



# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



## Newsletter - April 2024

### Value

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

*"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little."  
- Edmund Burke*

### Staff Update

Sadly, Mrs Newstead and Mrs Castiglione will both be leaving us at the end of this term. They are valued members of the team and will be greatly missed by pupils, parents and staff alike. We thank them for everything they have done for our school and wish them well in what they choose to do next.

### Year 2 & Year 5 Class Assembly

Thank you to all the parents and carers that came along to support our Year 2 and Year 5 children in their class assemblies. We hope you enjoyed them and can agree they did a fantastic job!

### Year 5 Dance Festival



On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> of March, Year 5 went to Campus West to perform on stage at the Dance Festival. Other schools performed too, including The Ryde, Holwell, Birchwood and Our Lady's. When we arrived, we went to the dance

studio and everyone started to practise our dance. Every school got to practise twice and we got to see everyone else's dance. At 5.30 we were brought to our dressing rooms and we waited for the parents to be seated. Then, once they were all seated, we were told to go on stage one by one. First it was JT5 dancing to 'right here, right now'. Later it was H5 dancing to 'run boy run'. At the end some children from each class got to dance the finale. We would like to thank Mrs Tucker, Mrs Jameson, Mrs Moates, Mrs Hall and Miss Dines for taking us.

- Izzy & Layton

### Next Page Book Sale

Thank you to everyone that came along and purchased a book at the Next Page Book sale. Thanks to your support we raised £76.14 to be used to purchase some new books for our reading corners.

### Upcoming events

#### Bank Holiday

Reminder that school is closed on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May** due to the Bank Holiday.

#### French Club

There is no French Club on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>** as per the club sign up letter.

#### KS2 SATs Week

Good luck to our Year 6 children who will be sitting their SATs between **13-16<sup>th</sup> May**.

#### Year 1 Cake Sale

Year 1 PTFA Cake Sale will be taking place on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May** on the KS1 playground afterschool. Please pop by to purchase some yummy treats.

#### Class Photos

Class photos will be taken on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**. Can all children please attend school in full school uniform on this day and ensure hair is tied back.

#### Sports Day

Parents and carers are welcome to join us and support the children at Sports Day on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**. KS2 will be in the morning and KS1 in the afternoon. More details will follow via Parentmail.

#### Half Term

A reminder that half term runs from **27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> May**. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**.





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### Tanzania assembly/wristbands

On 18th March, School Council gave an assembly to the school about Tanzania and the student we sponsor, Farijika. As you know, we sold green 'Tanzania' themed wristbands to raise money for the Walser's Tanzania Charity. We also had a visitor from the charity, Susie Roddick, who taught us about life in Ifunda, Tanzania. It was a great success and we raised £114.47. This will go towards buying new bicycles for children who live far away from school so they can get to their lessons.

Thank you for all your support, Wilf, Oli, Henry, Alec, Scarlett, Charlotte, Harriet, William, Dylan, Camilla, William and Harriette (School Council).

### Burger Day!



On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May, HCL will be holding a special burger day in school! If your child would like to have a breaded chicken burger or a vegetarian Quorn Pattie burger, please order via School Grid.

A reminder that meals can be ordered up until 8.55am on the day that your child wishes to have lunch. After this time, you will need to contact the school office before 10am.

We recommend booking for the whole week/half term so that you do not forget to place your orders in the morning rush.

If your child is absent from school, please remember to cancel orders so that charges are not made.

### Medication in school

We would like to remind all parents that we cannot administer short term medication in school. This includes prescribed antibiotics and Hayfever relief. If your child is prescribed a course of antibiotics, you are more than welcome to come into school to administer the required dose. We recommend avoiding the children's lunch break and coming to the office either just before 12pm or just after 1pm. This is to have the least disruption to the class and their learning.





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### Upcoming changes to term time holiday

From September, unauthorised absences of more than 10 sessions (5 school days) will be liable for fixed penalty notices. Fines will be increasing to £160 per parent for each child.

The other major change to be aware of is that from September, rules around repeated unauthorised absences will be introduced. Term time holidays will remain on file for three years and any subsequent unauthorised absences within the three-year period will attract increasingly harsh penalties as follows:

- For a first period of more than 5 days of unauthorised absence, a fine of £160 per parent, per child will be applied. This may be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.
- If a parent receives a second fine for the same child within a three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160 per parent per child, even if paid promptly.
- Fines per parent will be capped to 2 fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, a third holiday within three years may mean that you are prosecuted for failing to ensure that your child attends school regularly. Courts may impose a parenting order and/or a fine of up to £2,500. You could receive a criminal record which would show up on any future employment searches or DBS checks.

[Click here](#) for Further information.





### UNDERSTANDING MY AUTISM / ADHD

**'My World & Me'**  
A confidence building 12 week course for autistic young people and those with ADHD


Wednesday 1st May - 24th June	<b>Understanding My Autism: Supporting transitions for school years 4 to 6 - Online</b>	11am- 12pm
Tuesday 21st May - 13th Aug	<b>Understanding My ADHD: 12-16 years. My World and Me Boxing Group - YMCA Watford.</b>	3:30pm- 4:30pm
Thursday 13th June - 29th Aug	<b>Understanding My Autism: Supporting transitions for school years 4 to 6 - Online</b>	11am- 12pm
Wednesday 19th June - 4th Sep	<b>Understanding My ADHD / Autism: Supporting transitions for school years 6 to 7 - Online</b>	4pm- 5pm

To book, please visit [nessieined.com](https://nessieined.com) or click the workshops above.











This is part of a wider project funded by the NHS and Herts CC. For more information visit: [toolbox.mindler.co.uk](https://toolbox.mindler.co.uk)



**Hertfordshire and West Essex**  
Integrated Care Board

Helping children and young people thrive  
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### UNDERSTANDING MY AUTISM / ADHD

**'My World & Me'**™ is a confidence building 12 week course for autistic young people and those with ADHD

These groups provide your child with the opportunity to meet other young people of similar ages and experiences. Focusing on celebrating your child's strengths, these groups aim to be fun whilst supporting confidence, independence and resilience.

Nessie is proud to be neurodiverse affirmative with the majority of our team having lived experience.



This is part of a wider project funded by the NHS and Herts CC. For more information visit: [toolbox.mindler.co.uk](https://toolbox.mindler.co.uk)



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Hertfordshire and West Essex  
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Visit [nessieined.com](https://nessieined.com) to book Nessie's groups





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### Book recommendation

#### This month's book recommendations:

Introducing our children to classic literature can foster a love for reading and enrich their imagination. Timeless tales like "Charlotte's Web" by E.B. White offer lessons on friendship and empathy through the bond between Wilbur the pig and Charlotte the spider. "The Railway Children" by Edith Nesbitt takes the children on a journey of mystery and adventure. "The Tale of Peter Rabbit" by Beatrix Potter introduces young readers to the mischievous antics of Peter and his friends, teaching valuable lessons about responsibility. These classics not only entertain but also instill timeless values, making them essential reads for young minds. Here are more timeless children's classic books in school and in the local library. David McKee - Elmer the elephant and C.S. Lewis - The Chronicles of Narnia



### Boys Football Tournament - 11<sup>th</sup> March

**Team names:** Elliot, Douglas, Stanley, Teddy, Zac, Max, Oliver, Preston, Wilf, Billy

On the 11<sup>th</sup> March, the boys football team went to Ridgeway Academy to play a football tournament. Our first game was against Applecroft and we won 2-0 thanks to Douglas getting two goals. Next, we played against De Havilland and won 1-0. Elliot scored a very good goal to give us the win. After that, we played Commonswood and we drew 0-0 but we scored as the ref blew the whistle. Teddy saved a 1-on-1 to keep us in the game. Next, we played Our Lady's and won 1-0. Then we played Brookmans Park and lost 2-0. After that our heads went down which led to another 1-0 loss to Green Lanes. After that we played Creswick and won. After that we played Springmead and won 2-0 thanks to Billy scoring a double. In the final we played Brookmans Park but unfortunately lost 2-0. Overall, we came second. We would like to thank Mr Gauden and Mrs Porter for supporting us.

- Douglas & Teddy

### April birthdays

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated in April:

Alex, Ronan, Thea, Isabella, Oliver, Felicity, Owoche, Everly, Maisie, Stanley, Dia, Charlie, Grace, Nicole, Thomas, Eddie, Alexander, Finley, Sophia, Xander, James, Renos, Isla, Bethany, Seren, Noah, Tommy, Neave, Henry, Juliet, Caleb, Madeleine, Alexander, Sienna, Eve, Isabelle, Arlo, Rowan, Wyatt, Miss Gordon, Mrs Dunstan, Mrs Curtis





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### 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.

### Diary Dates

Summer Term 2024	
Tue 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	KS1 PTFA Movie Night
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 - Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	KS2 SATs week
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Year 1 Cake Sale
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2024	Class Photos
Thu 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2024	Sports Day
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 - Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024	Half term
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024 - Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Year 6 PGL
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 - Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	PTFA Father's Day Gift Shop
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 - Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Year 1 Phonics check week
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Year 1 Seaside Day
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Year 2 Knebworth House
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024	INSET day - school closed
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	INSET day - school closed
Thu 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	New Reception Parents Meeting
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Reception Cake Sale
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Year 3 Celtic Harmony
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Welwyn Festival Parade
Thu 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Music Evening
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	PTFA Summer BBQ
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	WSM's Talent Show
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Open Evening - 6pm-7pm
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Budge up day
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Year 6 Show - 6pm
Thu 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Leavers' service
Thu 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Year 6 Show - 6pm
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Terms ends
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024	INSET day - school closed
Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2024	INSET day - school closed

