



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter – February 2025

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

Year 3 & 4 performance of Dragon Days

Our Year 3 and 4 children have recently taken to the stage and performed a wonderful production of 'Dragon Days'. The story tells the tale of the pretty, alpine village of Stumbledorf (just a short 'trip' away), where the overdramatic villagers await a hero to rescue them from the mythical creature whose presence overshadows their otherwise idyllic mountain home. Just in the nick of time, seemingly in fulfilment of an ancient prophecy given by three wizened old crones, Tommy Rumble and his fearsome mother stumble into Stumbledorf, which causes great excitement.



This was a fabulously dramatic musical with some hilarious one-liners and nine exciting and rather catchy songs that the children loved singing along to. There were some wonderful solos and standout performances and some amazingly choreographed dances and class songs which supported this performance.

The hours of rehearsals, hard work, and determination of the Year 3 and 4 pupils and staff resulted in the musical being a great success. The stellar performance was jam-packed with memorable moments and the audience was enthralled. We are especially grateful to Mrs Crofts, Mrs Dunstan and Ms Webb for all their hard work in pulling this production together and ensuring that it was of such high quality and to all the other teachers and support staff, who worked on props, staging, choreography, costumes and supporting the cast during the performances. Thank you also to Bill Parker and his team for supporting the school with lighting and to one of our Year 5 pupils who supported all the rehearsals and performances with sound production.

Well done and congratulations to all of our pupils and staff for a tremendous production, which parents, carers, friends and family have all enjoyed over three performances! A fantastic £895 was raised for Walser's Tanzania Charity from the retiring collections at the shows. Thank you for your generous support.

Upcoming events

Year 5 Viking Workshop

The year 5 Viking workshop will take place in school on **Monday 3rd March**. Please make payment via Parentmail and complete the volunteering form if you are able to help on the day.

Year 4 Faith Tour

To support and enhance their learning of RE, Year 4 will visit Sikh, Christian and Muslim places of worship in Bedford on **Tuesday 4th March**. Please complete the consent form and make payment via Parentmail.

World book day

We look forward to celebrating World Book Day in school on **Thursday 6th March**. Full details on how we will be celebrating will be sent via Parentmail nearer the day.

PTFA Movie Night

The PTFA will with running two movie nights in March. Book your tickets [here!](#)
Tuesday 11th March - Year 4,5 and 6
Despicable Me 4 (PG)
Tuesday 18th March - Year 1,2 and 3
Moana 2 (PG)





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Staff Changes

This month we welcomed Miss Grieves to the St Mary's team as 1:1 TA support in Reception.

Festival of Words

On the 7th February, Reception and KS1 held the Festival of Words event. This is a poetry recital where each class learns and recites a poem. Mrs Hesketh our Governor for phonics said "This was great fun to watch, from Dinosaur rap to AA Milne, with walrus headdresses, painted sets, many actions, and foot stomping in rhythm. Performances are great, even those younger children who are doing this for the first time, participated with their classmates (some a little shy at times). The amount of hard work of everyone is evident." We would like to thank Mrs Hesketh our Governor for coming and supporting this lovely event and for the teachers for finding such fun and engaging poems for the children to learn.

Speakers Cup

On Friday 14th February, 8 children participated in the Speakers Cup. The contestants were Alex and Rosie from Year 3, Everly and Violet from Year 4, Annabel and Violet from Year 5 and Rene and Camilla from Year 6. Alex spoke about the River Thames and Rosie spoke about anti-littering. Everly spoke about capybaras and Violet did space. Annabel spoke about our school and Violet did crystals. Rene and Camilla both spoke about capybaras too. Everyone did a fantastic job. Annabel came 3rd and Violet C came 2nd. The grand winner of the 2025 Speakers Cup was Camilla. The judges were Mrs Westley, Mr Quilter, Jake from Year 6 and Alex from Year 5.



Mrs Westley said "the standard was very high and all the talks were impressive as were the audience's questions and listening"

We learnt lots about different people and what they are interested in.
- Kyle and Ronnie, Year 5

Green Group – Single use plastic free week

Between Monday 10th and Friday 15th February, Green Group hosted a single use plastic free week. We encouraged everyone to have no single use plastic in their packed lunches. In each class we asked the teacher(s) to count 2 points for every lunch with no single use plastic. The classes with 50 points by the end of the week would be allowed to have a class treat, such as extra playtime. We did this as an incentive to encourage everyone as a school to help the environment and planet as plastic lasts for a very long time. It does not decompose like fruit or vegetables and if it is burnt, it releases harmful chemicals into the atmosphere and causes air pollution. We encourage everyone to use Tupperware compartments and thermos flasks. To spread the word about green week, we did an assembly to let everyone know. Everyone did an amazing job and 12 of the 14 classes managed to get over 50 points. Some classes even got over 100 points. Overall, this week was very successful, and we hope that not using single use plastic can carry on throughout the year.

- Year 6 members of Green Group





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Book recommendation

This month's book recommendations:

World Book Day is one of the highlights of our school calendar. It is a day full of creativity, excitement and, of course, books! The theme this year is 'Read Your Way' so why not get 'reading' in any which way you like ... perhaps curled up in bed with a good novel, listening to an audio book on the bus, perusing a magazine in the bath or even telling someone a story on the way to school. However and whatever you like to 'read' ... just enjoy!



Book recommendation



We are excited to welcome back Next Page Books who will be hosting a book sale afterschool on Thursday 20th March in the school hall.

This is a fantastic opportunity to discover new books for your children while supporting our school—a percentage of all sales will be donated back to us!

Both cash and card payments will be accepted.

We look forward to seeing you there.





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Family Basketball – 6th November & District Basketball – 15th November

Team names: Amelie, Betsy, Orla, Isabella, Scarlett, Layton, Fred, Archie, Edward, Freddie

On the 6th November, some Year 6 pupils went to Stanborough to play basketball. The ability of the team was incredible, and we won all the matches and got through to the District event. The schools we played were St John's, St Michael's and Commonswood. We learnt a lot about teamwork, honesty, self-belief, respect and determination. Miss Veasey helped to keep us motivated throughout the tournament. The boys played the first half of each match, and the girls played the second half. Each school was equally respectful. We would like to thank Miss Veasey for taking us and Mrs Southall for organising.

- Layton

Year 5 Trampolining – 6th December

Team names: Annabelle, Felicity, Bastian, Iris, Jamie, Ben, William, Harper

Star Players: Annabelle

At the trampolining event there were lots of activities. We showed lots of teamwork and positivity. Annabelle was the star player and won a pineapple. Everyone had so much fun and showed a lot of encouragement. We played a fun game where you had to push buttons while everyone was showing the colour pink, blue green or purple. Thank you to Miss Veasey for taking us.

- Harper and Annabelle

Cross Country Championship – Saturday 1st February

Team names: Caitlin, Monty, Finley, Freddie, Zara, Poppy, Evie

On Saturday 1st February some Year 5 and 6 pupils went to a cross country event at St Margarets School in Bushey. First to compete was the Year 6 boys which none of us were in that category but we learnt how it was start. Next was the Year 6 girls. Caitlin did amazingly. We cheered her on the whole way round and her determination pushed her through. Next, the Year 5 boys ran. Monty, Finley and Freddie did very well. Monty came 6th so he qualifies for the Nationals. Freddie came 29th and Finley came 81st. The Year 5 girls went next, and Zara came 9th, putting her through to the Nationals. Poppy came 26th and Evie 46th. We would like to thank our parents for taking us.

- Evie and Monty

District Girls Football – Friday 14th February

Team names: Scarlett, Orla, Amelie, Ava, Betsy, Zara, Nancy, Mia, Kiara, Harper

Star Players: Harper and Amelie

When we got to Ridgeway, we trained with Mr Murphy and Miss Beasey. Our first match was against Brookmans Park and we won 5-0. The people who scored was Amelie, Harper and Orla. Our second game was against St. Michael's and we won 3-0. The people who scored were Amelie, Orla and Zara. Our third match was against Our Lady's and we won 2-0. Amelie scored both goals. Our fourth match was against St John's and we won 2-0. Amelie and Orla scored. Our final match was against Commonswood. It was a very important match because if we won this, we would get to the final. We drew, but it didn't matter as we still got through to the final. The final was against Swallow Dell and we won 2-0 with Amelie and Zara scoring. We came 1st overall and showed lots of passion and teamwork. We won a medal each and a trophy for the school. We would like to thank our parents for taking us and Mr Murphy and Miss Veasey for being our coaches.

- Mia and Kiara





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February Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated in February: Sybil, Jamie, Scarlett, Reuben, Chelsea, Chloe, Freddie, Nysha, Charlotte, Rogue, Izzy, Isabelle, Reid, Amelia-Grace, Zara, James, Aaryan, Oscar, Josie, Elsie, Jamie, Isabella, Frederick, Asha, Benjamin, George, Callum, Teddy, Ella, Alex, Ted, Raffi, Cyril, Mrs Bould, Mrs Harrison, Mrs Culkeen and Mrs Tucker.

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 will be 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

Spring Term 2025	
Mon 3rd March 2025	Year 5 Viking Workshop
Tue 4th March 2025	Year 4 Faith Tour
Thu 6th March 2025	World Book Day
Tue 11th March 2025	Year 6 Go Construct Knex Challenge
Wed 12th March 2025	Year 2 Great Fire of London
Fri 14th March 2025	Year 2 Cake Sale
Thu 20th March 2025	Book Fair – Next Page books
w/c Mon 24th March 2025	PTFA Mother's Day Gift Shop
Wed 26th March 2025	Year 6 RAF Hendon
Wed 2nd April 2025	PTFA Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt
Thu 3rd April 2025	Easter Service [St Mary's Church]
Fri 4th April 2025	Terms ends – Rec & KS1 1.15pm, KS2 1.20pm





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Netball fixture Vs Commonswood – Wednesday 22nd January

Team names: Nyla, Maisie, Frace, Daisy, Evie, Poppy W, Annabel, Alex, Harper

Star Players:

Speed Stacking – Thursday 9th January & Friday 24th January

Team names: Caleb, Tommaso, William, Dylan, Mollie H, Evie, Seren, Florence S

Star Players:

Tennis Festival – Thursday 6th February

Team names: Xander, Luke, Henry, Freddie, Harriette, Sophie, Elizabeth, Harriet

Star Players:

Table Tennis Championships – Saturday 8th February

Team names: Burt, Betsy, Sam, Oscar, Jamie, Fin, Alexander, Freddie, Felicity, Luca, Finley, Lucas, Mia, Ted, Jasper, Jacob, Nancy, Jake

Star Players:

Badminton – Thursday 13th February

Team names: Jesse, Toby, Layton, Alexander, Nicole, Isla, Felicity, Charlotte

Star Players:

Multisports – Thursday 13th February

Team names: Rosie, Ella, Isla, Tiffany, Alex, George, Oscar, Emmanuel

Star Players:

Rapid Fire Cricket – Friday 14th February

Team names: Charlie, Ethan, Enzo, Geroge, Riaan, Harriet, Emily, Amelie, Olive

Star Players:

League Football match Vs Holy Family – Tuesday 25th February

Team names: Fred, Charlie B, Charlie W, Faris, Jack, Jake, Freddie, Edward, Bailey, Amelie

Star Players:

Football Fixture Night – Thursday 27th February

Team names: Grace, Daisy, Mia, Evie, Poppy, Annabel, Alba, Maisey, Nyla, Alex, Harper, Connie, Elsie, Charlotte, Sophie, Nicole, Izzy, Caitlin, Orla, Grace, Isabella

Star Players:

Indoor Athletics – Friday 28th February

Team names: Fred, Charlie B, Bailey, Charlie W, Faris, Sam, Freddie, Jack, Jake, Edward, Toby, Billy, Nathan, Layton, Rene, Amelie, Betsy, Tami, Isabella, Orla, Isla, Mia, Maisie, Camilla, Tiffany, Scarlett, Neave, Nyla, Caitlin

Star Players:

