

Value

Our value for this half term is: Truthfulness.
"Be truthful, gentle and fearless"
Mahatma Gandhi

Welcome back everyone

We have an extremely full and exciting final few weeks ahead. Please check dates below and our website for updates.

Key Stage 1 Sports' Day

Thank you to all Key Stage 1 and Reception pupils for a brilliant Sports' Day on the afternoon of 24th May. It was lovely to see so much ability, teamwork and good sportsmanship. Thank you also to staff for organising, especially Ms Anstey, Mrs Tucker, Mr O'Neill and Mr Stockton. We were very lucky with the weather in the end and congratulations to the Vikings for their clear first place. Thank you to all parents and families for such excellent support and attendance.

Key Stage 2 Sports' Day

Key Stage 2 Sports' Day will now be held at 9.30 am on Thursday 5th July with a reserve day being Tuesday 17th July. We apologise for any inconvenience caused but the ground was simply too wet to be safe on the morning of 24th May.

New windows

We are delighted with the new windows on the south side of the building. They look lovely and are double glazed which should mean lower heating costs too. This work has been made possible thank to our successful LCVAP grant application for funding.

The Garden Room

Work is progressing well with the Garden Room extension. We would like to thank Adrian Lofty for his gift of time and very considerable expertise in the structural side of all of this. Thank you also to Nigel Cox for his architectural services. We are very fortunate.

Walk to School Week



From 21st to 25th May we took part in Walk to School Week. Walking, scooting and cycling is great for our physical and mental health, as well as improving air quality. We were pleased to welcome Buster, Hertfordshire's very own walking mascot Stepasaurus, who came to meet our children and celebrate their efforts.

We do encourage all our families to continue walking, scooting and cycling to school - whether from home or considering "park and stride" from a village carpark - to build life-long healthy habits.

Hockey

On Wednesday 23rd May our hockey team went to Sir Frederic Osborn School to compete in the district final. Our first game was against Peartree Primary School, which we won 7-0. Next we played Commonswood Primary School, which was a tough game, but we won 4-1. We then won 3-0 against Applecroft Primary School. After a quick break we played Green Lanes Primary School, and won 5-0, which put us in to the semi-final, where we played Applecroft A and won 2-0. This meant we played St John's Digswell in the final. It was a tough game but we won 4-1, and so received winners' medals.

We would like to thank Mrs Hutchinson for training us, and to Mr Hutchinson and Mr O'Neill for cheering us on.

Maia, Abigail, Tilly, Callum, Ethan and Lennon.

Good luck in the county finals! *Mrs Westley*

Chamber Choir



Pictured here are members of Welwyn St Mary's Chamber Choir, who performed at the Welwyn Twinning Event on Friday 18th May. They performed three pieces to a crowded room of dignitaries, French families and members of the Parish Council. The choir sang beautifully and received rapturous applause.

Football



On the 18th May, 21 girls from Year 6 went to Monk's Walk to play in the THIS GIRL CAN football festival. The girls were put into mixed teams with girls from other schools and then were given a country as a team name. All the girls enjoyed themselves and some even made new friends! The result was England came first and Germany second! The girls' behaviour was impeccable and it was a pleasure to take them.

Tennis



Our mini red tennis players (Holly, Amelia, Daniel, Charlie, Ellie, Evie, Jai and Felix) took part in a competition on the 18th April, and qualified for the next round, which took place on 10th May. We finished 5th overall, which is a great achievement. Well done!



Laurie and Ahrin were invited to take part in the annual Year 3 Hertfordshire inter-school tournament, which took place at Welwyn Tennis Club. They easily won their first 4 matches before playing in the finals against Broxbourne A. Unfortunately they lost 8-4 but they now have a place in the next round and will play the best schools in Hertfordshire in the upcoming weeks. The boys are showed tremendous teamwork and match play - well done, and good luck for the next round.

Golf



Callum took part in a golf event with some children in the junior team from Mill Green Golf Club. He was selected to take part in a nearest the pin competition against the PGA golfers who were competing at the event. His shot was shown live on Sky Sports Golf Channel and he was later interviewed by Vernon Kay. What a wonderful opportunity, Callum - we are sure you will remember it forever!

Clubs

We are very fortunate as a school to have so many clubs and activities for our children to enjoy. Two of our newest clubs are Brick Club and Golf Club, which have been very popular this term. Look out for information packs later this term giving information about the activities that will be running in September. Thank you to Dr Tye for the former.



Year 2 Fire of London Day

On 22nd May our Year 2 children participated in Great Fire of London Day. Everyone arrived looking fantastic in their costumes and great fun was had by all learning about life in the seventeenth century and the events leading up to the fire. Thank you very much to our wonderful parent helpers.

Meetings with teachers

Parents and carers are welcome to meet with teachers outside the parent consultations. Please follow our standard procedure, which is to arrange a meeting through the school office and arrive via our main entrance.

Term Time Absence and Penalty Notices

A reminder that Hertfordshire County Council issues Penalty Notices which meet the Hertfordshire Code of Conduct regardless of the overall level of the pupil's attendance. Please be advised that the Governing Body has agreed that Welwyn St Mary's will be following this guidance.

This means that unauthorised absence exceeding 15 sessions (each day is two sessions) over 2 consecutive terms risks a fine of up to £120 per parent for each individual child. The Local Education Authority may issue you with a Penalty Notice under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996, for failure to secure your child's regular attendance at school. One session is equal to a morning or an afternoon.

So that parents are aware of the risk of receiving a Fixed Penalty Notice, Welwyn St Mary's will issue warning letters to all parents who request term time holiday, regardless of the length of holiday.

Please note that:

- Even brief term time holidays can affect children in school adversely for some weeks. Both before and after the actual vacation.
- Very few children can afford to miss aspects of the school curriculum.

- Staff are unable to provide activities for your child to complete during unauthorised absences from school.
- It is also highly unlikely that your child will be able to 'catch up' on the work undertaken by classmates whilst your child is on holiday.

We appreciate your understanding and thank you for supporting us in maintaining our high attendance record.

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.

PTFA news

SAVE THE DATE!



The Welwyn St Mary's PTFA Summer BBQ takes place on **Saturday 14th July 4-8pm**

There will be:

Glitter Box face painting, traditional rides and games, refreshments and butcher's fayre for a barbecue feast. Look out for the flyers coming soon with more exciting details.....

Volunteers are needed to help in serving the food and running the stalls and games. Please speak to Jenny or Tracey in the playground, or contact chair@wsmpfta.org.uk if you can help.

Next meeting

The next PTFA Committee Meeting is on Wednesday 4th July 2018 at 7.30 pm in the staff room, and all are welcome to attend.

Outdoor gym

As part of a government initiative, Welwyn St Mary's has recently been awarded a £2,000 "sugar tax" grant to use to help encourage physical activity by our children. Welwyn St Mary's plans to purchase some outdoor gym equipment (similar to the pictures below), and the PTFA hope to donate a further £1,000 to boost the project.



Costume Library

The PTFA has a good stock of costumes to hire for use on school themed days.

Visit the school website and go to 'PTFA Costume Library' (<http://welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk/parents/ptfa/costume-library/>) which has great photographs of all the costumes available. The costume library is run by Sinead Thorpe (sin.thorpe@gmail.com) - please contact her for further information or to hire!

	Summer Term 2018
4 th - 6 th June	Year 6 at PGL
w/c 11 th June	PTFA Father's Day Gift Shop
12 th June	Year 6 Crucial Crew
13 th June	Year 6 Athletics at Gosling
14 th June	Year 3 trip to Celtic Harmony
14 th June	6 pm Music Evening
15 th June	Fun Run
16 th June	10 - 11 am Choir performance at Welwyn Festival
18 th June	Reception trip to Standalone Farm
19 th June	Year 6 trip to RAF Hendon
20 th June	Year 2 trip to Kew Gardens
22 nd June	INSET Day - school closed
25 th June	INSET Day - school closed
2 nd July	Year 6 Leavers' Disco
4 th July	7.30 pm PTFA meeting
5 th July	9.30 am Key Stage 2 Sports' Day
9 th July	6.30 pm Charity Choral Concert at St Mary's Church
12 th July	Budge up day Secondary transfer day
14 th July	PTFA BBQ 4 - 8 pm
17 th July	Reserve Key Stage 2 Sports' Day
18 th and 19 th July	6.30 pm Year 6 Leaver's Production
19 th July	Leavers' Eucharist
20 th July	Term ends 1.20 pm
23 rd - 27 th July	Occasional Days - school closed
	Autumn Term 2018
3 rd Sept	INSET DAY
4 th Sept	Autumn Term commences
2 nd Oct	Harvest Festival
29 th Oct - 2 nd Nov	Half Term Holiday
23 rd Nov	Occasional Day - school closed
18 th Dec	Key Stage 1 Pantomime visit - Pinocchio
19 th Dec	Key Stage 2 Pantomime visit - Pinocchio

21 st Dec	Term ends 1.20 pm
Spring Term 2019	
7 th Jan	Spring Term commences
18 th - 22 nd Feb	Half Term Holiday
5 th Apr	Term ends 1.20 pm
Summer Term 2019	
23 rd Apr	Summer Term commences
27 th - 31 st May	Half Term Holiday
28 th Jun	INSET Day - school closed
2 nd Jul	Year 6 Leavers' Disco
19 th Jul	Term ends 1.20 pm
22 nd - 24 th July	INSET Days - school closed