



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter - February 2024

Value

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

"Follow justice and justice alone, so that you may live and possess the land the Lord your God is giving you."
- Deuteronomy 16:20

Governing body changes

We are delighted to let you know that Mr Clements (Dad of Reception, Year 1 and Year 3 children) has come forward to volunteer as our new parent governor replacing Prof. Castle who has sadly stepped down from our Governing Body. We thank Prof. Castle for everything that he has done for Welwyn St Mary's over the years.

Year 3 & 4 performance

On the 31st January and 1st February, Year 3 and 4 did a production of Hoodwinked based on Robin Hood. We only had a few weeks to rehearse but we still made it amazing! We enjoyed doing the play and lots of parents came to watch. We had a lot of pressure on us but we still did the best we could. We were very thankful that everybody learnt their lines in time for the show. The parents loved the show and we had lots of fun. The lead roles were Maid Marian, the Sheriff and Robin Hood played by Alba, Poppy W and Freddie. They were amazing actors. We want to thank Mr Parker and Toby who helped with the lights and microphones and music. We would also like to thank the teachers of Year 3 and 4 for planning it out for us and setting up the whole play.

- Harriet, Iris, Nicole Lucas, Fin and Harry



Thank you to everyone that came along to support the children, I'm sure you will agree they did a fabulous job. Your generous donations raised a total of **£714** which will be split between DEC Ukraine and Walser's Tanzania Charity - Thank you!

Upcoming events

PTFA Mother's Day Gift Shop

Children who have pre-paid will visit the Mother's Day gift shop on the **5th and 6th of March**.

World Book Day

We look forward to celebrating World Book Day on **7th March**. Please check your Parentmail for more details on how we will be celebrating in school.

Next Page Books

We will be holding another book fair by Next Page Books on **14th March 2024**. Details to follow.

Reception Class Assembly

Our Reception class will be holding their class assembly to parents on **Friday 15th March**. Reception parents, please check Parentmail to confirm if you'll be attending.

Year 2 Cake Sale

Year 2 PTFA Cake Sale will be taking place on **Friday 15th March** on the KS1 playground afterschool. Please pop by to purchase some yummy treats.

Last day of term

A reminder that we have an early finish on the last day of term, **Thursday 28th March**. Please arrange to collect your child at 1.15pm for Rec/KS1, and 1.20pm for KS2. ASC 4.20pm.





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Uniform Policy

Thank you very much to the majority of our parents who are sending children into school wearing correct, smart uniform. Our school uniform is simple and practical to keep the children looking smart and contribute to the feeling of belonging to the school. The full uniform policy is available on the school website www.welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk/parents/school-uniform/

Please ensure that all items of clothing are labelled with your child's name. This includes coats which are often taken off in the playground during break times and are very difficult to reunite with their owners without a name. Thank you.

KS1 Festival of words

On Friday 9th February 2024, KS1 did a festival of words. First LR did a poem about a turtle and they were loud and confident. Secondly, CNR did a poem called 'Hey Diddle' by Michael Rosen. They did very well even though they are quite young. After that, DOS1 did a poem called 'A Little bit of Food' and they used lots of expression and good actions. Then, B1 did a poem called 'Morning Rush' which was so funny. They also were in groups so it was different from the other poems. H2 did the 'Homework Machine' and they did lots of actions and used instruments. Finally, BC2 did 'I Wish I had a Dragon' and it was very funny and expressive.
- Maisie JT5

K Club foodbank

K Club carried out a collection for our local Welwyn Garden City Foodbank during the week of 12th February. There were many kind donations from our school community and these will help many families in need. Thank you for your donations!



Games for After School Club

If you have any board games which you are looking to recycle, our After School Club would be very pleased to receive donations. We have plenty of jigsaw puzzles, but are looking for board games which would be suitable for any of our age groups. Please drop your donations in to the school office and we will pass them on. All donations should be in good condition, without missing pieces. Thank you.





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Welwyn Sustainability Fair

Green group members displayed some of their recycled artwork at the Welwyn Sustainability Fair on Sunday 25th February. It took pride of place on the stage and helped make the event extremely successful with over 200 visitors!



2024 Whole School Panto Trip

Save the date! We are pleased to announce we will be going on a whole school Pantomime trip to Hertford Theatre on Tuesday 3rd December 2024. Full details to follow nearer the time.

Book recommendation

This month's book recommendations

British Science Week will be celebrated between 8th and 17 March 2024. Join in with these captivating books that ignite curiosity and inspire a love for science in our school children!

Dive into '**The Sea Below My Toes**' by **Charlotte Guillain** for a deep-sea adventure in this illustrated book that takes you on a journey through the deep dark waters, all the way down to the seabed. Spark imagination with the scientific escapades in '**Ada Twist, Scientist**' by **Andrea Beaty**, a book inspired by famous inventor Ada Lovelace.

Written to inspire a new generation of astronauts, **Clive Gifford's** detailed and fact-filled book '**The International Space Station**' will make you think you've visited the space station yourself.

Explore the human body with '**Gut Garden**' by **Kate Brosnan**. A journey into the wonderful world of your microbiome. Within our bodies hides an entire world of organisms called microbes. They digest our food and protect our immune systems.

Venture into the world of medicine with '**Marie Curie and Her Daughters**' by **Imogen Greenberg**. Young minds will discover the joy of learning through exploration and discovery.

Check your local library for copies of these books.





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Sherrardswood cross country - December 2023

Team names: Thomas, Douglas, Max, Riley, Zac, Finley, Freddie, Kitty, LouLou, Lottie, Ella, Yarden, Lucas, Fred, Faris, Billy, Rene, Charlie, Zara, Mia, Amelie, Orla, Betsy, Mia, Caitlin

On a slightly wet but lively afternoon our intrepid team of runners braved the course over fields and hills. The determination and stamina was evident from all. The other 10 schools were as nervously excited as we were. We had some memorable moments such as one of our runners completing the second half of the course in only one shoe - she still came 12th out of 30 runners.

The headliners were Finley W for coming 1st and Freddie 7th in the Year 4 race. Our Year 4 team came first overall. Fred and Orla coming 3rd and 2nd respectively in the Year 5 races. Our Year 6s, experienced from last year, did exceptionally well. Thomas, 2nd, Douglas, 3rd, Riley 5th and Max 6th gave us first place in the boys race. Kitty, 1st, Ella 2nd, Loulou 11th and Lottie R 12th earned us first place in the Year 6 girls race.

Overall we came joint first with Brookman's Park. Well done to all the runners - you are truly inspirational.

- Mrs Southall



Indoor Athletics - 15th January

Team names: Edward, Toby, Jack, Faris, Jack, Alex, Tomos, Alessio, Teddy, Fred, Tommy, Charlie, Sam, Sebby, Bailey, Neave, Caitlin, Mia, Isla, Poppy, Olga, Orla, Camilla, Amelie, Sophie, Betsy, Connie, Emilia, Scarlett, Maisie

At Stanborough on Monday 15th January the indoor athletics event had a lot of different running races, throwing events (javelin and chest pass) and jumping events (speed bounce, triple jump, vertical jump and standing long jump). On a whole, the boys did better at track events and the girls did better on field events. The boys won the six lap paarlauf, over under relay and the four times one relay. The girls won obstacle relay, speed bounce and came second in vertical jump. Everyone was very supportive towards each other. Scarlet was showing great teamwork. Tomos was very good at the triple jump. Faris was losing but fought back to win. Olga did standing long jump and was able to reach national competition distance for her age. Charlie B and Jack got national competition distance for javelin at their age.

- Amelie and Faris





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Table Tennis Tournament - 11th February

Team names: George, Ethan, Ava, Douglas, Maximus, Zac, Eashaan, Kitty, Charlie, Jake, Amelie, Faris, Logan, Wyatt, Tomos

On Sunday 11th February some of our children attended a table tennis event. The event co-ordinator had lovely feedback about our children:

Boys U11 Event: This year's competition was particularly challenging, with England's national ranks 6, 8, and 16 competing. Each player participated in a minimum of 4 matches, and there were 35 boys in the U11 event.

Girls U11 Event: Similarly, the girls' U11 event featured a minimum of 4 matches and had 10 participants. Notably, Kitty performed exceptionally well, and Amelie showed great promise.

We would also like to mention the amazing efforts displayed by all the children and would like to recognise that Douglas played against a player ranked 8th nationally and who won the event. George played against the final runner-up and Charlie B played against someone who reached the semi-finals. Well done to Max and Zac who came 3rd in their groups. A fabulous event and here's to next year.

- Mrs Southall

Girls Football Fixture - 13th February

Team names: Amelie, Kitty, Scarlett, Betsy, Ella, Isabelle, Francesca, Arabella, Camilla

On Tuesday 13th February, some Year 5 and 6 children played a match against Sherrardswood school. During the first quarter Kitty and Arabella were on the bench and Ella scored a great goal. In the second quarter Camilla and Ella were on the bench and Amelie scored two goals. In the third quarter Kitty and Scarlett were on the bench and nobody scored. We would like to thank Mr Gauden and Mr Murphy for supporting us.

- Betsy and Amelie

Girls Football Tournament - 16th February

Team names: Kitty, Scarlett, Amelie, Betsy, Ava, Ella, Dulcie, Daisy, Dia, Olivia

On Friday 16th February 2024 some Year 5 and 6 girls went to Ridgeway Academy for a football tournament. On our first match we played Brookmans Park, nobody scored, it ended 0-0. On the second game we played Applecroft. Amelie scored two and Kitty scored one. The final score was 3-0. On our third game we played De Havilland, Kitty scored one goal and we won 1-0. On the fourth game against Commonswood both Kitty and Dulcie scored. In the final game against Our Lady, Kitty and Amelie scored one each so we won the whole tournament. Betsy did not let any goals in throughout the tournament. Amelie scored three goals.

- Betsy and Amelie





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February birthdays

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated in February:

Reuben, Jamie, Scarlett, Chelsea, Chloe, Samuel, Frederick, Nysha, Charlotte, Izzy, Isabelle, Reid, James, Oscar, Henry, Max, Elsie, Jamie, Preston, Frederick, George, Callum, Teddy, Ella, Alex, Ted, Raffi, Cyril, Mrs Tucker, Miss Popham, Mrs Culkeen, Mrs Harrison, Mrs Bould

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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Diary Dates

Spring Term 2023	
Mon 4th March 2024 - Fri 8th March 2024	PTFA Mother's Day Gift Shop
Thu 7th March 2024	World Book Day
Fri 15th March 2024	Year 2 Cake Sale
Wed 20 th March 2024	Year 5 Countryside Learning Day - Woodhall Estate
Mon 25th March 2024 - Fri 29th March 2024	PTFA Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt
Thu 28th March 2024	Whole school Easter service
Thu 28th March 2024	Terms ends
Summer Term 2024	
Mon 15th April 2024	Term commences
Tue 16th April 2024	Year 4 Faith Tour
Wed 24th April 2024	PTFA Meeting - 7pm
Mon 29 th April 2024	Year 6 GoConstruct KNex Challenge Day
Mon 13 th May 2024 - Thurs 16 th May 2024	KS2 SATs week
Fri 17th May 2024	Year 1 Cake Sale
Wed 22nd May 2024	Class Photos
Thu 23rd May 2024	Sports Day
Mon 27th May 2024 - Fri 31st May 2024	Half term
Mon 3rd June 2024 - Wed 5th June 2024	Year 6 PGL
Mon 10th June 2024 - Fri 14th June 2024	PTFA Father's Day Gift Shop
Fri 14th June 2024	Year 2 Knebworth House
Fri 21st June 2024	INSET day - school closed
Mon 24th June 2024	INSET day - school closed
Thu 27th June 2024	New Reception Parents Meeting
Fri 28th June 2024	Reception Cake Sale
Fri 28th June 2024	Year 3 Celtic Harmony
Sat 29th June 2024	Welwyn Festival Parade
Thu 4th July 2024	Music Evening
Sat 6th July 2024	PTFA Summer BBQ
Wed 10th July 2024	WSM's Talent Show
Wed 10th July 2024	Open Evening - 6pm-7pm
Thurs 11 th July 2024	Budge up day
Wed 17th July 2024	Year 6 Show - 6pm
Thu 18th July 2024	Leavers' service





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Thu 18th July 2024	Year 6 Show - 6pm
Fri 19th July 2024	Terms ends
Mon 22nd July 2024	INSET day - school closed
Tue 23rd July 2024	INSET day - school closed

