



## NEWSLETTER – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024

**VALUE: Truth and Truthfulness**

**Focus: Having the courage to be honest**  
**‘Tell the truth to each other.’ Zechariah 8.16**



### FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Last week, Diamond Class had their three-day residential trip to the Norfolk Lakes Activity Centre. Two of the children wrote this report:

**Residential:** *“The residential trip was a fantastic experience for Diamond Class. We set off early on a Wednesday morning to start our adventure. Halfway through our trip, we stopped at Thetford Forest to have our lunch out in the wild. After playing a quick game of ‘it’, we returned to the coach to get back on the road. Arriving at ‘Manor adventure’ Norfolk Lakes, we found out our house groups and moved into our rooms. The rooms had bunk beds and a bathroom per group. After unpacking our suitcases, we moved to our first activity. On the Residential trip, we did lots of fun and different activities: rock climbing, orienteering, kayaking, canoeing, blind trial, giant paddle boarding, army obstacle course, archery, and fencing.*

*Throughout the day, we had three meals at the lunch hall. English breakfast, followed by lunch and an evening meal with food like pizza swirls, chicken skewers, and fish and chips. We also had squash, biscuits in between activities and much more. While spending time outside, we made some new friends with the other schools. The territory was huge and lots of instructors laughed and made-up jokes with us. On the second day after lunch, we went to the tuck shop and brought snacks and drinks to have at the night whilst we were playing UNO. Everyone absolutely enjoyed it.”* By MS and MLS



As one of the adults who went with the children, I can add that it was an excellent experience for them. It was absolutely full-on, and by the end of the trip, they were exhausted. I have heard that some slept up to fourteen

hours on Saturday. Whilst there, the children got on well with each other, coped with being away from their homes and family and behaved extremely well. I was very proud of the way that they represented our school. I am sure that they gained a great deal from the experience and made many memories. I am very grateful to Mrs Smith and Mrs Humphries for the fantastic support they provided. We will be sharing the many photographs with Diamond Class and their families next week and will be offering the opportunity for parents to purchase the photos as a keepsake.



**Religious Education:** This week, as part of their RE topic on Islam, Year 5 had the opportunity to learn more about the Quran. Mrs Ajmal brought in her own Quran for them to see. She explained that Muslims treat it with great respect as they believe it to be the word of Allah. She showed them how to hold and open it and explained that worshippers recite in Arabic. They were intrigued by this and asked her to recite for them. They loved this and asked her to recite more Arabic. Mrs Ajmal also talked to them about prayer beads and some of them recognised the similarity with the Rosary beads that are used by Catholic Christians



in their prayer. Mrs Ajmal expressed how well they had listened and how they had been very respectful throughout.

**Moving Up Day:** Thursday was moving up day, when the children met together in the classes that they will be in from September. Children all enjoyed the opportunity to think ahead to where they will be and who they will be with in September, and we trust that this goes a long way to reassure them all about the changes ahead. If your child needs further support with transition, please let the class teachers know.

In September, Emerald Class will have a new teacher, Miss Crisfield, who will be coming over from Canada to work with us. She could not be with them, but even though it was nighttime for her, she introduced herself via video and the children were able



to meet her and ask some questions. It is clear that are fascinated with the idea that she is in a country far away. Our new Deputy Headteacher, from September, Mrs Rutt was also able to join us to start to get to know some of the staff and children.



We also invited the new Reception children and parents in at the same time to enable the children to meet the adults, start to be comfortable in the learning environment and meet some new friends, whilst their parents found out more about starting here at Spellbrook. I have since heard that it was also a great day for our Year 6 children who were at their secondary schools for the day, finding out more about what it

will be like and meeting form tutors and classmates.

Have a lovely weekend.

Jeremy Fisher

## MESSAGE FROM GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH

### *Father Simon writes:*

If you're of a superstitious mind, you may want to look away from the weather forecast on Monday. That's the Church's feast day of St Swithun who is the saint we can apparently blame for wet summers. Legend has it that if it rains on the feast of St Swithun, it will continue to rain for the next 40 days!



The story dates back to when Swithun was appointed Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. Winchester was a particularly significant city - the capital of Wessex. And in the 10 years that Swithun was in post, Winchester only became more important as the kingdom became the most influential in England.

But Swithun's ability to ruin the summer weather wasn't apparent in his lifetime. Indeed, he was known for his generosity and for his efforts in building new churches. But, as he neared his death in 862, he asked to be laid to rest in the cemetery of the old minster.



We will never know how many wet summers we'd have been spared over the past 1,000 years or so if Swithun's remains had simply been left there. But, by the 960s, Winchester had already established itself as the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the monks, who had recently settled there, wanted Swithun to be a part of their new cathedral being built alongside the old minster. So, on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 971, as the building work continued, his body was exhumed and Swithun was temporarily relocated.

Whilst many pilgrims claimed to have experienced extraordinary healings on that day, perhaps more relevant to our summer holidays these days was the fact that everybody also got drenched as the heavens opened. And it didn't take long for the exceptionally heavy rain on that day - as well as on subsequent days - to be linked to Swithun's displeasure that his body had been moved.



In 1093, Swithun's remains were relocated a second time to the newly constructed Winchester Cathedral, and his final resting place became a popular shrine for pilgrims during the medieval period. Unfortunately, that shrine was destroyed during the Reformation. However, it was restored in 1962, and, to this day, there are more than 50 churches scattered across England dedicated to St Swithun.

Who knows whether Swithun has been appeased. Certainly, many people still do look at the weather forecast on July 15<sup>th</sup> and hope that they're not going to need their brollies - either for that day or for the next 40!

Yours, praying for a dry few days!

*Fr Simon*

### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Ruby  
Zara

Sapphire  
Eliza  
Annabelle

Diamond  
Oliver



### STARS OF THE WEEK

#### Ruby

- ✚ Joshua for fantastic listening to silent signals.
- ✚ Rowan for fantastic effort in tasks.

#### Sapphire

- ✚ Emilia for showing amazing resilience.
- ✚ Kaiya for supporting others and being a good friend.

#### Emerald

- ✚ Donnie for great work in maths this week.
- ✚ Sergiusz for his hard work and contributions in lessons.

#### Diamond

- ✚ Lexie for her effort in learning her lines.
- ✚ John for his independence and confidence on our trip.

## ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

**Whole School  
Attendance – 95.43%**

**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 End of Year Presentation – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 2.00 & 7.00 pm** – children should arrive at school at **6.30 pm** for the evening performance.
- ✦ **Bouncy Day** is on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July**. The event is fully funded by the PTA, so there is no charge to parents. However, we still need consent from parents. To consent to your child taking part, please click on **Trips < Bouncy Day 2024** and follow the prompts by **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July**. Children should come to school dressed in their PE kits (red t-shirt and blue shorts/joggers/leggings).
- ✦ **Diamond Class Residential Photos** – USBs are now available to order in Arbor by clicking on **School Shop < Diamond Residential 2024 Photos**.
- ✦ **Year 6 Leavers Service** is on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July** at **Great St Mary's Church, Sawbridgeworth** from **2.15 – 3.00 pm**. Children will be travelling to church by coach after lunch. Parents and carers are warmly invited to attend. **Pick up is from the church at 3.00 pm**.
- ✦ **Last day of term** – school finishes at the earlier time of **1.30 pm** on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**.

## MENU w/c 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Day	Menu
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Pork Sausages with Gravy (Red)</li> <li>❖ Cheese &amp; Tomato Quiche (V) (Green)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)</li> <li>❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)</li> </ul>
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Herb Crusted Chicken with Spaghetti Marinara (Red)</li> <li>❖ Mild Sweet Potato &amp; Chickpea Curry (Ve) (Green)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)</li> <li>❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)</li> </ul>
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Roast Beef (Red)</li> <li>❖ Mince Slice (Ve) (Green)</li> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)</li> <li>❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)</li> </ul>
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Quorn Hot Dog (V) (Red)</li> </ul>

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
15/07/24	Ruby & Sapphire – Spirit of Wildlife Workshop (in school)
16/07/24	Diamond Class Production (2 & 7 pm)
22/07/24	Leavers Service
23/07/24	Last Day of Summer Term. 1.30 pm finish.
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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Cheesy Spring Vegetable Bake (V) (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> <li>❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow)</li> <li>❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)</li> </ul>



## SCHOOL DINNERS

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

Looking for fun, free ways to get moving more this summer?

We have got you covered! We run Beezee Families, a free healthy lifestyle programme designed to help families like yours make healthy habits and discover the joy of movement.

We have got a week's worth of Olympics-inspired activities for you to try.

DAY 1 Try an online yoga workout and practise your balancing.



DAY 4 Warm up with five minutes of stretches.



DAY 7 Walk or run 100m - and time it!



DAY 2 Put on your favourite tune and dance!



DAY 5 Have a thumb wrestle!



DAY 8 Forget cross-country running and take a stroll through the countryside instead.



DAY 3 Go for a bike ride.



DAY 6 Play a round of crazy golf.



Sign up today!

Scan the code

...or click here to find out more



# 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](#)

Have YOU got  
what it takes  
to turn  
the page?



**FREE Taster Session!**  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August 4pm-5pm  
Please sign up at the Enquiries Desk

Are you aged 8+?

Come and join us to complete fun activities, chat  
about books and make new friends!

Bishop's Stortford Library  
Wednesdays 4pm-5pm  
Check for dates in the library or on the website  
£2.50 per session - please book in the library



## THE SECRET ART HOUSE PRESENTS



£30\*

4-11 years,  
different activities  
every day

### SUMMER ART CAMP

with artist Caroline Clark

Dates for 5-7 years, 9am-1pm:

22 July - Bag/Pencil Case Painting Day

14 August - Decoupage Boxes Day

Dates for 7-11 years, 9am-3pm:

23 July - Cyanotype Photography Day

24 July - Decoupage Boxes Day

15 August - Bag/Pencil Case Painting

16 August - Jellyfish Lights

plus much more  
arty fun and  
messy madness  
every day

Book now at: [www.carolineclarkartist.com](http://www.carolineclarkartist.com)  
07847 269 734

\*(early bird booking £30,  
then £34 from 10/07/24)

### Address:

The Secret Art House  
Behind Sheering Village Hall  
Sheering  
CM22 7LX



Visit the  
chickens,  
play games  
in the outside  
space

# Summer Break!

...so much to see and do at your Local Arts Venue!



**South Mill Arts Family**

Box Office:  
01279 710 200  
southmillarts.co.uk

South Mill Arts: 19 South Road, Bishop's Cleeve, Northamptonshire NN23 3JL. South Mill Arts is a trading entity of Bishop's Cleeve Museum and Arts Ctr. Registered Charity No. 1199813



**The Extraordinary Time - Travelling Adventures of Baron Munchausen**  
Thu 25<sup>th</sup> Jul | 2pm  
£15 | 6+



**Technical Workshop Week**  
29<sup>th</sup> Jul - 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug  
£150 | 14+



**Kids Crafts - Marionette**  
Tues 6<sup>th</sup>, Wed 7<sup>th</sup> & Thu 8<sup>th</sup> Aug  
10am-2pm | £1 | 4+



**An Inclusive Workshop with Herts Inclusive Theatre**  
Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Aug  
3pm - 5pm | £10



**Kids Crafts - Finger and Peg Puppets**  
Tues 13<sup>th</sup>, Wed 14<sup>th</sup> & Thu 15<sup>th</sup> Aug  
10am-2pm | £1 | 4+



**Inside Out 2**  
Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Aug  
2pm | £8 | £6 Conc. (under 16s) | U



**West End Magic**  
Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Jul | 7pm  
£17 | £14 Conc.



**Kids Crafts - Glove Puppets**  
Tues 30<sup>th</sup>, Wed 31<sup>st</sup> Jul & Thu 1<sup>st</sup> Aug | 10am-2pm | £1 | 4+



**Storytime - Can Wiggly Pig find Pigley**  
Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Aug | 10.30am  
Ages 2.5 - 5 | Free



**Once Upon A Time**  
Thu 8<sup>th</sup> - Sun 11<sup>th</sup> Aug  
£15 | 4+



**IF**  
Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Aug  
11am £8 | £6 Conc. (under 16s) | U



**Pop Party**  
Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Aug | 2pm  
£16 | 4+

To book your tickets please visit **southmillarts.co.uk** or call our Box Office: 01279 710 200



**BOOK NOW!**  
for great discounts!



**SCHOOL HOLIDAY CHILDCARE  
EXCLUSIVE SCHOOL DISCOUNT!**

USE CODE:  
**SCHOOL20**

**LOCAL CAMP AVAILABLE!**

Use code for an **EXTRA £20 off** your booking!  
\*Minimum of 2 days



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\*Not to be used in conjunction with other offers