



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School

Newsletter – July 2026



Our value for this half term is:

Truthfulness

"Tell each other the truth"

-Zechariah 8.16

Message from Mr Whiteland

Dear families,

Thank you for all of your support in making this another wonderful year at Welwyn St Mary's. Our children are incredibly fortunate to have the support and the investment of time that you put in to making their years at primary school as successful as they can be.

It has been a packed year (as always), and it is hard to believe that it is already 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.

Thank you all for 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. It is this guidance and support that you give them that will shape their view of school and the importance of a good education all the way through their formative years.

Thank you to our amazing children, staff and families for your hard work and 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 amazing PTFA (especially to Ellen and Jax, our fantastic Co-Chairs for the past four years) for all of their wonderful fundraising activities and for providing the school with new and exciting resources, experiences for the children and fabulous 'school community' opportunities for our children to enjoy and our families to be part of. We really need others from our school community to step up and support this important part of school life and funding!

Upcoming events

Inset Days

1st & 2nd September

Back to school

Term starts on
Thursday 3rd September

Year 6 Bikeability

Monday 7th September to
Friday 11th September

Individual School Photos

Tuesday 15th September

Year 4 Swimming

Monday 21st September to
Monday 30th November





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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

A farewell to our Year 6 Leavers

It is time to say goodbye to our Year 6 pupils as they head off to secondary school in September.

We wish you all the very best of luck and happiness for the future. Please do stay in touch with us as we would love to hear where life takes you.

Year 6 show – “Oliver with a Twist”

Our Year 6 leavers' show this year was “Oliver with a Twist”. We were treated to wonderful performances by our actors, singers and dancers. Congratulations on an incredible show.

With thanks to all those who supported behind the scenes in making the staging, costumes and lighting and in coaching the children on their performance. We were truly spoiled. Well done!





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Year 6 SATs

Well done to all of our Year 6 pupils and the teachers who have taught and supported them throughout their time at Welwyn St Mary's.

Here are the headline figures (but most importantly well done to the children behind these numbers, who did their very best and should be very proud of their own individual achievements):

End of KS2 SATs Results	School 2026	School 2025	School 2024	Nat Ave (2026) *(2025)
Reading – Expected Standard	88%	92%	85%	75%
Reading – High Standard	47%	37%	43%	33%*
Reading – Average Scaled Score	109	107.5	107	106
Writing* – Expected Standard	87%	83%	77%	73%
Writing* – Greater Depth	8%	5%	10%	13%*
Maths – Expected Standard	82%	85%	70%	75%
Maths – High Standard	32%	25%	25%	26%*
Maths – Average Scaled Score	107	106	103	105
RWM – Expected Standard	72%	76%	65%	63%
RWM – High Standard	5.5%	3%	7%	8%*
GPS – Expected Standard	88%	88%	75%	74%
GPS – High Standard	35%	42%	42%	30%*
GPS – Average Scaled Score	108	108	106	105
Science* – Expected Standard	93%	92%	88%	82%





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Governor Prizes

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

KS2 Progress	Annabel W
	Danny
KS2 Achievement	Callum
	Felicity
Character	Marcus
	Poppy
All rounder	Lucas
	Luca
Contribution to school	Violet
Values	Evie
	Milo
Presentation	Alba
English	Juliet
Maths	Freddie
PE	Finley W
	Zara
Music	Orla
Art	Grace S
Chaplin's award	Monty





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Welwyn Street Festival Parade – Saturday 27th June

Thank you to all our families who joined in with the Welwyn street festival parade. It was wonderful to see so many of you and the range of different costumes, banners, flags and props tying in with the theme of 'Golden'.

Thank you to Mrs Leech for organising and leading Welwyn St Mary's parade.



PTFA Summer BBQ – Saturday 4th July

Thank you to everyone who attended the PTFA Summer BBQ. It was a fantastic day with bright sunshine and lots of fun to be had by all. We had a chair swing ride, bouncy castle and mega slide. Karting, face painting and a tattoo stall to name but a few. There was plenty to eat and drink too! The PTFA raised an amazing £2,325.00 for the school.

Thank you to the PTFA and all the volunteers who made the event such a great success.





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PTFA Summer BBQ continued - "Guess the number of sweets in a jar"

Emily and Harriet from Year 5 ran their very own 'guess the number of sweets in the jar' stall at the school summer BBQ. It was wonderful to see the girls' initiative which was greatly supported by everyone who attended.

Their campaign raised £198.75 for Blue Cross, the UK's leading pet charity.

A special mention too to the jar winners: Ronan from Hazels (winner) and Vinnie from Larches (runner-up).

The response from families and staff was heartwarming and it's clear the school's culture of supporting student-led projects makes all the difference.



Year 5 – Waterpolo at Monks Walk – Wednesday 8th July

A great morning out (and a welcome relief from the heatwave) for our Year 5 water polo team, who represented our school in a water polo competition at Monks Walk School. "Teamwork makes the dream work". Well done everyone.





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WSM Talent Show – Wednesday 8th July

On Wednesday 8th July, our Welwyn St Mary's Talent Show happened. The first act was Oli playing 'The Entertainer' on the piano. Then Gael did his own song on the electric guitar and also played a part of 'Smoke on the Water' and then Olive did some Irish dancing to 'Tell Me More'. Then it was Reid playing piano and singing to 'In My Life' by the Beatles and then Eva played 2 songs on the Clarinet, one of them was from Mary Poppins. Then 4 boys; Isaac, Tireni, Charlie H and Charlie M did a comedy sketch. Then we had a quick 10 minute break. Juliet sang 'Wild Flowers, Wild Horses' and then Harriette performed a gym routine to music. Finally the WSM Staff danced with wigs on, to 'Cha-Cha Slide'.

In conclusion, Reid won and Olive and Gael were runners up.

A big thank you to all our singers, presenters, tech people and prop helpers. Thank you to Mrs Jackson, Mr Daly and Max, Finley, Alba, Monty and Danny for judging all the acts. Thank you to Mrs Tucker and Mrs Mather for setting things up and organising it.

- *Written by Olive and Reid, Year 5.*





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July and August Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all who celebrate in July and August: Joshua, Sacha, Freddie, Arthur, Luca, Violet, Devon, Theo, Finn, William, Daniel, River, Florence, Jacob, Harlon, Evelyn, Arthur, Alice, George, Finnley, Harry, Sophie, Leonardo, Oliver, Monioluwa, Mollie, Maria, Annabel, Ethan, Dylan, Lucas, Nate, Harley, Orest, Maximus, Ralph, Lennon, Leo, Finley, Elle, Megan, Olivia, Maya, Martha, Alfie, Jaxon, Elliott, Jude, Lucas, Hendrix, Marloe, Maeva, Lily, Karianna, Reeve, Marcus, Monty, Rhys, Rohan, Eden, George, Oliver, Dylan, Remi, Sophie, Maya, Hayazahra, Zara, Edie, Alexandra, Adele, Isla-Belle, Catherine, Poppy, Mabel, Lily, Elin, Leo, Teddy, Carlo, Oscar, Jacob, Fraser, Stanley, Ellis, Benjamin, Iris, Maeve, Toby, Harriette, Catherine, Mrs Read, Mrs David, Mr Daly, Miss Clements, Mrs Jones, Ms Logan, Mrs Crofts, Miss Bryant and Mrs des Forges.

Fundraising

We are delighted to confirm that our Music Evening raised £290.61 for Music24 (a local charity providing musical opportunities for people with mental health challenges, dementia, disabilities and the elderly).

Our Choir concert raised £600 (£100 for Church, £250 for Mission Direct and £250 for School Supplies for Ukraine).

Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge is back, encouraging children to read during the summer holidays. This year's theme is "Read to the Beat" which focuses on exploring the creative power of music and reading.

At Welwyn Community Library, they will be challenging children to read six library books (or eBooks / eAudiobooks) between 4th July and 5th September. Incentives include a collector folder, stickers, a medal and a certificate. Everyone who completes the challenge will have a chance to win a ticket to an exclusive event!

The Challenge helps broaden reading horizons and maintain reading levels for the next academic year. It's a fun, free, family activity that encourages healthy reading habits.

Visit the library to pick up your reading card or see the link below for more information:

Summer Reading Challenge





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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.

Potential Kids

Please find below a poster for clubs over the summer for neuro divergent children and young people.

POTENTIAL KIDS For Neurodivergent Children & Young People

Summer booking is open.

3D Printing Ages 7-12

Water Play Ages 4+

Neon Splatter Room Ages 12-15

Fun Rings Ages 8+

Arts & Crafts Ages 5+

Jewellery Making Ages 8+

Cooking Ages 5+

Splatter Room Ages 5-12

Water Wipeout Ages 8+

Pony Mornings Ages 5-11

Book early to avoid disappointment.

Booking via
potentialkids.org.uk/events

SCAN FOR ALL OF OUR IMPORTANT LINKS

All of our activities are subsidised, which is only possible from your donations and grants. We receive no statutory funding.

Potential Kids Limited Registered in England and Wales Company No. 10912345.
Registered Charity No. 1182917





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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, and ensure any pre-loved uniform has the previous owner's name removed. 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. MyNameTags will give 24% of the order value back to the school PTFA.

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.





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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 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.





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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 Summer Term	
Wed 23rd July 2026	Last Day of Term
Thur 24th July 2026	INSET day – school closed
Fri 25th July 2026	INSET day – school closed
2026 Autumn Term	
Tues 1st September 2026	INSET day – school closed
Weds 2nd September 2026	INSET day – school closed
Thu 3rd September 2026	Term starts
Mon 26th to Fri 30th October 2026	Half term
Fri 20th November 2026	Occasional day – school closed
Fri 18th December 2025	Last day of school – Rec & KS1 1.15pm, KS2 1.20pm
2027 Spring Term	
Mon 4th January 2027	INSET day – school closed
Tue 5th January 2027	Term starts
Mon 15th to Fri 19th February 2027	Half term
Thur 25th March 2027	Last day of school – Rec & KS1 1.15pm, KS2 1.20pm
2027 Summer Term	
Mon 12th April 2027	Term starts
Mon 3rd May 2027	Bank holiday – school closed
Fri 28th May 2027	INSET day – school closed
Mon 31st to Fri 4th June 2027	Half term
Weds 21st July 2027	Last day of school – Rec & KS1 1.15pm, KS2 1.20pm
Thurs 23rd July 2027	INSET day – school closed

