



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter – February 2023

Value

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

"When you forgive you don't change the past, but you do change the future"

Bernard Meltzer

"Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you"

Ephesians 4: 32

Mrs Howard's baby news

We are delighted to share with you the good news of the safe arrival of Mrs Howard's baby son, Jacques.

Bracelet sale

Thank you to everyone who bought a bracelet from us. We had a great time making and selling them. We raised an amazing £230 for the Ukrainian Humanitarian Appeal.

We thank our parents for helping us to sell the bracelets.

- Alex, Annabelle, Evie and Poppy



Packed lunches

Packed lunches should be healthy and well balanced. Sandwiches, or wraps, should contain a protein item (meat, fish, cheese etc). Fruit and vegetables or salad should be included. Items containing sugar, such as cakes and biscuits to be kept to one item only please. Sweets, chocolate bars and fizzy drinks are not allowed. No nuts please as we have a number of children with severe nut allergies.

Road safety

We are aware that there have been incidences of cars parking inconsiderately and illegally on the hatched areas on Ottway Walk. The local police have been advised. Please take care when using the roads around our school as they can be busy which can pose a risk to all pedestrians and especially our younger children. We will do our best to get out on duty as often as we can and we have asked our local police team to visit when they are able to, but we cannot be outside every day. We need to rely on parents to do the right thing.

Year 5 Maths challenge

On Tuesday 21st February, Eashaan, Aanvi, Yarden and Oliver stayed after school for a maths challenge. 225 teams participated in the challenge. We worked very well as a team. At the start, the questions were really hard, but surprisingly the end ones were easier. We would like to thank Mr Anstey for letting us compete in this event.



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Newsletter – February 2023

Reception and year 1 dance workshop

On February 2nd, Reception and Year 1 had a dance workshop from DH Dance Academy. We warmed up by playing some dance games to get our muscles ready for dancing. Miss Hayley taught the children a dance to a song from the Lion King and Matilda respectively. The children learnt the actions and showed enthusiasm as they danced. We are really thankful to DH Dance Academy for providing such an enjoyable session.

Reception reflected on what they had enjoyed about the session.

Jamie said, "We danced to the Lion King Song".

Frances said, "I enjoyed the roar".

Megan said, "I loved dancing round and round"

Freddie said, "I liked doing the Lion King song and I danced it at home too"

Year 1 also enjoyed their dance.

Teddy said, "I liked the music because I've seen the film. At the end we said, 'we're revolting!'"

Penelope said, "I like where we said, 'our power'. My power was to make people better".

Sophie G said, "We pretended we had magic powers".

Ralphie said, "I liked the criss-cross with my feet when we were dancing".

Year 5 - Woodhall Estate Trip



On Thursday 23rd February we went on a year 5 school trip to the Woodhall Estate near Hertford. When we arrived, we were greeted by our guides who talked us through the day. Our first activity was a quiz. We went around to find posts with facts and information about creatures to help us answer the questions. Next, we got some equipment and started minibeast hunting. We used magnifying glasses and pots and sheets to document our findings. After searching for a while, we went on to our next activity; planting trees. We planted acorns, chestnuts and some saplings. Next, we had our lunch. We ate our lunch on a tarpaulin and went on adventures for a while. After lunch we went to make some necklaces and keyrings etc, out of wood with holes drilled in it. After tidying up we finished off our lovely day with some den building. Thank you to all the adults that came with us and thank you to all the people at Woodhall Estate for such a fun day.

- Sienna and Olivia

Year 2 Forest School

Year Two have been enjoying their Forest School sessions with Mrs Farrington this term. They have been learning how to be safe at forest school and how to look after the plants and animals in the nature reserve. They have used their observational skills to look for signs of wildlife in the nature reserve and have used identification sheets and books to identify the birds living around our school. They have taken part in the Big





Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter – February 2023

School birdwatch and made pine cone bird feeders to encourage more birds into our school grounds. This week we have been looking for signs of Spring and have spotted bird nests, catkins and buds on the trees. We are looking forward to seeing what animals are living in our nature reserve when we put up a camera trap. We are also working towards the RSPB Wild Challenge. We would like to thank the parents and staff who have volunteered to enable our sessions to take place, if there are any parents who would like to help with future sessions, please contact Mrs Farrington via the school office. If anyone has any spare equipment such as binoculars, gardening tools or nature books to donate, they would be gratefully received.

Please note there is no forest school from 27th February to 10th March. There is no need to send in Forest School equipment as children will be in class as normal.

Year 3 Greek Day

A wonderful day was had by all. The children thoroughly enjoyed stepping back in time to discover what life was like in Ancient Greece.

- "It was the best day ever! My favourite activity was making a plate out of clay." Renos
- "It was so much fun. I learnt how to make a wax tablet. This is what Ancient Greek people used to write things down." Ellis
- "I enjoyed dressing up and doing the play in the afternoon. People in Ancient Greek times used to love going to the theatre." Annabel

Thank you to all of our parent helpers who supported this exciting day.

Thinking day

We supported Girlguiding in celebrating Thinking Day on Wednesday 22nd February by inviting all our children who are part of our local Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Cubs, Beavers and Scouts units to wear their Girlguiding or Scouting uniform to school. Thank you to all the children for taking part – they look very smart in their uniforms.





Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter – February 2023

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 2nd March**. On this day, we would like all children to bring their favourite book in to school and children may dress up as a book character for the day if they wish (no football kits please). We would love to see homemade costumes and do not expect parents to go to the expense of buying new costumes.

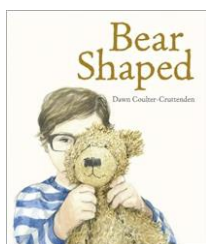
Children will take part in reading themed activities throughout the day, including peer reading, guess the book character, dressing their classroom doors as a front cover of a book... and so much more. There will also be a few reading related competitions running.

On the day, every child will receive a £1 book token.

Book recommendation

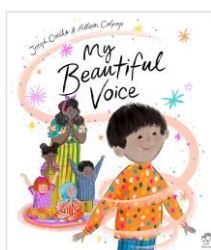
As part of our ongoing work on diversity and inclusion, each month we will be suggesting a selection of books to share and enjoy with your children.

This month's book recommendations:



Bear Shaped by Dawn Coulter-Cruttenden

Jack and Bear were best friends. They did everything together. They went everywhere together. But one day, Bear just disappeared ... This inspiring picture book about learning to let go is based on the true story of a family's public search for a missing toy.



My Beautiful Voice by Joseph Coelho

A moving, lyrical picture book about a shy child unlocking the power of their own voice through poetry, with the helping hand of an extra special teacher.

These books are currently available at Welwyn Library for you to borrow, along with several other titles that celebrate diversity and inclusion, including *My Hair* by Hannah Lee, *The Boy with the Butterfly Mind* by Victoria Williamson and *The Star Outside my Window* by Onjali Q Rauf. Happy Reading!





Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter – February 2023

Decorated Egg Competition

Each year Welwyn St Mary's holds a decorated egg competition. Children are invited to use either hard boiled or blown eggs and to decorate them in a unique way. Prizes will be awarded for each year group and for an adult section too. Judges will be looking for creativity and imagination. Accessories may be used.

Please bring all entries to school between 20th and 22nd March. Judging will take place on 23rd March. Your child should speak with their teacher who will tell them where to place their eggs and give them an entry form to complete with their name, year group and the name of their egg. The winners will be announced in assembly on 24th March and all eggs should be taken home that evening. Parents are welcome to come into school to view the eggs between 3.20pm and 3.40pm on Thursday 23rd March.

Cross Country – 4th February

Team names: Elsie, Ella, Yarden, Douglas, Thomas, Oliver & Kitty

Well done to our team for all their efforts in the Hertfordshire Athletics Association Cross Country event on Saturday 6th February at St Albans. In a very tough, competitive field our seven intrepid runners fought all the way to the finish line. The timings were very close amongst the top 20 runners in each age group. A huge well done to Kitty, Ella, Yarden, Thomas, Douglas, Oliver W, and Elsie for all their efforts. Congratulations to Kitty who came 15th just 30 seconds behind the winner.

- Mrs Southall

Year 6 Tag Rugby – 8th February

Team names: Masie, Antonia, Zoe, Alfie, Lotty, Darcey, Leo, Jamie, Sammy, Jake, Rafiq, Laney, Evie, Mollie, Martha, Anabelle, Charlie, Daniel, Dylan & Teddy



On Wednesday 8th of February, a group of year 6 boys and girls went to a tag rugby festival at Welwyn Rugby Club. The team was split into their classes to make two teams. The festival was not a competition but everyone had great team spirit and was very encouraging. Both teams played five games and there were around six other schools. We want to thank Mr Gauden, Mr Munday and Mrs Soppett-Moss for arranging it and being brilliant coaches.





Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter - February 2023

Multi-sport - 9th February

Team names: Ruben, Tegan, Calum, Jenson, Tianna, Jonathan, Daniel, Ollie

Star Player: Ollie



It was an enjoyable trip to Ridgeway Academy where we played activities set by the Monk's Walk coaches. There was also lots of experiences players in the event. The Monk's Walk coaches set up a couple of activities which included table tennis, badminton, curling, parkour and speed stacking. Ruben was the fastest at speed stacking with a high score of nine seconds. We all played happily together. We'd like to thank Mrs Southall for making this happen.

- Daniel and Jonathan

District Rapid Fire Cricket - 10th February

Team names: Masie, Jack, Olivia, Fred, Bailey, Betsy, Sam and Poppy M

Star Player: Fred for generosity and teamwork.



On Friday 10th February 2023 a group in year 4 went to Ridgeway Academy for a cricket competition. We were against nine schools. We won two matches, lost one and drew one. We came second in our group. We also competed in the third-place match but sadly we lost. So, we came 4th overall. We all worked very well together and it was great fun doing it. We would like to thank Mrs Rogers and Mr Gauden for taking us.

- Masie and Jack

Year 6 Indoor Athletics - 24th February

Team names: Benjamin, Antonia, Zoe, Sammy, Corey, Rafiq, Ryan, Evie, Elsie, Mollie, Alice, Teddy Sophie, Kye, Scott, Tommy, Anabelle, Charlie, Mia, Ella

On Friday 24th February lots of people from year 6 entered a sporting event. We were against eight schools and we played around four events each. The score was counted by stopwatch and some Monk's Walk students helped us with that. At the end of the event, we didn't know the score because there were more schools competing in the afternoon. On Monday we found out that we came 4th. We all worked well as a team and that made it even more fun us. Everyone was cheering each other on at the hardest moments. We would like to say thank you to Mr Gauden and Miss Mills for taking us. Also, each other in the team for not giving up.

- Evie and Mollie





Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter – February 2023

January birthdays

Happy birthday to all who celebrated in January:

Jamie, Scarlett, Mia, Chelsea, Chloe, Samuel, Corey, Nysha, Charlotte, Isabelle, Isabelle, Reid, James, Oscar, Henry, Max, Elsie, Jamie, Kye, Preston, George, Callum, Teddy, Ella, Alex, Ted, Raffi, Cyril, Miss Bradshaw, Mrs Soppett-Moss, Mrs Moate, Mrs Castiglione

Severe weather procedures

Should we need to close due to severe weather, we will inform parents via Parentmail and we will keep our website up to date.

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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Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter - February 2023

Diary Dates

		Spring Term 2023
3 rd March		Year 2 class assembly
10 th March		The Speaker's Cup - KS2
17 th March		Reception PTFA cake sale
21 st March		Year 5 Dance Festival (evening)
23 rd March	1.30pm	Year 6 Church visit
24 th March		Reception class assembly
29 th March	8.45 - 10.30am	School Family Worker Coffee Morning - Garden Room
30 th March	9.30am	Whole School Easter service at St Mary's Church
31 st March	1.20pm	Term ends
		Summer Term 2023
17 th April		Term commences
18 th April		Year 5 Chiltern Open Air Museum Trip
9 th - 12 th May		Year 6 SATs week
15 th May	9.15-11.30	Understanding Anxiety in Children Workshop Part 1
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 6 GoConstruct K'Nex Challenge
24 th May	8.45 - 10.30am	School Family Worker Coffee Morning - Garden Room
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
14 th June		Year 4 Verulamium Visit
16 th June		Year 2 PTFA cake sale
16 th June		KS2 French day
23 rd June		INSET day - school closed
26 th June		INSET day - school closed
28 th June	8.45 - 10.30am	School Family Worker Coffee Morning - Garden Room
20 th July		Year 6 Leavers' Eucharist at St Mary's Church
21 st July	1.20pm	Term ends

