



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter – June 2025

Our value for this half term is: **Respect**

"Respect – to get it you must give it."
- Anon

Staffing

We are pleased to welcome back Miss Parkin who will be working with Year 4 children for the rest of the summer term. We wish Mrs Nicola Bould and Mrs Sarah Porter very happy retirements as they will be leaving us at the end of term. Thank you for all that you have done for our school and for the very many children who have been taught and supported by you both over your time here. We will also be welcoming Mrs Charles to our teaching team from September. We hope you will join us in greeting the warmly into our school community.

E-safety Workshop

We are pleased to be hosting this excellent workshop which helps parents to keep children safe online. A highly respected team of former police officers run this informative evening. Open to all parents, it takes place at 6pm on Monday 7th July.

Fundraising inspiration



A huge congratulations to Evie, Alex, and Poppy from 5 Poplars, who completed 'Our Big Run' from Welwyn St Mary's Church to the Lister Hospital in Stevenage. They completed the run in just 2 hours 45 minutes and raised an incredible £1,415 for the children's unit at Lister Hospital, under the wing of the East and North Herts NHS charitable trust.

We were very proud to have a representative from the Trust come to celebration assembly for a cheque presentation.

Well done!

Upcoming events

PTFA Summer BBQ/Festival – we look forward to welcoming you for an afternoon of fun and fundraising. 3 – 6pm
Sat 05/07/2025

E-safety Workshop – for all parents, here in school at 6pm
07/07/2025

Choirs of WSM concert – a charity concert in St Mary's Church – all are welcome. 6 – 7.15pm
Tue 08/07/2025

Open Evening – a chance to see some of the work from the last year, and to meet new teachers and classrooms. 6 – 7 pm
Wed 09/07/2025

Budge Up Day – children will spend the day with their new teachers
Thu 10/07/2025

PTFA break the rules day – to raise funds for the PTFA
Fri 11/07/2025

Year 6 Show – evening performances to families. 6pm
Wed 16/07/2025 & Thur 17/07/2025

Year 6 Leavers' Service – a special service in St Mary's Church for our Year 6 children. Families of Year 6 children are welcome. 9:30 am
Thu 17/07/2025





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Ofsted Outcomes

Usually at this time of year we ask for parent feedback through a questionnaire. As the Ofsted Parent Survey was only very recently completed, we thought that we would share these results.

Statement	% of parents who agree
My child is happy at this school	94%
My child feels safe at this school	92%
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	91%
The school deals with bullying quickly and effectively or my child has not experienced bullying at this school	84%
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	96%
When I have concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly or I have not had to raise concerns	88%
My child has SEND and the school gives them the support they need to succeed	70%
The school has high expectations of my child	92%
My child does well at this school	92%
The school lets me know how my child is doing	93%
There is a good range of subjects available to my child	94%
My child can take part in clubs and activities	96%
The school supports my child's wider personal development	88%
I would recommend this school to another parent	90%

Thank you to all the parents who took the time to complete this survey. We are really pleased to see such positive feedback and we thank you for your ongoing support. We will continue to work on all of these areas to make further improvements and respond to those aspects in which we can be even better.





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School Council trip to the Houses of Parliament



On Monday 19th May 2025, School Council went to the Houses of Parliament in London.

First, we went inside to have a tour around the building. On our tour, we first went to the House of Commons. We saw where our MP sits. And we learnt loads of stories. Then we had lunch. After that we met with our MP and he answered all of our questions. Some of us got Andrew Lewin's signature! Then we went to 10 Downing Street, which is where the Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer lives with his family. We then we took a photo outside 10 Downing Street. We even got to see people go inside!

It was an incredible day and we are so thankful to Mrs Crofts, Mr Whiteland and Sophie's mum for taking us. Thank you to Mrs Southall's husband for arranging our visit to 10 Downing Street also.

Olive, Ava and Poppy.

Year 5 Woodhall Estate



Telephone 01438 714169

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Website: www.welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk



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On 21st May, Year 5 spent the day at Woodhall Estate. The first activity was arable farming, explaining what products Britain sell, like wheat and rape seed. The next activity was falconry. We looked at five different species of bird: barn owl, tawny owl, hawk, kestrel and falcon. Next was the British Deer Society telling us about their horns – including the fact that their horns fall off each winter. Next we made nature acrostics using natural features. Then we went to see the sheep and we got to stroke them. Afterwards we went to the bug garden and collected bugs with nets. Next we did a planting activity where we made pots out of newspapers. Our final activity was to try and pick up different items using a range of objects. We had lots of fun and we would like to thank Mrs Tucker, Mr Hawley, Mrs Rogers, Mrs Moate and some parents for taking us.

Kyle and Ted.

Green group Mitsubishi trip



On Friday 6th June, Green Group went to Mitsubishi Electric where we learnt all about how to save and use energy. This included solar energy, wind energy and water energy. We got to do some fun experiments. We used a fan and a model wind turbine and we measured the wind speed and saw how the wind turbine moved and made electricity. We investigated how the angles of the blades changed how fast the wind turbines rotated. We also learned about heat pumps. We got a thermometer and measured the temperature of some ice. We put the ice in hot water and measured the temperature of the water. We found out that the ice started to melt and the temperature went up and the temperature of the water went down. We used heat lamps to shine their light on some mini solar panels. We attached the solar panels to a fan, light and a buzzer so there was electricity to make them work. We would like to thank our parents and grandparents for taking us, Mrs Mather for accompanying us and Mitsubishi for giving us such a great experience.

Year 3 Maths Competition

On Wednesday 18th June, four Year 3s took part in a Maths competition. First, we did a spot the shape round, which was part of the competition, but it was not timed. We did it before the main event and it involved a lot of decision making. Round one was general Maths. It had 4 questions and they each had a time limit. We had to work together to answer each question. Next was round 2 which was estimation. First, we had to guess how many shells were in a picture. Then we had to count how many seconds





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before a dog disappeared from the screen. We finished with some more general Maths. The teamwork helped us to succeed and finish the tasks. We would like to thank Mrs Jameson for supporting us.
Bella and Jacob

Year 6 PGL



On Monday 2nd June to Wednesday 5th June, Year 6 went to PGL. It was a great experience with all our friends. At around 10 o'clock the whole year group went onto the coach and started a 2-hour journey to Liddington. Over the course of the three days that we were there we did: archery, orienteering, big swing, canoeing, survivor, trapeze, sensory trail and Jacob's ladder. These activities helped us face our fears, encourage each other and to learn new skills. In the evening we did some activities too – campfire and balloon smash – they were really fun and engaging. In our dorms we had two bunk beds each and a bathroom with a toilet, shower and sink. We had a competition for the tidiest room so every night two teachers would come and inspect the room. Every meal was great, very filling and gave us lots of energy for the trip. We would like to thank all the teachers for supporting us and helping us on the trip.

Charlotte and Isabella, 6 Rowans.

Year 2 Waltham Abbey trip



Year 2 enjoyed a trip to Waltham Abbey Gardens in June. There were lots of activities to help us explore nature. A highlight was pond-dipping and spotting all the life in the water.





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Year 3 Celtic Harmony



Year 3 spent the day immersed in Iron Age farming life at Celtic Harmony on 20th June. This trip really helps to bring their learning to life, with opportunities to see the buildings, try the crafts and even mill their own flour. With thanks to staff and parents for supporting this trip.





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Year 6 Singlers Marsh



On Monday 16th June the whole of Year 6 went to Singlers Marsh in Welwyn. We walked sensibly down and met Mr Cheek and Simon who helped us with our activities. First, we had a recap of what Mr Cheek had told us when he came in to school the week before. Then it was time for our activities. One of the classes started off with an assignment to look for bugs in a tray full of water. Simon gave us a bucket of water to pour into a clear tray. After that, Simon came with a bucket of dirt from the river containing many bugs inside. In our groups we had two spoons and pipettes to suck the bugs out and sort them into their groups in a sectioned tray. After about an hour we had to put all our creatures back in the bucket of water and let them be.

Now we took a walk around the marsh and talked about how it floods, but that in a few weeks all the water will be gone. It was explained that there were trees called crack trees where they suddenly lose their branches. We talked about the water being taken out of the river for drinking water and how they will soon stop doing this as it is draining the river. The downside to stopping the water being pumped out of the river is that it might flood in times of heavy rain. Then we had one last talk about water mills and started to head back to school.

We would like to thank Mrs Soppett-Moss, Mrs Mather, Mrs Branch, Mrs Phillips, Mr Cheek and Simon.
Orla





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Verulamium Museum June 2025



On the 17th of June 2025, Year 4 went to Verulamium Museum for a school trip. We first went into the main museum and watched a video about the Romans. After that we explored the museum and looked at mini mosaics. We saw many areas with different features.

Next, we got to explore a different room with Roman objects. We got to handle lots of different Roman artefacts. Then we walked up onto the park field to have our lunch and play a little. After that we walked up to a building and saw a massive mosaic. After that we went to see a big Roman wall. Then we went on the coach back to school. We would like to thank Mrs Crofts and Mrs Webb and all the teaching assistants.

Emily, Mollie and Olive.

Welwyn Bowls Trip



On Tuesday 10th of June 2025, the whole of year 4 went on a trip to the Welwyn Bowls Club.

We each played around 10 games of bowls in every group. We each had 2 balls each round, and we were put in groups of 3. The aim of the game was to try and get your ball to hit the smaller white ball or to try and get it as close as you can to the white ball. We all had lots of fun and we would love to come again. We would like to thank Mrs Crofts, Mrs Webb, Mrs Bryant and Mrs Southall for organising this trip and we would also like to thank Peter and his team.





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District Athletics



Wednesday 11th June was the eagerly awaited inter-school athletics event at Gosling. The children had taken part in year group trials for running, jumping and throwing to find our most talented children. As you can imagine the competition within school was tough. A huge congratulations to those who were selected.

The day of competition was hot and filled with excitement. Our children were a perfect example of sportsmanship and teamwork, cheering on our competitors and offering consolation to those who felt they could have done better. We came away with 9 gold medals, 9 silver medals and 13 bronze medals. A huge well done to all who received a medal. Overall, we came second, which is a fantastic achievement. We embodied our motto of Believe and Achieve.

Thank you to Miss Veasey and Ms Dines for all the organisation and communication leading up to, and on the day, to make the event happen.

Mrs Southall

Year 3 Tennis

On Tuesday 10th June, eight Year 3 children took part in a tennis tournament. The weather was very hot and windy at times. Before the event started, we had some time to practice. Both teams showed determination and teamwork and tried their best. We would like to thank Mrs Moate and Miss Veasey for being there to support us.

Teddy and Jacob.





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Year 4 Football Festival



On Friday 13th June all girls in Year 4 went to a girls only football tournament at Monks Walk School. At first we got split into three groups. To start with we played a game of “head, shoulders, knees and line” to get us warmed up. Next, we had to dodge past defenders from Monks Walk without losing the ball. Finally, we had 30 seconds to get the ball through as many different cones as we could.

After this, we had our first matches in our groups where we played against different schools such as Applecroft and Oaklands. Some of the pupils who were helping from Monks Walk used to be pupils at Welwyn St Mary's. We also had activities where we practiced shooting at the goal and dribbling.

It was a very hot day so we had lots of water breaks. Everyone had a good time despite the heat! We would like to thank Miss Veasey, Mrs Southall, Mrs Rogers, Miss Bryant and Mrs Pullin for coming with us to the event.

Chantelle and Robyn





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Golf



On 19th May 2025 some Year 4s went to a golf tournament at Mill Green. The team was: Lucas, Oscar, Enzo, Finley and Adam for the boys and Liliane, Izzy, Amelie, Emily and Robyn for the girls. When the tournament started we went round in stations. One of the stations included a professional golfer lesson for free. On each station we had a sports leader to count up scores. We did chipping and putting. In all the rounds we had two minutes practise and five minutes to score points. The star player was Adam. Overall we came in second place with 597 points. We would like to thank Mrs Brunson and Mrs Rogers for taking us.

Amelie and Izzy

PTFA update



Thank you to the PTFA who arranged for our Year 2 classes to have a hatching kit each. The children really enjoyed waiting for the chicks to appear, watching them grow more and more feathers, and being able to hold them too.

Thank you for supporting the PTFA through the Father's Day gift shop – this has raised £730 for school funds.





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Book recommendation

It is that time of year when we start thinking about transitioning to our new classes, key stage or school. Moving up a class can be a big deal for many children but what better way to talk through any worries or wobbles than with a good book. With transition day just around the corner, here are our book recommendations:

EYFS and KS1



KS2



Summer Reading Challenge 2025

The Story Garden Summer Reading Challenge launches on Saturday 5th July 2025 in England and Wales. Children can sign up at their local library to join the adventure and discover the magical world where stories grow.

June Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated in June: Oscar, Poppy, Lewis, Sasha, Beau, Chloe, Layton, Millie, Ralphie, Oliver, Thomas, Amelia, Evelyn, Finley, Max, Olivia, Lucas, Milly, Leo, Nathan, Darcey, Filip, Mrs Prudence, Miss Mills and Mrs Ragless.

Foodbanks help

We have links with local foodbanks so, if you are struggling financially at the moment, please contact the school office in confidence and we can refer you.





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Term Time Absence and Penalty Notices

A new National Framework for Penalty Notices for school absence, including unauthorised holiday absence, has now been introduced following changes to the law.

Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent, for each child that was absent. For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines. Parent refers to anyone with parental responsibility and may include carers, step-parents, grandparents or any other adult with parental responsibility.

National Threshold

There is a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave of absence or unauthorised absence the amount will be:

- £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days
- Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days

Second Offence (within 3 years)

The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

- £160 per parent, per child within 28 days

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrate's Court.

- Prosecution can result in criminal records and fines up to £2,500
- Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'

combination of any type of unauthorised absence. The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

[Click here](#) for further information.

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.





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Diary Dates

Diary dates are regularly updated on the school website:
www.welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk/news-dates/diary-dates

2025 Summer Term	
Thu 3rd July 2025	Music Evening
Fri 4th July 2025	Year 4 Class Assembly
Sat 5th July 2025	PTFA Summer BBQ/Festival
Mon 7th July 2025	E-Safety Parent information session – 6pm
Tue 8th July 2025	Choirs of WSM concert [St Mary's Church] 6pm
Wed 9th July 2025	WSM Talent show
Thu 10th July 2025	Budge Up Day
Fri 11th July 2025	PTFA break the rules day
Wed 16th July 2025	Year 6 Show
Thu 17th July 2025	Year 6 Leavers' Service [9.30am, St Mary's Church]
Thu 17th July 2025	Year 6 Show
Fri 18th July 2025	Last day of school – Rec & KS1 1.15pm, KS2 1.20pm
Mon 21st July 2025	INSET day – school closed
Tue 22nd July 2025	INSET day – school closed
Wed 23rd July 2025	INSET day – school closed
2025 Autumn Term	
Wed 3 rd September 2025	INSET day – school closed
Thu 4 th September 2025	Term starts
Mon 27 th to Fri 31 st October 2025	Half term
Fri 21 st November 2025	Occasional day – school closed
Fri 19 th December 2025	Last day of school – Rec & KS1 1.15pm, KS2 1.20pm

