



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter – July 2023

Value

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

"Respect people's feelings. Even if it doesn't mean anything to you, it could mean everything to them."

J.Johnson

My thanks

As we come to the end of a very busy and different year in school, I reflect back with immense pride on all things that our children have achieved. After my year as acting headteacher, I am so thankful for how much we achieve together as a result of the strong relationships that exist here amongst staff, parents and children. We should be really proud of our school community, for the way in which we have supported one another, working together to follow the school values.

It has been a privilege leading Welwyn St. Mary's for the past year and I want to say a deeply heartfelt thank you to the whole community. I know Mr Whiteland is looking forward to working with you all; he is committed to our school values so good times are ahead.

May I wish you all a good summer break and hope that you return refreshed for a new chapter at Welwyn St. Mary's in September.

Year 6 Leavers

We sadly say farewell to our year 6. It has been an absolute pleasure being their headteacher this past year. Each child has brought their own uniqueness to Welwyn St. Mary's which has created a very special place. I look forward to seeing them flourish as they take the next step in their lives. They have been an amazing year 6; they have worked so hard and carried out their responsibilities displaying our school values. Good luck for the future - we will miss them all but most importantly, year 6, have fun and enjoy life.

- Mrs Phillips

Staffing update

We say goodbye and a huge thank you to:

- Mr Anstey for 12 years of outstanding teaching across the school. We wish you a long a happy retirement.
- Mrs Redgers for her dedication and expertise to our school over the last 15 years, you will be greatly missed. We wish you well as you spend more time with family.
- Mrs Lansberry for her 17 years as a truly amazing teaching assistant. We wish her well as she also spends more time with her family.
- Mrs Primrose for her caring work as a teaching assistant. We wish you good luck in your new job.
- Miss Popham for her great teaching in our reception class. We wish you all the best for the future.





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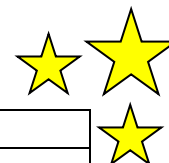
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We welcome:

- Mr Whiteland, our new headteacher
- Miss Birch, who will teach full time in year 1
- Mrs Culkeen, joining us as a teaching assistant in year 1
- Mrs Stanley, joining us as a teaching assistant in year 4

We hope you all will be very happy here.

Governor Prizes 2023



KS2 Progress	Edward (HM6)
	Mariia (H6)
KS2 Achievement	Charlie (HM6)
	Lily-Grace (H6)
Character	Daniel H (H6)
	Leo (HM6)
All rounder	Elsie (HM6)
	Evie (H6)
Contribution to school	Ben R (H6)
Values	Corey (HM6)
	Ollie M (H6)
Presentation	Thomas (HM6)

KS1 Progress	Caleb (MN2)
	Leo (A2)
KS1 Achievement	Jack (MN2)
	Finley (A2)
English	Elisa (HM6)
Maths	Rafa M(H6)
Music	Daniel R (HM6)
PE	Ben B (HM6)
	Sammy (H6)
Art	Eva (H6)
	Maisy (HM6)
ICT	Jonathan (HM6)

Lovely news

We are delighted to learn that Mrs Westley has been selected to receive the Alban Award by the Bishop of St Albans, for outstanding services to Diocesan church schools. The awards will be presented at Choral Evensong on Saturday 23rd September at St Albans Cathedral at 5pm. All are welcome.

Walking home - Advise from PCSO

Following recent reports of incidents around Welwyn village please see below advise from PCO Anne Devine to make sure everyone gets home safely:

- Walk home with a friend, or a friend and their parents if the parent cannot get there.
- Keep vigilant when out and about, avoid going on phones and ensure to be taking in the surroundings.
- Don't take short cuts down alley ways. Stick to main road routes when possible.
- If anyone feels they are being followed or someone is speaking to them in manner that is not acceptable then they need to call this in via 101 or 999 if they feel threatened in any way when this is happening.
- If they have for some reason gone home first and then want to call this in then that's ok too but there will be less of a chance of catching them still in the area. Police will ask for descriptions like, height, hair colour, clothing, age, any distinguishing features etc. So, try to get the best description possible. A photo is even better.





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Labelling uniform

Please ensure that all items of clothing are labelled with your child's name. This includes coats and hats which are often taken off in the playground during break times and are very difficult to reunite with their owners if not labelled.

Welwyn St Mary's PTFA are delighted to have paired up with "My Name Tags" to help parents label their clothing while further fundraising for the school. Our school ID is 29167.

Order via <https://www.mynametags.com/affiliate?id=29167> or insert the school ID at the checkout. MyNameTags will give 24% of the order value back to the school PTFA.

Packed lunches

Please remember that we are a nut free school as we have a number of children with severe nut allergies. This includes things such as chocolate spreads which contain nuts.

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.

Tesco Community Grants

Don't forget you can vote for us throughout summer with blue tokens in Tesco as part of their Community Grants Scheme. We will be featured in the following stores; Welwyn Express, Panshanger Express, Hatfield Extra. Any money that we are awarded will be used towards purchasing playground equipment to widen interactive play options to engage more children, appealing to different interests and abilities.

Summer Reading Challenge: "Ready, Set, Read!"

Designed to keep children reading over the Summer Holidays, the Summer Reading Challenge is a fun, free activity that broadens reading horizons, improves mental wellbeing, encourages a healthy reading habit and helps to maintain reading levels ready for the start of the next academic year.

To complete the Summer Reading Challenge, a child reads six library books of their choice, returning to the library to share what they have been reading with staff and volunteers. Each participant receives a collector folder and is awarded stickers for every book they read. Children who complete the challenge are presented with a certificate, a medal and a special finishing gift.





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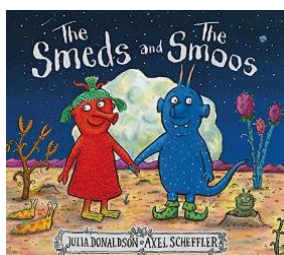


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Book recommendation

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. Both titles are available at our local library.

This month's book recommendations:



The Smeds and the Smoos by Julia Donaldson

Friendship, love, acceptance and togetherness are at the heart of this joyful story

Sona Sharma Looking After Planet Earth by Chitra Soundar

Los of big ideas weave through this deceptively simple story of a girl trying to make a difference but, even more, trying to get others to make a difference too.



We have recently registered at www.lovereading4kids.co.uk. If you purchase any books through Love Reading and select Welwyn St Marys at the checkout, we will receive 25% of the cover price of the book to spend on books for school.

End of year results

A big well done to our pupils and staff on their 2023 results. The full comparative report can be viewed on our website; www.welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk/statutory-information/

Year 6 show

For 2023, we produced an amazing (so we've heard) production based on our teachers and positive songs such as 'This is me', 'Hard Work', 'We are Leavers' and many more. It was an incredible experience for us. We enjoyed it and wouldn't have been able to do it if it weren't for Mr Hawley (script writing), Mrs Harrison (helping with music) and Mrs Mather (helping with dancing). All of this helped to make the perfect leavers show that ALL of us will remember! The leavers show really brought the school year together and we all got something to do. Thank you for all the kind donations. Together we raised £340 for Isabel Hospice.

- Laney & Mollie



Telephone 01438 714169 E-mail: admin@welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk Website: www.welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk



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Music Evening

Well done to all the children who performed at our music evening. Thank you to all our music teachers and to families for supporting and encouraging them at home.

The evening raised an amazing **£100.40** which will be split between WSM Music and Dementia UK. Thank you for all your kind donations.

If your child is interested in learning an instrument at school, please complete the 'Lessons in School' sign up here: <https://ukhertfordshire.speedadmin.dk/registration#/>. Please note, there is sometimes a waiting list for lessons, especially for piano.

Talent show

The show started with Sasha from year 2 dancing. After that, Violet from MN2 did her act which was a song and dance. Then Kiara, Alba and Mia from BC3 did a dance called Power by Little Mix. Afterwards, Ted, Burt and Jacob sung Bad Habits while Ted danced. In CD4, Ashley sung Tock Tick which was very sunny. In P4, Jack, Bailey, Logan, Charlie and Edward made a funny zoo restaurant comedy act. In year 5, Ophelia from A5 sung Moana and Charlie from JT5 sang Wonderwall by Oasis. From year 6, Daniel played Hedwig theme tune on the piano and at the end Ben did a song with no music. Everyone did very well. A huge congratulation to Ophelia who won the show!
- Charlie JT5



Year 5 Vertigo Trip

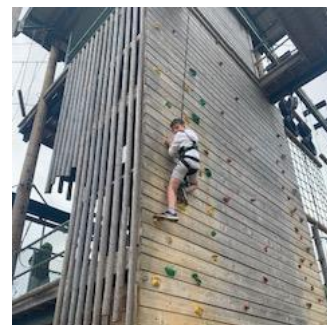
On Friday 30th June, Year 5 went to Stanborough Lakes to visit the Vertigo Activity Centre. They had three activities to complete which were:

- The Plummett
- The Crazy Climb
- The High/Low ropes course

The children moved around the course in three groups. They had a safety briefing with the instructors and then were helped into their harnesses and helmets. Some of the children were definitely out of their comfort zone, but they overcame their fears and worked their way through all the activities.

We talked about the fact that being out of our comfort zone was a positive thing and how it made us feel once we'd achieved something that was challenging; both mentally and physically. What was lovely to see, was the children cheering and encouraging each other (and the teachers) on!

It has prepared the children really well for their PGL adventures in Year 6. Thank you to Mr Anstey for organising such a fun day out and thank you parents for helping with lifts there and back.





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Welwyn Festival Parade



Thank you to all the children who decorated fish and donned their finest 1960's inspired outfits for the Welwyn Festival Parade. We were blessed with lovely weather and a fantastic turn out to accompany our very own yellow submarine along the High Street to Singlers Marsh. Despite our best efforts we were pipped to the post by Oaklands School who were judged winners of this years parade. Our thanks go to Mr Murphy for leading the parade and constructing the wonderful submarine, and all the children and their parents for taking part in the parade.

Year 1 Seaside Day



On Friday 14th July year 1 had their 'seaside' day in the school hall. The hall was transformed to a Victorian seaside experience. The children had lots of exciting activities to take part in from making souvenirs, handling real artefacts, such as coins and cameras, and dressing up in costumes of the time. They learnt so much about the history of the seaside. The day finished with a traditional Punch and Judy show. Each child took home a bag of souvenirs which they had made, a lovely reminder of a fun filled day.

Year 4 Music Assembly



Thank you to all the parents for coming and supporting Year 4 at their music assembly. The children have worked incredibly hard and were very excited to share their instrument learning with you.

Year 4 & 5 Young language leader

A group of young language leaders from Monk's Walk came at 10am and left at 12pm. We were split into four groups each doing different language subjects and had an opportunity to earn stickers. One group played bingo and some other number games. Another learnt how to say pieces of clothing in French and played a couple of games. Charlie S was the star player and got a postcard. We all had great fun. Thank you to Madam Farrington for organising the day.

- Ryan & Daisy





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**WELWYN ST MARY'S
PTFA 2022-23**

Fireworks night
(raised £2,023)

Quiz night

Refreshments at:
- sports day
- music concerts
& productions
- open days

Summer BBQ
(raised £3,260)

How will the funds be used?
Ideas include:
- Playground equipment
- Reading sheds & picnic tables
- Resurface playground
- iPads
- Stage for KS1 playground
- Gardenroom transformation

Uniform sales

Gift shops

Class cake sales
(proceeds to the class)

Movie Night

Christmas Fair
(raised (£4,064))

Discos

Contributed this year so far
£5,909
- coaches for panto
- hatching chicks & butterflies
- Yr 2, 3 & 4 used cake sale funds for class activities
- ice lollies at Sports Day
- PE t-shirts for reception
- First News subscription
- YR6 leavers books
- new sheds
- small playground equipment
- Coronation bookmarks

TOTAL RAISED
this year
£16,119
and counting...

SAME AGAIN NEXT YEAR!

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT**





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This Girl Can Get Golfing – 15th June

Team names: Year 5 girls

On Thursday 15th of June all year 5 girls went to Mill Green golf club for This Girl Can Get Golfing. The aim was to get more girls golfing and doing more sports. We all really enjoyed it and we carried out a large range of activities like putting, chipping and so on. We won bottles and hats. We competed in some fun challenges to win prizes. We also got to compete to get a water bottle! All year five girls went. The children that really stood out got a golf cart ride to the next set of games. Dolly and Maisie were the two children who got to go in the cart ride. We also received ice lollies and we all enjoyed ourselves and hopefully we can do it again. We had so many fun activities and it was even better because it was hot and sunny. We really are thankful for the teachers that took us and for Stuart and Mr O'Neil who taught us and helped us all the way through. Thank you to the people who arranged it. We had so much fun and we think that it got more girls golfing and doing sports.

- Alana, Ava, Ophelia & Izzy

Rounders – 21st June

Team names: Billy, Ryan, Alec, Bear, Bradley, Lyra, Loulou, Francesca, Bethany, Isabelle, Ronnie, Liahna, Ophelia, Isabella, Maisie, Teddy, Olivier, Wilf, Darcey, Ethan

On Wednesday the 12th of June we went to Monk's Walk for our rounders event. There were two teams, team A and B. Team A lost all of their games whereas team B got 3 wins out of 5, just one win off of a chance of a medal. We want to thank Mr Gauden, Mrs Lansbury and Miss Bryant for taking us.

-Ethan & Bear

Girls football festival – 22nd June

Team names: Lily-Grace, Lucia, Antonia, Eva, Laney, Ella, Maisie

Star Player:

On the 22nd of June, seven girls from year 6 went to a football festival at Ridgeway Academy. We played Springmead and lost 3-0, Creswick and lost 1-0, Templewood and lost 2-0, Our Lady and drew 0-0 and finally Oak View and lost 2-0. We had lots of fun and worked well together. We tried our best and wished we could have won a couple of matches. We would like to thank Mr Gauden and Mr Murphy for taking us and cheering us on.

Mini Tennis County – 27th June – School Games Event

Team names: Milo, Burt, Annabel, Felicity

Star Player: Burt for teamwork and sportsmanship, Milo for determination, Felicity for passion, Annabel for self-belief



The tennis club was busy, lots of people were practising and lots of balls were flying around. We felt a bit nervous and excited. We knew it would be harder because we were at county level not just district level. We played five games in our pool. Burt won three of his games, the rest won two games. Annabel felt she had developed her tennis skills and knowledge of the rules of tennis games. Felicity felt she had grown in

confidence, and she will use this in the future in other sports too. In the final round we played Bernard Heath. We won which means we got 7th place. We came 7th out of 12 teams in the country final. 99 schools entered the competition.

- Annabel & Felicity





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Mallon Challenge – 29th June

Team names: Charlie, Darcey, Teddy, Mia, Ben, Evie, Rafa, Alice



The Mallon Challenge gave the children an opportunity to take part in a variety of sports including netball, tag rugby and football. Rafa and Teddy did the tag rugby where they played matches and different game scenarios. They learned lots of tactics and had fun.

- Rafa & Teddy

Year 6 Golf – 6th July

Team names: Daniel, Dylan, Oliver, Ruben, Calum, Ollie, Jonathan, Ethan, Jenson, Tegan, Elisa, Nicholas

Star Player: Nicholas and Elisa

On Thursday 6th July we went to Mill Green Golf Club to participate in a golf event. First, we met the person who was going to teach us how to play golf. We practiced our putting, clipping and driving. We use plastic tri-golf equipment as well as metal wedges and drivers. We did lots of other activities, such as Archery and other fun games. We all showed great determination and learnt new skills. Thank you to Mrs Southall for taking us.

- Calum and Dylan

Paris Olympic Event – 12th July

Team names: All year 5

Star Player: Everyone!

On Wednesday 12th of July, the whole year of year 5 went to Gosling Athletics track to take part in the Paris Olympics. We split into groups and went round on the carousel of sports activities. We did lots of activities like javelin, tug of war, bench ball, handball, running and many other things. When we had finished our events, we gathered and we were ready for the relays and the sprints. First was sprints, Kitty ran for the girls and Stanley ran for the boys. Then the relays took place. The girls made it to the final and came second. Over all we had a great time and we showed motivation and confidence throughout the whole thing. We'd like to thank all year 5 teachers for taking us.

- Lottie P & Lyra





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July birthdays

Happy birthday to all who celebrated in July:

Arabella, Sophie, Hayazahra, Zara, Logan, Isla-Belle, Maximus, Poppy, Alice, Poppy, Lily, Fletcher, Leo, Elsie, Alessio, Teddy, Matthew, Fraser, Alice, Jacob, Oscar, Stanley, Ellis, Benjamin, Iris, William, Harriette, Catherine, Alexander, Tommy, Liahna, Freddie, Sophie, Arthur, Luca, Devon, Fred, Violet, Theo, Lotty, Finn, Florence, Jacob, Evelyn, Willow, Camilla, Betsy, Harry, Ollie, Miss Bryant, Mrs des Forges, Mr Gauden, Mrs Read

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

		Autumn Term 2023
1st September		INSET day - school closed
4th September		Term commences
4th September 2023 - Fri 8th September		Year 6 Bikeability
12 th September		School photos
15th September		Year 2 Scooterbility
22nd September		Year 2 Scooterbility
26th September		Year 4 Pedestrian Skills
3rd October		Year 4 Pedestrian Skills
6th October		Year 4 Pedestrian Skills
23rd October - Fri 27th October		Half term
24th November		Occasional day - school closed
20th December		Terms ends

