



## NEWSLETTER – 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**VALUE: Trust**

**Focus: Advent**

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

### FROM THE HEADTEACHER

**Advent:** We are gearing up for Christmas. This week in Collective Worship we thought about Advent and how Christians use this time to prepare for the coming of Christ. Some classes have their own advent calendars, some are having fun with Elves and even Fred the Frog instead.



Diamond Class have a different twist on the traditional advent calendar and have a BookVent. Each day the children discover a new book under the tree. They are keen to see what it is and whether they recognise the author and are eager to be the first to take that book and read it. One child came into school the following day having read an entire book in an evening.

We are practising Christmas Carols and Ruby and Sapphire Class are learning their lines and songs and getting their costumes ready for the nativity that will be performed for parents next week. Some were trying their costumes on when they added a decoration to the tree so I have had a chance to see how super they look.



**Thank you** ever so much to the Milan family for donating two trees this year. One for the school hall and a second one for the Tree Festival at Great St Mary's Church. There is a flyer in this newsletter with more details, so please do pop in and see the super trees.

**Pantomime:** Thursday afternoon was our annual trip to the South Mills Arts Centre for the pantomime. This year's Cinderella was thoroughly enjoyed by children and adults alike. They joined in with songs and responded very enthusiastically to 'Buttons' as he encouraged them to wave, clap, point and shout "It's behind you". He even had them dancing along. They got very excited as the story progressed towards the expected happy ending and party dance along and all in all we had a lovely afternoon. Thank you to the PTA for providing the snacks.



**Christmas Tree Festival:** We have added our book themed tree to the Christmas Tree Festival at Great St Mary's Church which is taking place this weekend. There are lots of different trees, so please do pop in and have a look.



We are also excited to continue our Christmas season in school with Christmas dinner, complete with Christmas hats and jumpers, the nativity, Carols around the campfire and just before the end of term, our Christmas Service at the Great St Mary's Church.

**Invitation to participate in 'The Big Ambition' Survey by the Children's Commissioner for England:**

'The Big Ambition' initiative, led by Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner for England, aims to amplify the voices of children and young people ahead of the next General Election. The survey seeks their perspectives on important matters, and the insights gathered will be shared with decision-makers to advocate for positive changes in the lives of children across England. Access the survey link and accompanying resources on the official website:

[The Big Ambition | Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)

Have a super weekend,

Jeremy Fisher



## MESSAGE FROM GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH

### Father Simon writes:



There's so much going on this weekend at Great St Mary's during our **Christmas Tree Festival**.

As I type, the church is beginning to fill with trees and other conical shapes in various states of decoration. We can't wait to see what seasonally-inspired creations have been dreamed up by the 30-plus organisations, groups, and businesses taking part, including Spellbrook School! Of

course, you'll be able to **vote for your favourite** exhibit. Am I to guess that you'll all visit and vote for the Spellbrook tree?



You'll also have chance to **decorate the community Christmas tree** - either with decorations you might bring along yourself, with decorations that we're providing, and perhaps with a hand-written label giving thanks or expressing sorrow for events during the past year, or in memory of a loved one at this particularly poignant time of the year.



Tomorrow, members of the choir will be on hand at 10am, 12pm and 2pm to lead the singing of a few ad hoc **Christmas carols**. Meanwhile, in Church House, you'll not only be able to catch up with **Father Christmas**, but enter the **tombola**, and have some **seasonal refreshments**.

On Sunday, the Festival will open again after our regular 9.30am service. And in the afternoon, we'll be welcoming many families into the church at 3pm for our annual **Christingle Service** - a short service for all the family but particularly suitable for children. It looks ahead to Christmas, and during it we'll all receive a Christingle: an orange decorated by a candle, fruits, and sweets.



Do make sure you give yourself plenty of time to experience something of the magic of Christmas at Great St Mary's this weekend.

Yours in Christ,

*Fr Simon*

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Emerald  
Harvey



## STARS OF THE WEEK

### Ruby

- ✚ Axl for fantastic focus whilst playing with maths activities.
- ✚ Maddison for brilliant contributions in class.

### Sapphire

- ✚ Lorenzo for gaining confidence while practising our nativity.
- ✚ George for trying really hard to add expression and personality to his role.

### Emerald

- ✚ Charlie for settling into Spellbrook very well in the past week.
- ✚ Sabiha for her hard work and participation.

### Diamond

- ✚ Izzy for being an amazing role model to all.
- ✚ Stanley H for always working with good focus.

## ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

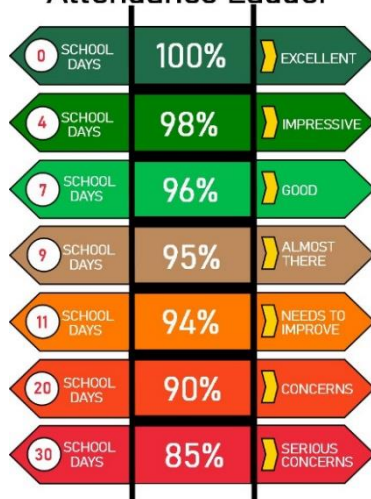
**Whole School  
Attendance – 94.02%**

**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.

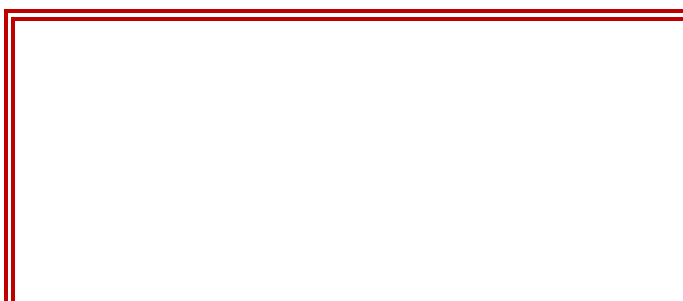
**If you are going to be late, please also advise the school office to ensure a meal is ordered in time.**

### Attendance Ladder



## NOTICES

- ✚ **PTA 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**.
- ✚ **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**. If you have not yet ordered your tickets, please do so. Tickets are available to book in Arbor by clicking on **Quick Actions < School Shop** and selecting the performance.
- ✚ **Christmas Lunch** is on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December**. Children who normally have a packed lunch are invited to join the rest of the school for a delicious 2 course meal. Cost of the meal is **£2.70 for Nursery, £3.20 for Year 3-6** and **free for Reception to Year 2** and **children entitled to free school meals**. Please ensure your Arbor account is topped up to cover the cost of the meal.
- ✚ **Emerald Class Last Swimming Lesson** is on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**.



### MENU w/b 11<sup>th</sup> December 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>
Tuesday	<p><b>CHRISTMAS LUNCH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Christmas Turkey (Red)</li><li>❖ Festive Quorn Fillet (V) (Green)</li></ul> 
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Roast Pork (Red)</li><li>❖ Shepherdess Pie (Ve) (Green)</li><li>❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)</li><li>❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)</li></ul>
Thursday	<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>
Friday	<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>

✦ **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)

✦ **Last Day of Term is Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**. School closes early at **1.30 pm**.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
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
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)
17/01/24	Bag 2 School
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

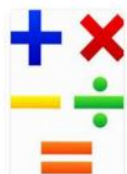
For Ages 5-11  
years

## 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

<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!

CHRISTMAS  
LUNCH

HCL 

Christmas Turkey and  
Chipolata Sausage,  
Trimmings of Sage and  
Onion Stuffing and Gravy

OR

Festive Quorn Fillet (v)  
with a Veggie Sausage (v),  
Trimmings of Sage  
and Onion Stuffing  
and Vegetarian Gravy

With Roast Potatoes  
and a Choice of  
Seasonal Vegetables

A Choice of  
Christmas Desserts







## 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



# Christingle Service This Sunday 3pm

Seasonal fun and joy  
for all the family



Great St Mary's  
Sawbridgeworth



## 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.



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*

