

Value

Our value for this half term is Forgiveness
"Forgiveness is a funny thing, it warms the heart and cools the sting."
William Arthur Ward

Red Nose Day

This year Welwyn St Mary's are excited to be playing a full part in raising money for Red Nose Day 2017! We are therefore asking the children **wear red for the day on Friday 24th March.**

As you know, Comic Relief spends the money raised by Red Nose Day to help people living tough lives across the UK and Africa. We are therefore asking for a suggested donation of a £1 to help us support this good cause. Your child's teacher will collect all donations on the morning of Friday 24th March.

We really appreciate your support and hope that you'll have fun helping Welwyn St Mary's raise lots of money for Red Nose Day!

Easter Egg Competition

Children are invited to enter our Decorated Egg Competition. Use either a hard boiled or blown egg and decorate it in a unique way. Prizes will be awarded for each year group and for an adult section too. Judges will be looking for creativity and imagination. Accessories may be used. Please bring all entries to the collection point outside class MG5 on Monday 27th March and complete an entry form on arrival giving your name, year group and the name of your egg. The winners will be announced on Friday 31st March. We look forward to seeing your creations.

SMART Production

SMART will be performing their latest exciting production, Noah's Ark. Performances are on Thursday 23rd March at 7pm, Friday 24th March at 7pm and Saturday 25th March at 2.30pm and 6.30pm.

New First Aid Note Procedure

In order to improve the awareness of all staff in school of any first aid performed on a child, we are introducing a red paper wristband. This will be worn by children who have visited a first aider, and will record the child's name, the adult who treated them, the injury and the date. Advice notes will still be sent home via the book bag with guidance on what to look out for following a head injury.

Please make sure that you remove the wrist band with scissors when you get home.

Green Group: Waste Week!

For our current Green Group project, we are having a Waste Week. This is to help pupils and parents understand what waste is and how we can reduce it. Over 4.4 million tonnes of food waste is thrown away each year, which is enough to feed 3 billion people.

During Waste Week we are performing an upcycling project. This is where your child will create something for the school or the grounds. Please ask your child if they will need to bring any materials in. Used clean household materials only please!

We will also send a sheet of homework for you and your child to complete together. This is so we can find out who recycles. After we have seen these results we will send another sheet to see if there are any changes.

We hope this information has proved useful. Green Group

Year 5 Dance Festival



Last week our year 5 children took part in the Welwyn Garden City Dance Festival.

This was a wonderful event, organised by our own Mrs Tucker and all the children enjoyed the opportunity to perform the dances they had practiced so hard.

The picture shows class JT5 performing "Surfin' USA".

Table Tennis

James, Ethan, Harmone and Jonathan continued on their quest for table tennis glory. They competed in Welwyn and Hatfield, Hertfordshire and London to reach the Regional Table Tennis Finals in Bournemouth, a stage never reached before by a team from Welwyn St Mary's. The team competed against other talented players from across the country, playing 8 matches each over an 8 hour period. The boys finished third overall and the school is extremely proud of their achievements and commitment to the competition. A huge congratulations to them all.

"When we got there we started to warm up on a table. Soon after we started our first match. At the end of the first match we won 5-3. At the end of the second match we sadly lost 5-3. In the last match we sadly lost but it was tough and quite close. Overall we came third in the tournament and we are now the third best in the south of England. We would like to thank Mr Ashman for taking us and the parents for cheering us on."

Attendance Award

Congratulations to class MR who won the February attendance cup.



Top Five Classes and attendance figures for February:

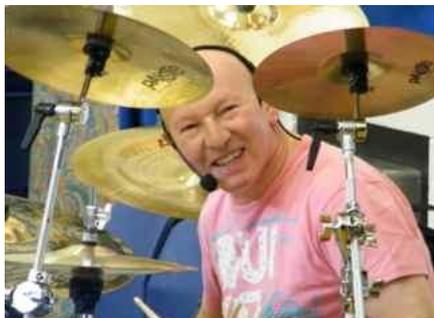
MR	97.2%
A2	96.7%
P6	96.6%
JT5	96.3%
RR	96.2%

Pancake Races



Congratulations to the teams from Welwyn St Mary's who took part in the Shrove Tuesday pancake races organised by St Mary's church. Despite the wet weather a fun time was had by all. Thank you to the supporters who cheered us all on!

Drumming Workshop



On Monday 6th March, a famous drummer from Status Quo came to our school to talk to us about the history of drumming and how he was motivated to become a drummer. His name was Jeff Rich. We learnt about all the different types of drums, from the first African drum (the slit drum) to the drums that we have today. He showed us the different types of drums, told us who would play them and how they would be played. He picked volunteers to play some of the old drums and we were amazed at how well they picked it up. We were astonished at how fast he could play the drums. We are very grateful to Mr Rich for coming in to show us his skills.

Harmone and Sarah

Internet Safety Workshop

Following the "Growing up online" workshop earlier this month, please find attached to this newsletter a document setting out some useful websites for help on setting parental controls and further information about internet safety.

Meal Price Increase

Herts Catering have notified schools of their decision to increase meal prices from 1st April 2017. This increase will impact those children having school meals from Year 3 and upwards. We are aware that there was a 5p increase in September 2016 and following discussions with Governors, we will need to increase the meal price by a further 5p to £2.40 effective from 1st April 2017. If you have a child in Year 3 and above and decide that you no longer want to continue with school dinners please inform the School Office by email or telephone by Friday 31st March 2017.

Packed Lunches

If you are providing your child with a packed lunch from home, please remember that this should not include fizzy drinks, glass bottles, sweets or chocolate. Nuts must not be included.

Lost Property

There are a number of items in the lost property box in the school office, such as glasses, watches, earrings, purses and even car keys. Please come to the office before the end of term if you think you may have lost something.

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.

Tesco Grant

TESCO

Bags of Help

We are delighted to announce that we have been chosen as one of the charities to be supported through the Tesco "Bags of Help" scheme. The money will be used towards the renovation of our Nature Reserve and running a Forest School. **Please vote for us** when shopping at Tesco during March and April. Just put your token in "our" box, which is the one on the right in the Welwyn Village Tesco.

Tesco teamed up with Groundwork to launch its Bags of Help initiative across England and Wales. The scheme sees three community groups and projects in each of around 200 Tesco regions awarded grants of £5,000, £2,000 and £1,000 - all raised from the 5p bag charge.

www.tesco.com/bagsofhelp

Law change for using your mobile phone whilst driving

It is illegal to use a hand-held phone or similar device while driving, or riding a motorcycle - this is still the case stopped at traffic lights or queuing in traffic.

Did you know? It is also illegal to use a hand-held mobile when supervising a learner driver or rider.

New penalties now mean that motorists and motorcyclists caught using a phone while driving and riding will receive six penalty points on their licence and a £200 fine. This means that new drivers, within two years of passing their test, run the risk of losing their licence for a single offence.

Keep safe - put your phone away in the glove compartment.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

Please keep collecting these vouchers if you shop at Sainsbury's which we can use towards purchasing new P.E. equipment. Children can bring them in to school and place in the collection box.

Breakfast Club Assistant Vacancy

We wish to appoint an enthusiastic and reliable breakfast club assistant. The successful applicant will work as part of our team following our policies and philosophy, providing a nourishing breakfast and good start to the day for our children. The position starts on 18th April, 8 - 8:45 am Monday to Friday, term time only. Welwyn St Mary's Primary School is committed to safeguarding children and young people and therefore the successful applicant will be subject to suitable references, medical and DBS checks in accordance with Herts County Council guidelines.

For more information, and to apply, please visit www.teachinherts.com

London Marathon Support

One of our parents, Caroline Bell, is taking part in the London marathon on 23rd April 2017 to raise money for CLIC SARGENT. This is a charity close to the heart of Caroline and her family as they have helped them through both Hodgkin's lymphoma and an extremely rare form of leukaemia.

CLIC SARGENT specialise in supporting every family of a child, teenager or young person with a cancer diagnosis. Every day 10 children / young people are given the news they have cancer. CLIC SARGENT helps all of these families.

Please consider giving a donation through the link below to support this worthwhile charity.

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/nicolaandcaroline>

Term Dates: 2016-17	
Spring Term 2017	
20 th - 24 th Mar	PTFA Mothers' Day Gift Shop
23 rd - 25 th Mar	SMART Production
24 th Mar	Wear something red for Red Nose Day
24 th Mar	Year 4 Football at Monk's Walk
24 th Mar	Reception Cake Sale
27 th Mar	Cross Country at Sherrardswood
27 th Mar	Years 3 and 4 PTFA Easter Disco
28 th Mar	Year 1 Visit to St Albans Abbey
28 th Mar	Year 5 William Morris Gallery Visit
28 th Mar	Year 6 K'Nex Challenge
29 th Mar	KS1 Easter Egg Hunt
29 th Mar	District Football at Monk's Walk
30 th Mar	9.30 am Easter service in church
31 st Mar	Dress Down Day. Term ends 1.30 pm
Summer Term 2017	
18 th Apr	Summer Term commences
19 th Apr	Year 4 tennis competition
20 th Apr	Year 4 Verulamium Museum
24 th Apr	Year 4 cricket coaching starts
26 th Apr	High 5 netball competition - Stanborough School
26 th Apr	Year 2 Great Fire of London
1 st May	Bank Holiday - school closed
3 rd May	KS1 Gymnastics Competition
5 th May	Year 2 Cake Sale
8 th -12 th May	Key Stage 2 SATS week
10 th May	Quicksticks competition
11 th May	Year 4 tennis competition
12 th May	PTFA Indulgence Evening
17 th May	TAP event
17 th May	Year 6 Globe Theatre
24 th May	Year 5 Handball festival
25 th May	Quicksticks final Welwyn Garden City Choral Festival - Campus West

29 th May - 2 nd Jun	Half Term Holiday
7 th -9 th June	Year 6 PGL residential trip
8 th June	Year 4 trigolf tournament
9 th Jun	Year 1 Cake Sale
12 th - 16 th Jun	Top up swimming week
12 th - 16 th Jun	PTFA Fathers' Day Gift Shop
14 th Jun	Gosling athletics
15 th Jun	Music Evening
15 th Jun	Cricket tournament
16 th Jun	Reception Standalone Farm
16 th Jun	PTFA Fun Run
17 th Jun	10.30 am Choir sing in church for Welwyn Festival
21 st Jun	Swimming gala
23 rd Jun	French Day
28 th Jun	Year 2 Kew Gardens Trip
30 th Jun	INSET day - school closed
3 rd July	INSET day - school closed
5 th July	6.30 pm Choir concert in church
6 th July	Sports Day
7 th July	Year 4 Commonwealth Games event
8 th July	PTFA end of year family barbecue
10 th July	Leavers' Disco
12 th July	7-side netball tournament
13 th July	Budge Up day
19 th July	Year 6 Leavers Production
20 th July	9.30 am Leavers' Eucharist in church Year 6 Leavers Production
21 st July	Term ends 1.30 pm
24 th July	Occasional day - school closed
	Term Dates: 2017-18
	Autumn Term 2017
30 th Aug	INSET Day - school closed
31 st Aug	INSET Day - school closed
1 st Sept	INSET Day - school closed

4 th Sept	Autumn Term commences
23 rd - 27 th Oct	Half Term Holiday
17 th Nov	INSET Day - school closed
19 th Dec	Term ends 1.30 pm
	Spring Term 2018
3 rd Jan	Spring Term commences
12 th - 16 th Feb	Half Term Holiday
29 th Mar	Term ends 1.30 pm
	Summer Term 2018
16 th Apr	Summer Term commences
7 th May	Bank Holiday - school closed
28 th May - 1 st June	Half Term Holiday
22 nd June	INSET Day - school closed
25 th June	INSET Day - school closed
12 th July	Secondary transfer day
20 th July	Term ends 1.30 pm
23 rd July	INSET Day - school closed
24 th - 27 th July	Occasional days - school closed