



NEWSLETTER – 6th December 2024

VALUE: Compassion

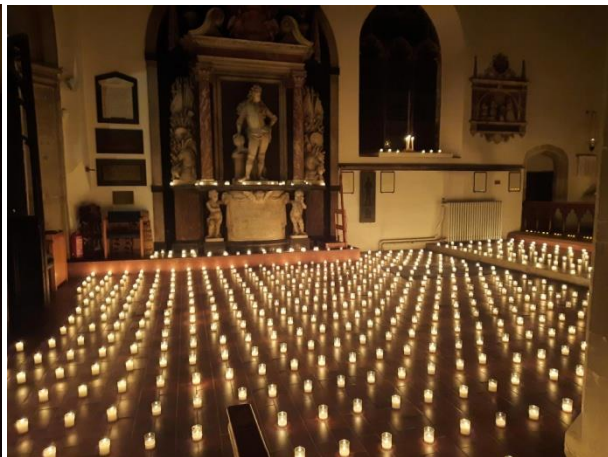
Focus: Having the courage to care

‘Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.’

Colossians 3.12

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Festival of Lights: With December now upon us, Spellbrook School is getting into the Christmas spirit. It was lovely to be part of the Festival of Lights at the Church at the weekend. The church looked quite spectacular in the dark and the lights inside were truly awesome. I am delighted that Spellbrook was part of this. We are very much looking forward to being part of the Christmas Tree Festival this coming weekend.



Our week in school began with our Decoration Day. Many of you were able to come into school and help your children to make many different decorations. The teachers had prepared a whole range of decorations using lots of different techniques.

There were Christmas Trees made from paper chains, sparkly baubles, doily Christmas angels, paper plate snowmen, and stars made in a number of different ways as well as many other super designs. It was lovely to see the interactions between the adults and the children and how some parents got truly stuck in, sharing their own talents and expertise, not only with their own children but with others around them as well. I saw a great deal of concentration as well as enjoyment and pleasure on the faces of adults and children alike.



The classrooms have been decorated and look really good. I know the children are looking forward to taking their decorations home at the end of term so they can enjoy displaying them in their own homes, as well as to the rest of the festive fun at school and at home.



Mini Police: Yesterday, Diamond Class had their final Mini Police Session. In addition to the officers that have been coming in each week, they met two new officers. These were from the Armed Response Team, and they had their Armed Response vehicle with them. They explained to the children that the vehicle was capable of speeds up to 140 MPH, therefore they all had to train to be advanced drivers. The children were very interested in all of the equipment they wear and carry, including the bulletproof vest, the very heavy medical equipment bag and the bullet proof shields. The children were shown the additional equipment, including weapons that were stored in a locked safe in the vehicle. Some of the children were fascinated by the weapons and the officers took the opportunity to ensure they grasped the idea that using any of them was a last resort and a great responsibility. These Mini Police sessions have been an excellent opportunity for the children to learn more about our police service, firsthand from serving police officers. They have learned about making the right choices and keeping themselves safe in a range of situations. The children's favourites were pressing the bull horn, holding very heavy equipment (medical kit and shield), guns with lasers, stingers to go on the road and stop vehicles, road safety and they have to be very skilled and inside the car and all the equipment.

They have really enjoyed putting their caps and hi-vis tops on each week and they have been very engaged throughout. So much so that yesterday, the officers brought them all a small gift and praised them for being the best group they have ever worked with. Mrs Todd was very pleased and proud to have their excellent attitude recognised and rewarded. Perhaps these sessions will inspire some of Diamond Class to one day join our police force and help to serve our communities.



Christmas Tree Festival: The Spellbrook tree (kindly donated by the Milan family) is now at Great St Mary's Church. Our tree featured decorations from each class. Ruby Class made baubles, Sapphire, stars, Emerald, candles and Diamond Class, doves. If you look carefully at the doves, you will notice words such as hope and peace written on them.



It would be lovely if children and parents could visit the festival this weekend on Saturday between 9.00 and 5.00 and Sunday between 11.00 and 5.00.

Have a lovely weekend,

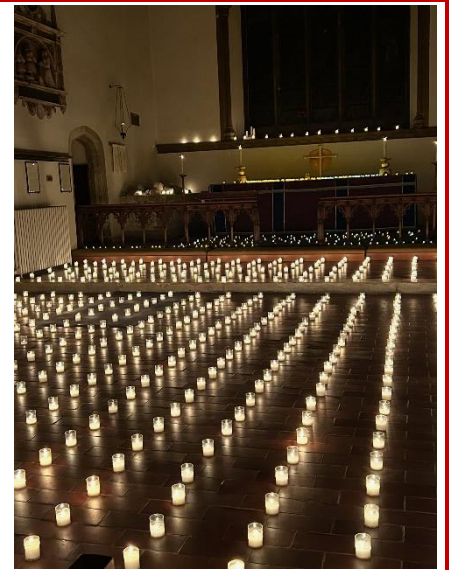
Jeremy Fisher

ADVENT GREETINGS FROM GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH

A couple of weeks ago I had the pleasure of coming and spending a morning in school. It was lovely to see the children working so hard in their lessons and being supportive learners to their classmates.

Advent indicates the start of the new Church year. We begin the lead up to welcoming the Baby Jesus on Christmas Day. It is one of my favourite times of year where we get to hear all about the Christmas story and sing wonderful carols too.

The first weekend of Advent this year began in spectacular fashion with the Oasis of Calm which wouldn't have been as special had we not had Spellbrook's help in creating the fantastic lantern to help light up the church. Thank you for being part of this poignant event at Great St Marys. It was great to see so many of you coming to find your lanterns over the weekend.



On Sunday evening, there was a special service called The Advent Carol Service where we start hearing the story of Jesus' coming. It was lovely to see some of the Spellbrook families attending that service too.



This weekend is another busy one at the church as we are hosting our Christmas Tree festival. I hope lots of you are able to come and visit us over the weekend and vote for your favourite Christmas tree! Who will win this year?

On Sunday we conclude the Christmas tree festival with our Christingle service at 3pm. Come and join us for this magical service where we learn about what the Christingle represents. All of you are most welcome.

As you (or your children) open another door on your advent calendar each morning, remember it is not just counting down the days until Father Christmas comes (yippee!) but it is counting down the days until we celebrate the day when we welcomed a very special baby into the world all those years ago. He was born in a stable and was watched over by ox and ass. He had lots of visitors with the Shepherds and the wise men.

This advent season, create a space for God and prepare to welcome Jesus on Christmas Day. Please do come and visit us at Great St Marys this Advent – you are always welcome.

God bless,

Becky Burton (Foundation Governor)

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



No Birthdays This Week



STARS OF THE WEEK

Ruby

- ❖ Ellie for always doing the right thing.
- ❖ Jacob for kind behaviour and trying hard.

Sapphire

- ❖ Evie for fantastic Nativity rehearsals, knowing lines and singing.
- ❖ Fleur for trying to be a really kind and supportive friend.

Emerald

- ❖ Lorenzo for trying hard in everything he does.
- ❖ Harry P for trying new challenges.

Diamond

- ❖ Flora for fantastic teamwork in PE.
- ❖ Jacob for trying his best.

ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

**Whole School
Attendance – 96.62%**

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

- ❖ **Carol Service at St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford on Monday 9th December** for children in **Diamond Class**. If you have not yet already consented to your child attending, please do so in Arbor by clicking on **Trips < Carol Service – St Michael's – Consent Only**. This is a **free** event.
- ❖ **Nasal Flu Vaccinations** – the school nurse will be back in school on **Monday 9th December** for those children who missed their vaccination on the last visit. Please see the link to provide or decline consent [Vaccination UK East Anglia Immunisation](#)
- ❖ **PTA Christmas Gift Shop** opens from **Monday 9th to Wednesday 11th December**. Gifts cost **£3.50** each. Children can bring in cash in an envelope or purse on the day or parents can purchase them online using the link: [Christmas Gift Shop](#)
- ❖ **The Big Little Nativity** is on **Tuesday 10th & Wednesday 11th December** at **2.30 pm** for parents of children in **Ruby & Sapphire**. Tickets have been handed out to the class teachers, please contact them directly if you haven't received yours. The playground & pedestrian gates will be open from 2.15 pm and locked from 2.30 pm onwards to keep the site secure. Entrance to the hall will be through Sapphire class via the field. The gates will

Good time keeping means...

...making sure your child is at school and ready to learn, before the school bell rings!

Did you know? - being 15 minutes late each day is the same as missing two weeks of school!*



Lost minutes =
Lost learning!



Every Schoolday Counts

but every minute is equally important! * Over one full academic year

re-open at 3.00 pm as usual. If you need to leave earlier than 3.00 pm, please park in one of the bays.

- ❖ **Emerald Class Last Swimming Lesson** is on **Wednesday 11th December**.
- ❖ **Robin Hood Pantomime at South Mill Arts** is on **Thursday 12th December**. The children will be travelling by coach there. Pick up is around 3.30 pm from South Mill Arts. **Please note that if you are collecting your child by car and you use their car park, you will need to register your car at reception to avoid getting a parking ticket.**
- ❖ **Donations of Christmas Crackers** – Many thanks to all the parents and carers who have kindly donated Christmas Crackers for our Christmas lunch. We now have enough crackers for the day.
- ❖ **Alden in Year 6** is raising money for Great Ormond Street Hospital. He has been under the wonderful care of GOSH since being diagnosed with a tumour 4 years ago. To support this worthy cause, donations can be made by clicking on the link: [Elspeth Booth is fundraising for Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity](#) For more information, please see the flyer below.
- ❖ **Yoga and Mindfulness Afterschool Club** starts on **Wednesday 8th January 2025**. The club is open to children in **Years 1-6**. To book, please email hannah.rainbowrelaxation@gmail.com Please see the flyer below for more information.

MENU w/c 9th December 2024

Day	Menu
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Pork Sausages with Gravy (Red) ❖ Cheese Pinwheel (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Quorn Burger in a Bun (V) (Red) ❖ Italian Pasta Bake (Ve) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Roast Chicken (Red) ❖ Creamy Quorn Pie (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Beef Bolognese (Red)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
09/12/24	Carol Service @ St Michael's - Diamond
09/12/24	Nasal Flu Vaccinations – 2 nd session
09/12/24 – 11/12/24	PTA Christmas Gift Shop
10/12/24	Nativity
11/12/24	Nativity
11/12/24	Emerald Class Last Swimming Lesson
12/12/24	Panto
18/12/24	Christmas Lunch
18/12/24	Christmas Jumper Day
18/12/24	PTA Carols Around the Campfire
19/12/24	Christmas Service
20/12/24	Last Day of Term
23/12/24 – 03/01/24	Christmas Break
06/01/25	Inset 3

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Breaded Bean & Vegetable Grill (Ve) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Fish Fillet Fingers (Red) ❖ Cheese & Tomato Pizza (V) (Green) ❖ Jacket Potato (Yellow) ❖ Cheese Roll (Blue)



**SCHOOL
DINNERS**

07/01/25	Inset 4
08/01/25	First Day Back
15/01/24	Nursery Deadline to apply for a Reception Place
17/02/25 – 21/02/25	Half Term
24/02/25	First Day Back
06/03/25	World Book Day
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
06/06/25	PTA Non-Uniform Day
14/06/25	Summer Fair

Neurodiversity Support Hub

For Parents, Carers and Professionals

We can offer support, signposting and guidance about a whole range of things including but not limited to:

No
Diagnosis
Required

- Understanding ADHD/Autism
- Distressed Behaviours
 - Anxiety
 - School

The phones are answered by our team of parents and carers of neurodivergent children and young people

Are you a
Parent, Carer
or
Professional?



01727 833963

We Can't:

- Give updates/ fast track places on waiting lists
- Recommend specific private assessors

supporthub@add-vance.org

Open Monday-Friday
9 AM - 1PM



Here to support, reach out for a listening ear

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

Promoting a healthy and active lifestyle

AFTER SCHOOL Sports Clubs

Spellbrook C of E Primary School

3:20-4:20pm

Football



Tuesdays

Dodgeball



Thursdays

Footballers must bring trainers or astro turf trainers, shin pads, long socks, PE kit or sports wear, and goalie gloves if wanting to play in goal.

Please ensure children are collected on time at 4:20pm, or a late collection fee may be charged as per terms of our service.

£42 for 7 weeks

Starting week commencing 9th September

Keep fit, make friends and have fun!

Book online at:
gjwsports.co.uk

www.gjwsports.co.uk

SAWBO DESIGN CO.

fit INITIATIVE

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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 8th November 2024, 3.20 - 4.30 pm

TO BOOK

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

Address

Spellbrook C of E Primary School,
Spellbrook

For school years 1-6



PRESENTING

StageSteps

DANCE ★ ACT ★ SHINE



DANCE AND ACTING CLASS!



This performance class not only nurtures creativity but also builds confidence, whether through movement or theatrical performance. Learn diverse dance styles, understand the skills of stage acting, and combine the two to participate in super fun and exciting term projects showcased to friends and family.

Unique content taught by an industry professional!

[SIGN UP | StageSteps](http://www.stagesteps.co.uk)

Every Monday
3:20-4:20pm

Join our StageSteps family!

Visit

WWW.STAGESTEPS.CO.UK

and head to our Sign Up page to join today!

@stagesteps

@stagesteps





Alden is raising money for GOSH!

Alden has been under the wonderful care of Great Ormond Street Hospital since being diagnosed with a tumour 4 years ago. His treatment has gone really well so far and he wondered what he could do to give a little something back. He decided to grow his hair so that the Little Princess Trust can make it into a wig for another child undergoing a similar treatment to him. He also wanted to raise some funds for GOSH to say thank you for the amazing help and support they have given to him and our family over the years. To sponsor him, please scan the QR code below or visit <https://www.justgiving.com/page/elspeth-booth-1730496867307>

Thank you!

SCAN HERE TO DONATE



Yoga, mindfulness and happy vibes!

@rainbowrelaxation

Hannah.rainbowrelaxation@gmail.com

Spellbrook after school yoga and mindfulness club

Starting- 8th January 2025

When- 3.20-4.20 pm, every Wednesday

How much- £42 for 6 week half term

- What we do-
- group games
 - yoga
 - mindful crafts
 - breathwork/simple meditation
- Most of all, we have a lot of fun!

Who can join- limited spaces available from year 1 - year 6

How to book- email me at Hannah.rainbowrelaxation@gmail.com



CHRISTMAS LUNCH
DEC 18th

MAIN MENU

Christmas Turkey & Chipolata Sausage with Sage & Onion Stuffing & Gravy
or
Quorn Fillet (v) & Veggie Sausage (Ve) with Sage & Onion Stuffing & Gravy

SERVED WITH

Roast Potatoes with a Choice of Seasonal Vegetables

DESSERT

Choice of Christmas Dessert



Christingle Service

This Sunday 3pm

Seasonal fun and joy

for all the family



Great St Mary's Sawbridgeworth



Christmas

TREE FESTIVAL

SAT 7th & SUN 8th DEC
11am-5pm

ALSO

Sat 7th Dec 10am-12pm & 1-3pm

❖ MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS

❖ SEASONAL REFRESHMENTS

❖ TOMBOLA

Sun 8th Dec 3pm

❖ CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

*Come, wander,
and experience
some of the
magic of Christmas
with all the family*



LETTERS FROM SANTA

PERSONALISED FOR YOU



🎅 ✨ **Magical Letters from Santa!** ✨ 🎅

This Christmas, bring a sparkle to your child's eyes with a **personalised letter from Santa Claus!** The Spellbrook Primary School PTA is delighted to offer this special opportunity for your little ones.

Your child will receive a unique letter, specially tailored with their name, age and achievements, straight from Santa himself. Imagine their excitement as they read about the North Pole adventures of Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the merry elves!

🎄 **Order Now!** Don't miss out on this enchanting Christmas treat. Support the PTA and create lasting memories for your child:

[Personalised Santa Letter](#)

Complete the form with your child's details:
<https://forms.office.com/e/PNgY14dx9e>

The letter will be sent home in an unmarked envelope ready for you to give to them when you are ready.

Spread the magic of Christmas with a letter that your child will treasure forever. 🎁 ✨

Happy Holidays from the Spellbrook Primary School PTA! 🎅 🎁 🐉



PTA Christmas Gift Shop – please click on the link below to pre-order your Christmas Gifts.

[Christmas Gift Shop](#)

Christmas Painting and Wreath Making



WREATHMAKING

1/12/24

BAUBLE PAINTING

2/12/24 AND
13/12/24

ROBIN PAINTING

10/12/24

Wreath making and robin painting at New Mexico Restaurant, Sawbridgeworth.
Bauble painting in Sheering

Bookings and more info at
www.carolineclarkartist.com
or 07847269734



BISHOP'S STORTFORD COLLEGE

FESTIVAL OF
LITERATURE

FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE

Schools' Programme
10 – 14 FEBRUARY 2025

Guest speaker event



LUCY WEBSTER

THE VIEW FROM DOWN HERE

10 February 2025

Time
7.30pm
– 9.00pm

Location
Ferguson Lecture Theatre,
Bishop's Stortford College

Lucy Webster is a journalist, writer and disability advocate. She covers disability issues for leading publications such as the Guardian, FT, Times and others. Her first book, *The View From Down Here*, is a memoir exploring the intersection of ableism and sexism and how it shapes the lives of disabled women. Lucy is also a vocal advocate on and off-line, a well-known public speaker, and a community events organiser.

Join Lucy on Monday February 10 2025 to hear her take on disability, womanhood and feminism and discuss her memoir, *The View From Down Here*. Suitable for 14+ years.



7.30pm–9pm in the FLT
Tickets: £10, book via the QR code

BARRACUDAS

ACTIVITY DAY CAMPS

AT A SCHOOL
NEAR YOU IN **2025!**
EARLY BOOKING OFFER!

LOWEST RATES GUARANTEED
BOOK BY 31ST JANUARY

SAVE UP
TO £100!

- ⦿ 4½ to 14 year olds!
- ⦿ 80+ Activities!
- ⦿ Choice each session!
- ⦿ Specialist Courses!
- ⦿ Flexible bookings!

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School Holiday
camps!!!



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