



# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



## NEWSLETTER September 2018

### Value

Our value for this half term is: Generosity

*"Real generosity is doing something nice for someone who will never find out"*

Frank A Clark

### Welcome back

Welcome back everyone and we hope you all enjoyed the break from school and return refreshed. A special welcome to all our new pupils both in Reception and further up the school. We hope they will be very happy and successful here. A special welcome too to our new staff members: Mrs Turner who will be working in A5 on Fridays, Mrs Maouchi in Year 2, Mrs Bould in Year 3 (indirectly covering Mrs Castiglione's maternity leave and Mrs Grimmond's absence) and Mrs Hall, Mrs Read and Miss Orna-Orstein as new teaching assistants. We hope they will also be very happy here and we are delighted they have joined us. Sadly Mrs Grimmond will be away from school for a few weeks while she recuperates.

### Holiday building work

As ever Mr Stockton has organised and completed a huge amount of improvements to our school during the holiday period. We are very pleased with all the work which includes: new shed for M1's outdoor equipment, KS2 shed painted and re-roofed, the basketball hoops re-positioned in the gym, the creation of a M6 as a lovely new classroom ( was the IT suite but no longer needed with mobile technology), a new reprographics area in the old M6, new display boards in A4 and MN2, staff room and staff kitchen painting, new radiators in M1, AT2, RR, MR and CD1 and, last but not least, the extension and upgrade of our Garden Room. Thank you Mr Stockton. We think it was a record summer for you. We are all the more grateful as much of the work was in the extreme heat.

We also say a huge thank you to Mr Buxton, grandfather of Sophie and Ben, for varnishing all our outdoor benches, the front door, MS3 door and front windows so beautifully. We are very grateful and much appreciate his skill and kindness.

### 2017/18 Prize Winners

Congratulations to the following children who received prizes from the Governors at the end of term:

#### Year 2 Prizes:

<u>Progress</u>	<u>Achievement</u>
<u>Amii</u>	<u>May</u>
<u>Kanishk</u>	<u>Jake</u>
<u>Luke</u>	<u>Zayn</u>
<u>Maja</u>	<u>Rebecca</u>

#### Year 6 Prizes:

<u>Progress</u>	<u>Endeavour</u>	<u>Contribution</u>	<u>Values</u>
Libbie	Sarah C	Tilly	Jonathan
Emma C		Gili	Abigail R
Callum			
Henry			





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### Sports Award

We are delighted to announce that Welwyn St Mary's has been awarded Gold as part of the School Games Mark. Thank you to all staff and our sports leaders who contributed to achieving the excellent standard required for this award. Well done Mrs Tucker and team.

### Parental Questionnaire

Thank you to all parents who completed our annual questionnaire - we had our highest ever response rate. There were some lovely comments about our school, which teachers found very heartening to read. We will also bear in mind all comments made and build thoughts in where appropriate. One example being sending a form home for parents to add things we might need to know about their child of a general nature.

### Learners with a Difference

We are pleased to be able to offer a series of sessions to help parents of "Learners with a Difference" in partnership with a former parent, Dr Rachel Davis. Please find attached a flier for this course, supporting children with dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADHD or ASD, along with a booking form to complete and return to the school office.

### Swimming 2018/19

A reminder that Year 4 swimming lessons start on 27<sup>th</sup> September. Please look out for a Parentmail with further information and details of how to make payment. Year 3 will swim after Christmas.

### Online Forms

To make it easier for you to reply to school letters without having to send paper slips back to the office, we are pleased to let you know that we will now be using 'Parentmail Forms'. This new service will allow you to:

- Complete permission slips for trips and sporting events.
- Complete school questionnaires (responses will be received anonymously)
- Give consent for various school activities (photographs, local visits, information sharing)
- Confirm attendance at events
- Provide information to the school

Filling out a form is very easy. You will receive a Parentmail advising you that you have an online form to complete. Simply follow the link given on the email or via the Parentmail App and complete the form. Once you have completed your form, click submit to return your form securely to the school office. The Parentmail platform is secure and fully compliant with GDPR.

If you have any problems using online forms, please speak with the school office staff who will be happy to help.

### 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.





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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](http://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 2018	
4 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Autumn Term commences
27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Year 4 swimming lessons commence
2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Harvest Festival in church
16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Year 6 trip - RAF Hendon
29 <sup>th</sup> Oct - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	<b>Half Term Holiday</b>
23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	<b>Occasional Day - school closed</b>
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Key Stage 1 Pantomime visit - Pinocchio at Hertford Theatre
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Key Stage 2 Pantomime visit - Pinocchio at Hertford Theatre





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20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.30 am Whole School Christmas Service at St Mary's Church 6 pm Year 5 and 6 Carol Service at St Mary's Church. <b>Attendance is compulsory</b>
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
4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 3 Life in Ancient Greece Day
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>

