



# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



## Newsletter – July 2024

### Value

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

*"Be truthful, gentle and fearless." - Mahatma Gandhi*

*"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." - 1 John 3: 18*

### The close to another successful school year...

Dear families,

Where did this year go?! It feels like it was only yesterday that I was welcomed so warmly into this school community and that I was meeting and getting to know so many new parents and children to me. Within what feels like the blink of an eye, we are here at the end of my first year of headship at Welwyn St Mary's, the end of another school year for our pupils, and the end of an era at Welwyn St Mary's for our Year 6 children.

It is so wonderful to see what a school can achieve when everyone works together - that partnership between school, the child and the family. This is so important for the success of your child and to their experience of school. Thank you for being so supportive and doing everything that you can to help your child see the importance and value of education and for encouraging them to make their experience of school as positive as possible. This will equip them well for future learning and enable them to achieve their dreams, whatever these may be.

Thank you to our amazing children, staff and families for your support and for making this a wonderful school community.

Also, thank you to our fantastic governors, who work really hard to support our school, ensure that sensible and strategic decisions are made in the best interests of the school and its pupils, and that appropriate challenge is offered to ensure the very best for all of our children.

Thank you as well to our incredible PTFA (especially to Ellen and Jax, our Co-Chairs) for all of their wonderful fundraising activities and for providing the school with new and exciting resources, experiences for the children and amazing 'coming together' opportunities for our children to enjoy and our families to be part of.

It has been a proud moment to lead this school, as its Headteacher this year, and I look forward to continued and even greater success in the years to come.

May I wish you all a safe and very relaxing summer and that it brings with it whatever you and your family need at this moment in time. God bless and we look forward to seeing you all in September on our return for the new academic year.

Best wishes,  
Mr Whiteland  
Headteacher





Welwyn St Mary's Primary School - Year 6 Leavers

### A farewell to our Year 6 Leavers

Sadly, we have to say a farewell to our Year 6 children, who have reached the end of their time at Welwyn St Mary's. It has been a pleasure to be your Headteacher this year and to get to know you, even if only for one year. You are a fun-loving and memorable group of children and I wish you the very best in the next stage of your education. Keep trying your very best and remember to 'Believe and Achieve'. We hope to hear wonderful things about you, so keep in touch and let us know of your future successes. You will forever be part of the Welwyn St Mary's alumni and I hope you always feel truly proud to have been part of this school and this community.

- Mr Whiteland

### Staffing structure 2024/2025

Class	Teacher/s	Teaching Assistant/s and Support Staff
R Apples	Miss Lewis	Mrs Kinsella, Miss Howe
R Acorns	Miss Sanyal	Mrs Spence, Miss Gordon (am), Mrs Hanley (pm)
1 Birch	Miss Birch	Mrs Porter
1 Beech	Mrs David	Mrs Culkeen
2 Cedars	Mrs Bould, Mrs Clements	Mrs Hall
2 Chestnuts	Ms Hewitt	Mrs Porter, Mrs Hanley (am), Miss Gordon (pm)
3 Hawthorns	Miss Milnes	Mrs Curtis
3 Hazels	Mrs Southall, Mrs Maouchi	Mrs Brunson
4 Limes	Mrs Webb	Mrs Rogers, Mrs Pullin
4 Larches	Mrs Crofts, Mrs Dunstan	Mrs Stanley, Miss Bryant, Mrs Howard
5 Poplars	Mrs Jameson, Mrs Tucker	Mrs Moate, Miss Veasey
5 Pines	Mr Hawley	Mrs des Forges
6 Redwoods	Mrs Branch, Mrs Phillips	Miss Mills
6 Rowans	Mrs Mather, Mrs Harrison	Mrs Soppett-Moss







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### Governor changes

On behalf of the entire school community, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Mr. Morris and Mrs. Mackie for their time and dedication as school governors. Their commitment, support, and hard work have been invaluable in helping to guide and shape the future of our school. As you step down from your roles, we wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

### School Fund update

We thank Mrs Welch and Mr Kightley for their work with the School Fund over many years. Both will be stepping down at the end of term.

### Governor Prizes 2024

We are delighted to announce the recipients of this year's Governor Awards. Congratulations to the following children for their outstanding achievements

KS2 Progress	Alec (BP6)
	Darcey (HM6)
KS2 Achievement	Sophia (BP6)
	Ella (HM6)
Character	Loulou (BP6)
	Francesca (HM6)
All rounder	Zac (HM6)
	Preston (BP6)
Contribution to school	Ophelia (BP6)
Values	Bethany (BP6)
	Wilf (HM6)
Presentation	Riley (BP6)
English	Aanvi (HM6)
Maths	Eashaan (HM6)
PE	Stanley (BP6)
	Kitty (HM6)
Art	Yarden (HM6)

### Upcoming events in September

#### Return to school

We return to school on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**.

#### Clubs

Please be reminded that clubs do not run during the first week of term. Clubs will start **week commencing 9<sup>th</sup>**.

#### Bikeability

Year 6 will take part in Bikeability from **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> September**. Please see full details on Parentmail.

#### School Photos

Individual school photos will take place on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September**. Please can all children attend wearing full school uniform, not PE kits.

#### STEM Discovery Visit

Children in Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 will be visiting the STEM Discovery Centre in Stevenage during September. Please see full details on Parentmail.

#### Scooterbility

Year 2 will be taking part in Scooterbility on either **13<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> September**. More details will be sent via Parentmail at the beginning of Autumn term.

#### Pedestrian Skills

Year 4 will be taking part in Pedestrian training on **24<sup>th</sup> September**. More details will be sent via Parentmail at the beginning of Autumn term.





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### WSM's Talent Show

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July, we had a talent show in the hall. The acts were JT5 comedy act, Sasha, Lily, Lyra, Oliver and Eashaan, Ivy, Harper and Evie and finally CD4's singing act.

First it was Sasha and she did a dance to a jazz version of an 'Incy Wincy Spider'. She impressed us with amazing flexibility moves.

Next it was JT5's Comedy Act and they did a version of BGT called Britain's Got No Talent. It was funny and made the audience laugh.

After that it was Lily and she did a gymnastics routine to 'Better When I'm Dancing.' She did a lot of really good cartwheels.

Then, Lyra sang "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" from The Lion King. She was amazing at singing.

Next was CD4 and they sang a song from 'Six The Musical'. They were very good at their actions and singing.

Third to last was Ivy in H5 and she played "The Little Whale Explores the Calm Sea" on the piano, it was very smooth and calming.

Next was Evie and Harper and they did a dance to 'I knew you were trouble' by Taylor Swift. It was a very good dance with nice actions.

Last but not least, it was Oliver and Eashaan performing a very funny comedy sketch.

Then we found out the result! 1st place was Lyra, 2nd place was JT5 Comedy Act and 3rd place was Sasha.

We would like to thank Mrs Tucker for organising it, Mr Quilter and Mrs Jackson for being the judges and Mrs Mather and Logan for doing the music.

- Camilla and Maisie



### Year 4 Verulamium Trip

We enjoyed a great day at Verulamium Museum in St Albans. In the morning, we explored the museum and got to hold lots of Roman artefacts and find out about them. The mosaics were a favourite! After having lunch, we walked to the hypocaust which was covered by another mosaic. We then walked around the Roman walls and went to the West Gate foundations. We could see how thick the walls had been. We ended with a fun time on the park and then went on the coach back to school. Thank you to our parent helpers for supporting us.

- Mrs Crofts





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## Newsletter - July 2024

### Wonderdome Planetarium

Thanks to a grant from Howmet Aviation, we were excited to host a mobile planetarium at the start of July. All of our children were able to experience an immersive view of space and enjoyed a fascinating lesson about space. Children - we hope that you were all inspired and wonder if any of you will be astronauts when you leave Welwyn St Mary's.

### STEM workshops - Reception and Year 1

We have used some of the grant from Howmet Aviation for workshops here in school for our Reception and Year 1 children. Reception spent half a day exploring their senses, and Year 1's session was focussed on different materials. Both sessions involved hands-on activities and investigations into these topics.

### Year 6 Judaism Learning

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June, School Reader Mrs Sayliss, visited Year 6 and told them all about her religion - Judaism. She discussed Judaism and told us about kosher meals. Soon after that, Mrs Sayliss gave us some food, made kosher.

FUN FACT: Jews can't have meat and dairy at the same time, meaning after eating meat they would have to wait 4-6 hours before eating dairy products!

FUN FACT: Jews have a separate kitchen from meat and dairy  
- meat is red, dairy is blue!



Mrs Sayliss blessed all the food in Hebrew before we ate. The first thing she blessed was the bread. She said the blessing 'Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha-olam, hamotzi lechem min Haaretz', which in English meant 'Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has brought forth bread from the earth.'

Then she blessed the vegetables and fruit in Hebrew. We had to copy the words she said in Hebrew. "Baruch atah A-donay, Elo-heinu Melech Ha'Olam borei pri ha-adamah", meaning Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe who creates the fruit of the earth.

She told us about all sorts of things we didn't know. Thank you, Mrs Sayliss.

- Ella, Yarden, Willow







# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



## Newsletter - July 2024

### Music Lessons

If your child would like to sign up to music lessons in school, please register here:

<https://ukhertfordshire.speedadmin.dk/registration#/>

All of our music lessons are run via the Mid Herts Music Service and we currently offer, guitar, violin, flute, clarinet, saxophone, brass instruments and piano. Once registered, the Music Service will be able to advise you on availability.

We are always looking to introduce new instruments into our offerings and will share these via Parentmail when they become available.

### Labelling uniform

Following a very high volume of lost property uniform this term, please ensure that all items of clothing are labelled with your child's name. This includes coats, jumpers 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 have paired up with "My Name Tags" to help parents label their clothing while further fundraising for the school. Our school ID is 29167. [Click here to order](#) or insert the school ID at the checkout. MyNameTags will give 24% of the order value back to the school PTFA.

### PTFA

The PTFA team would like to say a big thank you to every parent, teacher, friend and pupil that has supported us this year!

Our recent 'break the rules' day raised a fantastic £471.

The success of our events and initiatives would not have been possible without the time, effort, and generosity of our wonderful school community.

Whether you volunteered, donated, attended events, or spread the word, your involvement has made a significant impact.

We are incredibly grateful for your support and look forward to more exciting events in the new academic year raising valuable funds for our school.





# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



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### ADHD and Autism Support

With the school holidays just around the corner, we wanted to highlight two valuable resources designed to support children and young people with autism, ADHD, or those awaiting a diagnosis: the Toolbox Live Chat and the Cogs app.

Both resources can be incredibly beneficial for children and young people who need someone to talk to about their experiences and challenges.

### ADHD and Autism Live Chat

The Toolbox's Live Chat supports children and young people with autism and ADHD (diagnosed or not), providing a safe space to discuss their feelings and concerns.

**Use The Chat To Talk About:**

- your feelings and emotions,
- understanding your autism/ADHD,
- building and maintaining relationships,
- available services and resources in Hertfordshire

**Find Us On:**  
[thetoolbox.mindler.co.uk](https://thetoolbox.mindler.co.uk)

The Toolbox Hertfordshire

**cogs** Hertfordshire

NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board

Learn about ADHD and autism on your phone!

If you are 14 or above, live in Hertfordshire and:

- Have ADHD (or think you do)
- Are autistic (or think you are)
- Or both

You can now access the Cogs app for free!

The app helps you understand more about ADHD and autism and how to manage them to your advantage.

To find out more and get your free access, search:  
<https://thetoolbox.mindler.co.uk/hertfordshire>

Then scroll to the Cogs offer!

### HAPpy Camps

HAPpy Camps provide a range of fun experiences, including physical activity, enrichment, a healthy meal and snacks for eligible children. These camps are for children aged 4-16 (reception to year 11) who are registered to receive benefits-related free school meals. If you are entitled, you would have received the booking code via Parentmail.







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### The Summer Reading Challenge



The Summer Reading Challenge has begun! Children aged 4-11 are invited to set a reading goal and collect rewards for their reading.

This year the Challenge runs from 6th July to 7th September and it is completely free to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge.

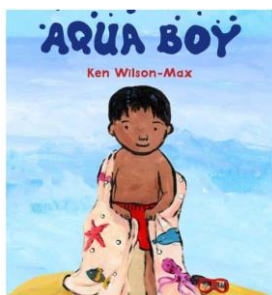
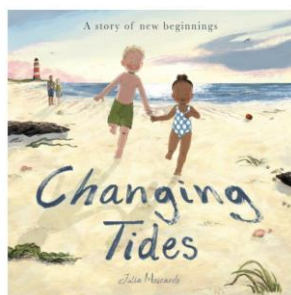
Designed to keep children reading over the summer holidays, the Summer Reading Challenge is a fun, free activity that aims to broaden reading horizons, improve mental well-being and encourage children to enjoy books.

Bookmarks have been sent home with children for them to use throughout the challenge. For more information, visit <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

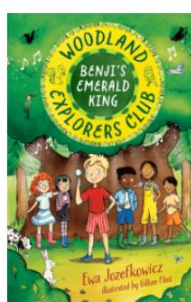
With this in mind, here are some recommended summer reads we thought you could get stuck into during the holidays. Remember, most of these titles are available at your local library.

### This month's book recommendations:

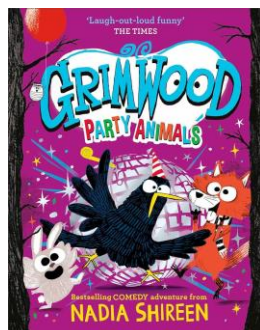
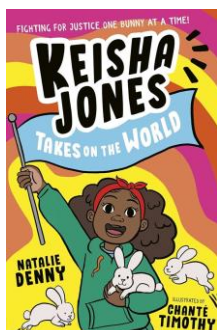
#### Ages 3-5



#### Ages 5-7



#### Ages 7-9



#### Ages 9-11







# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



## Newsletter - July 2024

### Year 5 Cricket Vs Sherrardswood - 5<sup>th</sup> June

**Team names:** Sam, Jack, Max, Layton, Charlotte, Scarlett, Camilla, Nathan, Joey, Jake

**Star Player:** Jack

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June, some year fives went to a cricket match. We had a good time and it was a close match. It was a very close game and Camilla volunteered to go onto the other team. WE would like to thank Mrs Southall and Mrs Tucker for taking us and organising it.

- Sam & Scarlett

### This girl can get golfing - 11<sup>th</sup> June

**Team names:** All year 6 girls

In June the Year 6 girls went to play golf. First, we tried putting. We had to put the ball into the hole. We worked in pairs. Then we crossed over to the other area to do driving and chipping. Driving is where you hit the golf ball as far as you can with an upwards push. Chipping is where you chip the golf ball into the hoops or nets. We all enjoyed the putting. There were about five pairs per hole and some people did a friendly competition around their hole. Driving was great fun because you could watch the ball fly through the air even though not everyone got it yet. Some people just hit it powerfully across the driving range without it going up at all, or hit the dirt instead. Chipping was a lot harder than the other two. We had a great time over all and enjoyed it. We would like to thank Mrs Phillips and Mr Gauden for helping and organising the golf for us.

- Ella, Willow, Yarden & Kitty

### Year 4 Bowls - 18<sup>th</sup> June

**Team names:** All year 4

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June, Year 4 went to Welwyn Bowls Club. We met some bowling coaches. We thought it would be like the bowling we expected but it was a bit different. We met a professional bowler.

There was a white ball called a "jack" we had to bowl the ball as close as you can to the jack. We were split into smaller groups with a coach each. We had lots of fun! We would like to thank Mrs Southall, the class teachers, Mr Gauden and Peter from bowls club for helping us. Some children now enjoy going to the club.

- Felicity & Grace



### Rounders - 20<sup>th</sup> June

**Team names:** Sam, Jack, Fred, Archie, Edward, Amelie, Scarlett, Caitlin, Camilla, Orla

**Star Player:** Edward

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June some of the Year 5s went to a rounders tournament at Monk's Walk School. Our first game was against Applecroft, we won 8-5, it was a good game. We fielded well, getting the ball back to the bowler, or the fourth post, quickly. After that we played Springmead and lost 6-3. They were a really good team and we learnt that it was important to run as soon as the ball was thrown. After that game, we played St John's. It was a close game but we won 6-5½. We played really well and we came second in our group and are proud of our success. We would like to thank Mr Gauden and Mrs Southall for taking us.

- Jack & Archie





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### Herts Primary Inter Division Swimming Gala - 21<sup>st</sup> June

**Team names:** Nyla, Isla B, Amelie, Charlie S

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024, some year fives went to a swimming gala in Watford. We were put in a team with lots of other schools. But all the other teams had come from their school's swimming team with no extra people. First in the boy's backstroke solo event was Charlie and he did 50m backstroke in 1 minute 5 seconds, coming 4<sup>th</sup> out of 6 people. Next, was Nyla in the girls 50 metres backstroke solo event and she took 58 seconds. After was Isla doing the 50-metre backstroke solo event and finishing with 59 seconds coming 5<sup>th</sup>. Next up was Amelie with 25-metre breaststroke with 1 minute and coming 4<sup>th</sup>. After we did the individuals, we went on to doing the relay races. In the first race Nyla and Isla and another girl from our team did a 25-metre medley relay. Nyla did backstroke and Isla did front crawl. After that Amelie did her front crawl 25-metre relay. Next Charlie did a 25-metre backstroke relay. We had an amazing time and enjoyed all of it. We would like to thank Mrs Southall for organising it for us.

- Isla B, Nyla

### County Tri-Golf Gala - 24<sup>th</sup> June

**Team names for both competitions were made up of:** Alba, Evie, Chelsea, Orla T, Burt, Ted, Lucas, Monty, Annabelle, Fin

On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June, we went to the County Tri-golf finals after winning the district golf competition in May. There were 8 different activities and 2 rest stations. We started on one of these and moved around to the different activities. We competed against a lot of different teams in both the district and county finals. We earned points for getting the target in chipping and putting. We would like to thank Mrs Rogers and Mr Gauden for taking us.

- Orla, Chelsea, Monty and Evie.

### Swim Gala - 27<sup>th</sup> June

**Team names:** Isla, Sophia, Ella, Francesca, Ethan, Jake, Jack, Alex



On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June, some year five and sixes went to Monk's Walk to take part in a swimming gala. We competed against Templewood, Homerswood and Creswick.

In the first race, Jack went for the boy's front crawl and came first with 21.28 seconds. Next up was Isla, she came third with 19.36 seconds. Next was Ethan in the boys' breaststroke and he came second with 31.67 seconds. Ella then came second in the girls race with 27.42 seconds. After that, Alex competed in the boys backstroke and he came third with 27.57 seconds.

Next up was Sophia and she came second with 22.73 seconds. Then Jake went to do the boy's butterfly. He came third with 31.85 seconds. Next was Francesca and she came second with 33.20 seconds. Then it was the boys 4x1 relay, we came first with 1.27 minutes. The girls also came first in the relay with 1.15 minutes. We then took part in an 8x1 relay against all the schools. We came first, finishing in 2.43 minutes. Overall, we came first out of eight schools. We would like to thank Mrs Southall and Mr Gauden for taking us.

- Jack & Isla







# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



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### Year 4 Paris Olympics - 3<sup>rd</sup> July

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2024, the whole of year 4 went to a Paris Olympics event and took part in several different activities including handball, baseball, tennis, tug of war and archery. Some people took part in sprints and relay. The boys relay teams included: Burt, Jacob, Freddie, Jasper, Harry, Orest, Monty and Jamie. The girls relay included: Mia, Alba, Daisy and Alice. In third place was Juliet, Chloe, Nicole and Michelle. CD4 was representing Senegal and P4 were USA. It was lots of fun. We chose a couple of people from each class, and they helped make the Senegal flag and USA flag. The Monks Walk students helped us run it and set it up - if it wasn't for them, it wouldn't have been what it was! We would like to thank Mrs Crofts, Miss Parkin, Mrs Rogers and Mr Gauden for taking us and another big thank you to the Mayor of Hertfordshire and the Sheriff.

- Harriet, Nicole, Harry and Annabel



### Year 5 Golf event - 21<sup>st</sup> June

**Team names:** Rosie, Ella, Alex, George, Emmanuel, Charlotte, Tommy

We did a lot at the golf club including putting and a competition. For the competition we had to see who could get the ball into the hole first. We also did some 'long golf' where we put a golf ball on a tin and had to blast it as far as we could into a target. Sadly, we weren't able to get it in any of the targets but we still had fun. Thank you to Mr Gauden, Mrs Moate and Mrs Jameson for taking us.





# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



## Newsletter - July 2024

### July birthdays

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated in July:

Arabella, Sophie, Hayazahra, Zara, Logan, Adele, Isla-Belle, Amelie, Maximus, Poppy, Poppy, Lily, Fletcher, Leo, Elsie, Alessio, Teddy, Matthew, Oscar, Jacob, Alice, Fraser, Stanley, Ellis, Benjamin, Iris, Maeve, William, Toby, Harriette, Catherine, Alexander, Sacha, Liahna, Freddie, Sophie, Arthur, Luca, Fred, Violet, Devon, Theo, Finn, Daniel, Florence, Jacob, Evelyn, Willow, Arthur, Betsy, Camilla, Finnley, Harry, Miss Bryant, Mrs des Forges and 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 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

Autumn Term 2024	
Mon 2nd September 2024	INSET day - school closed
Tue 3rd September 2024	Term commences
Tue 3rd September 2024 - Fri 6th September 2024	Year 6 Bikeability
Tue 10th September 2024	Individual school photos
Fri 13th September 2024	Year 2 Scooterbility
Fri 20th September 2024	Year 2 Scooterbility
Tue 24th September 2024	Year 4 Pedestrian Skills
Mon 28th October 2024 - Fri 1st November 2024	Half term
Sat 9th November 2024	PTFA Fireworks
Fri 22nd November 2024	Occasional day - school closed
Tue 3rd December 2024	Whole School Panto Trip - Cinderella and the Glass Slipper [Hertford Theatre]
Sat 7th December 2024	PTFA Christmas Fair
Fri 20th December 2024	Terms ends - Rec & KS1 1.15pm, KS2 1.20pm

