



## NEWSLETTER – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

**VALUE: Justice**

**Focus: Treating People Fairly**

**'Learn to do right. Seek justice.' Isaiah 1.17**



### FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Having had a restful half term break, we are now back for the second part of Spring Term. We have started a new Value, Justice and have begun to think about what it means. During Collective Worship on Monday, Father Simon helped us to think about treating others fairly. This links well to our Golden Rule, "In everything - in every circumstance - do to others as you would have them do to you."

We have continued to consider what helps us to judge what is right. The children have been thinking about rules and also considering how their conscience guides them.



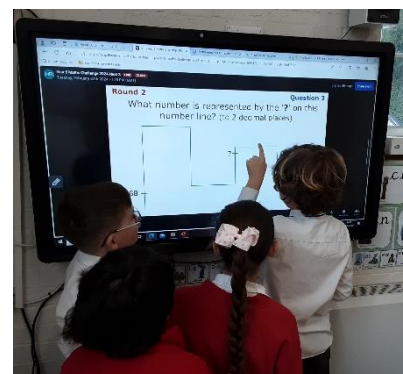
Diamond Class were very fortunate to have a visit from a local magistrate. She explained a great deal about the justice system and helped them to expand their understanding of some of the laws of our country. She was intrigued with the number of different crimes they could name. She explained the role of a magistrate and the different type of courts and how they operate. It was fascinating and enlightening. Some were surprised to discover that ten is the age of criminal responsibility.

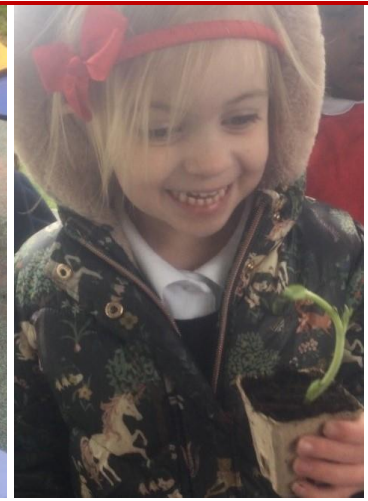
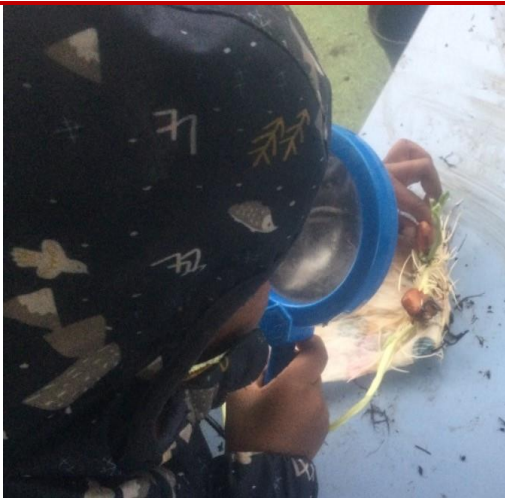
Meanwhile, a group of keen mathematicians from Y5/6 have taken part in the 2024 Hertfordshire Maths Challenge. This year 260 schools have taken part and a number of overseas schools joined in. In our heat there was one from Milan and another from Gibraltar.



The children had to work together to solve a number of complex problems within a given time. They worked well together and had some good strategies with different members of the team solving different parts of the problem then combining their knowledge for a complete answer. It would be great to get through to the final but as only the top 20 schools qualify, it is an ambitious hope. The children have certainly enjoyed the experience and enjoyed working together on something novel and challenging.

Ruby Class have been very excited to see that their beans have germinated and now have roots and shoots. They used magnifiers to look carefully and identify the different parts. They have now planted them and are hoping they will grow tall and strong.





Next Thursday is World Book Day. Last year, it was lovely to see lots of staff and children taking part and dressing up and it would be super to see if this year, the whole school could take part.

Children can dress as their favourite book character or alternatively they can come to school as a 'reader' dressed in their own clothes with a book.

Don't forget that children are also being asked to design a character using part of an egg box. The full details are on a message sent out on ClassDojo on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February and in the flyer below.



Have a super weekend,

Jeremy Fisher

## MESSAGE FROM GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH

### Father Simon writes:

'Gentle Jesus, meek and mild'. So wrote Charles Wesley in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, penning the start of just one of his 6,500 or so hymns.

If we want an antidote for that image, we can do no better than to turn to our Gospel reading this Sunday. It's St John's account of Jesus cleansing the Temple in Jerusalem. Driving out the money-changers with a whip of cords, he then pours out their coins and overturns their tables before shouting after them: "Stop making my Father's house a market-place!"



The reading comes at a very interesting time because the national Church press has been debating the use of our church and cathedral buildings.



It's as a result of Canterbury Cathedral - the mother church of all England - holding two 'silent discos' in the cathedral's nave earlier in the month. In the words of the convenor of a petition which has gained several thousand signatures against the events, the cathedral hosted these "alcohol-fuelled" discos with guests listening through headphones to the music of the 1990s ranging from popstar Britney Spears to rapper Eminem, only feet away from the site of the martyrdom of St Thomas Becket. "This was to be a purely profane event. In place of the cross, we have a DJ elevated with arms outstretched as if in mimicry, towering over the multitude of revellers, who though gathered together, each separately listen to their pop music via their own headphones, atomised by technology."

This isn't the first time a church or cathedral has hosted such an event, and, in the months ahead, other silent discos are planned in a number of cathedrals including our own diocesan cathedral of St Albans. As Ben Phillips, a researcher in music, religion, and culture, wrote in an essay for *'The Critic'* magazine last week: "Few are discussing why many of our cathedrals host these events. The reason is not missiological or ecclesiological; it isn't about relevance or 'community' either. It's about having the funds to keep the doors open." With visitor numbers down since Brexit and the pandemic, the running costs of St Albans Cathedral per day, for instance, currently stand at £6,000.

It's a lively debate and one which we'll have to engage in here in Sawbridgeworth as we consider the re-ordering of our church over the next few years so as to reach out to our wider community.

Great St Mary's has been our town's house of prayer for over 800 years. Whilst the plans currently being drawn up for the church's re-ordering are primarily intended to provide a more flexible space within the church so as to host a wider range of events as we face the fact that it currently costs us £540 per day for the church to remain viable, we also have to recognise both the heritage and holiness of our sacred building.



Yours in Christ,

*Fr Simon*

### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Ruby  
Lily

Sapphire  
Arlo  
Connor



### STARS OF THE WEEK

#### Ruby

- ✚ Jesse for super work in sound time.
- ✚ Lily for great focus on her writing.

#### Sapphire

- ✚ Eloise for working on her presentation.
- ✚ Niah for working hard on division in maths.

#### Emerald

- ✚ Shakti for her fantastic work on fractions.
- ✚ Dylan for his super use of techniques in art.

#### Diamond

- ✚ Alden for being an excellent team captain for the maths challenge.
- ✚ Jim for a big increase in his home reading.



## ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

**Whole School**  
**Attendance – 94.95%**

**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/c 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Veggie Sausages with Gravy (Ve) (Red)</li> <li>❖ Sweet Chilli Quorn (V) (Green)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)</li> <li>❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)</li> </ul>
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Roast Pork (Red)</li> <li>❖ Shepherdess Pie (V) (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> </ul>

## NOTICES

- ✚ **5-Year-Old Dental Survey** – the school nursing team will be in school on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March**. If you have not yet returned your consent form, please do so by Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March.
- ✚ **World Book Day** is on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March**. Children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character or as a 'reader' in their own clothes. Please see the flyer below for more information.
- ✚ **PTA Disco** is on **Friday 8<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>
- ✚ **Red Nose Day** is on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March**. Children are invited to come to school in non-uniform with a donation of a £1 or more for this worthy cause. Donations can also be made via the **School Shop** in Arbor by clicking on **Quick Actions < School Shop < Red Nose Day**.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
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)
11/03/24 – 22/03/24	Big Walk & Wheel Challenge
15/03/24	Red Nose Day (Non-Uniform)
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
17/04/24	Diamond Class Swimming Starts
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
10/07/24	Diamond Class Last Swimming Lesson
11/07/24	Secondary Transition Day

- ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)
- ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)



## SCHOOL DINNERS

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 – 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)





# 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](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:
  - Working to improve the school gardens
  - 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

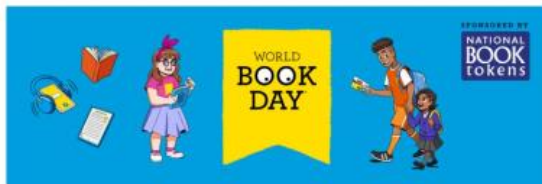
# IT'S DISCO TIME!

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!

## TALKING ADDITIONAL NEEDS



**Thursdays 9.45-11.15am** Course: ID 651

18th April - 23rd May 2024

**Tuesdays 8.00 - 9.30pm** Course: ID 652

4th June - 9th July 2024

Our online support sessions are delivered weekly via Zoom.

**A 6-week group for parents and carers of children with any additional need from 2-25. Your child does not need a diagnosis to join.**

- Understand your child's behaviour.
- Develop strategies that really work.
- Reduce conflict, anger and arguments.
- Improve Emotional Regulation
- Explore sensory needs.
- Motivate, encourage and support your child.
- Increase your child's resilience.
- Manage the different needs within your family.

**Groups are open to parents, carers, grandparents and guardians living, or with a child in school, in Hertfordshire.**

*'I have been on a few courses to help me with my son, this was by far the most helpful.'*

**Booking essential**

**Please quote the course ID**

To check eligibility and book a place, contact  
Supporting Links on:

**07512 709556**

[bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk](mailto:bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk)

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



These courses are provided free to parents by Hertfordshire County Council's Targeted Parenting Fund



Information you share with us is used to process your booking. This will be held securely and only shared in accordance with our GDPR Policy.





**Join in the celebration and discover how you can change your world by changing your journey**

- ✓ Be active and feel more energised
- ✓ Help the environment by replacing a car journey
- ✓ Help your school win some fantastic prizes

Are you taking part in the UK's **biggest** walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling to school competition?

[www.BigWalkAndWheel.org.uk](http://www.BigWalkAndWheel.org.uk)

Headline sponsor: **SCHWALBE**

Sustrans is a registered charity no. 326682 (England and Wales) 00000000 (Scotland). © Sustrans 2024

**sustrans**  
JOIN THE MOVEMENT



## Rotary Young Musician 2024

An exciting competition for young performers residing or in full-time education in postcodes CM21, CM22, CM23 and CM24

**SATURDAY 20 APRIL 2024**

**Bishop's Stortford College**



Junior, Intermediate and Senior Classes for:

**BRASS; WOODWIND; STRINGS (including Guitar);**

**PIANO (including Organ); VOCAL**


**NOVICE PIANO CLASS**  
(for pianists of Grade 2 and under standard will take place after school on Friday 19th April, also at Bishop's Stortford College)

*Although there are likely to be some very high standards of performance amongst the participants, we also wish to encourage entries from young instrumentalists and singers at the beginning of their musical journey, who will benefit from the experience of performing and from sympathetic and positive adjudication*


For further information, please contact [margaretwebb01@gmail.com](mailto:margaretwebb01@gmail.com)

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES 9th MARCH 2024**

<http://www.bsrotary.org/>



## TALKING FAMILIES



**Tuesdays 8.00-9.30pm** Online Course: ID 656  
16th April - 21st May 2024

**Tuesdays 8.00-9.30pm** Online Course: ID 653  
4th June - 9th July 2024

Our online support sessions are delivered weekly via Zoom.

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged 0-12 sharing

- Manage challenging behaviour with consistency
- Encourage positive behaviour
- Build your child's self esteem
- Set and maintain boundaries
- Respond to tantrums and difficult feelings in children
- Develop a strong parent/child relationship.

Groups are open to parents, carers, grandparents and guardians living, or

'Every parent should do this course! It has taught me so much about how to deal with family life.'


**Booking essential**  
Please quote the course ID

To check eligibility and book a place, contact Supporting Links on:


**07512 709556**  
[bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk](mailto:bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk)  
[www.supportinglinks.co.uk](http://www.supportinglinks.co.uk)

These courses are provided free to parents by Hertfordshire County Council's Targeted Parenting Fund

Information you share with us is used to process your booking. This will be held securely and only shared in accordance with our GDPR Policy.



## TALKING ANGER in FAMILIES



**Wednesdays 9.45-11.30pm** Online Course: ID 654  
17th April - 22nd May 2024

Our online support sessions are delivered weekly via Zoom.

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged 0-12, supporting you to:

- Understand why children, young people and adults get angry.
- Develop strategies to handle anger in yourself and others within your family.
- Recognise the early signs of anger and be able to avoid escalation.
- Reduce conflicts and arguments.
- Encourage positive behaviour and strengthen relationships in the family.

Groups are open to parents, carers, grandparents and guardians living, or with a child in school, in Hertfordshire.

'Their anger used to scare me. I now feel able to cope with it, and even help.'

**Booking essential**  
Please quote the course ID

To check eligibility and book a place, contact Supporting Links on:

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