



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter - April 2023

Value

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

"A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out."

Walter Winchell

"Good friends are like stars. You don't always see them, but you know they are always there"

Anon

New Staff

A warm welcome to Miss Gordon, our new 1:1 teaching assistant. We hope you will be very happy here.

Term Dates - 2023/2024

Our 23/24 term dates are now available on our website www.welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk/news-dates/term-dates

Wear a Hat Day

We are delighted to share with you that the Wear a Hat Day last term raised a brilliant £571 for Brain Tumour Research. Thank you to all who took part and donated.

Perform Drama workshop

On Thursday 20th April, Reception and Key Stage One had a Perform Drama workshop. The theme of the workshop was 'Peter Pan'. The children had to help Peter Pan to save the treasure from Captain Hook. The children followed prompts to represent different characters, such as pirates, crocodiles and mermaids. They then had to use their imagination to pretend they were the treasure, using their bodies to make different shapes. The children thoroughly enjoyed the session.



Ethan said, "I liked doing the pirate sounds".

Lilly said, "I liked doing the treasure bit".

Penelope said, "We got to do a lot of fun things with Peter Pan, I loved it".

Lucas said, "Peter pan pretended to fly, it was fun".





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PCSO Anne Devine in Reception

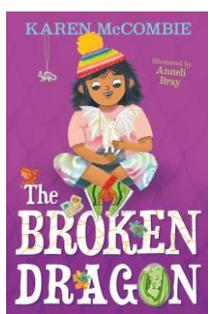


On Wednesday 26th April, Reception had a visit from three Police Community Support Officers. They spoke to the children about their roles and what they could do in the event of an emergency. The children identified the different equipment including walkie-talkies and ear pieces. The children then had a go at trying on the uniform and asked fantastic questions to learn more about the role of PCSO's. We ended the visit by seeing the police car and some of the equipment inside it. Thank you to Anne, Amy and Katie for visiting the children.

Book recommendation

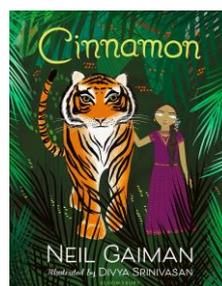
As part of our ongoing work on diversity and inclusion, each month we will be suggesting a selection of books to share and enjoy with your children. Both titles are available at our local library.

This month's book recommendations:



The Broken Dragon
by Karen McCombie

Things are broken and fixed in this heart-warming story.



Cinnamon by Neil Gaiman

A touching story about how an Indian princess who cannot see and never speaks is cured in a most unusual way.





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Multi-sports event - 21st April - School Games Event

Team names: Amara, Milan, Chloe, Ben, Danny, Jesse, Nathan, Ashley

Star Player: Nathan - won a pineapple

Five children from year 3 and three from year 4 went to a multi-sports event at Stanborough School. We all felt excited and some of us nervous at the same time. When we arrived, there were lots of other teams from other schools too. We all took part in five different events including an obstacle course, basketball, archery, mini golf and curling. When competing in each event we were motivated by the hope of winning a pineapple. One person from each team had the chance to win one. We felt very happy and proud once we had each completed each event. We really enjoyed the day and agreed that it gave us more confidence and would defiantly do it again.

- Amara and Milan

District Handball - 26th April - School Games Event

Team names: Teddy, Logan, Wilf, Aanvi, Isabelle, Max, Bethany, Dia,

Star Player: Isabelle and Wilf



First, we did a few practice games before we went into the real games of handball. We were against Harwood Hill, Homerswood and Brookmans Park. We lost all the three games but we still stood strong with our determination to do our very best. Our goal scorers were Fletcher and Isabelle. Wilf received high praise from every other school's teacher for being an amazing goal keeper.

- Teddy and Bethany





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April birthdays

Happy birthday to all who celebrated in April:

Alex, Ronan, Thea, Isabella, Oliver, Felicity, Everly, Dia, Stanley, Maisie, Charlie, Daniel, Grace, Nicole, Thomas, Eddie, Alexander, Finley, Sophia, Xander, Teddy, James, Renos, Isla, Bethany, Seren, Noah, Thomas, Neave, Henry, Jamie, Juliet, Caleb, Alexander, Isabelle, Arlo, Rowan, Wyatt, Mrs Davies, Mrs Lythall, Mrs Dunstan and Mrs Curtis

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.

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.

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.





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Diary Dates

| | | Summer Term 2023 |
|---|----------------|--|
| 2 nd May | | Year 5 Saxons Workshop |
| 2 nd May - 5 th May | | Operation plastic free lunch box week |
| 3 rd May | 6pm | Diversity parents evening workshop |
| 4 th May | 6pm | PGL Parent Meeting |
| 5 th May | | Coronation Day activities in school |
| 9 th - 12 th May | | Year 6 SATs week |
| 15 th May | 9.15-11.30 | Understanding Anxiety in Children Workshop Part 1 |
| 16 th May | 7.00pm | NSPCC online safety workshop for parents - virtual |
| 17 th May | 2.00pm | NSPCC online safety workshop for parents - in school |
| 19 th May | | Year 1 PTFA cake sale |
| 22 nd May | 9.15-11.30 | Understanding Anxiety in Children Workshop Part 2 |
| 22 nd May | | Year 1 Paradise Wildlife Park Trip |
| 22 nd May | | Year 6 GoConstruct K'Nex Challenge |
| 24 th May | 1.30pm & 6pm | Year 3 and 4 Production |
| 24 th May | 8.45 - 10.30am | School Family Worker Coffee Morning - Garden Room |
| 24 th May | | Class photos - Full school uniform is compulsory |
| 25 th May | 6pm | Year 3 and 4 Production |
| 29 th May - 2 nd June | | Half term |
| 5 th - 7 th June | | Year 6 PGL |
| 6 th June | | Year 2 Knebworth House Trip |
| 9 th June | | Year 3 Celtic Harmony Visit |
| 13 th June | | Reception Ark Farm visit |
| 14 th June | | Year 4 Verulamium Visit |
| 16 th June | | Year 2 PTFA cake sale |
| 16 th June | | KS2 French day |
| 22 nd June | | Sports day |
| 23 rd June | | INSET day - school closed |
| 26 th June | | INSET day - school closed |
| 28 th June | 5.30pm | New reception parents meeting |
| 28 th June | 8.45 - 10.30am | School Family Worker Coffee Morning - Garden Room |
| 29 th June | | Sports day reserve date |
| 6 th July | | Music Evening |
| 7 th July | | School reports sent home |
| 8 th July | | PTFA Summer BBQ |
| 11 th July | | Open Evening |
| 13 th July | | Budge-up day |
| 14 th July | | Year 1 Seaside Day |





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| 19 th /20 th July | TBC | Year 6 show |
| 20 th July | 9.30am | Year 6 Leavers' Eucharist at St Mary's Church for whole school |
| 21 st July | 1.20pm | Term ends |

