



NEWSLETTER – 3rd May 2024

VALUE: Service

Focus: Serving with no strings attached
'Serve one another in love. 'Galatians 5.13



FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Sponsored Walk: A little while ago, inspired by the links that Great St. Mary's Church has forged, our School Council decided to find out more about the wonderful work carried out by the educational charity *Shiksha Rath*, whose aim is to provide a safe, enriching environment for the children in the Outram slums of northern Delhi, India. Shiksha Rath is an after-school project which provides education and life-skills to

ensure that these children do not fall behind their peers, due to their lack of privilege and access to a quality education.

The School Council contacted Shiksha Rath to find out how Spellbrook School might help, and their most immediate need is to find more child sponsors, to pay for a child's tuition and educational needs, as well as the costs of uniform and stationery.

As a result, this week, the whole school got behind the aim by taking part in a sponsored walk. The plan that the School Council came up with, was to work as a school to walk the equivalent number of miles as climbing to the top of the tallest mountain in India 50 times. Approximately 267 miles altogether! Wow! What a challenge.

Shiksha Rath

THINK BRAVE, ACT BRAVE AND LIVE BRAVE

The children walked around our field many, many times on Wednesday afternoon. The older children walked as far as four miles with the youngest ones managing about a mile. By the end, there were many tired children, but they were very pleased to have taken part. We will now collect the sponsor money and hopefully will have enough to sponsor a child for the year.

A number of parents have had issues with the payment process on Arbor, so I asked Ms Onyeka to share her expertise.

- Please log onto Arbor and select the School Shop.
- From the Products click on Spellbrook School Sponsored Walk 2024.
- Under Order Information, type the amount of your donation into the quantity box then select Buy Product to continue to the payment page and add your card details.

If you have any further issues with the payment, please get in touch. We would love to see that every child has made some contribution, no matter how small and would like those contributions by next Friday (10th May)

SIAMS Inspection: This week has been our SIAMS inspection. This is a statutory inspection for every church school and is therefore very important. Once again, I have been really pleased with the way the school community has pulled together and demonstrated a shared commitment to meeting the needs of all of the children. As I am sure we all appreciate, this is no simple task. I am looking forward to sharing the outcome when I receive the full report in a few weeks.



The Governing Body: I am delighted that we have three new members who have joined our Schools' Governing Body. Although they have come onto the Governing Body with different roles, they are all also parents of children in the school.

- John Haynes is a Community Governor
- Ashley Turner is an Associate Governor
- Becky Burton is a Foundation Governor

Please see the information on our website to find out more about them.

[Spellbrook C of E Primary School - Who are our Governors?](#)

All the governors are keen to talk to you if you have any thoughts, ideas, issues or concerns, and of course my door is always open.

Have a lovely bank holiday weekend,

Jeremy Fisher

MESSAGE FROM GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Father Simon writes:

It strikes me that, when we're faced with a new challenge, there are three types of people. There are those, whether fearful or not of what lies ahead, who will dive headlong straight into something just to get on with it. They don't mind breaking the odd egg or two to make an omelette. Then there are those who like to be prepared who will start at the shallow end, putting just a toe into the water so as to get used to the temperature before gently and slowly submerging themselves further. Then there are those who don't want to go anywhere near the pool for fear of what might lie ahead.



Do you recognise yourself somewhere in this? No doubt psychologists would say it's far more nuanced than that, but, as the vicar of Sawbridgeworth, I do notice people's interaction with our beautiful Grade-1-listed church of Great St Mary's is usually somewhere on that scale. It continues to surprise me how many people who've lived in Sawbridgeworth for many decades will come to an event or service and tell me quietly that it's their first time in the building.

No doubt a large part of that is the church's fault. Over time we haven't seemed necessary, approachable, or relevant to people's lives. That's why, as part of our exploration of the church estate, and how we use it and make it most fit for the needs of our local community, we've been consulting widely. But another reason, I think, is that, if you haven't engaged with something after a certain period - a project, a place, a person, an opportunity - there comes a point when, to engage becomes a daunting prospect; in our minds we build the molehill into a mountain.

Well, I'm hoping that this Sunday afternoon might be an opportunity for those who haven't crossed the threshold of Great St Mary's for a while - or even ever - to reduce the size of that mountain. That's because this Sunday, between 12 and 4pm, we're part of the annual **Sawbridgeworth May Fayre**.



As well as everything else of interest going on around the town, there will be plenty of things of interest in and around Great St Mary's: **donkey rides** in the churchyard, an exhibition of some of the church's **beautiful historical artefacts** in the church, a **church tour at 1.30pm**, and a **churchyard tour at 2.30pm** charting the history of Sawbridgeworth through the names of some of the important people who have lived or been connected with our town over the centuries.

There will be the opportunity to climb up to the church's **bellringing chamber** and **ring a bell or two**. And, for those who don't want to go up the tower, the bellringers are offering budding ringers the opportunity to try their hand on a mini ringing-frame set up in the churchyard.



And if that's not enough, there's going to be a **Teddy Zip Wire** rigged from the top of the church tower so that brave and willing cuddly toys can be hoisted to the top before being whisked back down again!

So, I do hope - particularly if you've never stepped foot in Great St Mary's before or have never taken a few moments to look around - that you'll pop in and say hello. Whether that feels like you'd be taking the plunge or just putting a toe in the water, you'll be most welcome.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Simon

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Sapphire
Fleur

Emerald
Nicolas

Diamond
Ewan



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ruby

✚ Jesse for great talking to others.

✚ Elle for kindness to others.

Emerald

✚ Lilly for her kindness and support towards others.

✚ Georgia for her fantastic participation in all lessons.

Sapphire

- ✚ Thea for excellent effort in maths.
- ✚ Connor for better concentration in class and really trying with presentation and spelling.

Diamond

- ✚ Billie for making amazing progress on her reading and spelling targets.
- ✚ Oscar for his determination during the sponsored walk.

ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

**Whole School
Attendance – 93.23%**

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

- ✚ **Monday 6th May** is a **Bank Holiday**. School will resume at the usual time on Tuesday 7th May.
- ✚ **KS2 SATs** commence on **Monday 13th to Thursday 16th May**. Year 6 children are invited to breakfast for the duration of the SATs week. Children should arrive at **8.20 am**.
- ✚ **PTA School Disco** on **Friday 17th May**, from **6.15 – 7.45 pm** in the main hall at **Leventhorpe School**. Entry is **£3.50** and includes drinks and a snack. Tickets can be purchased online at [School Disco Ticket \(sumupstore.com\)](https://sumupstore.com) in advance or at the door on the night. There will also be a tuck shop with goodies starting from 50p, so bring some extra change! There is plenty of parking at the front of Leventhorpe.

MENU w/c 6th May 2024

| Day | Menu |
|-----------|---|
| Monday | Bank Holiday – School Closed |
| Tuesday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Herb Crusted Chicken with Spaghetti Marinara (Red) ❖ Mild Sweet Potato & Chickpea Curry (Ve) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue) |
| Wednesday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Roast Beef (Red) ❖ Mince Slice (Ve) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) |

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| Date | Event |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 06/05/24 | Early May Bank Holiday |
| 13/05/24 – 16/05/24 | KS2 SATs Week |
| 17/05/24 | PTA Disco |
| 23/05/24 | Year 6 Crucial Crew |
| 27/05/24 – 31/05/24 | Half Term |
| 03/06/24 | Inset 5 |
| 07/06/24 | PTA Non-Uniform Day |
| 14/06/24 | Bag 2 School |
| 25/06/24 | Class Photos |
| 29/06/24 | Summer Fair |

| | |
|----------|---|
| | ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue) |
| Thursday | ❖ Favourite Quorn Hot Dog (V) (Red) ❖ Cheesy Spring Vegetable Bake (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue) |
| Friday | ❖ Battered Fish Fillet (Red) ❖ Cheese & Tomato Pizza (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue) |



SCHOOL DINNERS

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| 03/07/24 – 05/07/24 | Diamond Class Residential |
| 10/07/24 | Diamond Class Last Swimming Lesson |
| 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 |
| 25/10/24 | PTA Film Night |
| 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 |

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

April 16th - 23rd May

Football

- Tuesdays

£6
per session

Dodgeball

- Thursdays

Book online at:
gjwsports.co.uk

SAWBO
DESIGN CO.

www.gjwsports.co.uk

GJW
SPORTS



Club Fee
£7.50 a week

THE SECRET ART CLUB

With Artist Caroline Clark

Activities:

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

Date:

Weekly, starting on Friday 26th
April 2024, 3.20 - 4.30 pm

TO BOOK

www.carolineclarkartist.com or
Caroline Clark (Caz)
07847269734

Address

Spellbrook C of E
Primary School,
Spellbrook

For school
years 2-6



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
Mobile: 07817 528652

facebook.com/wellbeangardening
Instagram: @wellbeangardening



IT'S DISCO TIME!

FRIDAY 17TH MAY
6:15PM - 7:45PM

LEVENTHORPE MAIN HALL

Tickets - £3.50

SPELLBROOK PTA



Great St Mary's
Sawbridgeworth

Passion for Christ - Compassion for all

Mustard Seed - our monthly short, informal service with crafts and activities



Followed by a party tea for children and hot refreshments for grown-ups.

Why not join us at 4pm on the following third Sundays of the month?

2024

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 19 th May | 15 th September |
| 16 th June | 20 th October |
| 21 st July | 17 th November |
| | 15 th December |





fab science
HOLIDAY CAMPS

Join us for 5 hours of Fab Science fun in the holidays! Camps run 10am to 3pm and are open to all children aged 5-11 years.

For more information visit the Fab Science website.

£36
per child

Sibling discount available

FANTASTIC FLIGHT

Launch rockets, design parachutes, investigate the Bernoulli effect, find out how birds fly and try out our super-charged paper plane launchers!

ARTY SCIENCE

We're celebrating STEAM: science, technology, engineering, art and maths in a brand new summer camp. Build doodling robots, create art from explosions and investigate colours.

AMAZING EARTH

We're investigating biodiversity, animal adaptations, ecosystems and finding out about some weird and wonderful creatures!

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---|
| CAMBRIDGE | QUEEN EDITH SCHOOL | 23rd July 24th July 25th July |
| ST ALBANS | GARDEN FIELDS SCHOOL | 30th July 31st July 1st August |
| SAFFRON WALDEN | RA BUTLER SCHOOL | 6th August 7th August 8th August |
| HERTFORD | ST JOSEPH'S IN THE PARK | 13th August 14th August 15th August |
| BISHOP'S STORTFORD | WINDHILL SCHOOL | 19th August 20th August 21st August |

BOOK NOW AT: WWW.FABSCIENCE.CO.UK ...AND WE DO FAB SCIENCE PARTIES TOO!

www.facebook.com/FabScience | 07799 624777 | clubs@fabscience.co.uk



Great St Mary's
Sawbridgeworth

Passion for Christ - Compassion for all

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 18th May

7pm in Church House

With Ploughman's Supper, BYO drinks
£12.50 per person

Tickets available from Parish Office
(Tuesday to Friday mornings - 01279 726629)