



Value

Our value for this half term is: Trust
"Trust is the most valuable thing you will ever earn."
(Anon)

End of Term

A reminder that term ends on Tuesday 19th December at **1.20pm**.

Christmas Fair Thank You

A huge thank you to the PTFA, led most ably by Natalie Payne, for organising another enjoyable and successful Christmas Fair. All the committee worked incredibly hard on the day as well as all the careful preparation which took hours. We look forward to hearing the amount of money raised. Thank you all for supporting the event in such good numbers and for all the very generous donations.

Key Stage 1 Production

Key Stage 1 performed a wonderful production of "Are We Nearly There Yet?" last week. Thank you for supporting your children as they learnt their lines and the songs, and for providing their beautiful costumes. With thanks to Ms Anstey for leading the rehearsals and all the staff involved. We look forward to the Key Stage 2 production of "Aladdin Trouble", Reception performing "Humph the Camel" and the Year 5 and 6 Carol Service in the coming weeks.

Year 5 and 6 Carol Service.

This Carol Service will take place at 6.00 pm on Thursday 14th December at St Mary's Church. Attendance is **compulsory** for all years 5 and 6 children. This is always a very special service and year 5 and 6 parents are warmly invited to attend.

Road Safety Petition

A reminder please to sign our petition to the County Council asking them to introduce traffic calming measures on London Road. This is available at the school office, or please return the slip from the letter in your child's book bag.

Traffic Safety

We were saddened to hear that there was a very near miss between a car and a child on their bicycle on Ottway Walk on Friday 1st December. Please use extra caution and reduce your speed when driving in and around the school grounds as this could easily have had much more serious consequences. A reminder that the drop-off zone is for the use of Key Stage 2 children only. Please do not stop outside this area, and cars must NOT be left unattended. This is to ensure pupil safety and to keep the traffic flowing.

Attendance Awards

Congratulations to class A5 who won the class attendance award for October.

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| A5 | 98.17% |
| O4 | 98.16% |
| M1 | 97.9% |
| CD1 | 97.8% |





AT2 96.6%

We are also introducing individual attendance awards on a termly basis in addition to the annual awards from county.

Reporting Your Child's Absence

Please call the school office and leave a message as early as possible on EACH morning that your child is ill, so that we can appropriately record their absence.

Progress Prize Winners

Congratulations to the following children (now in Year 5) for receiving the Year 4 Progress Prize: Nathan, Scott, Tegan, Presley, Sally-Mae and Albert. The Kiwanis kindly donated the prizes. The Kiwanis are a charitable group founded in the United States of America. They exist to support local and international causes and are non-political. The Stevenage branch have a long association with Welwyn St Mary's and help run our K club in school each Tuesday lunchtime. Our Year 6 read to Reception children and help them with their phonics. Ours is the only primary school K club in the country. Thank you Kiwanis and to Mrs Reason for being the school K club organiser.

Girls' Cross-Country Race

On Wednesday 15th November the girls' cross-country team went to Queenswood School to run a race. We ran one and a half laps of a small field and then up a hill and into the woods. The path was very narrow and rocky but we kept going. We started overtaking some of the boys from the race that started ahead of us as we made our way closer to the finish line. With only 300m left the parents started cheering. Mimi and Caitie were sprinting to reach the finish line and came joint first. Not long after, Megan, Erin, Abby and Maia all finished their race in the top twenty. We would like to thank Mrs Gutteridge, Mr O'Neill and the parents for volunteering in cross-country club and cheering us on. Our team came first!
Caitie, Mimi, Megan, Erin, Abby and Maia.

Boys' Cross-Country Race

On 15th November the boys' cross-country team went to Queenswood School to take part in a county tournament. We walked the course, did a short warm up and then went to the start line. We all got a good start and were near the front. In the end, Jonathan came 4th, Louie came 7th, Luke came 17th and Holi came 19th. There were over 80 people running in the race, and we were all in the top 20. We would like to thank Mr O'Neill and Mrs Gutteridge for training us and the parents for cheering us on.
Jonathan, Ethan, Holi, Luke and Louie.

Football

On 15th November the Welwyn St Mary's boys' football team went to Monk's Walk School to compete in a football tournament. The team was Lennon, James S, Louie, Ethan, Holi, Luke, Ben, Charlie, James D, Stanley and Jack. Our first match was against Oakland and we won 3-0. Our second match was against St Michael's and we won 2-0. We would like to thank Mr Ashman for training us and Mr O'Neill for managing us and the parents for supporting us.

Assessment and Pupil Conferencing

As you may know your child's academic progress is assessed across each term. Teachers make on going assessment, through their observations and marking, almost on a daily basis. They also use formal methods too such as tests and timed answers. This term we are developing things further through pupil conferencing.





This means giving each child a one to one slot with their teacher to talk about their work and progress individually. So far it has proved enormously useful and an excellent way of hearing detail about what your child has found straight forward or tricky. From that we can plan support or extension appropriately. Inevitably this is quite time consuming but we feel benefits will be there. Do talk to you child about this although bear in mind the roll out will be over several weeks.

Deadline for Clubs

Please return your forms for next term's clubs by the deadline of Friday 8th December, when places will be allocated.

Reading

A huge thank you to all families who read together at home and those who hear their children read at home. This is so beneficial, especially on a daily basis. Do make sure this is happening as it directly affects a child's progress. They only get one time at primary school to set them up for the future.

Christingle Service and Collection Boxes

This year's Christingle Service is on Sunday 10th December in St Mary's Church at 3.30 pm in support of the Children's Society. All families welcome. Children will have brought home a Christingle "candle" collecting box and we hope they will fill it with coins to support this worthy cause. The "candle" can be either taken to church to receive a Christingle or brought into school.

Year 6 Height and Weight Check

The school nursing team will be at school on Monday 11th December to record the height and weight of our Year 6 pupils.

Reception Places 2017

The window for applications is now open and closes on 15th January 2018. Please be aware that we require our own Supplementary Information Form to be completed and returned to the School Office as well as your online application to county. For more information please visit www.hertsdirect.org/admissions

Pupil Premium

For every child registered for Pupil Premium, the school receive additional funding which is spent on raising the attainment of those pupils. If you are entitled to Pupil Premium funding, your child could access a range of additional benefits, including extra help in class, additional resources, free school trips and visits and one free club per term.

If you think that you might be eligible for free school meals and are not currently registered, please complete the simple online application form which can be found at: www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals Once you have registered your child, please speak to the School Office to claim a new school jumper or cardigan.



| Autumn Term 2017 | |
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| 6 th Dec | Key Stage 2 Production 1.30 pm and 6.00 pm |
| 7 th Dec | Key Stage 2 Production 6.00 pm |
| 7 th Dec | Key Stage 1 and Reception Pantomime trip - Hertford Theatre |
| 8 th Dec | Key Stage 2 Pantomime trip - Hertford Theatre |
| 10 th Dec | Christingle Service at St Mary's Church 3.30 pm |
| 11 th Dec | Year 6 height and weight checks |
| 11 th Dec | Years 5 and 6 Christmas Disco |
| 12 th Dec | Reception Production 1.30pm |
| 13 th Dec | Community Concert - St John's Digswell. Choir performing |
| 14 th Dec | Whole school Christmas service in church |
| 14 th Dec | Years 5 and 6 Carol service in church 6.00 pm. Attendance compulsory please. |
| 18 th Dec | Christmas lunch |
| 19 th Dec | Term ends 1.20 pm |
| Spring Term 2018 | |
| 3 rd Jan | Spring Term commences |
| 10 th Jan | Year 4 Indoor Athletics at Gosling 12.30-3.00 pm |
| 17 th Jan | Year 5 Indoor Athletics at Gosling 12.30-3.00 pm |
| 24 th Jan | Year 6 Indoor Athletics at Gosling 12.30-3.00 pm |
| 26 th Jan | Year 6 Cake Sale |
| 6 th Feb | Year 3 Greek Day |
| 12 th - 16 th Feb | Half Term Holiday |
| 23 rd Feb | Year 4 Cake Sale |
| 5 th - 11 th Mar | Mothers' Day Gift Shop |
| 9 th Mar | Y6 K'Nex challenge |
| 21 st Mar | Key Stage 1 Easter Egg Hunt |
| 22 nd Mar | Easter Church Service |
| 23 rd Mar | Reception Cake Sale |
| 26 th Mar | Year 3 and 4 Easter Disco |
| 29 th Mar | Dress Down day |
| 29 th Mar | Term ends 1.20 pm |



| Summer Term 2018 | |
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| 16 th Apr | Summer Term commences |
| 27 th Apr | Year 2 Cake Sale |
| 7 th May | Bank Holiday - school closed |
| 18 th May | Year 1 Cake Sale |
| 23 rd May | Class Photographs |
| 28 th May - 1 st June | Half Term Holiday |
| 4 th -6 th June | Year 6 at PGL |
| 12 th June | Year 6 Crucial Crew |
| 15 th June | Fun Run |
| 22 nd June | INSET Day - school closed |
| 25 th June | INSET Day - school closed |
| 9 th July | Year 6 Leavers' Disco |
| 12 th July | Secondary transfer day |
| 19 th July | Leavers' Eucharist |
| 20 th July | Term ends 1.20 pm |
| 23 rd July | Occasional Day - school closed |
| 24 th - 27 th July | Occasional Days - school closed |