



NEWSLETTER – 12th January 2024

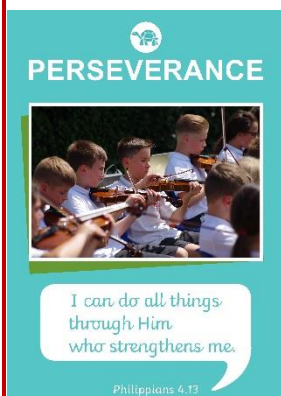
VALUE: Perseverance

Focus: Running the Race of Life

‘I can do all things through him who strengthens me’ Philippians 4:13

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Happy New Year!



The staff and children are all delighted to be back in school for the New Year. We have started a new value, Perseverance, and on Monday, Father Simon introduced it with the focus on Running the Race of Life.

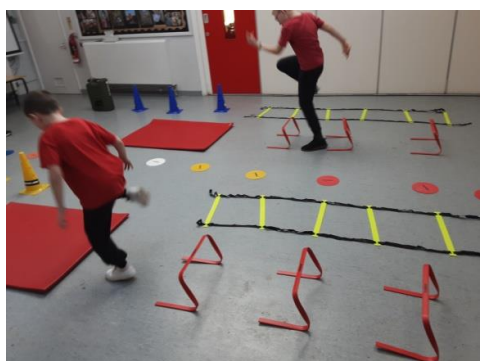
Additionally, we have introduced a new programme to our PSHE and PE curriculum. It is called Commando Joes, and it combines physical activities, problem solving and character development. It uses the acronym, RESPECT for the traits that children develop. It also comes with a range of resources, most of which are kept in a great big storage box. We introduced the programme to the children in an assembly at the start of the week and classes have just begun.

R	Resilience
E	Empathy
S	Self-Awareness
P	Passion
E	Excellence
C	Communication
T	Teamwork

Diamond Class have found out how carefully everything has to be stored to get it into the box, then had a chance to explore some of the resources, using their imagination as well as teamwork and communication.



Emerald Class were able to apply our new value and were persevering through a ‘Gladiator Training Academy’, linked to their Romans topic. They had to endure a range of strengthening and stamina building activities.



Sapphire Class (Y1/2) had to persevere as they took on a whole class obstacle course, carrying items that they then worked collaboratively with to create a seat for the Commando Joes Mascot.



Science: Emerald Class have also started their science topic on the digestive system, They enjoyed a very practical and memorable introduction that they were keen to tell me all about. Apparently, they crunched up crackers and bananas to represent the teeth chewing up food. They placed it into a small bag that represented the stomach and added water and orange juice to represent saliva and stomach acids. They enjoyed feeling the soggy and squidgy mashed up contents. They then transferred this to a stocking (the small and large intestines) and squished the mush to break it down and for the liquids to come out, representing the nutrients being drawn out of the food. They then squeezed the remaining solid mass out of the bottom of the stocking just like waste product coming out at the end of the digestive process and thoroughly enjoyed this analogy and the associated scientific language. Their retelling and the photographs convinced me that they will recall this lesson and scientific knowledge for a long time.



History: Sapphire Class have started their local history topic, and they began with a timeline in the hall that enabled them to sort events into within their lifetimes and before. They included events from the past that have a local link and noticed how far in the past some of them were. They include:

- 1534: Anne Boleyn, due to her local links. Henry VIII of England granted Pishiobury Park to Queen Anne Boleyn after he bought it in 1534.
- 1066: The Battle of Hastings. After the Battle of Hastings, the Manor of "Sabrixteworde" (one of the many spellings previously associated with the town) was recorded in the Domesday Book. It was granted to Geoffrey de Mandeville I by William the Conqueror.
- 100 AD Roman presence in the local area.



The children were very fortunate to be allowed to handle some authentic Roman coins, a brooch and some pottery that were found in the local area.



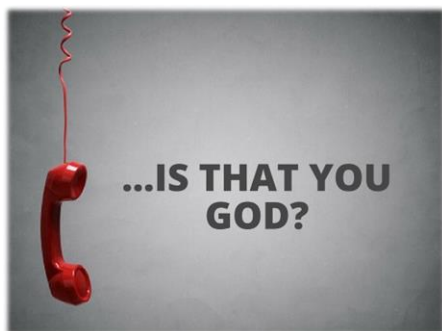
I am sure that the term will be a busy, enjoyable and successful in so many ways.

Have a super weekend,

Jeremy Fisher

MESSAGE FROM GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Father Simon writes:



Light, freedom, joy – it's what we're all so desperately in need of at this time of year when the days are short and cold. With most of us having packed away the Christmas decorations, it can be a gloomy time of year, when many of us become particularly aware of an innate desire for fulfilment; for something to satiate some inner need we all have for release and colour in our lives.



Perhaps keeping busy, getting on with tasks which have built up over Christmas - whether at home or at work - is the way to get through these days. Others of us reach out to our neighbours and communities, doing wonderful altruistic things to help. Some sign up to a local gym, whilst, at the end of each day, many of us turn to the holiday brochures, dreaming of sun-drenched foreign beaches, or get involved in a new tv gameshow (I gather *The Traitors* is very good) or in a tv drama or detective series; as you will no doubt be aware, last week's ITV series about the Post Office scandal really captured people's attention and has galvanised long-needed action by the government. Others of us find fickle satisfaction in the bottom of the biscuit barrel or bag of crisps.



Some of these actions are fulfilling and worthwhile, others are distractions - temporary and even bad for us. But, either way, you won't be surprised to hear that I believe the only way we can truly find long-term light, colour, freedom, and release in our lives is through a relationship with God. That's because, as a priest-friend from Yorkshire often says, we are built with a "J-shaped 'ole" in our hearts... a J-shaped hole for Jesus. True satisfaction can only

come through acknowledging that particular space in our hearts and lives which only He can satisfy, and by us nurturing a relationship with Him.

Sadly though, relatively few of us recognise the shape of that space, and realise where we can find that true, long-term fulfilment.

In the light of the Christmas message, my prayer is that we might all be more open to listening intently so as to bring a period of personal growth and abundant colour into each of our lives, filling those J-shaped holes in our hearts.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Simon



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Ruby
Axl

Emerald
Millie

Diamond
Billie



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ruby

- ✚ Joshua for a great start to nursery.
- ✚ Luca for fantastic use of language when speaking about the world.

Sapphire

- ✚ Niveth for working hard on his hold a sentence.
- ✚ Jessica for trying hard in Read, Write Inc lessons.

Emerald

- ✚ Amelie for her fantastic work in English.
- ✚ Louis for his hard work and focus.

Diamond

- ✚ Elise for carefully working through the steps of long multiplication.
- ✚ Poppy-Sue for perseverance in lessons even when feeling under the weather.

ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Whole School
Attendance – 91.33%

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.

MENU w/b 15th January 2024

Day	Menu
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Mild Chicken Curry (Red) ❖ Macaroni Cheese (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Veggie Sausages with Gravy (Ve) (Red) ❖ Sweet Chilli Quorn (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Roast Pork (Red) ❖ Shepherdess Pie (Ve) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Beef Burger in a Bun (Red) ❖ Vegetarian Roll (Ve) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Battered Fish Fillet (Red) ❖ Cheese & Tomato Pizza (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)

NOTICES

- ✚ **Bag 2 School** – parents are invited to donate old clothing, bedding, towels etc to be dropped off in the bike shelter on **Wednesday 17th January by 9 am**. Please see the flyer below for more information.
- ✚ **Diamond Class - Young Voices, O2 Arena** on **Tuesday 16th January**. Children will be leaving school mid-morning and will have packed lunch and dinner at the venue. For parents attending, **doors open at 6 pm for a 7 pm start**. The concert ends at **9 pm**. Due to the long day, Diamond children can come in slightly later on **Wednesday 17th no later than 9.45 am**. However, children can still be dropped off at the usual time.
- ✚ **Emerald Class Workshop** on **Wednesday 17th January** in school. If you have not yet paid, please do so in Arbor by clicking on **Trips < Emerald Class – Life in Roman Britain Workshop** and follow the prompts.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
16/01/24	Young Voices @ O2 Arena (Diamond)
17/01/24	Bag 2 School
17/01/24	Emerald Class Workshop (in school)
19/02/24 – 23/02/24	Half Term
26/02/24	First Day Back
20/03/24	Sapphire Class Last Swimming Lesson
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

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

Autumn term 2

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

Collection bags will be given out in class for
children to bring home.
Please place your donations well inside the
bike shelter on the morning of collection.



Wednesday 17th January

Clothing
Cuddly toys
Bedding
Shoes

Curtains
Bags
Towels
Jewellery
Blankets



Club Fee
£6.50 a week

THE SECRET ART CLUB

With Artist Caroline Clark

Activities:

- Painting
- Printing
- Drawing
- Pottery
- Collage
- And more!

Date:

Weekly on Fridays, starting 12th January
2024, 3.20 - 4.20 pm

Register interest

Caroline Clark (Caz)
07847269734
or book on at
www.carolineclarkartist.com

Address

Spellbrook C of E
School



HOCKEY IN THE COMMUNITY



St Edmund's College & Prep and Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club are pleased to introduce our community hockey programme for 2024.



£3

per session

For boys and girls of all abilities!

Every Friday starting on 19th January

Year 2-4 5pm-6pm

Year 5-8 6pm-7pm

St Edmund's College, Ware, SG11 1DS
Led by professional Bishop's Stortford Hockey coaches.



To book or for more information, scan the QR code or click [here](#)



ROM
SPORTS COACHING

LITTLE WICKETS CRICKET ACADEMY



MINI WICKETS

Reception, Year 1, Year 2
Fridays 17:30 - 18:25



LITTLE WICKETS

Year 3, Year 4, Year 5
Fridays 18:30 - 19:25



JUNIOR WICKETS

Year 6, Year 7, Year 8
Fridays 18:30 - 19:25



LEVENTHORPE SCHOOL

Cambridge Road,
Sawbridgeworth, CM21 9BY

- ECB QUALIFIED COACHES
- FUN & SAFE ENVIRONMENT
- NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
- ALL ABILITIES WELCOME!

DEVELOPING YOUNG CRICKETERS

Fun filled coaching sessions for girls and boys 4 - 13 years old. We **develop, improve** and **nurture** cricket skills during the winter months, making sure our young cricketers are ready and confident for next season.



**WINTER CRICKET ACADEMY RUNS
SEPTEMBER TO MARCH**

BOOK NOW! [CLICK HERE FOR
SESSIONS & PRICING](#)

FREE TRIAL SESSION AVAILABLE!

For more info please contact:

Romesh Paktsun coachromesh@outlook.com ☎ 07515 428 754
Kate Ings kate@cksportscoaching.co.uk ☎ 07971 135 354

<https://rom-sports.pembee.app>



Neurodiversity Support Hub

For Parents, Carers and Professionals

We can offer support, signposting and guidance about a whole range of things including but not limited to:

- Understanding ADHD/Autism
- Distressed Behaviours
 - Anxiety
 - School

The phones are answered by our team of parents and carers of neurodivergent children and young people



Are you a
Parent, Carer
or
Professional?

01727 833963 ☎

supporthub@add-vance.org

Open Monday-Friday
9 AM - 1PM



Here to support, reach out for a listening ear 🎧

We Can't:

- Give updates/ fast track places on waiting lists
- Recommend specific private assessors

[Mini Wickets \(Reception, Year 1 & Year 2\)](#)

Fridays 17:30 – 18:25

[Little Wickets \(Years 3, 4, & 5\) & Junior Wickets \(Years 6, 7, & 8\)](#)

Fridays 18:30 – 19:25

All the information you need, including session fees, a detailed schedule, and registration instructions are available at <https://rom-sports.pembee.app/>.

A free trial is also available to book.

At our Little Wickets Winter Cricket Academy, we prioritise skill development, teamwork, and a love for the game. Our experienced coaches are dedicated to providing children with a safe and enjoyable learning environment, ensuring they build confidence and develop their cricketing skills and abilities.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at coachromesh@outlook.com or **07515428754** if you have any questions or would like any further information.