



# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



## Newsletter – April 2025

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

Welcome back to the final term of the academic year! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break. This term is set to be a busy and exciting one, with a variety of trips, events, and performances planned across the school. Please be sure to check the full list of dates at the end of this newsletter or on our school website.

A special mention goes to our Year 6 children, who will be sitting their SATs assessments in the coming weeks. We wish them the very best of luck – they've worked incredibly hard, and we are all proud of their effort and determination. You've got this!

We're looking forward to a fantastic term ahead!

### Warm Weather

As the warmer weather settles in, we kindly remind parents and carers to ensure children are dressed appropriately for the sunny days ahead. Please send your child to school with a named sun hat and a filled, named water bottle each day. We also ask that sun cream is applied at home before school. We recommend using a "once a day" high factor sunscreen. These simple steps help keep everyone safe and comfortable while enjoying the sunshine!

### Congratulations to Miss Lewis

We're thrilled to share that Miss Lewis got married during the Easter holidays – a big congratulations to her and her new husband! Starting in September, she will be known as Mrs May to help minimise any confusion for the children. We wish her every happiness as she begins this exciting new chapter!

### K Club Stationery Sale

Thank you to everyone for supporting the recent K Club stationery sale. Together we've raised £309.38 which will be donated to the RSPCA.

### 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 12 or just after 1pm. This is to have the least disruption to the class and their learning.

### Upcoming events

#### Year 5 Class Assembly

Please be reminded that the start time for the afternoon performance has changed to 2.15pm on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May**.

#### Year 1 Class Assembly

We look forward to welcoming Year 1 parents and carers to their class assembly on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May**. If you have not already done so, please complete the Parentmail form to confirm attendance.

#### Year 1 Cake Sale

Come and purchase some yummy treats on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May** in the KS1 playground. Weather permitting there will also be a selection of pre-loved uniform available. Cash and card accepted.

#### Sports Day

Weather dependant, Sports Day will take place on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**. KS2 will take part in the morning. Reception and KS1 will take part in the afternoon. Parents are welcome to come along and support the children. Full details will be sent via Parentmail.





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### Decorated Egg Winners

A big thank you and well done to everyone who took part in our decorated egg competition – we were absolutely blown away by the effort and creativity shown in every single entry! It was incredibly difficult to judge with so many fantastic designs. Congratulations to our winners for their truly egg-cellent creations!

Category	Winner	Class	Title of Egg
Best R Apples egg	Bella	R Apples	Bella Picasso
Best R Acorns egg	George	R Acorns	Jurassic Park
Best 1 Birch Egg	Bo	1 Birch	Alien Eggs
Best 1 Beech Egg	India	1 Beech	Finding Nemo
Best 2 Cedars Egg	Ashley	2 Cedars	Egg Basket
Best 2 Chestnuts Egg	Sirat	2 Chestnuts	Bunny
Best 3 Hazels egg	Charlie	3 Hazels	Dogman & Petey
Best 3 Hawthorns egg	Amber	3 Hawthorns	Kittyland packet with cats
Best 4 Limes egg	Florence	4 Limes	Mustafa & Tuka
Best 4 Larches egg	Olive	4 Larches	Hot Air Ballon
Best 5 Pines egg	Nicole	5 Pines	Nico's eggzotic zoo
Best 5 Poplars egg	Evie	5 Poplars	Eggplant
Best 6 Redwoods egg	Isla	6 Redwoods	Nemo's Bowl
Best 6 Rowans egg	George	6 Rowans	Eggstemely Stressful Eggsted Inspection
Rec/KS1 Overall winner	Isabelle	2 Chestnuts	The Galeggys
KS2 Overall winner	Poppy	5 Poplars	The Resareggtion
Best RE themed winner	Ellie	4 Limes	Easter
Most Imaginative	Sasha	4 Limes	Rainy Egg Forest
Best unaided/independent	William	5 Pines	Minecraft Land
Rec/KS1 Most ambitious (Most work)	Zara	R Acorns	London Bus
KS2 Most ambitious (Most work)	Chantelle	4 Limes	Space Eggsplorer
Grown up winner	Katie	Toby's Adult	Eggs for Breakfast







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### Book recommendation

#### This month's book recommendations:

This month, our book recommendation theme is **ESafety** – an essential topic for children growing up in a digital world. We've selected engaging, age-appropriate books that help open up conversations about digital safety in a fun and accessible way.





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### April Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated in April:

Alex, Ronan, Thea, Isabella, Reeve, Felicity, Owoche, Everly, Charlie, Grace, Nicole, Thomas, Eddie, Alexander, Finley, Xander, James, Isla, Seren, Noah, Tommy, Neave, Henry, Caleb, Madeleine, Oscar, Alexander, Sienna, Eve, Isabelle, Liam, Emmanuel, Arlo, Rowan, Miss Grieves, Mrs Curtis, Mrs Dunstan, Mrs Foster, Ms Webb, Miss Sanyal

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

#### **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'

[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](http://www.welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk/news-dates/diary-dates)

2025 Summer Term	
Fri 2nd May 2025	Class Photos
Mon 5th May 2025	Early May Bank Holiday – school closed
Wed 7th May 2025	Year 5 Class Assembly
Thu 8th May 2025	Choir at VE Day concert [St Mary's Church] 5.15pm
Fri 9th May 2025	Year 1 Class Assembly
Mon 12th May 2025 - Thu 15th May 2025	KS2 SATs
Fri 16th May 2025	Year 1 Cake Sale
Mon 19th May 2025	School Council Trip to Houses of Parliament
Wed 21st May 2025	Year 5 Woodhall Estate
Thu 22nd May 2025	Sports Day
Fri 23rd May 2025	INSET day – school closed
Mon 26th May 2025 - Fri 30th May 2025	Half term
Mon 2nd June 2025 - Wed 4th June 2025	Year 6 PGL
Wed 4th June 2025	Reception Ark Farm visit
Fri 6th June 2025	Green Group Mitsubishi trip
W/C Mon 9th June 2025	PTFA Father's Day Gift Shop
Fri 13th June 2025	Reception Cake Sale
Mon 16th June 2025	Year 2 Waltham Abbey Trip
Tue 17th June 2025	Year 4 Verulamium Trip
Wed 18th June 2025	Year 1 Seaside Day
Fri 20th June 2025	Year 3 Celtic Harmony
Thu 26th June 2025	New Reception Parents Meeting Evening
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

