



## NEWSLETTER - 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024

**VALUE: Truth and Truthfulness**

**Focus: Telling the whole story**

**'Tell the truth to each other.' Zechariah 8.16**



### FROM THE HEADTEACHER

**Outdoor Learning Day:** Our week began with an Outdoor Learning Day. Established last year in response to a request from the children, this is an entire day focused on outdoor learning activities. This year's curriculum focus was D&T, Art and PSHE. The children worked in five groups, each of which included children from Nursery up to Year 6. This provided many opportunities for peer support, inclusion and leadership and tied in well with the character development work we are engaged in through our Commando Joes Programme. Each group rotated through five different activities. They were:

**Nature pictures,** using pre-cut animal and plant shapes and a log slice for the background. The children chose the items they wanted to include, painted the background, coloured the plants and animals and combined them to create some original and beautiful artwork.



**Leaf and flower printing** or as the children called it 'leaf bashing'. The children collected natural items such as leaves, flowers and grasses and placed them under a piece of material. Pounding the material caused the colours from the natural items to transfer to the material. Some children chose to wear ear defenders so that they could bash as hard as possible without being upset by the noise. The children found out that the amount and strength of colour that came through varied with different leaves and flowers. Some lovely work was produced.



**Scavenger Hunt:** The children were provided with a task sheet with twelve items to find around the grounds. They were open ended and encouraged the children to look carefully. The children were able to work in small groups or pairs and when they had collected their items, they recorded their findings through words and observational sketches. There were excellent examples of teamwork and support for the younger children.



**Clay Figures:** Each child was given a small ball of clay. They then collected items and natural objects to use as tools. They created their own real or imaginary creatures. Once they had finished making them, they took time to name their creations and think about their attributes. They shared their ideas and showed their finished work to the rest of their group. The children showed great imagination and created a whole host of different creatures.



**Den Building:** Each group started with a simple frame made from a couple of sturdy sticks that were attached together. They worked collaboratively to gather many branches and placed them carefully to create a robust den. They continued foraging in our woodland for leafy branches to make their dens cosy and to provide some protection from the elements. Some groups added items at the front of their dens and even furniture inside. One made a broom to sweep the floor, making it clean and more comfortable to sit in. Every group succeeded in the challenge and created a super little space, many suggesting they would be happy to spend a night inside. The final groups were able to leave their dens standing and the children may get more time in the future to enjoy them.



It was a super day and the day ended with a whole school assembly where the Eco Team shared their thoughts on the different activities and the children all indicated which they had enjoyed the most. The leaf bashing and den building proved to be the most popular, but not by much. Thank you to Mrs Todd and the teachers for all the hard work that went into the day.

**Leventhorpe Production:** Diamond Class were invited to Leventhorpe to be an audience for a final rehearsal of their production, 'Bess'. Honey, Maria and Maizee-Leigh wrote this report:

"The story of Bess is a love story. A young girl has a love who is far away in Africa fighting as a pirate. She sets out to find him and goes through adventures, meeting new friends and even some enemies. When caught by the Queen of the Pirates, she is able to use her confidence to escape and again be with her love. This show was really good and an amazing example to Diamond Class for our own production that we are rehearsing at the moment."



**Netball Team:** Also, this week, the netball team have been competing again. I am very aware that many of the local schools that we play against have many more children to choose from and some have very established teams that have been playing together for a long time.

Mrs Smith and Miss Lucas, who watched the match, said that it was a really good match. Our team gave the more experienced team from Reedings a good game and this earned praise from the opposition and their teachers.

They showed determination and effort and scored more goals than in previous matches. They still have a way to go to be winning these matches but over the course of the competition they have really improved and some of their set plays are quality. If they can further improve their conversion rate, they could start to win.

Nevertheless, we are very proud of how much they have improved and the positive attitude and teamwork that they show.

A big thanks to Reedings School for their welcome and their hospitality.

I hope to see many of you at the Summer Fair, tomorrow.

Have a lovely weekend.

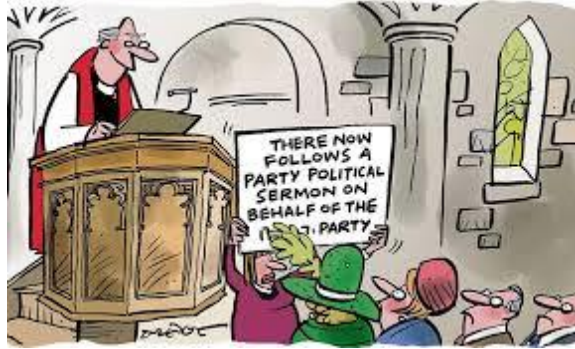
Jeremy Fisher

## MESSAGE FROM GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH

### *Father Simon writes:*

I often hear it said that politics and religion should never meet; that the Church should never interfere in the matters of government.

Whilst remaining non-partisan, I'm not so sure. Inequality, justice, war, oppression, and the life of refugees are all subjects which are frequently discussed in the Bible - and, indeed, in the holy books of other faiths.



Whilst we certainly shouldn't be campaigning for any particular party, our churches should surely be places where we reflect on the tough questions of life through the lens of God's holy word, rather than trying to ignore or shy away from those questions. And, most importantly, not just during an election period. Churches should be having ongoing conversations about how God's Kingdom of justice and peace can be realised in the structures and policies of our society, and how people of faith can exercise their responsibility to vote for the common good.

That's not being political. That's just good Christian citizenship.

I was in a supermarket queue last weekend and overheard the check-out assistant chatting to the customer in front of me. They were both agreeing with one another that they weren't going to bother voting in Thursday's General Election because "they're all as bad as one another". But I would argue that, whilst it's undeniable that there are bad apples in the barrel (just as there are in any sector of our society, including the Church), we are incredibly privileged in this country.



Whilst many of us might think our electoral system could be, in various ways, improved and made even more democratic, and many, scandalously, feel disenfranchised from the whole system, ultimately our electoral process does allow us to hold our elected officials to account. In a climate in which even the supposed "greatest democracy in the world" - the USA - was encouraged in 2021 by its outgoing president to mount a coup, we in the UK get the opportunity, every five or so years, to cast our vote without intimidation or vote-rigging, and potentially see a change in power and leadership without a single bullet or tear gas canister being fired. What percentage of the world's population can boast that? Surely that alone is worthy of celebration. And what better way to celebrate it than by participating in Thursday's election, even if all you do is spoil your ballot paper to express your dissatisfaction with the options?



So, whether you're undecided, or whether you think it will make a difference or not, may I encourage you to use the great privilege of your vote.

Happy General Election Day!

*Fr Simon*

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Sapphire  
Lorenzo

Emerald  
Lisa  
Grace

Diamond  
Mariia



## STARS OF THE WEEK

### Ruby

- ✚ Florence for working hard in group work.
- ✚ Luca for great teamwork and including other's ideas.

### Sapphire

- ✚ Jonas for great work in maths.
- ✚ Wren for creative independent writing.

### Diamond

- ✚ Sienna T for excellent effort in rehearsals and with her line learning.
- ✚ Sienna-Rose for sharing great vocabulary choices in English.

## ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

**Whole School  
Attendance – 95.06%**

**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

- ✚ **Diamond Class Residential – 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5 July** – the children will be leaving school around 9.30 am on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, returning on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July by the end of the school day. We will be updating parents daily via Class Dojo.
- ✚ **Parents Evening for Sapphire, Emerald and Diamond Classes** is on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July** from **1.00 to 6.30 pm**. Bookings are now available in Arbor by clicking on **Guardian Consultations**.
- ✚ **GJW Sports** – the online link to book Football & Dodgeball afterschool clubs is currently not working. For bookings, please email [enquiries@gjwsports.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@gjwsports.co.uk) or ring **07519 722135**
- ✚ **Breakfast Club Bookings** – could we kindly ask parents to ensure that children are booked into the Breakfast Club via Arbor please. If you miss the deadline, please send an email to [admin@spellbrook.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@spellbrook.herts.sch.uk) Please do not leave a voicemail outside of school hours as this might not be picked up before 8 am the next day.

## MENU w/c 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024

Day	Menu
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Tex Mex Quorn Fajita (V) (Red)</li> <li>❖ Creamy Macaroni Cheese (V) (Green)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)</li> <li>❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)</li> </ul>
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Chicken Pie (Red)</li> <li>❖ Moroccan Tagine (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>❖ Plant Balls with Gravy (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>❖ Roasted Summer Veg Pasta (Ve) (Green)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)</li> <li>❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)</li> </ul>
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Salmon 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
03/07/24 – 05/07/24	Diamond Class Residential
09/07/24	Parent Teacher Consultations (Y1-6)
10/07/24	Diamond Class Last Swimming Lesson
11/07/24	Secondary Transition Day
15/07/24	Ruby & Sapphire – Spirit of Wildlife Workshop (in school)
16/07/24	Diamond Class Production
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

# 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

4<sup>th</sup> June - 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024

**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**



Club Fee  
£7.75 a week

# THE SECRET ART CLUB

With Artist Caroline Clark

## Activities:

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

## Date:

Weekly, starting on Friday 13th  
September 2024, 3.20 - 4.30 pm  
NB SORRY, NO ART CLUB ON  
20th/27th SEPTEMBER

## TO BOOK

[www.carolineclarkartist.com](http://www.carolineclarkartist.com) or  
Caroline Clark (Caz) 07847269734

## Address

Spellbrook C of E  
Primary School,  
Spellbrook

For school  
years 1-6



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

facebook.com/wellbeangardening  
Instagram: @wellbeangardening



Great St Mary's, Sawbridgeworth

# Flower Festival 2024

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July - 10am to 5pm  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July - 12noon to 3pm

Theme 'Children's books'

Children's activities in the church yard

Treasure Hunt

Refreshments and  
grand raffle at  
Church House

**FREE ENTRY**



Spellbrook Primary School

StageSteps Dance and Acting Class

☑ Taught by an industry professional, this innovative class will seamlessly blend the worlds of dance and acting to provide a unique and engaging experience. Our students explore diverse dance styles, from Street to Musical, while also delving into the art of acting through script reading, character development, and stage dynamics. The fusion class not only nurtures creativity but also builds confidence in expression, whether through movement or theatrical performance. Stretch and refine dance techniques, understand the skills of stage acting and combine the two to participate in exciting term projects showcased to friends and family.

Each child will be taught based on their own ability and growth, it doesn't matter how experienced/inexperienced they are, they will achieve in their own personal way, and they will have the most fun doing it! ☑

#### When?

Every Monday after school

3:20pm-4:20pm

Term time only

Starting 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024

#### How do I sign up?

Please visit the website: [www.stagesteps.co.uk](http://www.stagesteps.co.uk) and click the 'Sign Up' button to complete your sign up form.

Here is the link <https://www.stagesteps.co.uk/sign-up>

Year 2-6 welcome

#### Payment details:

StageSteps Dance and Acting Class is only £78 per term.

You will receive an invoice for the term shortly after you submit your sign up form.

I can't wait to meet your superstars! ★

[SIGN UP | StageSteps](#)

Sunday 28 July 3pm  
Mark Jennings  
(Classical Guitar)



Including music  
by Bach, Barrios,  
Rodrigo, Torroba  
and Villa-Lobos

St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford

FREE admission with retiring collection  
Tea and cake served afterwards

TESCO

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



**Summer Dance Camp  
12-16 August 2024**

Sing/Dance/Act every Day! Awards given & performances



**Ages 4-11 Years**

**Little Hallingbury Village Hall**

Time: 10.00-3.00pm

Price: £130 for 5 Days

[www.traceywalkerschoolofdancing.com](http://www.traceywalkerschoolofdancing.com)

## Parenting When Separated Programme

The Parenting When Separated Programme is a practical and positive evidence-based course for parents who are preparing for, going through, or have gone through a separation or divorce.

It is a six-week course that highlights practical steps parents can take to help their children cope and thrive, as well as coping successfully themselves.

Topics include:

- ❖ Solving co-parenting problems in a positive way that focus on the needs of children.
- ❖ Coping with the emotional impact of separation and learning stress management techniques.
- ❖ Helping your children cope with the impact of the separation both emotionally and practically.
- ❖ Enhancing communication with their children and with their children's other parent.

The course is free to attend and is open to separated parents from all backgrounds. Both mothers and fathers, resident and non-resident parents. Both parents of the same children are welcome to attend though we recommend you attend separate groups.

### How to register

You can be referred by a professional or parents can self-refer here: [Parenting When Separated Referral Form \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

For more information about relationship support, visit [Relationship support for parents | Hertfordshire County Council](#)



**Train together, stay together**

**Dog School**

Training classes and 121's across Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire

Book online via:  
[www.dogstrust.org.uk/dogschool](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk/dogschool)



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**SUMMER OF FUN!**  
AT DISCOVER BUCKS MUSEUM

20 JULY - 3 SEPT 2024



May The Toys Be With You exhibition



Hands-on fun in the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery



Creative Family Crafts



Garden Play Zone



Sensory Room, Toy Room + Tudor Room fun

Discover Bucks Museum, Aylesbury HP20 2QP  
For opening times, charges and bookings scan QR code or visit:  
[discoverbucksmuseum.org](http://discoverbucksmuseum.org)



The Museum is a registered charity with charity number 1153345