



## NEWSLETTER – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**VALUE: Perseverance**

Focus: Lent

**'I can do all things through him who strengthens me' Philippians 4:13**



Diamond Class continue to be busy with a full curriculum including Tudor pouches (D&T), and stringed instrument lessons (Music)

### FROM THE HEADTEACHER

This half term has been a busy one and Christmas and New year seem so long ago. The teachers constantly focus on helping all the children to make good progress. There has also been a lot of focus on friendships and treating others 'as you would want to be treated' as well as continuing to encourage positivity and perseverance, which has been our half term's value.

**Behaviour Policy:** We have updated our behaviour policy. In order to increase consistency and understanding, we have reduced our school rules to just three. They are:

- Be Safe
- Be Respectful
- Be Ready

They can be applied to all circumstances, enabling clear expectations for all. Here are some examples:

#### **Be Safe**

- Moving safely inside by walking calmly and quietly.
- Moving safely outside by showing awareness of others and the space around them,
- Playing gently and using equipment safely.
- Being aware of their own emotional needs and how to keep themselves safe in and out of school and online (Protective Behaviours and E-safety are taught in School).

#### **Be Respectful**

- Being respectful to everyone.
- Only talking kindly to and about others.
- Following all adults' instructions.
- Listening to others.
- Using manners when asking.

- Realising when others are not ready to sort something out and giving them time and space to be calm.
- Never getting involved in bullying, except to report it to adults.
- Showing respect by apologising when mistakes are made and working with others to put things right.

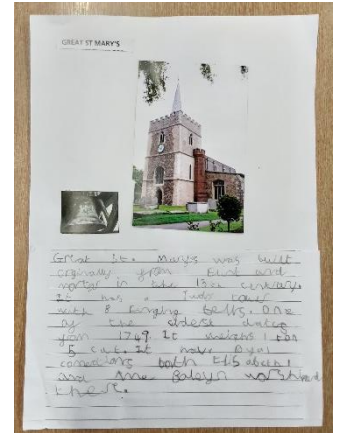
### Be Ready

- Being ready to learn.
- Being ready to come in and to move around the school by lining up silently.
- Stopping talking and working when teachers use The 'All Stop' signal or countdown.

Hopefully, you will appreciate why we are focusing on these. Please feel free to ask any questions or share your thoughts. Our intention is that through greater understanding by all of the children and consistent responses by staff, we can work together to help the children to develop positive habits and thoughtful behaviour patterns that benefit them and others around them.

**Homework Projects:** I am very pleased that we have had an increase in home reading recently. Please do keep it up. We are also awarding over 40 gold certificates today as well as many silver and bronze to recognise the reading, maths and project work that is taking place. We will resume the Maths Homework Club after on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February. This is straight after school in the hall and parents are all welcome to come for some assistance or just to provide a time and place to complete the maths homework.

*Some super homework pieces. Local history research (Sapphire Class), a Roman Bathhouse (Emerald) and Tudor Houses (Diamond)*



**Reading Challenge:** Nine lucky winners from the reading challenge were chosen to bring their parents in for a hot chocolate tea party. The more times the child's reading was recorded in their reading diaries, the greater the chance of being selected from the random draws. Look out for the new challenge after half term.



We have just completed a whole school, We ❤️ Art project. Each class had techniques to work on that were inspired by different artists and linked to the theme of hearts (very appropriate in this week when many celebrated Valentine's Day).



**Ruby Class** experimented with bubble printing and collage whilst exploring the heart shape. They looked at shapes within a shape.

**Sapphire Class** used techniques from Russian artist, Wassily Kandinsky's 'Colour Study', including colour mixing, informal drawing of circles and filling in the white spaces.



**Emerald Class** studied Four Hearts by American pop artist, Jim Dine. They created a background using a printing technique, then used collage for the heart with pastel to add depth.



**Diamond Class** based their art on Red Heart by American cartoon artist Keith Haring. They used his style of figures where black lines and marking around the figures are used to show movement and vibrancy.

Some of the lovely work will be on display in school for us all to continue to enjoy.



**Ash Wednesday:** Father Simon and Di Kitson were very welcome in school on Wednesday as they led our Ash Wednesday Service. The children are developing a clear understanding of Lent and how it is part of the preparation for Easter. They recalled the story of Jesus's temptation in the desert and considered how people use this time to give up luxuries like chocolate and how others try to do things that help others. Many children and staff chose to show their own commitment to reflection and repentance by having the ash cross marked on their forearms or foreheads.



Have a super weekend and a lovely half term.

Jeremy Fisher

## MESSAGE FROM GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH

**Father Simon writes:**



It seems like only five minutes ago that we were singing Christmas carols. But now we're already in the season of Lent - that time for us to take stock of our lives and to reflect on our faith.



It's all in preparation for Easter. For, whilst it was important for Jesus to be born in Bethlehem, the Christian story is nothing without his death and resurrection, proving that there is the possibility of life after death for us.

And so the season of Lent gives us a period in which we're called to reflect and to prepare our hearts and minds for the importance of that good news, mirroring the 40 days which Jesus spent in the Judean wilderness preparing for his earthly ministry amongst the people of Galilee and Jerusalem.



The first day of Lent is called Ash Wednesday. It's the day on which Christians are marked by the sign of the cross to indicate their commitment to the season of Lent, and it was a privilege to be in school on Wednesday for the school Ash Wednesday service. The children were very knowledgeable about what Ash Wednesday is and what the season of Lent is about, and many came forward to be marked by the sign of the cross on their foreheads or on the back of their hands.



We're going to be reflecting on it all again this Sunday afternoon at 4pm during our monthly Mustard Seed gathering which you may like to bring your children to. I'm sure, as always, there will be much fun and mess, crafts, and, perhaps not surprisingly for this time of year, pancakes, all aimed at the younger members of our community. We look forward to seeing you in church.

Yours in Christ,

*Fr Simon*

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK AND DURING THE HALF TERM BREAK



Ruby  
Cara

Sapphire  
Eloise

Emerald  
Dylan



## STARS OF THE WEEK

### Ruby

- ✚ Jacob for excellent care for minibeasts.
- ✚ Luca for super recalling of world facts and great writing.

### Sapphire

- ✚ Jonas for his focus in science.
- ✚ Kaiya for a lovely piece of independent writing.

### Emerald

- ✚ Pedro for really working on his focus and concentration.
- ✚ Millie for her fantastic progress in English.

### Diamond

- ✚ Sid for great work in fractions and decimals.
- ✚ Michal for great work in history.

## ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

**Whole School  
Attendance – 96.34%**

**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

- ✚ The **Gardening Club** will resume on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February** for children in **Years 3 to 6**. Please see the flyer below with booking information.
- ✚ **Maths Homework Club** will resume on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February** immediately after school.
- ✚ **PTA Disco** is on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March** at **Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall** from **5.30 – 7.00 pm**. Tickets cost **£3.50** and are available to purchase online at the link below: <https://spellbrookpta.sumupstore.com/product/school-disco-ticket>
- ✚ **Lost Property** – we have a lot of unclaimed uniforms in the lost property box. If your child is missing items of uniform, could parents kindly check lost property as we will be clearing out the box by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February.

## MENU w/c 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024

| 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> <li>❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)</li> </ul>        |
| Tuesday   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Beef Bolognese (Red)</li> <li>❖ Sweet Potato &amp; Pea Samosa Burrito (Ve) (Green)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)</li> <li>❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)</li> </ul> |
| Wednesday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Roast Chicken (Red)</li> <li>❖ Roast Quorn Fillet (V) (Green)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)</li> <li>❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)</li> </ul>                      |
| Thursday  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Pork Sausages with Gravy (Red)</li> <li>❖ Cheese Pinwheel (V) (Green)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)</li> <li>❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)</li> </ul>              |
| Friday    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Fishcake (Red)</li> <li>❖ Cheese &amp; Tomato Pizza (V) (Green)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)</li> <li>❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)</li> </ul>                    |



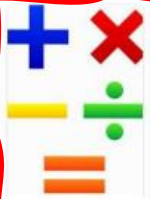
# SCHOOL DINNERS

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| Date                | Event                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 19/02/24 – 23/02/24 | Half Term                           |
| 26/02/24            | First Day Back                      |
| 28/02/24            | Gardening Club resumes (Y3-6)       |
| 06/03/24            | Dental Survey (5-year old's)        |
| 07/03/24            | World Book Day                      |
| 08/03/24            | PTA Disco (5.30 – 7.00 pm)          |
| 20/03/24            | Sapphire Class Last Swimming Lesson |
| 25/03/24            | Easter Service                      |
| 28/03/24            | Last Day of Spring Term             |
| 15/04/24            | First Day Back                      |
| 01/05/24            | Reception Vision/Hearing Screening  |
| 06/05/24            | Early May Bank Holiday              |
| 23/05/24            | Year 6 Crucial Crew                 |
| 27/05/24 – 31/05/24 | Half Term                           |
| 03/06/24            | Inset 5                             |
| 14/06/24            | Bag 2 School                        |
| 25/06/24            | Class Photos                        |
| 03/07/24 – 05/07/24 | Diamond Class Residential           |
| 11/07/24            | Secondary Transition Day            |
| 22/07/24            | Leavers Service                     |
| 23/07/24            | Last Day of Summer Term             |
| 02/09/24            | Inset 1                             |
| 03/09/24            | Inset 2                             |
| 04/09/24            | First Day Back                      |
| 07/10/24            | Harvest Service                     |
| 14/10/24            | Individual Photos                   |
| 28/10/24 – 01/11/24 | Half Term                           |
| 29/11/24            | Occasional Day                      |
| 02/12/24            | Christmas Decoration Day            |
| 12/12/24            | Panto                               |
| 20/12/24            | Last Day of Term                    |
| 23/12/24 – 03/01/24 | Christmas Break                     |
| 06/01/25            | Inset 3                             |
| 07/01/25            | Inset 4                             |
| 08/01/25            | First Day Back                      |
| 17/02/25 – 21/02/25 | Half Term                           |
| 24/02/25            | First Day Back                      |
| 04/04/25            | Last Day of Term                    |
| 07/04/25 – 21/04/25 | Easter Break                        |
| 22/04/25            | First Day Back                      |
| 05/05/25            | Early May Bank Holiday              |

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 26/05/25 –<br>30/05/25 | Half Term        |
| 02/06/25               | Inset 5          |
| 03/06/25               | First Day Back   |
| 23/07/25               | Last Day of 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)



## **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 on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**

3.20 – 4.20pm

every week

# 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.

[www.gjwsports.co.uk](http://www.gjwsports.co.uk)

GJW  
SPORTS



## HALF TERM FUN

Parents can drop off or stay and relax with a cuppa

### THE SECRET ART CLUB

With Artist Caroline Clark

#### Half Term Activities:

**Monday 19th February at 9.15-11am** - Wicked Wooden Box Art - design and paint a wooden box in your style - flowers, pirates, animals - the choices are endless. £18

**Tuesday 20th February at 9.15 - 10.45 am** - Fun Peg People Workshop - make cute peg people with dolly pegs, felt, material and wool - fairies, clowns, policemen, mums and dads, grannies and grandads, whatever you fancy. £16

All materials provided - SPACES ARE LIMITED

#### Address

The Sectet Art House  
Opposite Sheering Village Hall  
Sheering,  
Near Bishops Stortford  
CM22 7LX

#### Register interest

Caz Clark (Caroline)  
[www.carolineclarkartist.com](http://www.carolineclarkartist.com)  
07847 269 734



Workshops for children aged 5-11 years



## Well Bean Gardening

Learning through growing  
Growing through learning

Our After-School Gardening Club starts again on Wednesday Feb 28 from 3.20pm-4.30pm



- Spellbrook's Gardening Club meets on Wednesdays and is open to Years 3, 4, 5 & 6. Limited spaces available
- £30.00 for five sessions September 28 to Easter Holidays
- All equipment supplied but pupils must bring appropriate clothing as we will be outside in all weathers
- This half-term we'll be:
  - o Working to improve the school gardens
  - o Taking part in the RHS Campaign for School Gardening Award Scheme - LEVEL 5

If you would like your child to attend, please return the slip below to the school office before Wednesday February 28 and make a payment of £30 in cash/a cheque made payable to: WENDY GORDON or with a BACS payment to: Wendy Gordon/27441520/07-04-36 (Use your name as reference)

I would like my child to attend Spellbrook's After-School Gardening Club on Wednesdays:

Child's name: ..... Year group: .....

Your name: ..... Phone number: .....

Email: .....

Any allergies or medical issues that we need to be aware of: .....

\*Your child's safety is a priority, but we can only put measures into place if you let us know.

Well Bean Gardening has a Facebook & Instagram page (please check out and like) and every week an update of what we get up to at the club will be posted.

If you DO NOT want photos of your child to be used on social media please tick the box: (Please note that children are never named)

Payment of £30 has been made via Cash/Cheque/Bacs with the reference name of: .....

Email: [wendy@wellbeangardening.com](mailto:wendy@wellbeangardening.com)  
Mobile: 07817 528652

facebook.com/wellbeangardening  
Instagram: @wellbeangardening

# BE A HERO

Raise free donations for us each time you shop online.

Simply shop via [shopandgive.thegivingmachine.co.uk](https://shopandgive.thegivingmachine.co.uk)

Great news! We've joined Shop&Give – a site that lets you raise free donations for Spellbrook School PTA every time you shop online.

Register to support **Spellbrook School PTA** and help us raise as much as possible by clicking on the link below:

<https://shopandgive.thegivingmachine.co.uk/cause/s/spellbrook-school-pta>




SPELLBROOK PTA

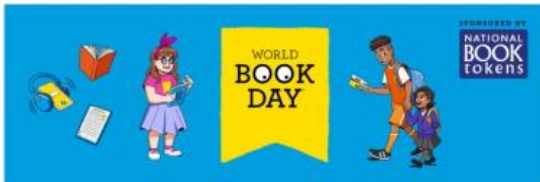
# IT'S DISCO TIME!

FRIDAY 8TH MARCH  
5.30 - 7PM

TUCK SHOP | PARTY GAMES

TICKETS £3.50

<https://spellbrookpta.sumupstore.com/product/school-disco-ticket>



## Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024

We will be taking part in World Book Day at Spellbrook to celebrate books and a love of reading. This year our theme is:

**Anything egg box**

We would love to see how you can use egg boxes to create artwork based on a book for a display in school. This can be a character from one of your favourite books or you can challenge yourself to be even more creative with your ideas. For example, an old egg box has been used to create the backpack from the front cover of 'The Boy at the Back of the Class'.



We are currently collecting egg boxes in school for anyone who would like one – if you have any spare ones which can be sent in with your child, we would be grateful.

On World Book Day, you can come into school dressed up as your favourite book character or come to school as a 'reader' dressed in your own clothes. Sensible shoes will still be required to be worn.

We look forward to seeing your creativity on the day!

THEOLLIEFOUNDATION.ORG

# Do you like drawing?

Want to try something new this half term?

Join us for **Zentangle** a FREE 90-minute mindful drawing session where participants can enjoy creating a unique and beautiful piece of art.

**Fri / 23 / Feb**  
**4.30pm to 6pm**

**No artistic ability needed!**

You only need a scrap of paper and pencil and can join from your phone!

**Online via Zoom FREE**

To book visit:

[Zentangle Tickets, Fri 23 Feb 2024 at 16:30 | Eventbrite](https://spellbrookpta.sumupstore.com/product/school-disco-ticket)



# GOT CONCERNS ABOUT FUSSY EATING?

*Won't eat their veggies?  
Can't get them to try new foods?*

Join BeeZee Bodies and lots of other parents who struggle with fussy eating, on our special **FUSSY EATING MASTERCLASS**.

It will be led by our Nutritionists who can help you understand why they might be picky, how to manage it and practical tips you can implement today.

Whatever their age, if you are struggling with your child's fussiness around food, sign up for free!

**SIGN UP FOR YOUR FREE SESSION:**  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 6pm-7pm

Click below or scan QR to sign up:

[Fussy Eating Masterclass](#)  
Tickets, Mon 19 Feb 2024 at  
18:00 | Eventbrite




 BeeZee Families     BeeZee Families     01707 248648     [beezeebodies.com](http://beezeebodies.com)

SAWBRIDGEWORTH EVANGELICAL  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CM21 9EH

# Make Lunch

Come and join us for fun, games, crafts and a hot lunch!

We are here to support families needing a helping hand throughout the school holidays.



**FREE OF CHARGE!**  
**ALL FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!**

**Wednesday 21st February 2024**  
**11:30 - 13:00**

To book please email: [makelunch@secchurch.org.uk](mailto:makelunch@secchurch.org.uk) or  
phone/text: 07936 771081



**Herts Parent Carer Involvement**  
[www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk](http://www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk)

**Find out about the 'Autism in Schools' (AIS) project**

**Click here to register**



**Hear what our guest speakers can offer you!**

**NHS** Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust    **ISL** Hertfordshire Learning Trust

**Mind** Hertfordshire Network    **Carers** in Hertfordshire    **ADD-vance** The ADHD and Autism Trust    **POTENTIAL KIDS**    **Angels**

**Hertfordshire** SEND 0-25 years Hertfordshire's Local Offer

# HPCI AIS Parent Carer Webinar

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 - 10.00am-12.30pm**