

Value

Our value for this half term is:
Thankfulness

Welcome back everyone

We hope you have all had a restful holiday and are ready to start the new school year with lots of energy. We welcome all our new pupils in Reception as well as Laura, Anusha, Eliza, Sean, Christian, Pietro, Sally and Leo who have joined us further up the school.

We also welcome back Mrs Newstead who has returned to teach at WSM having spent four years teaching in Australia. She will teach with Mrs McKenna in MN5. Welcome too to Miss O'Keeffe who joins our teaching team in O4. Also welcome to Mrs Allen who will be helping in our school office temporarily as Mrs Green has moved to a post much nearer her home. We thank Mrs Green for all she did so efficiently and graciously for WSM. Mrs Allen will take on Mrs Green's role dealing with lunches and attendance at the start of term. Mrs Kinsella and Miss Bryant have both joined our teaching assistant team in Reception and year 1 respectively.

Our teaching staff body is very similar to last year. The only changes being: Miss O'Keeffe in O4, Mr Anstey in A5, Mrs Newstead and Mrs McKenna in MN5 and Mrs Tucker with Ms Anstey in AT2.

Uniform

The children look so smart in their school uniform. Thank you. Please make sure everything is named.

Holiday work

As usual Mr Stockton has been very busy organising maintenance and improvements to our lovely school during the holiday period, and we thank him hugely for this. Work includes: year group markings for KS2 collecting area (do please use these if you wish so that your child can find you more easily at the end of the day, year 3 meeting point is the one nearest the green gate), benches at the KS2 collecting point are sanded and varnished, Ms Anstey's office painted, external quad doors painted, gym and hall painted, new windows for O4, a monster clean throughout the whole school, CD1 wall re-plastered, ceiling fixed in KS1 library, fixed wire testing, lock down alarm installed (in the rare chance that we should need it) and gym and hall floors polished.

Garden Room

As you may know, we have taken back usage of the Garden Room for school purposes. We aim to extend and develop the building for use as our Breakfast and After School Club by Easter 2018. Plans are complete and tenders are being sought as we write.

Care in the carpark

Please be careful when using the drop off zones in the morning. A reminder that these are only for use for children in Key Stage 2. Children should not be exiting the vehicles until safely in the drop off zone, and zebra crossings and pavements must be used.

Music Lessons and Clubs in September

Music lessons and clubs will start in the second week of the Autumn term (from 11th September).

Secondary School Admissions 2018

Please be aware that the deadline for applications to secondary schools is fast approaching. Parents need to make an application online or on paper by the closing date of **31st October 2017**. It is vital that parents make their applications on time. The easiest way to apply for a school place for September 2017 is online by logging on to www.hertfordshire.gov.uk and completing the online application form. If you apply online, you can:

- Amend your application at any time up to the closing date
- Access your school offer before allocation letters are received
- Accept your school allocation online

Last year, 99 per cent of parents in Hertfordshire applied this way and found the system quick, easy and secure.

A quick and easy way of obtaining all the information you need about the secondary transfer process is by going to www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions. Parents without internet access can request a paper application form that must be returned direct to the admission and transport team. Application forms cannot be returned to primary schools.

Before making an application, parents and carers are strongly advised to visit schools and attend the information evenings to help them make their preferences. Any applications received after 31st October 2017 will be considered as 'LATE' applications and are considered after all of the on time applications.

Benefit-Related Free School Meals Applications for September 2017

If your child is moving into year 3 in September, they will no longer be entitled to Universal Free School Meals. If you wish them to continue receiving a school meal, please advise the office, and an invoice will be raised at the start of each half term. Otherwise, you will need to provide a packed lunch from home. If you think you may be entitled to Benefit-Related Free School Meals, please apply online at www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals

Benefit-related free school meals are automatically renewed for children who currently receive a meal. This means in most cases, eligible children will continue to get a school meal and parents need not re-apply.

- Parents/carers do **not** need to re-apply for a school meal for September 2017
- Any child receiving a free meal or 100% music remission will be renewed for both
- Letters from County will only be sent to families whose children are no longer entitled to receive a meal
- Anyone currently receiving 50% music remission will still need to re-apply from 7th June 2017 at

www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals

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.

Term Dates: 2017-18	
	Autumn Term 2017
w.b. 4 th Sept	Bikeability
18 th Sept	Individual and family photographs
20 th Sept	Year 4 Tag Rugby at Welwyn Garden City Rugby Club
24 th Sept	PTFA Circus
26 th Sept	PTFA AGM
29 th Sept	Year 3 cake sale
5 th Oct	Harvest Festival in church for years 1 - 6
6 th Oct	Girls' football at Monk's Walk School
13 th Oct	PTFA Quiz Night
18 th Oct	Parental Consultations 3.30 - 7.00
19 th Oct	Parental Consultations 3.30 - 6.00
23rd - 27th Oct	Half Term Holiday
3 rd Nov	Bags2School, and PTFA fireworks
10 th Nov	Year 5 cake sale
11 th Nov	Angela Bonner portraits
17th Nov	Occasional Day - school closed
25 th Nov	Christmas Fair
7 th Dec	Key Stage 1 Pantomime trip
8 th Dec	Key Stage 2 Pantomime trip
11 th Dec	Years 5 and 6 Christmas Disco
14 th Dec	Whole school Christmas service in church
14 th Dec	Years 5 and 6 Carol service in church. Attendance compulsory please.
18 th Dec	Christmas lunch
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
4 th June	Class Photographs
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	Occasional Day - school closed
24 th - 27 th July	Occasional days - school closed