



# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School

Newsletter – April 2026



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*

Welcome back to the final term of the academic year! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break this Easter. This term is set to be a busy and exciting one, with a variety of trips, events, sports day 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. Please also make sure you have checked the updated curriculum leaflets for your child's year group, so that you are up to date and informed about what learning is taking place this term.

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!

Mr Whiteland

### Staffing Update

At the end of last term, we said goodbye to Mrs Weaver after 15 years at Welwyn St Mary's. We wish Mrs Weaver all the best for her retirement. She will be missed very much and we thank her for everything she has done for our school over the years.

### 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.

### Upcoming events in May

**Bank Holiday**  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May

**Year 2 Shepreth Wildlife Park**  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May

**Year 5 Class Assembly**  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May

**PTFA Meeting**  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May

**Year 6 SAT's Week**  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May

**Year 1 Cake Sale**  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May

**Sports Day**  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May  
KS2- Morning  
KS1- Afternoon

**INSET Day**  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

**Half Term**  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup>- Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May





# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School

## Newsletter – April 2026



Please can we 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!

We also recommend that children are provided with an ice pack in their school lunch boxes. This will help keep food cool and safe, especially items such as sandwiches, yoghurt, cheese and fruit.

### Egg Competition Winners

Thank you to all the children who took part in our egg competition at the end of last term. We were very impressed with all their imaginative ideas. The winners were:

Prize	Winner	Class	Title of Egg
Best R Apples egg	Isla	R Apples	Chicken Egg
Best R Acorns egg	Edith	R Acorns	Nemo
Best 1 Birch egg	George	1 Birch	Eggs Factor
Best 1 Beech egg	George	1 Beech	Pokémon Crew
Best 2 Cedars egg	Eira	2 Cedars	Kevin
Best 2 Chestnuts egg	Bo	2 Chestnuts	Incy Wincy Spider
Best 3 Hazels egg	Asha	3 Hazels	Three Little Eggies
Best 3 Hawthorns egg	Eva	3 Hawthorns	Egg Sheeran
Best 4 Limes egg	Milly	4 Limes	Hermione & Ron
Best 4 Larches egg	Harriette	4 Larches	Winter Olympics
Best 5 Pines egg	Mollie	5 Pines	Minions
Best 5 Poplars egg	Evie	5 Poplars	Pandas
Best 6 Redwoods egg	Kiara	6 Redwoods	Up egg
Best 6 Rowans egg	Jacob	6 Rowans	Hor-eggible Histories
R/KS1 Overall Winner	Daniel	2 Cedars	Lightening McQueen
KS2 Overall Winner	Harry	3 Hazels	Formula 1
Best RE-themed Winner	Alex	6 Redwoods	N-eggitivity eggscention
KS1 Most imaginative	Sophie	2 Cedars	Eggspresso
KS2 Most imaginative	Ellis	6 Rowans	Mr Egg Whiteland
Best Unaided/Independent	Oscar	1 Birch	Basketball
R/KS1 Most Ambitious (Most work)	Bradley	2 Cedars	Cat
KS2 Most Ambitious (Most work)	Nicole	6 Rowans	Wegglwyn





# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School

## Newsletter – April 2026



### April Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated their birthday in April.

Alex, Alexander, Caleb, Eddie, Evie, Everly, Felicity, Finley, Grace, Henry, Isabella, Isabelle, Isla, James, Liam, Lillie-Rae, Madeleine, Noah, Oscar, Owoche, Reeva, River, Ronan, Rowan, Seren, Sienna, Sreeyanvi, Talha, Thea, Thea, Thomas, Xander, Mrs Sanyal, Mrs Webb, Mrs Dunstan, Mrs Curtis and Miss Grieves.

### Year 5 Dance Festival

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March, Year 5 went to the Year 5 dance festival. This event took place over three days, from Monday to Wednesday, with Welwyn St Mary's performing on the last day. 5 Poplars danced to 'Yo Ho, a Pirate's Life' from Pirates of the Caribbean and 5 Pines danced to 'Wellerman Sea Shanty'. The other schools who performed were Homerswood, who danced to 'Under the Sea' from the Little Mermaid, St Michael's who danced to Pirates of the Caribbean and Oaklands, who danced to 'Cold Water' by Major Lazer and Justin Bieber.

We met in the auditorium to practise. Every school did their dance twice and then the final run was run through twice as well. Backstage, we were very nervous and had to be silent. We were put in dressing rooms to eat our packed teas whilst the other dancers were on stage. It wasn't long after until we heard the voices of parents and music playing. We showed teamwork and determination and used motivation to encourage others. We really enjoyed it and want to do it again. We would like to say thank you to Mr O'Neil for hosting and thank you to Mrs Jameson, Mrs Tucker, Miss Veasey, Miss Bryant, Mrs Southall, Miss Dines, Mr Hawley, Mrs Moate, and our surprise guest Mrs Newstead!

- *Seren and Harriet.*





# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School

Newsletter – April 2026



5 Pines in action



5 Poplars in action





# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School

Newsletter – April 2026



## Sporting Events

### Year 6 Girls Futsal – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April

Team: Daisy, Zara, Mia, Nancy, Kiara, Annabelle and Grace.  
Star Players: Mia and Zara.

When we arrived, we did some passing, then it was time for our first match against Cunningham Hill. We won 9-0 with great teamwork. Zara scored 7 in this match with Mia scoring 1 and then there was an own goal. We had breaks between each match. Our second game was against Green Lanes. The score was 4-1 and Nancy scored 1 and Mia scored 3 in that game. The next match was against Stormont, but sadly we lost 4-2. Grace and Zara scored our goals. Then we got into the semi-finals against Cranborne and we won with Zara scoring 2, Kiara scoring 1 and Annabel scoring 1. That meant we got into the final against Stormont and we won 4-1 with Zara scoring 3 and Kiara scoring 1. We won a gold medal each and a trophy and we would like to thank Mrs Southall for supporting us.

*-Kiara and Mia*



### Year 6 Boys District Football – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April

Team: Lucas, Marcus, Burt, Freddie, Ted, Kyle, Jacob, Finley, Finley and Teddy  
Star players: Lucas and Jacob

Well done to our Year 6 boys who competed against 7 other teams in our district. Our boys came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall, winning 6 games and losing 2-0 against Brookmans Park, who came 1<sup>st</sup> place. The boys played with determination and great teamwork and we are very proud of their achievements.





# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School

Newsletter – April 2026



## K Club Stationery Shop

Thank you to everyone for supporting the recent K Club stationery sale. Together we've raised over £360 which will be donated to Isabel Hospice.

## PTFA Year 5 Cake Sale

Well done to Year 5 for baking and donating cakes for the Year 5 Cake Sale. Thank you to everyone who bought a delicious cake and helped raise a fantastic £217.

## Next Page Book Fair Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who came along and purchased a book at the Next Page book sale. Thanks to your support we raised £84 to be used to purchase some new books for our reading corners.

## Diversity Group Book Recommendations

We marked Science week at the end of Spring term 2 and the world watched in awe as NASA's Artemis II took four astronauts the furthest into space and around the moon. Whether you are interested in space or the natural world around you, here are some books to help you explore science.



- Awesome space facts for kids by John Hick.
- Did You Know? 100 Crazy Facts For Kids About Space by Lily Cunnigham.
- Usborne Lift the flap Look Inside Space Book by Rob Lloyd Jones.





# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School

Newsletter – April 2026



- The Book of Brilliant Bugs (The Magic and Mystery of the Natural World) by Jess French and Claire McElfrack.
- Nature: Fascinating Facts You Never Knew About the Natural World! (Oh No They Aren't) by Eric Huang and Sam Caldwell.
- The Mysteries of the Universe: Discover the best-kept secrets of space (DK Children's Anthologies) By Will Gater.

## Raising money for school

If you shop online you could be raising funds for our lovely school – at no extra cost to you!

- **LoveReading4kids.co.uk** sell a range of children's books at competitive prices, and the good news for us is that, if you nominate Welwyn St Mary's, 25% of the cover price will be given to us to spend with them on new books for our school library.
- **Easyfundraising.org.uk** – by going through this website to then purchase at other retailers, you can nominate Welwyn St Mary's to receive a percentage of the cost of your items (e.g. 4% at Argos, 2% at John Lewis, 9% at M&S).

## 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.





# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School

## Newsletter – April 2026



### Absence Reporting

Please call or email by 9am on each day of your child's absence. Please can we ask that you advise us of the symptoms of any illness rather than just "feeling unwell" so that we can accurately record and monitor this.

### 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.

[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.

### 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.





# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School

## Newsletter – April 2026



### 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.'

### 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)

<b>2026 Summer Term</b>	
Mon 4th May 2026	Bank holiday – school closed
Fri 22nd May 2026	INSET day – school closed
Mon 25th to Fri 29th May 2026	Half term
Saturday 4th July 2026	PTFA Summer BBQ
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	PTFA Break the rules day
Wed 22nd July 2026	Last day of school – Rec & KS1 1.15pm, KS2 1.20pm

