



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter - July end of term 2021

Value

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

"Respect people's feelings. Even if it doesn't mean anything to you, it could mean everything to them."
J. Johnson

Thank you

Thank you to all our families for your support this year as we have travelled together in difficult times. It is wonderful to look back and see how much your children have achieved in many areas of school life. Well done children, families and staff.

End of term arrangements

Summer term ends on Friday 16th July. We will stagger finish times as follows:

Year 6	1.10 pm	Year 2	1.20 pm
Year 5	1.15 pm	Year 1	1.15 pm
Year 4	1.20 pm	Reception	1.10 pm

After School Club will finish at 4.20 pm.

September arrangements

When the children return to school in September, we will move back to our old start and finish times, with a slightly staggered start for Reception. Please see below for the times. Key Stage 2 children may meet parents in the Key Stage 1 playground at the end of the day if they have younger siblings.

Drop off

KS2 8.35 am (gate closing at 8.45 am)
 Year 1 and 2 8.45 am (door closing at 8.55 am)
 Reception 8.50 am (gate closing at 9.00 am)

Pick up

Reception 3.00 pm
 KS1 3.05 pm
 KS2 3.10 pm

We would like to continue with our loop arrangements for both KS1 and KS2 to ease congestion. The one way loops will flow freely with no wait times and will enable those families who wish to, have extra space. It is important we respect and care for those who remain vulnerable. We will continue to be pedestrians only on site for families for all our safety and for less air pollution. This means no drive through drop off please.





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To reduce congestion and improve safety within school grounds, the drop-off zone will remain out of use. Please do walk to school wherever possible, or use the carparks in the village to "park and stride". This has a number of benefits to physical and mental health as well as the improved air quality around our school.

We will resume normal assemblies, shared play areas, clubs and the shared use of our dining room from September. We will still be very careful over good ventilation and good hygiene practices.

PE kits will be worn to school on PE days please and we will send days out to you in September. For the Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September it will be full school uniform please.

Farewell to Year 6

We are very sorry to say goodbye to this year's Year 6. They always were a remarkable group of children but their resilience and fortitude during the pandemic has been nothing short of outstanding. They have continued to achieve across the board and adapted amazingly well to routines we had never even heard of two years ago. In many ways they have grown stronger and it has been lovely to see how they have built great friendships supporting each other in class and beyond. They have made history and, in years to come, people will marvel on how these children lived with restrictions and yet continued to thrive cheerfully.

We wish every member of Year 6 every success for the future as they all deserve it. The recent Year 6 golf event for girls was organised by 'This Girl Can'. I would extend that to all our Year 6 by saying 'These Children Can'. They are super able and have the right attitude to take on every future challenge. Good luck to them all.

Farewell to staff

Mrs Stripe

Thanks to Mrs Stripe for 27 years of kindness and care. Hands up who has Mrs Stripe helped in any way? First aid, hearing them read or helping with their work? What a lot of people. If we said it was 200 pupils every year then that is 5,400 altogether and even then that may not include everyone. What a wonderful record to have Mrs Stripe and for that alone you are awarded a WSM medal.

Mrs McKenna

Thank you to Mrs McKenna for 16 years of excellent teaching and leading our art - especially the mosaics. We will miss her very much and we owe her a huge thank you for all she has done for Welwyn St Mary's. The amazing Year 5 dances, dancing in SMART herself, great class assemblies, all the art competitions, being fun to work with and working so hard.

Mrs Platt

Thank you Mrs Platt for 17 years of amazing teaching and a fantastic love of history. We also owe her a huge thank you for all she has done. Being a great Year 6 teacher, going on PGL, organizing excellent trips like Duxford and RAF Hendon, taking time to listen, helping people with problems, making beautiful displays and creating such a lovely classroom to learn in.





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Ms Anstey



Ms Anstey has taught here for twenty five years. She is an amazing teacher. She has also:

- ✓ organized all our RE teaching brilliantly
- ✓ taught across both key stages 1 and 2 in school
- ✓ run all the reading scheme books
- ✓ been an expert handwriting teacher
- ✓ organized brilliant Music Evenings
- ✓ sung in our choir
- ✓ helped all the other teachers with advice and expertise
- ✓ helped keep you all safe
- ✓ organized hundreds of playtime and lunchtime rotas
- ✓ given excellent assemblies
- ✓ produced the highest quality Christmas productions
- ✓ helped hundreds, if not thousands, of pupil reach their best
- ✓ organized all of Key Stage 1 brilliantly
- ✓ including 25 fabulous Sports Days

Summer wedding

Congratulations to Miss O'Keeffe who is getting married over the summer holidays. From September she will be known as Mrs O'Smith.

Pig visit



In Year 4 we have been reading Sheep Pig by Dick King Smith. We enjoyed the book so much and decided to spend our class budget from the school governors and School Council on a pig visit. The pigs were called Miracle and Ella. It was so exciting. We got to go in the pigs' cage and could stroke them, feed them and scratch them. It was so much fun!

Teddy and Elisa

Ark Farm visit for Year 1



Year 1 were very excited to welcome animals from Ark Farm. Star guests were a barn owl and a pygmy hedgehog. Thank you to School Council and governors for this end of term treat.





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Nature Day

Well done Green Group and Mrs Mather for inspiring us to respect our lovely planet during Nature Day and thereafter. Children throughout the school took part in a range of nature activities and discussions focussing on how we can appreciate and support wildlife. Plus, we raised an enormous £534 to buy plants for school and to support the World Wild Life Fund. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Reception Police visit



Reception were lucky enough to have a visit from PCSO Anne in July. Anne showed the children her equipment and discussed how it could be used. She then taught the children ways to stay safe, for example explaining who to ask for help if they are lost. Anne encouraged the children to try on her high-visibility jacket and hat. They then got to see the police car and hear the siren. The children had a go at holding the shield and being a police officer. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Sports Day



The children had a wonderful time and that is our main focus for these events. Congratulations to Saxons and Romans for winning the KS1 and KS2 events respectively.

Nature Reserve competition



Congratulations to Toby in MN2 and Jess in P6 who were picked as the winning designs for the science competition of creating a new door for the Nature Reserve. Mrs Rogers is going to take their designs to paint and create the new door.

We look forward to sharing images of the new door new year.





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Year 6 activity day



Handwriting competition winners

Well done to all children who entered the handwriting competition. The standard was very high this year. Congratulations to our winners:

Value/Class	Winner	Most Improved	Special Mention
Friendship/LR	Mmesoma	Max	
Friendship/MR	Millie	Ethan	Seren and Thomas
Forgiveness/M1	Juliet	Michelle	Jamie
Forgiveness/CD1	Tara	Callum	Harry
Perseverance/AT2	Logan	Penelope	
Respect/MN2	Isla	Sam	
Thankfulness/S3	Sophia	Billy	
Truthfulness/BC3	Preston	Teddy	Matthew
Generosity/A4	Olivia	Edward	Jenson
Courage/O4	Lotty	George	
Compassion/MJ5	Ellie	Maja	
Trust/A5	Riley	Reece	
Service/P6	Scarlett	Brendan	
Justice/HT6	Ruby	James	

End of year prizes

Year 2 prize winners:

Attainment: Fred C and Toby M

Progress: Isla D and Poppy T

Year 4 prize winners:

Melissa C- excellent progress in maths English and reading

Tianna- excellent progress in reading

Charlie W- excellent progress in reading

Nicholas W- great progress in maths and reading





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George C for excellent progress with his writing

Memmy Y for great progress in maths.

Martha W for great progress in writing.

Anabelle C for great progress in maths.

Year 6 prize winners:

Attainment: Jess H P6

Progress: Manuka HT6

English: Lucas B P6

Maths: Ahrin HT6

PE: Hermione HT6 and Lucas W HT6

Overall contribution to school: James HT6 (sport, music and citizenship) and Eliza P6

Citizenship: Millie HT6 and Brendan P6

Values: Josh K HT6 and Amber P6

Music: Leah G P6

Art: Annelise HT6

Great attitudes to learning: Freddie C P6 and Robin HT6

July and August Birthdays

Congratulations to all who celebrate in July and August:

Ellis, Iris, Laura, Nia, Madeleine, William, Catherine, Tommy, Emily, Liahna, Sophie, Anna, Dylan, Violet, Bryan, Charlotte, Finn, Florence, Jacob, Evelyn, Willow, Joseph, Camilla, Lilia, Aaryan, Saina, Robin, Freddie, Mollie, Katie, Edward, Catherine, Annabel, Victor, Dylan, Riley, James, Maximus, Aiden, Esme, Amelie, Arabella, Martha, Reece, Ella, Evie, Lucas, Alana, Lily, Elena-Carolyne, Marcus, Dylan, Montgomery, Faris, Melissa, Billy, Thomas, Yarden, Ria, Arabella, Zara, Logan, Maximus, Poppy, Khian, Kanishk, Alice, Poppy, Lily, Fletcher, Elsie, Alessio, Matthew, Alice, Miss Blyth, Miss Bryant, Mrs Crofts, Mr O'Neill, Mrs Porter, Mrs Read, and Mrs Westley.

Attendance Award

Congratulations to MJ5 who have won the July attendance award.

MJ5 98.45%

AT2 98.35%

BC3 97.75%

CD1 97.6%

LR 97.5%

The overall winners for this academic year were A4. Very well done.

A4 98.55%

MJ5 97.85%

BC3 97.8%

MN2 97.5%

AT2 97.45%





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Mosaic Project

We are pleased to share with you the photos of our mosaics that were created to represent all of our school values. Thank you to School Fund and PTFA for supporting this financially.



House Points

1 st place	Normans	2125
2 nd place	Saxons	1950
3 rd place	Romans	1879
4 th place	Vikings	1210

Well done to all Normans.

Summer holiday work

We are delighted to say the following work is booked for the summer holiday. Thank you Mr Stockton. New windows for the hall and upper floor in quad (this completes the whole school), new roof for the Garden Room (we were lucky enough to get a grant for this), repairs to hall and corridor roof and the hall interior being painted.





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Summer Learning Support

Oak National Academy have provided online learning resources and lessons during the pandemic, and they have produced a programme of support over the summer. There are lessons covering a range of subjects which you may like to access over the holiday period. Please visit: oaknat.uk/summerhelp to see what is available.

Library

Welwyn Community Library is now open 4 days a week in the Civic Centre. There's a good choice of books for both adults and children to borrow and it's free to belong. Pop in and find out about the Summer Reading Challenge 2021. It's open to children of any age - stickers, a certificate and medal can be collected for reading 6 library books over the summer holidays.

Findings from parental survey

A very big thank you to all of you who kindly completed our annual parental survey. We had 237 respondents. We value your opinions and welcome your feedback. Thank you too for your lovely comments.

You told us:

My child is happy at this school	97%
My child feels safe at this school	100%
My child is making good progress at this school	97%
This school ensures my child is well looked after	98%
My child is well taught at this school	98%
This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	99.1%
This school has high expectations of my child	95.3%
This school deals with any cases of bullying effectively	92%
When I have raised concerns they have been dealt with properly	93.7%
This school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	91.6%
I receive valuable information from this school about my child's progress	86%
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	96.7%
My child can take part in clubs and activities in this school	93.3%
This school supports my child's wider development	91.6%
This school is well led and managed	97.1% (76.4% strongly agree)
I would recommend this school to another parent	95.4%

Some of you also said:

- You would welcome more feedback on your child's progress
- You would like more clubs
- You would like a wider menu choice at lunchtime
- You would have preferred no class mixing this time
- You would have liked to have been able to watch Sports' Day

What we are going to do:





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- Return to our full reporting programme, as per pre-COVID 19, with three written reports a year and not two as this year due to Lockdown.
- Amplify our termly leaflets with Knowledge Organisers for all year groups. These will include key teaching vocabulary for all main areas your child will be taught.
- Return to our pre-COVID 19 club provision and try to build in more for KS1.
- Return to our full menu choice, as per pre-COVID 19, now that we can use our dining room again from September.
- Fully support all pupils in their transition to their new classes

Covid-19 information

If your child develops Covid-19 symptoms please notify the school at the earliest opportunity - admin@welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk - and also notify us of the results of PCR tests. This is **ESSENTIAL** so that we can carry out our track and trace actions should others need to isolate as a result. A reminder that Lateral Flow Tests should NOT be used on Primary age children, and should NOT be used if you have Covid-19 symptoms.

To protect our whole school and particularly our extremely vulnerable families, please do not send your child into school if:

- they have Covid symptoms
- anyone in your household has Covid symptoms
- anyone in your household, including your child, has had a test and is awaiting results

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.

Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

For every child registered for Pupil Premium, the school receive additional funding which is spent on raising the attainment of those pupils. If you are entitled to Pupil Premium funding, your child could access a range of additional benefits, including extra help in class, additional resources, items of uniform, free school trips and visits and one free club per term.

If you think that you might be eligible for free school meals and are not currently registered, please complete the simple online application form which can be found at: www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals Once you have registered your child, please inform the school office.





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Diary Dates - all subject to Covid guidance

	Summer Term 2021
16 th July	End of term
19 th - 22 nd July	INSET days - school closed
	Autumn Term 2021
1 st September	INSET day - school closed
2 nd September	Autumn term commences
25 th - 29 th October	Half term holiday
15 th & 16 th December	Pantomime trip - Campus West
17 th December	Term ends at 1.20 pm
20 th - 21 st December	INSET days - school closed
	Spring Term 2022
5 th January	INSET day - school closed
6 th January	Spring term commences
14 th - 18 th February	Half term holiday
1 st April	Term ends at 1.20 pm
	Summer Term 2022
19 th April	Summer term commences
30 th May - 3 rd June	Half term holiday
24 th June	INSET day - school closed
27 th June	Occasional day - school closed
14 th July	Secondary transition day
22 nd July	Term ends at 1.20 pm

