



# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



## Newsletter - January 2024

### Value

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

*"Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God." - Colossians 4:2*

### Welcome back

We welcome back Mrs Howard from maternity leave this month. She will be working in BP6 in the mornings and as an MSA for the full hour of lunchtime.

### New Arrival

We are delighted to share the safe arrival of Miss Lewis's baby daughter, Sienna. We wish our warmest congratulations to Miss Lewis and her partner.

### Cold weather

The cold weather has officially arrived, we want to remind all parents to ensure that your child is appropriately dressed for school and has a warm coat with them each day. We suggest layering clothing to provide extra warmth. Please ensure hats, gloves and scarves are clearly labelled with your child's name.

### School Meals

We have been notified by Herts Catering Ltd that the cost of school meals is increasing from next term. As of 1st April 2024, the price of a meal will be £3.40. This price rise is due to the rapidly increasing cost of food and labour being faced across the catering industry.

All children in Reception and Key Stage 1 will remain eligible to receive meals for free under the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) initiative.

If your child would like to have school lunches, please remember to order these via [www.schoolgrid.co.uk](http://www.schoolgrid.co.uk) before 8.55am on the day that your child wishes to have lunch.

### Year 5 Distractions

In January year five went into the gym to learn about how to be safe on the road. We talked about how you should not use your phone on the road. Mr Ming Lai talked about the four rules STOP. LOOK. LISTEN. THINK. When you are on your phone you can't stop, look, listen and think because you're focused on your phone. You are distracted by what is happening on the road because you are looking and listening to the sounds thinking about the phone. Next in the gym we did a special training activity where two children went around plungers and they could NOT touch them. They were timed without their phone and were quite quick. The next round they had to type something on their phone and try and not touch the plungers but they touched them a few times because they were distracted typing on their phone. We learnt the importance of STOP. LOOK. LISTEN. THINK.

- Camilla and Isla D





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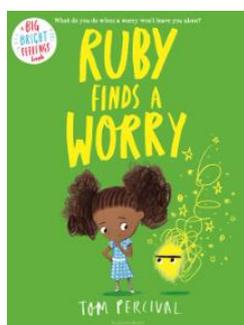
### Next Page Books

Following last year's success, we will be holding another book fair by Next Page Books on 14th March 2024. Details to follow.

### Book recommendation

#### This month's book recommendations:

Children's Mental Health Week begins next Monday 5th February which helps to shine a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health. Our recommended reads this month help and encourage children to explore their emotions and feelings through stories.

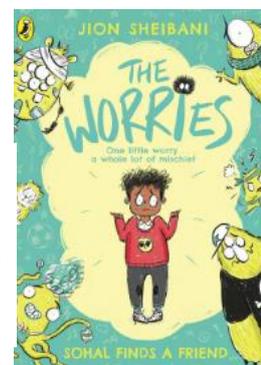


#### **Ruby Finds a Worry by Tom Percival**

Ruby is a happy, curious and imaginative girl but one day she finds something unexpected: a worry! A sensitive and reassuring story about what to do when a worry won't leave you alone.

#### **The Worries by Jion Sheiban**

Everyone feels worried sometimes. But what if your worries came to life and started following you around? This light-hearted tale tackles a serious subject in an accessible way and provides children with an opportunity to discuss their own anxieties.



### Cost of living support

Please see below a number of support services available if you are in need of any extra help.

<p><b>HertsHelp</b></p> <p>Trained advisors offering free, confidential advice on local services and support</p> <p>Call: 0300 123 4044 Email: <a href="mailto:info@hertshelp.net">info@hertshelp.net</a> <a href="http://www.hertshelp.net">www.hertshelp.net</a></p>	<p><b>Community spaces</b></p> <p>Find a community space near you, locations all across Hertfordshire</p> <p><a href="http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/communityspaces">www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/communityspaces</a></p>	<p><b>Mental health</b></p> <p>Advice and support for your happiness, wellbeing and mental health</p> <p><a href="http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/mentalhealth">www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/mentalhealth</a></p>	<p><b>Money and benefits advice</b></p> <p>Free guides on debt and benefits, disability, bereavement, housing, retirement and carer support</p> <p><a href="http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/moneyadvice">www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/moneyadvice</a></p>	<p><b>Citizens Advice</b></p> <p>Free, local and confidential advice on benefits, money and credit problems, employment, housing and family issues</p> <p>Call: 0800 144 8848</p>	<p><b>Help for households</b></p> <p>Central government is offering support with energy bills, transport, childcare and household costs</p> <p><a href="http://www.helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk">www.helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk</a></p>
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### Curling - 10<sup>th</sup> January

**Team names:** Renos, Monty, Alba, Annabelle

**Star Player:** Alba

On the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 we hosted a curling competition in the school hall. Four schools in total took part and we came 1<sup>st</sup> out of the four teams. We used New Age Kurling Stones. They are rubber disks with ball bearing underneath and a handle on top. We had to send the Kurling stone to a target at the other side of the hall. We needed to put a lot of power into our throws. The closest to the centre scores the most points. Our star player was Alba. We would like to thank Mr Gauden and Mr O'Neill.

- Alba, Monty, Renos and Annabelle



### Boys football fixture night - 16<sup>th</sup> January

**Team names:** Jack, Charlie W, Charlie B, Bailey, Freddie, Faris, Sebby, Jake, Edward

**Star Player:** Jack, Faris, Jake



The first game we played Templewood. First Jack scored to make it 1-0. Then, Jake scored to make it 2-0. Mr Gauden kept motivating us and Jack scored again to make it 3-0. It was half time and Jack swapped with Bailey in goal. We all showed teamwork and Bailey scored to make it 4-0. Then straight after that Edward scored to make it 5-0. The final score was 5-0. The second game we played Brookmans park. Edward scored first to make it 1-0. Not long after that, Sebby scored to make it 2-0. At half time, Jack and Charlie B came on for Faris and Freddie. Straight after that Faris scored to make it 3-0. Then Jack scored a brilliant free kick to make the final score 4-0. Thank you to Mr Gauden and Mrs Southall for organising and taking us.

- Jack

### Street dance session - 18<sup>th</sup> January

**Team names:** Grace S, Grace G, Annabel W, Felicity, Harper, Kiara, Michelle, Orla, Daisy P, Annabelle B, Evie, Alba, Emilia, Ava, Caitlin, Maisie S, Nyla, Isla P, Isla D, Nicole, Daisy B, Darcey, Francesca, Dulcie, Lottie, Sienna, Yarden, Bethany, Maisie G, Olivia

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January, some girls from year four, five and six took part in a dance session with a professional dancer called Owen. First, we all stood in a circle and one by one went into the middle to do a dance move. It was so much fun and we all cheered each other on. Owen was telling us about street dance and that there are so many different styles. He taught us the first dance and the style was hip-hop. It was quite easy to pick up so we managed to learn it quickly. The second style we did was 'house'. This dance was the





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hardest but some of us were able to do it. At the end we learnt that dance can be in lots of different styles. We would like to thank Mrs Tucker for organising it.

- Nyla and Maisie

### Girls football fixture night - 23<sup>rd</sup> January

**Team names:** Amelie, Betsy, Scarlett, Orla M-M, Ava, Zara, Nancy, Kiara, Mia, Camilla



On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, some year four and five children went to a football tournament. The first team we played was Commonswood. It was hard but we got through it and we drew 0-0. The second game we played was against Brookmans Park. We drew 0-0. We did very well and would like to do it again. We had a good time as we all had fun and we knew it doesn't matter if we win or lose. All that matters is that we had fun as a team. We would like to thank Mrs Southall and Mr Murphy for taking us.

- Ava and Betsy

### January birthdays

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated in January:

Scarlett, Archie, Bo, Emilia, Gabriela, Bailey, Harriet, Amelie, Oli, Lyra, Penelope, Ethan, Clara, Sophie, Juno, Florence, Emani, Cameron, Roman, Luna Blu, Elsie-Mae, Joseph, Eva, Danny, Chester, Freya, Amara, William, Tyler, Daniel, Riaan, Nancy, Florence, Mia, Harriet, Orla, Mrs Soppett-Moss, Mrs Moate, Mrs Castiglione and Mr Whiteland.

### 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.





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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.

### Diary Dates

Spring Term 2023	
Thu 1st February 2024	Year 3 and 4 Production
Fri 9th February 2024	KS1 Festival of Words
Tue 13th February 2024	Year 3 Greek Day
Fri 16th February 2024	KS2 Speaker's Cup
Fri 16th February 2024	Year 3 Cake Sale
Mon 19th February 2024 - Fri 23rd February 2024	Half term
Thu 29th February 2024	Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop
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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Year 6 GoConstruct KNex Challenge Day
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 - Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	KS2 SATs week
Fri 17th May 2024	Year 1 Cake Sale
Wed 22nd May 2024	Class Photos





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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 11th July 2024	Budge up day
Wed 17th July 2024	Year 6 Show - 6pm
Thu 18th July 2024	Leavers' service
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

