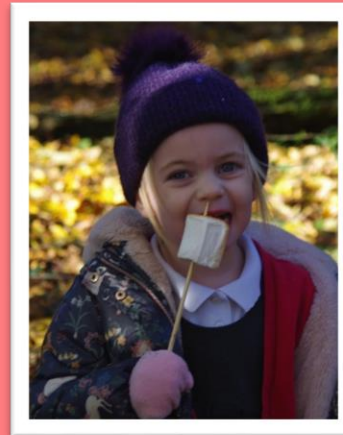
Quite a few talked about playing at home and being taught the moves by parents. These more experienced players have volunteered to share their knowledge with others who are less skilled or have never played. Therefore, over the next few weeks, a beginners and more advanced group will be established to provide opportunities to practise and develop skills at this great game of strategic thinking and planning. We may even be looking for external opponents next year, to test our skills against.

Eco Action Team: Our Eco Action Team have been busy litter picking around the site. Armed with gloves, litter pickers and plastic bags, they enjoy getting busy and making the grounds look good. They are also keen to identify which of the items can be recycled. Well done to them.



Have a super weekend,

Jeremy Fisher



MESSAGE FROM GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Father Simon writes:

Our view of a monarch and their sovereignty has changed over the years. In the past - and I'm talking a good few centuries ago now - our monarch had 'hard power': the ability to wage economic and/or military battle against opposing forces, be they inside or outside the country.

That power - that 'holding court' - was frequently on display in London and the home counties, with local representatives elsewhere - both political and military - ensuring the monarch's power and presence was felt, and law and order was upheld.



These days though, we view our current sovereign as having a 'soft power' which can be used gently to curry favour with foreign leaders and governments for the benefit of our national interests. Such power's been on display this past week as King Charles and Queen Camilla welcomed the president of South Korea to Buckingham Palace for a state banquet.

However, the concept of power - once so appealing - still raises concerns and has difficult connotations today. The 'Black Lives Matter' movement, for instance, points to power being used to suppress and exploit people, the environmental movement reminds us continually of how the powers of industrialisation and economic growth are threatening our world, and we're aware of both historical and current demagogues and dictators rising to power and then manipulating their power for evil doing.

Over the centuries, there have tragically been many in the global Church who have also abused their positions of power and influence. For their actions and the ongoing consequences for innocent victims, the Church - Jesus' flock - continues to feel betrayed and deeply ashamed. It continues to apologise, even as further tragic crimes around the globe come to light involving the Church and those in its positions of influence, just as light continues to be shed on allegations and crimes in so many other areas of society.





Such deep and scandalous wounds - both physical and psychological - will tragically never properly be healed in those survivors who've suffered through no fault of their own. As the worldwide Church explores Christ's kingship in services this weekend, all those of us who truly follow the King of Love can do, in whose name such evil has so often been perpetrated, is to empower love and goodness in our communities and in our relationships. By doing so, we're modelling Jesus himself who, as sovereign over creation, taught and displayed the true way to utilise power for good: by teaching and displaying love, compassion, truth, beauty, kindness, and peace.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Simon

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK AND OVER THE HALF-TERM BREAK



Emerald
Sabiha



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ruby

- ✚ Esme for trying hard with learning new words.

Sapphire

- ✚ Issy for great participation in Nativity play rehearsals.
- ✚ Jenson for settling in well to Spellbrook.

Emerald

- ✚ Flora for her fantastic progress with times tables fluency.

- ✚ Harry P for great focus and contribution this week.

Diamond

- ✚ Lexie for being thoughtful of others and always offering to help.
- ✚ Jim for working hard to improve his handwriting.

ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Whole School
Attendance – 95.23%

Whole School Target Set – 96%

Please contact school every day of any absence.
This can be done by calling **01279 723 204**,

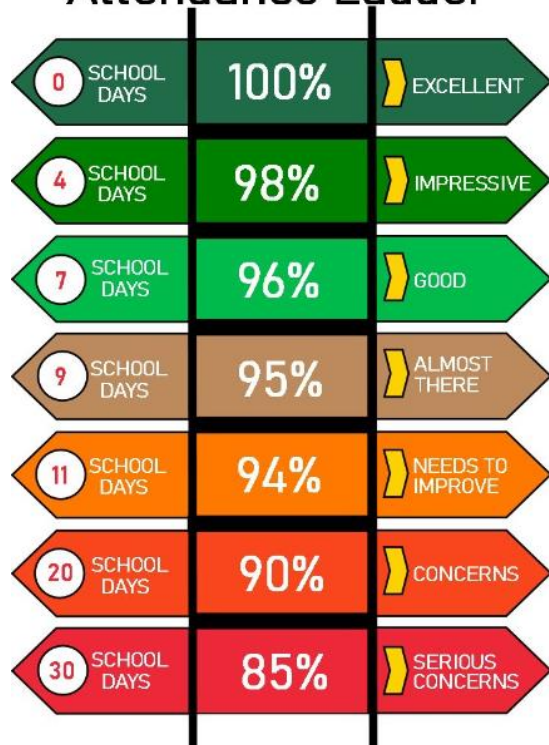
NOTICES

- ✚ **PTA Christmas Bauble Competition** – please see the flyer below for information on how to enter. The deadline to purchase baubles is **Friday 8th December**. The winner will be announced on **Friday 15th December**.
- ✚ **Nasal Flu Vaccinations** - the school nursing team will be in school on **Wednesday 29th November** to administer the nasal flu spray to children whose

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.

Attendance Ladder



MENU w/b 27th November 2023

Day	Menu
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Chicken & Sweetcorn Meatballs (Red) ❖ Bean & Vegetable Grill (Ve) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Chicken Pie (Red) ❖ Mild Vegetable Curry (Ve) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Roast Beef (Red) ❖ Potato Topped Vegetable Pie (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Quorn Hot Dog (V) (Red)

parents have provided consent. Please click on the link below if you'd like your child to be immunised.

[Vaccination UK East Anglia Immunisation \(schoolvaccination.uk\)](https://schoolvaccination.uk)

✚ **Variation to the Menu on Thursday 30th November** – as school is closed on Friday 1st December, we are substituting the Beany Pasta Bake for Cheese and Tomato Pizza. If you have already pre-ordered your child's meal and would like to order a pizza, this will be amended on the day. All other options remain the same.

✚ **Occasional Day** – a reminder that school will be closed on **Friday 1st December**. School resumes at the normal time on **Monday 4th December**.

✚ **Cinderella Pantomime** is on **Thursday 7th December** at South Mill Arts Centre. The children will be travelling by coach. The pantomime finishes around 3.30 pm and children are to be collected promptly from South Mill Arts Centre.

✚ **PTA Christmas Gift Shop** will be open from **Monday 11th to Friday 15th 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/>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
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
08/12/23	PTA Festive Friday - After School
11/12/23 – 15/12/23	PTA Christmas Gift Shop
11/12/23	Nativity – 1 st Performance @ 2.30 pm Ruby & Sapphire
12/12/23	Christmas Lunch/Christmas Jumper Day
13/12/23	Nativity – 2 nd 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Cheese & Tomato Pizza (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue) 	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
Friday	OCCASIONAL DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED		
<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

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

SAWBO
DESIGN CO.

**GJW
SPORTS**

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

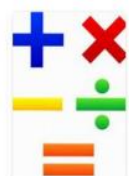
For Ages 5-11
years

Date:

Weekly starting on Friday 3rd
November 3.20 - 4.20

TO BOOK

www.carolineclarkartist.com 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 8th November

3.20 - 4.20pm

every week



SPELLBROOK PTA

CHRISTMAS
SHOP

11TH - 15TH
DECEMBER

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



Spellbrook PTA

Christmas
Bauble Competition

To enter the competition

1. Complete the online form.
[Christmas Bauble Competition \(office.com\)](#)
2. Purchase your baubles from our Christmas Shop
[Products | Spellbrook P T A \(sumupstore.com\)](#)
3. Once purchased, baubles will be sent home with the children from **Monday 27th November**. Baubles will be available to purchase until **Friday 8th December**.
4. The winner will be announced on **Friday 15th December**.

SPELLBROOK PTA

Festive Friday!

LAST YEAR'S CHRISTMAS JUMPER
A BIT SMALL?
COME AND SWAP IT FOR A 'NEW'
ONE THIS YEAR! OR DONATE IT TO
BE SOLD BY THE PTA.

MISS ICE-CREAM FRIDAY?
FESTIVE FRIDAYS HAVE A
TUCK SHOP WITH SWEETIE
BAGS AVAILABLE TO
PURCHASE.

SECOND-HAND UNIFORM
WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE
TOO!

JOIN US AT THE FRONT OF
SCHOOL WITH YOUR
MONEY AT THE READY

From FRIDAY 17/11

Sweets and Swaps!

Sunday 26 November 3pm

Marilyn Kritikou
(Soprano)
& Pavlos Triantaris
(Organ)
with Nathan Collins (Tenor)



perform a beautiful selection of music
by an eclectic mix of composers

St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

FREE admission with retiring collection
Refreshments served afterwards

www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk





Advent and Christmas at Great St Mary's

Sat 2nd Dec 12.30-2pm - Advent Lunch and Raffle

Enjoy a light lunch in Church House of homemade soup, cheeses, fruit, and treats, all in aid of The Children's Society

Sun 3rd Dec 5pm - Advent Carol Service

A candlelit service of Advent hymns and readings marking the beginning of our preparations for Christmas

Sat 9th Dec onwards - Decorate the Community Christmas Tree

Bring your own decoration or use ours, perhaps to remember a loved one

Sat 9th & Sun 10th Dec - Great St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival

Wander around the church and experience some of the magic of Christmas as we host an array of Christmas trees decorated by the town's many organisations

Sun 10th Dec 3pm - Christingle Service

A fun all-age service with oranges, candles, Christmas carols and sweets!

Sun 17th Dec 5pm - Christmas Carol Service

The traditional carol service followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Sun 24th Dec 3pm - Crib Service

A shorter, fun, all-age service, particularly suitable for young children

Sun 24th Dec 11.30pm - Midnight Mass

The first eucharist of Christmas with traditional carols

Mon 25th Dec 9.30am - Christmas Morning Eucharist

Dress as your favourite Bethlehem character for a scratch nativity and traditional carols



Great St Mary's
Sawbridgeworth

Passion for Christ - Compassion for all

Saturday 2nd December 12.30-2pm

ADVENT LUNCH in aid of The Children's Society

Raffle with prizes including

-Breakfast for Two
at The Queen's Head

-£50 cut blow dry voucher from
Jenson's Hair and Beauty

-£25 voucher from The Gift Room

-£25 Beefeater voucher

Homemade soup · Cheeseboard · Fruit bowl

Church House, Sawbridgeworth

Suggested donation - £5 per head



Great St Mary's
Sawbridgeworth

Passion for Christ - Compassion for all

Christmas TREE FESTIVAL

SAT 9th DEC - 9am-5pm
SUN 10th DEC - 11am-5pm

ALSO

Sat 9th Dec 10am-12pm & 1-3pm

❖MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS

❖SEASONAL REFRESHMENTS

❖TOMBOLA

❖CAROLS at 10am, 12pm & 2pm

Sun 10th Dec 3pm

❖CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Come, wander,
and experience
some of the
magic of Christmas
with all the family



Girls Football Camp at Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre



Thursday 21st December 2023

9am - 11.30am for 8 - 10 years, cost £10

12pm - 3pm for 11 - 15 years, cost £12

SCAN ME
TO BOOK



Book Now via the QR code
or call our team on 0127 965 2332



everyone
ACTIVE
Feel better for it