



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School

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Our value for this half term is:

Justice

“Learn to do right. Seek Justice”

Isaiah 1.17

Year 4 Performance of Peter Pan

Our Year 4 children have recently taken to the stage and performed a wonderful production of 'Peter Pan' to our school community.

The much-loved tale of Peter Pan tells the story of the Darling family and the amazing things that can happen when you just believe!

Along their journey, Peter Pan, Wendy, Michael and John encountered the Lost Boys, predatory pirates, wild warriors, shimmering but 'shallow' mermaids and a crocodile with an insatiable appetite for Captain Hook!

It was a fabulously produced, complex musical with some extremely memorable and beautifully performed songs that the children loved singing along to and the audience could not resist tapping their feet to or even joining in!

Within this, there were some wonderful solos and standout performances and some excellently choreographed fight scenes and whole cast songs, which supported this Year 4 performance. The hours of rehearsals, hard work and determination of the Year 4 pupils and staff resulted in the musical being of the highest quality – West End worthy even!

We are especially grateful to Mrs Croft, 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, support staff and volunteers, 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 a Year 4 and a Year 6 pupil who supported all the rehearsals and performances with sound production.

Upcoming events in March

Year 5 Viking Saxon Day

Monday 2nd March

World Book Day

Thursday 5th March

PTFA Mother's Day Gift Shop

Reception & KS1 - Monday 9th March
KS2 - Tuesday 10th March

Book Fair Day

Tuesday 10th March

Year 3 Great Fire of London Day

Wednesday 11th March

PTFA Year 2 Cake Sale

Friday 13th March

Year 6 Hendon Museum Trip

Monday 23rd March

Year 1 Hertfordshire Zoo Trip

Tuesday 24th March

PTFA Easter Egg Hunt

Wednesday 25th March

Year 5 Dance Festival

Wednesday 25th March

Whole School Easter Service

Thursday 26th March

Spring Term Ends

Friday 27th March
Reception & KS1 1.15pm
KS2 1.20pm





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Well done and congratulations to all of our pupils and staff for a spectacular production, which parents, carers, friends and family have all enjoyed immensely!



Just believe!

Mr Whiteland
Headteacher

Prayer Day

On Tuesday 3rd of February, we had our Prayer Day. We started by Mrs Jackson talking to us about all the wonderful stations. The first station was the bead station where there were big boxes and a bowl of beads which you could put in some boxes so you could give a gift to Jesus. The second station was the mirror station where we could look at ourselves in the mirror. There was a sheet with a mirror on it so you could draw yourself or something else, like flowers. The third station was where we could colour in a yellow or orange star with coloured patterns or crosses. The fourth station was where we could colour around our feet and we could fill it in with a positive message to our Lord. The fifth station was where we could write a note about what we would give to God or bring to God. The sixth station was where we could write a prayer and take it backstage where there were twinkly stars and lights all around us. We could hook our prayer onto the fairy lights and we could sit and pray. Then Mrs Jackson led us into prayer and blessing and then she took us out from behind the stage and gave us a verse from the Bible or a blessing.

- *Emily, Olive and Eleanor.*

All of the activities at Prayer Day were calm and interactive and taught us how to respect and love God. Each activity made me feel much calmer. The atmosphere was calm and peaceful. I enjoyed all of it, but my favourite part was the activity behind the stage. It was calm and a very reflective place. We all enjoyed it.

- *Monty.*



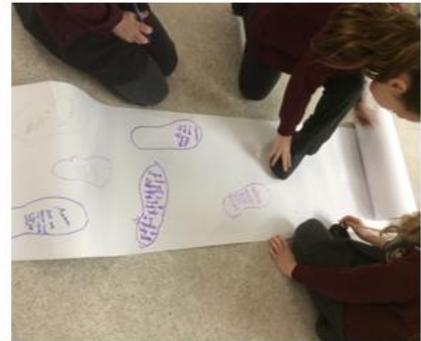
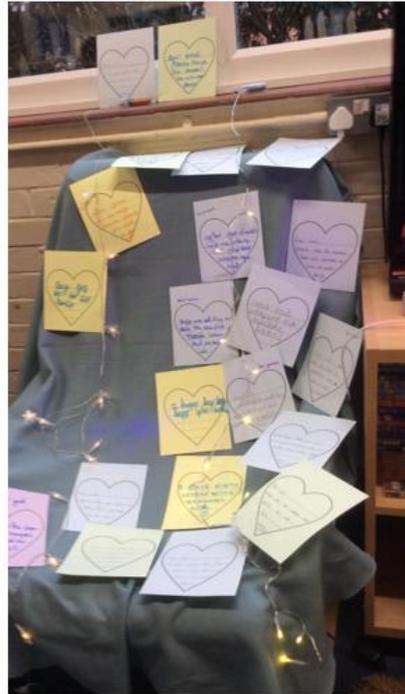


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Some photos of our Prayer Day:





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KS2 Speaker's Cup – Friday 13th February

On Friday 13th February, KS2 had the Speaker's Cup. Sophie G from 4 Limes went first and talked about Northern Spain. She was amazing. Then we had Grace G's speech from 6 Redwoods, about squid versus octopus, which was great. After, we had Jessica from 4 Larches speak about Jordan. It was very good. Then we had Amelie from 5 Poplars who talked about dancing, which was brilliant. Then Freya from 3 Hawthorns went next and she talked about never giving up which was great. Then we had Felicity from 6 Rowans who talked about the art of animation with lots of good and interesting facts. Violet from 5 Pines spoke about UFOs and aliens. It was very fascinating. Then for the last speech we had Isabelle B from 3 Hazels, who did an amazing clear speech about turtles. The winner was Amelie. Runners up were Grace and Freya. Well done to everyone who took part.

- Finn and Everly



February birthdays

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated in February.

Aaryan, Alex, Amelia-Grace, Asha, Benjamin, Callum, Charlotte, Chelsea, Chloe, Cyril, Elle, Elsie, Emilia, Ezra, Freddie, Frederick, Isabella, Isabelle, James, Jamie, Jamie, Josie, Levi, Navie, Nysha, Oscar, Raffi, Reid, Reuben, Rogue, Sybil, Ted, Zac, Zara, Mrs Culkeen, Mrs Harrison and Mrs Tucker.





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Year 2 Puppet Making

A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who volunteered for our Year 2 puppet-making session. Your support helped the children practise important skills such as cutting, sewing and sticking. With your guidance, their imaginative puppet designs truly came to life. We've loved seeing the creativity and teamwork throughout Wednesday morning. We truly appreciate your involvement.

Here are some photos from our wonderful puppet-making adventures.



Green Group – Helping Keep Children Safe

We are Green Group and we would like to ask you to help us keep your children safe from harm around school and the car park.

- We would like you not to park on the pavement and the yellow zig-zag area outside the school.
- We want you to drive slowly and carefully in the car park.
- Please be aware of your surroundings as young children might be roaming around.
- Please drive slowly down Ottway Walk.
- If your child is under 7 years old, hold your child's hand in the car park and when walking along the road.
- Please do not let your child scoot or bike on school grounds.
- Please keep an eye on your young children all the time and don't let them run off.
- In the winter months it is important for your child to wear high visibility clothing to make their journey safer.

If possible, please walk, scoot or cycle to school. It will keep you healthy and is good for the environment.





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'Go All In' Reading Campaign

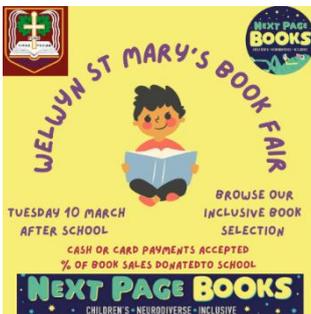
World Book Day 2026 will be bigger and better than ever as we celebrate the National Year of Reading!

This year's theme is *Go All In* — part of a nationwide campaign encouraging everyone to read more by connecting reading with the things we already love. If you're into it, read into it! Whether you're interested in sport, birdwatching, music, art, or any other hobby, there's a book out there waiting for you.

Keep an eye out for the Welwyn St Mary's Book Week Reading Challenge. We'll be encouraging pupils to explore different genres, read at different times of day, and even try reading in creative and imaginative places.

Let's make this World Book Day our most inspiring one yet!

Welwyn St Marys Book Fair- Tuesday 10th March



As part of our World Book Day celebrations, we are delighted to welcome Next Page Books on Tuesday 10th March after school, where they will be hosting a Book Fair in the main hall.

The fair will feature a selection of new, inclusive and diverse books, with prices starting from just £1, making it a great opportunity for every child to find something they will enjoy.

We warmly invite you to come along and support this event.

Tanzania Charity Donations

Our school link with the Tanzania children's charity, **Walser's Tanzania Charity**, is asking for our help. They are heading to Tanzania and wondered if we could collect children's trainers and hand-size toys, suitable for pre-primary aged children. They will take them out and distribute them amongst the children connected to their school.

This could include small toys, construction toys (e.g lego), crayons, chalk and small pads. All toys, in good condition and no bigger than the size of your hand are welcome!

Children can bring their donations into school before Friday 20th March.

We thank you in advance for your donations.





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Sporting Events



County Cross Country Championships -Saturday 31st January

Year 6 Boys: Monty, Freddie and Jacob. Year 6 Girls: Nancy and Evie.
Year 5 Boys: Arlo and George. Year 5 Girls: Amelia, Harriet and Olive.

Some Year 5 and Year 6 pupils went to a cross-country event at St Margaret's School in Bushey. A huge well done to all runners who took part. What a fantastic achievement. Congratulations to Monty who came in 10th place, qualifying for Nationals.



Yr 4 Rapid Fire Cricket

Team: Rowan, Harriette, Sophie R, Alfie, Tion, Alice and Alex.
Star Player: Alfie

On the 4th February, some Year 4s went to a cricket tournament. We had lots of fun, but sadly we did not get through to the next round. We would like to thank Mrs Veasey and our parents for taking us.

- *Harriette and Sophie R*



Table Tennis Tournament

On Saturday 7th February, some Year 6 boys took part in the East of England Table Tennis Competition. They came 5th overall, missing out on 4th place by one point. What an achievement – well done boys!





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Badminton

On Sunday 8th February, our Year 6 pupil Felicity competed in the HJBA badminton competition which had been promoted to pupils by Welwyn St Mary's. Competing against older and stronger opponents, Felicity came third overall in the Girls Under 13's event, which is a fantastic achievement – well done!



KS2 District Girls Football – Friday 13th February

Team: Mia, Nancy, Zara, Annabel, Nicole, Daisy, Kiara, Grace S, Alba, Juliet.
Star player: Mia

Some Year 6 girls took part in a girl's district football tournament at Ridgeway School. They played 4 matches to begin with. Welwyn St Mary's won all four matches with the results as follows:

- 1-0 win against Sherrardswood – Mia scoring the only goal.
- 2-0 win against Our Lady's – Juliet and Mia scoring a goal each.
- 4-0 win against Hatfield Community Free School – Nancy and Mia scoring 2 goals each.
- 3-0 win against Applecroft – Nancy scoring one goal and Juliet scoring two.

This then put our team through to the finals against Commonswood. The full-time whistle blew at 0-0, resulting in a penalty shootout. After 8 rounds of taking penalties, Welwyn St Mary's finally won!

A huge well done to all the girls. What a great achievement. Star player was given to Mia by her teammates who described Mia as 'motivating, passionate, skilful, and kept the hope going'.



Netball Festival- Tuesday 24th February

Some Year 5 and Year 6 children took part in a netball festival at Stanborough School. A total of 21 children were split into three teams and they played a number of matches throughout the event, winning some, drawing some and losing some.

All of the children demonstrated excellent teamwork and sportsmanship and most importantly, they had a wonderful time. As the festival progressed, the confidence of all three teams continued to grow, which was fantastic to see.

A big thank you to Mrs Croft, Miss Parkin and Miss Veasey for supporting and coaching the teams throughout the festival.





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Year 6 Football Festival – Tuesday 24th February

On Tuesday 24th February, some Year 6 children went to Monk's Walk school to take part in two football matches. One team played against Creswick and the other team played against St John's, Digswell.

Team: Orest, Ellis, Marcus, Nancy, William, Callum, Jasper, Ronnie, Danny and Alexander.
Star Player: Nancy

Our team played against Creswick. In the first half, the other team scored a goal. Soon after, Orest assisted Nancy and she scored which tied up the score. In the second half we had amazing teamwork and great passing which led to Marcus assisting Ellis with a goal. We won 2-1. We shook hands with opposing team. The star player was Nancy. We would like to say thank you to Mrs Southall.

- *Orest and Ellis*

Team: Burt, Finley, Freddie, Kyle, Jacob, Lucas, Mia, Ted, Teddy and Zara.
Star Player: Jacob

Our team played against St John's. They were a good side with some great players. It ended 1-0 to Welwyn St Mary's, with Lucas scoring and Jacob with the assist. The star player was Jacob, who did some great defending. We would like to thank Mrs Southall for supporting us and to Billy and Tommy, ex Welwyn St Mary's pupils, for their motivation on the sideline.

- *Ted and Freddie*

PTFA Year 3 Cake Sale

Well done to Year 3 for baking and donating cakes for the Year 3 Cake Sale. Thank you to everyone who bought a delicious cake and helped raise a fantastic £183.92.





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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.

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





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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.

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.'





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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

2026 Spring Term	
Fri 27th March 2026	Last day of school – Rec & KS1 1.15pm, KS2 1.20pm
2026 Summer Term	
Mon 13th April 2026	INSET day – school closed
Tue 14th April 2026	Term starts
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 th July 2026	PTFA Break the rules day
Wed 22nd July 2026	Last day of school – Rec & KS1 1.15pm, KS2 1.20pm

