



Welcome
to
Welwyn St Mary's



Church of England
Primary School

Welcome to Welwyn St Mary's Church of England Primary School

A very warm welcome to Welwyn St Mary's Church of England Primary School.

In this leaflet you will find lots of useful information about our school, our ethos and values, our curriculum and our daily routines.

If you have any questions about our school, please feel free to contact our school office staff who will do their best to help you.

Contents	Page no.
Welcome	2
Ethos and Values	3
Health, welfare and pastoral care	5
Links between home and school	7
School term dates 2015/16	9
School times	10
Looking smart in school uniform	11
Starting school at Welwyn St Mary's (before starting)	12
School visits and extra-curricular activities	13
Additional information	14
The Curriculum at Welwyn St Mary's	15

ETHOS AND VALUES OF OUR SCHOOL

At Welwyn St Mary's, we are committed to providing the best educational experiences for our pupils and to the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of our life and work. We aim to provide a secure but challenging environment where our pupils feel valued and develop a lifelong love of learning. Our Christian values underpin every aspect of our school life and our intention is to encourage each of our pupils to develop and express their spiritual capabilities. Thus each member of the school community is respected and encouraged to work and worship together in an atmosphere of security, trust and co-operation.

Our Aims

- To provide the best learning experiences for all our pupils
- To pursue excellence and enjoyment in all aspects of our life and work
- To create a safe and caring environment where all pupils feel valued, secure and have a strong sense of self worth
- To challenge and support our pupils' learning
- To develop our pupils intellectually, spiritually and socially to their full potential
- To foster creativity and innovation
- To equip our children to be good citizens now and in the future
- To enable our children to make healthy choices
- To respect one another
- To ensure equality of opportunity for all members of our community
- To work in partnership with parents and families
- To develop and maintain strong community links within our school, our village and the world beyond

Church of England Voluntary Aided status

Welwyn St Mary's has strong links with the church of St Mary's in the village. This Christian foundation was established over 250 years ago by Dr Edward Young, Rector of Welwyn, who opened a school for 16 boys aged 7 to 14 in 1749. The school moved to London Road in 1859. Welwyn's population grew and, after the closure of the adjacent secondary school, the school moved to the current buildings which were extended and redesigned for primary use in 1985.

The Rector of Welwyn continues to keep in close contact with the school, taking assembly every week and an annual school Eucharist. The children attend St Mary's church for major festivals and visit it as part of the R.E. curriculum. Several school governors are church or diocesan representatives. Everyone in the school community is encouraged to share the love, trust and sense of fellowship that being in a church school can bring.

Collective Worship

We meet together at a daily assembly. These are centred on the Christian faith but other world religious traditions are recognised and accepted. We expect the children to develop sensitivity and understanding when exploring not just their own beliefs but those of others. Assemblies are an opportunity to explore and share things we value and to honour excellence. We sing hymns together, listen to music and give the children time to reflect and pray. We encourage positive moral and social attitudes and enable the children to develop a sense of wonder and an appreciation of the aesthetic and spiritual aspects of life.

The importance we attach to worship as a church school is explained to parents at admission time and is recognised in our admissions policy. We hope that parents and children will understand that our school worship is an occasion when each individual's integrity is respected. However, parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship and Religious Education if they wish.

Parents are encouraged to attend class assemblies in which their children are actively involved and their achievements shared and celebrated.

Religious Education

As a Church of England school, we are concerned that our pupils develop an understanding of the message and meaning of Christianity. The Christian faith is therefore at the core of our R.E. scheme of work. However, we encourage and expect a tolerance and respect for all beliefs. At Key Stage One, the children learn about religious traditions by studying a variety of stories, celebrations and customs. In Key Stage Two, Christianity is studied alongside Sikhism, Judaism, Hinduism and Islam. Thus, all the children are encouraged to learn from religion about the importance of rules and values in our own lives.

HEALTH, WELFARE AND PASTORAL CARE

The staff work as a caring, professional team, sensitive to the emotional and social needs of the children. The class teacher is able to establish a special rapport with the children in his/her class and takes an interest in the whole child, not just their educational development.

Please inform us of anything that may affect your child's education; we assure you that personal information is kept confidential. Similarly we will tell you of any difficulties that a child is facing so we can work together to find a solution.

Discipline

Discipline at Welwyn St Mary's is firm but fair. We expect children to behave politely and sensibly and to develop self-discipline in a caring community. A positive attitude to achievement is the norm as we believe that good behaviour is a natural response to praise and approval. Badges are awarded to celebrate children's effort, achievement and kindness to one another in a weekly assembly. Children's names are recorded in the headteacher's Golden Book for positive attitudes to learning.

Bullying will not be tolerated. We define bullying as verbal or physical abuse that is intended to threaten or intimidate another person. We seek the co-operation of children, parents and staff in the early detection and reporting of bullying. Our anti-bullying policy contains more information about our approach.

Our school code of conduct was written by pupils and staff together:

- We are kind, helpful and polite to everyone in school.
- We always listen carefully and do our best.
- We respect and look after other people's property.
- We behave in a safe way in the classroom and around the school.

Medical welfare

During your child's first year at school, a health assessment is arranged. Our school nurse is also involved with vision and hearing tests and assists us with our health and sex education programmes.

In accordance with the Healthy Schools' Standard, children are not allowed to bring snacks or sweets to school. Fruit and vegetables, fresh or dried, are permitted at morning break. Key Stage 1 children receive a free piece of fruit each day as part of the national 5-a-day initiative.

Welwyn St Mary's is a nut free school in consideration of any person who may suffer from allergies of this nature. In the event of an emergency such as anaphylaxis staff are epipen trained on an annual basis.

Please do not send your child to school if you consider that he/she is unwell or has been sick in the last 48 hours. We need to know if a child is asthmatic, diabetic, epileptic or allergic. Please keep us up to date about relevant medical information as this will help us in any decisions about a child's health. Parents are required to tell the school about notifiable illnesses such as German measles and these have recommended periods of exclusion.

School Council

Representatives from years 2 - 6 are elected to the School Council. They meet regularly with the headteacher and members of the teaching staff to discuss issues that concern the children, for example, the facilities for outdoor play.

Medicine

Apart from inhalers for asthma, children should not bring medication in any form to school to administer themselves. If your child requires medicine during the day, you are welcome to come to school to administer it.

Absences

If your child is absent for any reason, we need notification by parents on the first day. This can be by telephone email or through a message to your child's teacher by a sibling or friend. By sending a message to school on the first day of absence, we are then all kept aware of where the children are. Please let your child's teacher know if you permit your child to come to school unaccompanied.

We expect parents to avoid taking holidays during term time as there is always a disruption to learning. Unless there are wholly exceptional or unavoidable circumstances, such absences will be classed as unauthorised. Requests for any absence should be made to the headteacher using a form available from the school office. Routine dental and medical appointments should also be outside school hours.

Safety and Supervision

Children are supervised in the playgrounds at break and lunchtime. We ask that children do not arrive at school before 8.35*. Our Fix-it Friends are available at playtimes to help with support for children on their own and to encourage positive relationships. Selected from Year 6, they are trained in peer mediation and support the adult supervision.

We encourage children to walk to school if possible but, if you bring your child to school by car in the morning, please take extreme care when dropping off in the drive. We also encourage Park and Stride where families use local car parks and walk. At the end of school, no cars may enter the school grounds or be parked in Ottway Walk as our children's safety is paramount. Hertfordshire County Council accepts no responsibility for accidents happening before or after school by children using the playground equipment.

*Doors open at 8.35 in Key Stage 2.

LINKS BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL

We recognise that parents are a child's first and most important educators. We strive to foster good relationships between home and school as we believe each child's progress is enhanced by effective communication between staff, parents and the children themselves. Our home-school agreement is signed by these three parties and is indicative of the trust and co-operation that we seek to develop amongst us.

We do our best to keep lines of communication open through:

- a monthly newsletter - sent by Parentmail or sent home
- our Parent Council
- letters about specific events
- holding Parental Consultation evenings
- meeting as requested with parents informally after school
- providing termly leaflets about class activities and studies
- arranging meetings with parents of Reception children about reading
- sending annual reports on each child's progress
- an annual open evening to meet staff and tour the school
- inviting parents to meetings explaining changes to the curriculum

You are welcome to:

- ring and talk to us
- ring us to make an appointment to meet
- come in if the matter is urgent - we'll always do our best to see you
- support school events
- join the PTFA committee or Parent Council
- join the much valued group of parents who come into school to help, both regularly and occasionally. We are very grateful for all the help we receive in the classroom with reading, sewing and so on.

Homework

We hope that parents will support their children's work in school by talking about the topics being covered and extend their interest by sharing books, looking up websites and visiting the library. All pupils are expected to read daily at home and we request help from parents in ensuring this takes place by signing a reading record daily.

In addition, children will be asked to learn spellings and tables, do weekly mental maths tests in Key Stage 2 and work on projects linked with their work in class. Our homework policy gives further guidance about the recommended time to be spent on homework. See our website for details.

We hope that parents will:

- take an interest and praise the child and work
- provide quiet conditions for their child to study
- help their child to gather relevant resources
- contact the teacher if there is a recurring problem

The PTFA

The Parent, Teacher and Friends' Association has been established for many years and continues to provide greatly appreciated support for the school. It organises events throughout the year which are social events for families and parents. It also organises fund raising events to provide additional resources for the school. The PTFA depends on support from parents in a variety of ways - please consider giving some time to help.

SMART

In recent years, a theatre group called St Mary's Amateur Repertory Theatre was formed in order to produce plays for children to watch. Its members come from parents, staff and friends of the school and profits are donated to provide extra school resources. New members are always welcome, not just to act but to assist backstage or with production.

GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN

We provide for Gifted and Talented Children through our differentiated curriculum and outside the classroom activities and extension. In years 5 and 6 pupils are taught in separate sets for maths and literacy. In year 6 these lessons are taught by three teachers enabling us to have smaller classes and well pitched work for our pupils. We also offer a Gifted and Talented lunch time club for pupils. Governors and staff track these children closely on our Gifted and Talented register. They have challenging, but realistic targets which are reviewed regularly.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

We place great importance on meeting the needs of all children, including pupils with disabilities or Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The school follows a graduated approach for SEND provision as explained in the SEND Policy and web statement.

Governors meet regularly with our Special Education Needs Co-ordinator, SENCo to review the impact of the SEN policy and to monitor progress of pupils with SEN.

SCHOOL TERM DATES

ACADEMIC YEAR 2015/2016

AUTUMN TERM 2015

INSET DAY	Wednesday 2 nd September
TERM COMMENCES	Thursday 3 rd September
HALF TERM	Monday 26 th - Friday 30 th October
INSET DAY	Friday 20 th November
TERM ENDS	Friday 18 th December at 2.15 pm

SPRING TERM 2016

INSET DAY	Monday 4 th January
TERM COMMENCES	Tuesday 5 th January
HALF TERM	Monday 15 th - Friday 19 th February
GOOD FRIDAY	Friday 25 th March
EASTER MONDAY	Monday 28 th March
TERM ENDS	Friday 1 st April at 2.15 pm

SUMMER TERM 2016

TERM COMMENCES	Monday 18 th April
BANK HOLIDAY	Monday 2 nd May
HALF TERM	Monday 30 th May - Friday 3 rd June
INSET DAY	Friday 24 th June
INSET DAY	Monday 27 th June
TERM ENDS	Friday 22 nd July
OCCASIONAL DAY	Monday 25 th July

SCHOOL TIMES

The school day starts at **8.45 am**, when the main bell will be rung followed by registration at 8.50 am. KS2 children may enter the building from 8.35 am. Late arrivals come in at the front entrance and should report to the secretary so that registers can be amended. If your child leaves school before the end of the day, the person collecting them should sign the exit book in the office.

Morning break:	10.25 to 10.40
Lunchtime:	12.00 to 1.10
Key Stage 1 afternoon break:	2.35 to 2.45
End of school day:	Key Stage 1 3.15
	Key Stage 2 3.20

Class assemblies are mostly scheduled for **Fridays** at **2.45 pm**. Parents and friends are welcome to attend when it is the turn of their child's class.

LOOKING SMART IN SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our school uniform is simple and practical, intended to keep the children looking smart and contributing to a feeling of belonging to the school.

Girls

White blouse or white polo shirt

Grey skirt or pinafore dress or grey tailored long or short trousers

Maroon school sweatshirt with school badge

Maroon school sweatshirt style cardigan with school badge

In the summer term, pink (not red) check cotton dress and plain white socks

In the winter term, long dark grey socks or dark grey tights

Boys

White shirt or white polo shirt

Grey long or short trousers

Maroon school sweatshirt with school badge

Short or long grey socks

All children also require:

Plain sensible black shoes (not boots or trainers)

Coloured 'house' T-shirt, (purchased from school)

Plain black P.E. shorts

Plimsolls for outdoor games

Apron

Book bag

Shoe bag with drawstring

School sun hat

Most of these items are available to order online from www.johnlewis.com or tesco.com/ues. A fleece with the school logo is also available to purchase online. It is designed for outdoor wear and comes in a range of colours.

The children do P.E. barefoot inside school but will need plimsolls for outdoor lessons, weather permitting. Tracksuits may be worn for outside games in colder weather. It is helpful if the children keep their P.E. kit in a named bag to hang on their peg rather than in a backpack or large kitbag. PE kit should be kept in school.

Please label clearly all clothes and shoes with your child's name.

JEWELLERY

We do not allow jewellery in school as it can be a source of danger in P.E. and swimming. Pierced ears should have a plain gold stud only. Earrings have to be removed for P.E. and swimming lessons.

The school and Local Authority do not accept liability for loss or damage to personal property and we therefore do not encourage children to bring such items, including toys to school.

STARTING SCHOOL AT WELWYN ST MARY'S

ADMISSIONS POLICY (Summary)

Each year all parents with children approaching school age are asked to name the preferred school for their child. We warmly welcome parents who wish to visit Welwyn St Mary's by appointment to see the school at work at any time. An admission form (available from the school office) should be completed to register interest in a place for your child.

The governors admit the standard number of 60 children to the Reception classes each academic year. We seek to serve the village community first and foremost as well as offering places to those who already have a family or church connection. Please see our admissions leaflet for further information.

BEFORE STARTING SCHOOL IN RECEPTION

We try to make our pupils' time at school enjoyable and fulfilling and we wish therefore to help all children to settle quickly and happily into school routines. New Reception entrants are invited to spend an afternoon in their new class prior to starting. Parents meet the headteacher and staff and are given more information about their child starting school during a Welcome Evening in June. We hope to answer any queries you may have about this important time in your child's life.

Parents can help prepare their children for school in various ways:

- Sharing a book and talking about the characters and pictures
- Playing games together like Snap and jigsaws
- Using cooking and shopping to talk about numbers
- Encouraging your child to paint and draw
- Helping your child to recognise and write his/her name.
- Helping them to dress themselves
- Helping them take responsibility for their personal hygiene

These are all activities which will help your child learn and develop concentration.

STARTING AT WELWYN ST MARY'S IN OTHER AGE GROUPS

Places in other age groups sometimes become available and it is worth checking with the school office about vacancies. Once again, we encourage new entrants to spend a morning or afternoon with their new class, if possible, prior to starting.

SCHOOL VISITS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

School visits and visitors

We believe that the children's educational experiences can be greatly enriched by making visits or welcoming visitors to the school. In recent years, such visits have included the National Gallery, Imperial War Museum Duxford, RSPB Rye Meads, Whipsnade ZSL, St Albans Cathedral and Standalone Farm. Parents are kept informed when such events are planned and are often invited to accompany a visit to provide extra supervision.

In addition, extended trips are organised for older pupils. We organise an annual residential school journey which concentrates on different aspects of outdoor education for our Year 6 pupils.

Extra-curricular activities

Many optional activities are provided for the children to take part in either during lunch time or after school. Sports fixtures are arranged on a regular basis for football, netball, rounders, lacrosse and athletics. Clubs currently existing are: football, netball, tennis, rounders, lacrosse, gymnastics, French, green club, multisports, choirs for years 4, 5 and 6, orchestra, chess, Kiwanis, cross country, Zumba and assembly club.

In recent years, we have been able to offer courses in cycle training to our Year 6 pupils during the summer term.

Charging Policy

Some school trips and activities incur a charge if they are to proceed. We ask parents to make a voluntary contribution to the cost. We do, however, wish to ensure that no child misses a school activity because a parent is in financial difficulties and parents are encouraged to discuss such a matter in confidence with the headteacher.

Swimming and day visits are not normally subsidised from school funds and parents are asked to contribute. The cost of instrumental lessons and instrument hire is charged to parents but is subsidised by the school. Parents in receipt of certain benefits are eligible for reduction or remission of fees for instrumental lessons.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

School lunches

School meals are prepared and cooked in our kitchen by professional staff who take pride in presenting a choice of dishes at lunchtime that meet the new healthy standards. You and your child are invited to sample a school lunch before your child starts school by making arrangements with the school office.

An invoice for school meals is sent out within a couple of days of the beginning of each half term and payment is required within 14 days of the date of the invoice. Lunch money should be handed by your child to the class teacher in a named envelope. Alternatively, children may bring a packed lunch.

All children in Key Stage 1 are all entitled to free school meals. We operate a Pupil Choice policy so all children may chose the menu they would like each morning.

Complaints procedure

We hope that parents who have complaints will tell the headteacher or other staff in school. All complaints will be investigated fully and fairly so that a prompt response can be made. If the complaint is not settled at this stage, a written complaint should be submitted to the Clerk of Governors and if progress is still unsatisfactory, parents are able to write to the Secretary of State.

Letters about children's activities

The school often receives letters and flyers from organisations, agencies and charities which are organising activities for children to take part in. From time to time, we send home these letters and leaflets. This does not mean that we are approving or recommending the activity; we are only acting as a distributor.

Out of school hours

Welwyn St Mary's After School club runs every day from 3.15 pm to 6.00 pm except on the last day of the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms when the club will run from 2.15 pm to 5.00 pm. Children from Year 1 to Year 6 may attend (places are booked in advance) and take part in a range of activities. Reception children may attend Tea Club at Tenterfield Nursery School and will be collected at the end of the school day by Tea Club staff.

From September 2015 Welwyn St Mary's will be running a breakfast club. The club will operate from 7.30 am during term time. Children will be provided with a healthy breakfast from the "Eat Better, Start Better" menu and escorted to their classrooms in time for the start of the school day. Places must be booked half termly in advance.

THE CURRICULUM AT WELWYN ST MARY'S

The school has a broad and balanced curriculum which we aim to make challenging, interesting and enjoyable, fostering a desire to achieve and ensuring all our pupils have the opportunity to achieve their potential. Your child's time at primary school is spent in three stages:

Early Years Foundation Stage	- Reception Year
Key Stage One	- Years One and Two
Key Stage Two	- Years Three to Six

Early Years Foundation Stage

The Foundation Stage has seven areas of learning which lead towards the subjects of the National Curriculum. They are:

Personal Social & Emotional Development	Communication & Language
Literacy	Expressive Arts & Design
Mathematics	Understanding of the World
Physical Development	

We believe children learn best in the Early Years Foundation Stage when:

- much of the learning is through doing
- there are opportunities to learn both indoors and out
- there is a balance of child initiated and adult directed activities
- children are encouraged to be independent
- areas of learning (subjects) are linked
- everyone is valued
- achievements are celebrated
- parents are partners in the learning process

Key Stages One and Two

From Year One to Year Six, Welwyn St Mary's curriculum will be guided by the framework of the new National Curriculum. All children study five core subjects:

English	Maths	Science
Religious Education (R.E.)	Computing	

and seven foundation subjects:

Design and Technology	History	Geography
Music	Art	Physical Education (P.E.)
Personal, Social and Health Education		

We place great emphasis on enabling children to acquire the basic skills of literacy and numeracy. Most time during the week is spent studying the "three R's". However, we believe that all children should have opportunities to explore and enjoy the Arts - music, drama, dance and art. Welwyn St Mary's is an Activemark School: this recognises our commitment to Physical Education in the curriculum and in extra-curricular activities.

The curriculum is taught using a variety of methods. Children are provided with opportunities to work as an individual, with a partner or in a group of three or four children. In much of our work in English and Maths, the class is taught as a whole group together. The children are grouped in Maths according to ability and this setting sometimes extends across the year group in Key Stage 2 so the children are working alongside those with similar understanding and skills. Teaching staff meet regularly to plan for all the children in the year group to ensure there is continuity between the classes.

Throughout the school we encourage:

- the pursuit of excellence
- co-operation with each other in a variety of class activities
- pride in their work and its presentation
- a desire to learn
- questioning minds through investigative work
- opportunities for discussion about personal experiences
- a sense of initiative and independent thought
- confidence in personal achievements and pleasure in achievement by others

ENGLISH

We consider **Reading** to be of crucial importance and we adopt a variety of approaches to teach the necessary skills to read fluently and for meaning. The children read both individually and in groups when the children share a book together and discuss story, plot, characters etc. We believe that parental involvement is the key to developing the child's confidence and enjoyment of reading and children take books from the reading scheme and library books home regularly to share with an adult. Parents of Reception children are invited to a meeting with their child's teacher at which our approach to reading and our phonic approach to teaching letter sounds is explained.

We encourage the children to **write** in order to express their feelings and ideas and to pass on information. We focus on neat presentation and correct grammar and punctuation. Good **spelling** is encouraged by developing knowledge of word patterns and families and through using dictionaries. Regular **handwriting** practice encourages a legible, fluent style of joined -up writing.

In teaching English we try to give each child as many opportunities as possible to develop an effective use and understanding of language according to their age - for example, by explaining how a model was designed and built, telling a story clearly, reading silently aloud for pleasure or information, writing a report of a science experiment, making notes by skim-reading text, using a word processor.

MATHEMATICS

In our teaching of Maths, we wish the children to acquire mathematical knowledge, skills and facts. However, this goes hand in hand with a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts. We aim to make the learning of Maths a satisfying and enjoyable activity, enabling the children to develop an appreciation of maths as a means of communication. We place a lot of emphasis on teaching Mental Maths as we believe that all children should develop skills in and rapid recall of all number facts. Weekly Mental Maths homework is set in Key Stage 2.

The four areas covered in the Maths curriculum are:

- using and applying mathematics
- number and algebra
- space, shape and measure
- data handling

SCIENCE

Science education at Welwyn St Mary's is an investigative activity about the physical and biological world. Children will develop skills in observing, predicting, hypothesising, recording and drawing conclusions. We encourage them to work systematically as scientists through planning, experimenting and evaluating their own investigations.

The science curriculum covers:

- the variety and processes of life and living things
- materials and their properties
- forces and energy
- electricity and magnetism
- light and sound
- the earth, atmosphere and space

Pupils learn science as far as possible through practical work which ranges from cooking to learning how electricity travels through a circuit and to recording the pattern of weather and seasons. Working in this way needs co-operation, perseverance and careful thought. Our own Nature Reserve with its ponds and range of plants and wildlife is a wonderful resource for the study of living things and the children love exploring and learning there.

COMPUTING

The study of computing develops an ability to use tools such as computers effectively. It is our aim at Welwyn St Mary's to prepare all pupils so they may transfer the skills learnt at school to situations outside. Every child has the opportunity to use computers regularly either in the classroom or in whole class computer sessions in our computer room.

Computing is used across the curriculum to support learning in other subjects.

The school is generously resourced with up to date hardware and software for multimedia including interactive whiteboards. Safe access to the Internet in all classrooms enables staff and children to develop further our opportunities to communicate in this exciting and fulfilling subject.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Design and Technology is a practical subject which involves the children in designing and making products. It embraces work with wood, textiles, food as well as graphics and art and design.

Children are encouraged to develop their knowledge and understanding of simple mechanisms and structures. They learn how to investigate, assemble and disassemble products in order to discover how they work. They also learn to evaluate their work and identify ways in which their designs may be improved.

THE HUMANITIES

History, Geography and Religious Education come under this heading.

In **History**, children are taught about important events and developments in Britain's past from Iron Age to modern times. They also learn about ancient civilisations and the history of our local area. We believe that acquiring knowledge about the past gives us a better understanding of the present.

Children are encouraged to develop research skills and an investigative approach. Wherever possible, visits to historical places of interest are arranged and they are given first hand experiences to enhance their understanding, for example a Great Fire of London day in Year Two.

Geography is concerned with helping children develop an understanding of their immediate surroundings and of the wider world through the study of places, the human and physical processes that shape them and the people who live in them.

Geographical skills are developed through practical activities such as map making and map reading, data collection and fieldwork. Pupils' work is recorded in many different forms including diagrams, pictures, graphs and displays. Investigations are carried out in our immediate locality including our Nature Reserve and comparisons are made with other areas of the country and the world.

Religious Education As a Church of England school, we are concerned that our pupils develop an understanding of the message and meaning of Christianity. The Christian faith is therefore at the core of our R.E. scheme of work. However, we encourage and expect a tolerance and respect for all beliefs. At Key Stage One, the children learn about religious traditions by studying a variety of stories, celebrations and customs. In Key Stage Two, Christianity is studied alongside Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism and Islam. Thus, all the children are encouraged to learn from religion about the importance of rules and values in our own lives.

MUSIC

We particularly value the important role of music in the cultural life at Welwyn St Mary's. We set ourselves high standards of performance and are proud of the strong musical tradition that flourishes in the school both in class and extra-curricular activities. We aim to develop the children's musical understanding through both listening and learning about the elements of music by performing and composing.

Every child has equal access to music-making and there are many opportunities to foster a love and enjoyment of music for example, working with or listening to professional musicians, attending concerts for children and performing with others.

Children enjoy singing at Welwyn St Mary's and the school choirs perform regularly in and outside school. Tuition is offered on piano, violin, flute, clarinet, saxophone, brass and recorder and our instrumentalists play together in the school orchestra.

ART

Our aim is to promote children's enjoyment and appreciation of art. We believe that the highest quality art work comes from motivated children in a well-organised environment.

Children gain direct experience of a wide range of art activities including drawing, painting, print making, textiles and collage and other two and three dimensional forms. These skills are developed alongside the parameters of art: line, colour, pattern, shape and texture and through the study and appreciation of the work of artists. Children have valued the opportunity to work with visiting professional artists. Annual visits are made to the National Gallery, London, by Year Two.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education (P.E.) is about developing children's enjoyment, confidence and skills in physical activity. We wish to encourage the children's physical fitness and raise their awareness of its contribution to general health. The national Active Mark award recognises our commitment to this. The curriculum covers gymnastics, athletics, dance, games and swimming.

A positive attitude to sporting activities is encouraged and children are taught the conventions of fair play, honest competition and good sportsmanship. We are fortunate to have excellent facilities for P.E. with a purpose built gymnasium and extensive playing fields. Further involvement is encouraged by a range of sport clubs which take place at lunchtime and after school.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION

Our framework for Personal, Social and Health Education (P.S.H.E.) reflects the school ethos and demonstrates and encourages the following moral values:

- respect for self
- respect for others
- responsibility for our own actions
- responsibility for our family, friends, school and wider community

Regular class discussion - Circle Time - enables us to articulate and reinforce these values and what is important to us. We wish to foster self-awareness, responsibility, self control and co-operation based on respect for the feelings of others.

In 2011, Welwyn St Mary's was re-awarded the status of being a "Healthy School" in line with the National Healthy Schools' Standard. The award recognised the importance we place on developing positive relationships across the whole school.

Sex Education at Welwyn St Mary's is a term used for all the learning we need in order to gain understanding of our own bodies, instincts and feelings in order to be prepared for the responsibilities and joys of permanent relationships in the future. As a church school, we believe that sex education should be presented within a framework that embraces Christian values, love, faithfulness and forgiveness.

Sex Education is taught through the Science curriculum studies of The Human Body. Teachers deal sensitively with children's questions as they occur at anytime, answering them as fully as possible but with consideration to the children's level of understanding. In Year 5, a specific programme of lessons is planned to link with a video teaching about sex in a family context. Parents are informed and may withdraw their child from sex education lessons which are not part of the Science curriculum.

Welwyn St. Mary's



Church of England Primary School

Headteacher: Mary Westley B.Ed., NPQH

Dear Jake

I am writing to let you know that joining Welwyn St Mary's is going to be very exciting: Reception is one of the best years. You will have great fun at this school because we have so many new things for you to try!

School uniform is an outfit you wear especially for school; all your friends will be wearing the same special clothes as you! But even though school uniform is exciting, the climbing frame, school trips and school plays are even better!

I know for sure that you will really enjoy learning to read, write and count. Learning at Welwyn St Mary's is great fun and it makes you really clever. Lunchtime is fun too. You can bring in a packed-lunch or you can have a school dinner (they're really yummy)!

Although you must be very excited, it is OK to feel a bit worried. Going to a new school can be nerve-racking. Don't worry if you get lost at first, there will always be a teacher to help you and you will eventually find your way around. Also, there are so many nice children for you to meet, there won't be enough time to worry!

I am sure you will have a great time at Welwyn St Mary's. My advice to you is to have fun and try your best!

Yours Sincerely,

Annabel
Year 6 Pupil



Healthy Schools

15 London Road, Welwyn, Hertfordshire AL6 9DJ

Telephone: 01438 714169 Fax: 01438 716472 E-mail: admin@welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk

Welwyn St. Mary's



Church of England Primary School

Headteacher: Mary Westley B.Ed., NPQH

Dear Bertie ,

Welcome to Welwyn St Marys primary school, you are our new generation - Lucky you! Our headteacher (Mrs Westley) has asked us, Year 6, to write a letter informing you about us. Part of what makes our school outstanding is our Smart School uniform and our Sharp School Schedule.

The day is based around play in many different forms. There is alot of making things with paper and playdough which will improve eye co-ordination and the creative side of you. Sports leaders and yellow banders are always there to play and help you with any problems you may have.

Your new school will be very big at first but you don't need to worry about getting lost, or missing your parents, as there are always teachers and yellow banders to help and comfort you.

I am sure that you would agree that Welwyn St Mary's is a one in a million and that you will really enjoy yourself. Of course rules come with any school but the most important thing is to have fun. Good Luck!

Yours Sincerely, Oliver Bloxham



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