



## NEWSLETTER – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**VALUE: Trust**

**Focus: Trusting God**

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



**Decorations Day EYFS/ KS1**

### FROM THE HEADTEACHER

**Decorations Day:** It has been lovely to see parents sitting with their children and enjoying making decorations. I have heard that some children were very excited to have a parent in class with them and a number of parents told me how much they had looked forward to it. They said they enjoyed being creative and it was certainly more fun than their actual job. One mentioned that it made such a lovely start to the Christmas season.

Our school journalists from Diamond Class spoke to a number of parents to find out their thoughts and have reported that they were told that:

"this has been very well organised, fun and supportive",

"I have enjoyed making crafts with the kids",

"I like the bright colours in the decorations and how it feels festive",

"This has been all about angels and making them too."

Well done to the staff for their planning and organisation and for the rapid tidy ups afterwards.



The activities in the morning included paper plate angels, with sewing and sticking, silhouette pictures using tape and tissue paper to create a stained-glass window effect, snow characters with the child's own face on and stockings and Christmas trees.





The activities for the afternoon were more involved for the older children and some of them challenged parents to use their creative skills. They made Christmas lights, stars by wrapping wool around them to create depth, texture and colour, lolly stick Christmas figures, paper plate baubles.



**Homework Club for Maths:** The feedback that we have had from parents attending the Wednesday Homework Support has been very positive. I value the commitment from parents and from the staff who help. Reinforcing key skills in maths has long term benefits for children and research has shown that confidence and competence at primary school has a huge impact on outcomes throughout secondary school. We are very aware that the format and strategies that are now used are new to many parents. Any parents who would benefit from the support, or just those who feel that their child focuses better in school, are welcome. Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup> will be the final two this term and we will take feedback and then make a decision about the New Year.

Just a reminder that tomorrow the school is closed and we will see all the children in school for a busy week on Monday. Have a super Friday and lovely weekend.

Jeremy Fisher



Decorations Day KS2



## MESSAGE FROM GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH



**Father Simon writes:**

And so it begins all over again: a new Church year. But is that treadmill attitude the one we should have?



This Sunday may be the first Sunday of Advent – the beginning of a new Church year - but do we miss the season's spiritual opportunities and view it simply as a trial of attempting to keep our heads while all those busily shopping for food and presents, and cussing the cost of postage, seem to be losing theirs? Do we simply treat it as a pathway to the Christmas turkey, the King's speech, and a double dose of *Eastenders* and *Coronation Street*?



After all, the first thing many people will tell you about Advent is that the season has a wreath of candles to count down the Sundays before Christmas - though, in fairness, as much as with the Church, I associate the Advent wreath with Peter Purves, Lesley Judd, John Noakes and *Blue Peter* - a blazing inferno of tinsel waiting to happen!

So - yes - there is something of a countdown about it. But it's also a period during which Christians are called to actively wait, preparing our hearts and minds not only to remember God coming amongst us 2000 years ago in the form of a baby resting in a Bethlehem manger but to look ahead to his second coming. I'm looking forward to exploring these ideas more with the children during our Monday collective worships.

Waiting isn't popular in our culture, when so much can be obtained simply at the press of a button. But Advent is a time when Christians can learn how to actively watch and wait as faithful disciples for Jesus to return, rather than walking zombie-like through life. After all, there are two kinds of waiting: passive and active.



Imagine you're at the railway station, awaiting the arrival of a train. On the platform a man is asleep as he thinks there's plenty of time before the train arrives. He's passively waiting and risks missing the train. There's also a small boy on the platform who's excited about the train coming. He can't sit still and constantly looks down the track to see if it's coming. He's actively waiting, expecting the train to arrive at any moment.

Advent therefore gives us a choice: how will we wait for Jesus' coming? Passive waiting doesn't require much attention on our part; we live our lives pre-occupied with our own concerns, rather than looking to God. Active waiting, on the other hand, involves an eager expectation as we look for him to come to us, be it today or at some point in the future. Even the question as to whether the turkey's properly cooked will pale into insignificance when compared with the need for us to be ready!



Yours in Christ

*Fr Simon*

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



**Emerald**  
Harry P



## ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

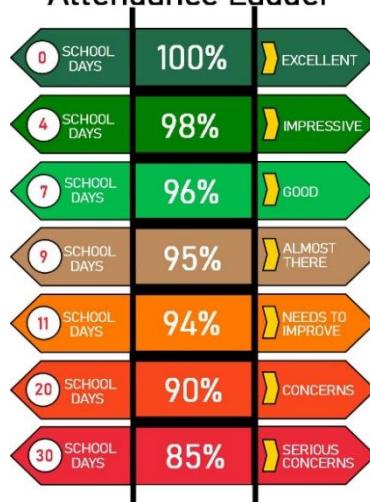
**Whole School**  
**Attendance – 94.42%**

**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.

### Attendance Ladder



## NOTICES

- ✚ **PTA Non-Uniform Day – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** – children are invited to come to school in non-uniform with a donation of an item in their class colour. Please see the email sent out for more information.
- ✚ **PTA Christmas Bauble Competition** – please see the flyer below for information on how to enter. The deadline to purchase baubles is **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December**. The winner will be announced on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**.
- ✚ **Cinderella Pantomime** is on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 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/>
- ✚ **The Twinkly Nativity – Ruby & Sapphire** parents are invited to attend on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** at **2.30 pm**. Tickets are available to book in Arbor by clicking on **Quick Actions < School Shop** and select the performance.
- ✚ **Midday Supervisor Vacancy** – Closing date - **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**. Please click on the link for more information. [Find a teaching job in Hertfordshire UK. \(teachinherts.com\)](https://www.teachinherts.com/)

## MENU w/b 4<sup>th</sup> December 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> </ul>

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
07/12/23	Pantomime – South Mill Arts
08/12/23	PTA Non-Uniform Day
08/12/23	PTA Festive Friday - After School

	❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)	11/12/23 – 15/12/23	PTA Christmas Gift Shop
Tuesday	❖ Beef Bolognese (Red) ❖ Sweet Potato & Pea Samosa Burrito (Ve) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)	11/12/23	Nativity – 1 <sup>st</sup> Performance @ 2.30 pm Ruby & Sapphire
Wednesday	❖ Roast Chicken (Red) ❖ Roast Quorn (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)	12/12/23	Christmas Lunch/Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday	❖ Pork Sausages with Gravy (Red) ❖ Cheese Pinwheel (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)	13/12/23	Nativity – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Performance @ 2.30 pm Ruby & Sapphire
Friday	❖ Fish Cake (Red) ❖ Cheese & Tomato Pizza (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)	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
<p>Contact: <a href="mailto:admin@spellbrook.herts.sch.uk">admin@spellbrook.herts.sch.uk</a></p> <p>Website: <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

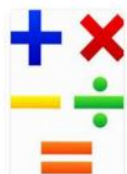
For Ages 5-11  
years

## 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/>



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 27<sup>th</sup> November**. Baubles will be available to purchase until **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December**.
4. The winner will be announced on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> 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!



Great St Mary's  
Sawbridgeworth

*Passion for Christ - Compassion for all*

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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





## Advent and Christmas at Great St Mary's

### Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 5pm - Advent Carol Service

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

### Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Dec onwards - Decorate the Community Christmas Tree

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

### Sat 9<sup>th</sup> & Sun 10<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 3pm - Christingle Service

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

### Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 5pm - Christmas Carol Service

The traditional carol service followed by mulled wine and mince pies

### Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 3pm - Crib Service

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

### Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 11.30pm - Midnight Mass

The first eucharist of Christmas with traditional carols

### Mon 25<sup>th</sup> 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

# Christmas TREE FESTIVAL

**SAT 9<sup>th</sup> DEC - 9am-5pm**  
**SUN 10<sup>th</sup> DEC - 11am-5pm**

ALSO

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 10am-12pm & 1-3pm**

❖ MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS

❖ SEASONAL REFRESHMENTS

❖ TOMBOLA

❖ CAROLS at 10am, 12pm & 2pm

**Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 3pm**

❖ CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

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



KidzFair - where dreams take off and businesses begin!

## Christmas KIDZFAIR

music \* stalls \* activities \* festive vibes

**3rd December, 2023**

**11.00 - 15.00**

Bishop's Stortford,  
Jackson Square

Get ready for KidzFair -  
the coolest Christmas market  
where children become bosses.

See young entrepreneurs sell their unique goods.  
Shop for Christmas and help make their business  
dreams come true!

Want to create a business?  
Aged 7-17?

APPLY NOW >



WWW.KIDZFAIR.CO.UK



## SPELLBROOK C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL (vc)

Flourishing in love and learning

— The Parish of Great St Mary's —  
London Road, Spellbrook, Bishop's Stortford, Herts. CM23 4BA

### JOB VACANCY

#### MIDDAY SUPERVISORY ASSISTANT

Are you enthusiastic, caring and someone who relates well to children?

We need a cheerful and capable person to become part of our dedicated midday team.

You will be supervising children Monday to Friday during term time as directed, either while they eat their lunch in the school hall or playing outside.



Vacancies available from  
NOW

Monday to Friday 12pm to 1pm  
(Term time only)

£11.59 per hour

Part-time also to be considered

For details or to apply visit: [www.teachinherts.com](http://www.teachinherts.com) or contact  
Ms Sharon Freeborn, School Business Manager (01279) 723204

\*Appointment to this role is subject to appropriate recruitment checks, including references being secured, completion of a DBS enhanced clearance and online health check.

Spellbrook Primary School is committed to safeguarding  
equality and promoting the welfare of children  
and expects all staff and employees to share this commitment.