

## Value

Our value for this half term is: Justice.

"Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity; it is an act of justice."  
*Nelson Mandela*

## Student Placements

We welcome to Welwyn St Mary's three students who will be on placement with us for this half term. Miss Heard in RR, Miss Arnold in MS4 and Miss Jose in GB3. We hope their time with us will be rewarding.



## Thinking Day

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February we joined with the Guides and Scouts to recognise Thinking Day. This is when members of the uniformed organisations celebrate being part of an international organisation and consider global issues. 103 (31%) of our pupils wore their uniform to school for the day. Well done to them all for showing commitment.

## Drop Off Zone

Please be extremely vigilant when using the Key Stage 2 Drop Off Zone. Crawling speed only for vehicles. Also please can pedestrians be equally vigilant in keeping their children very close beside them, especially on both crossings. Walk across the crossing close to your child and make sure the adult is nearest to the direction of traffic. Scooters must be carried at this point and at all times on school grounds. This includes the paths along the Drop Off Zone.

## Netball Competition

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February the girls' netball team went to Monk's Walk School to play in a competition. Our first match was against Templewood and we won 3-0 with Caitie scoring two goals and Amelie scoring one. Our next match was against Brookmans Park - sadly they won 5-1. We are grateful for our netball coach who trains us and would like to thank Mrs Tucker for coming with us and helping us throughout the competition.

**Amelie, Erin, Caitie, Molly, Lucy, Emilie and Megan.**

## Football Competition

On 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018, our football team went to Monk's Walk School to play some friendly fixtures. The team was Ethan, Lennon, Holli, Charlie, Louise, Stanley, James, Jack and Luke.

We won our first match against Brookmans Park 1-0 with everybody playing fantastically. Playing St John's Digswell next we won 2-1 in an amazingly close game. Our final game was against Harwood Hill in which we drew 1-1. We would like to thank Mr Ashman and Mr O'Neill for coaching us and to parents for cheering us on.

## Gymnastics Competition

On Wednesday 28th February, Welwyn St Mary's Key Stage 1 gymnastics team travelled to Gosling Sports Park to compete in the district competition. The team was India, Olivia, May, Helena, Timur, Hollie E, Hollie F, and Evelyn. They had to complete a floor routine and vault. Overall they finished in first place. Well done! Thank you to Mrs Crofts for choreographing the routine and working with the team. Thank you to all parents who came along to cheer them on. We wish you good luck for the county finals.

## Sports Relief

We will be selling wristbands in school in aid of Sport Relief during the week beginning 19th March. They will be £1 each.

## 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.

## Lola the Reading Dog

Sadly Lola and her owner are not able to come in to school due to her owner being poorly. We have applied for another dog reader so hope to be able to bring good news soon. The children were very much enjoying their time with Lola.

## Easter Egg Competition



Children are invited to enter our annual 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 MN5 on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> 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 Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March and the entries will be sent back home on 29<sup>th</sup> March. We look forward to seeing your creations.

## Parent Governor

As you will have seen in the recent mailing, we will shortly have a vacancy for a parent governor. Do please apply if you are interested as it is a wonderful way to be involved in the running of our lovely school. The post arises as Val Smith will have completed her four years in office and very successfully too. We owe her a great deal for her time and financial expertise. She has shared both most generously and we are very grateful indeed for her excellent advice and guidance in this vital part of school life. In a difficult economic climate she has relentlessly pursued good practice and shrewd financial management from which we have directly benefitted. Thank you very much Val.

## Healthy Packed Lunches

A reminder please that packed lunches should be healthy and well balanced. Sandwiches or wraps should contain a protein item such as meat, fish, cheese, houmous and so on. Fruit and vegetables or salad should be included. Items containing sugar, such as cakes and biscuits to be kept to a minimum. Sweets, chocolate bars and fizzy drinks are not allowed. Please remember that Welwyn St Mary's is a nut free school.

## Winter PE Kit

Do check your child has their winter PE kit in school during this cold spell as we will still go outside for sport. It consists of the normal PE kit plus:

- long black tracksuit trousers and top
- shin pads for KS2 football and hockey (highly recommended).

Please also note children will go out for play in cold weather so do send in coats, scarves, hats and gloves. Children are only allowed to stay inside in exceptional circumstance.

## Severe Weather Guidance

In the event of bad weather and possible school closure due to snow we will Parentmail parents as early as possible. You can also receive up to date information from our website [www.welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk](http://www.welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk), [www.hertsdirect.org](http://www.hertsdirect.org) or listen to BOB FM Hertfordshire 106.7 and 106.9. We always endeavour to keep the school open and will only close if absolutely necessary.



## Road Safety Petition

Please come to the school office to sign our petition for traffic calming measures along London Road. This is also available online: [Welwyn St Mary's School petition - TRAFFIC](#)

# PTFA

## Meet your new team!!

**Jenny Wylie, Co-Chair**



**Tracey Sewell, Co-Chair**



**Jacquie Moate, Vice-Chair**



**Natalie Payne, Secretary**



**Christine Vasseur, Treasurer**



### What we do.....

The PTFA is made up of parents, teachers and friends of Welwyn St Mary's pupils and our aim is to raise extra money for the school to benefit all the children and to strengthen the school community. From refreshments at productions to major seasonal events, we're involved!

### Join US!

We want raising money for the school to be fun! Your help would be very welcome, please contact either Jenny or Tracey on email: [chair@wsmpfta.org.uk](mailto:chair@wsmpfta.org.uk) or catch us in the playground.

### Coming up

- Angela Bonner's Family Portrait Session - 3rd March 2018
- Mothers' Day Gift Shop - 5th to 9th March 2018
- KS1 Easter Egg Hunt - 21st March 2018
- Reception Cake Sale - 23rd March 2018
- Year 3/4 Easter Disco - 26th March 2018
- Dress Down Day - 29th March 2018
- Look out for Bags2School bags at the beginning of March for collection at the beginning of May

**Class list** Have you joined Class List? It's a really useful way to stay up to date and to communicate with fellow parents. Visit [www.classlist.com](http://www.classlist.com) and type in "Welwyn St Mary's Primary School".

<b>Spring Term 2018</b>	
5 <sup>th</sup> - 11 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Mothers' Day Gift Shop
14 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Year 5 trip to Mill Green Museum (MN5 morning, A5 afternoon)
15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Year 2 trip to National Gallery
20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Year 1 trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum
21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Key Stage 1 Easter Egg Hunt
22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Easter Church Service SMART Production The Emperor's New Clothes at 7.00 pm
23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	Reception Cake Sale SMART Production The Emperor's New Clothes at 7.00 pm
24 <sup>th</sup> Mar	SMART Production The Emperor's New Clothes at 2.00 pm and 6.30 pm
26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Year 3 and 4 Easter Disco
29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Dress Down day
29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<b>Term ends 1.20 pm</b>
<b>Summer Term 2018</b>	
16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Summer Term commences
27 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Year 2 Cake Sale
7 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday - school closed
18 <sup>th</sup> May	Sports' Day Practice
18 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 1 Cake Sale
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Y6 K'Nex challenge
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Class Photographs
24 <sup>th</sup> May	Sports' Day (Key Stage 2 morning, Key Stage 1 afternoon)
25 <sup>th</sup> May	Reserve Sports' Day
28 <sup>th</sup> May - 1 <sup>st</sup> June	<b>Half Term Holiday</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 at PGL
12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Crucial Crew
13 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Athletics at Gosling
14 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 3 trip to Celtic Harmony
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Fun Run
18 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception trip to Standalone Farm
20 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 2 trip to Kew Gardens
22 <sup>nd</sup> June	<b>INSET Day - school closed</b>
25 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>INSET Day - school closed</b>
9 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers' Disco

12 <sup>th</sup> July	Secondary transfer day
19 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers' Eucharist
20 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Term ends 1.20 pm</b>
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Occasional Day - school closed
24 <sup>th</sup> - 27 <sup>th</sup> July	Occasional Days - school closed
<b>Autumn Term 2018</b>	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	<b>INSET DAY</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Autumn Term commences
2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Harvest Festival
29 <sup>th</sup> Oct - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	<b>Half Term Holiday</b>
23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Occasional Day - school closed
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Key Stage 1 Pantomime visit - Pinocchio
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Key Stage 2 Pantomime visit - Pinocchio
21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	<b>Term ends 1.20 pm</b>
<b>Spring Term 2019</b>	
7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Spring Term commences
18 <sup>th</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	<b>Half Term Holiday</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>Term ends 1.20 pm</b>
<b>Summer Term 2019</b>	
23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	Summer Term commences
27 <sup>th</sup> - 31 <sup>st</sup> May	<b>Half Term Holiday</b>
28 <sup>th</sup> Jun	<b>INSET Day - school closed</b>
19 <sup>th</sup> Jul	<b>Term ends 1.20 pm</b>
22 <sup>nd</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>INSET Days - school closed</b>