



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter – June 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

Please pray for Mrs Jackson who will be ordained Priest by Jane, Bishop of Hertford at 10am on 2nd July 2023 at St Mary's, Welwyn.

*O LORD, you have searched me and know me. You know when I sit and rise up;
You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.*

Hot weather

With sunny days upon us, please make sure children have sun cream applied before school and have sun hats and water bottles in school.

Tesco Community Grants

We have been selected as one of the charities that you can vote for with your blue tokens in Tesco as part of their Community Grants Scheme. We will be featured from the start of July to the end of September 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.

Sports day

The sun shone, the parents cheered, and the children did their very best. From one of the first experiences of competition for our Key Stage one children, to the 'will we, won't we win this year' of Key Stage two, the motivation to do their best was clear to see. Our children have a natural drive which is so powerful in all areas of life. The balance of this is the joyous calls of fun and friendship. To be able to achieve both is a testament to the children and staff.

Many thanks to all the family members who were able to share the experience and encourage the children, especially those who were nervous. Memories from days like these stay with the children for much of their life and we are so pleased that so many positive memories were created.

Congratulations to KS2 Vikings and KS1 Saxons and well done to all children for trying so hard in all the activities.



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Year 6 GoConstruct K'Nex Challenge



On Monday 22nd May, each year 6 class participated in a County Knex Challenge. The target was to build something that can lift a bag which contained two small tyres and turn it. The challenge was way more difficult than we all expected, especially turning the bag. We added wheels to our crane and it was able to go up and down. Overall, we won from our class and hopefully we will win across the whole county. We would like to thank our teachers and the people running it because it was such an enjoyable experience.

- Thomas and Daniel R

Year 3 & 4 Performance



Our performance of Peter Pan was given on 24th and 25th of May. We had practised our acting, our dancing and our singing skills for a few weeks before the shows. Year 3 sang really well and their dances were fun to watch. Year 4 children all had a spoken part and tried hard to act and be heard. Toby from CD4 was in charge of sound and was supported by Mr Parker and his team, who along with Mr and Mrs Lansberry, helped set up the lighting and the stage. Thank you to our teachers for helping us with this show. It was great fun to be a part of.

Thanks to all the generous donations at the show we have raised an amazing **£639.84** which has been split equally between Brain Tumour Research and the Brompton Fountain charities.

Year 1 Assembly



Year 1 enjoyed sharing their learning at their class assembly on weather/seasons. Thank you to all the parents for coming and supporting them and helping them prepare.





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Reception Ark Farm visit

On Tuesday 13th June, reception had a visit from Ark Farm. They saw a range of animals including guinea pigs, rabbits, hedgehogs, chicks and a dog. The children were able to stroke the animals and remembered our whole school value of respect when doing so. They demonstrated this by remembering to be gentle and only stroke their backs. We learnt about the importance of hand hygiene around animals too. Following our visit, every child drew their favourite animal and independently wrote about it. The visit was thoroughly enjoyed by all and we were really proud of the children being brave around animals.



Year 6 PGL

Our year 6 classes went on a residential trip to PGL and it was as amazing experience! We had the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities such as orienteering, archery and zip-lining. The staff at PGL were friendly and knowledgeable, making us feel safe and supported throughout our stay.

One of the highlights of the trip was the team-building activities. We were split up into groups and had to work together to complete challenges such as building a raft and navigating our way through an obstacle course. It was great to see everyone working together and supporting each other.

The accommodation at PGL was comfortable and clean, with all facilities we needed. The food was delicious and there was always a good variety of options available. We also had plenty of free time to explore the beautiful surroundings and spend time with our friends.

Overall, the residential trip to PGL was a fantastic experience and we would highly recommend it to anyone. It was a great opportunity for us to bond as a class, try new things and make memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you to everyone involved in making this trip possible.

- Jonathan S and Thomas B

KS2 French Day

At Welwyn St Mary's, KS2 classes had a French Day. KS2 had to wear red, blue, and white clothes. In the morning, we had breakfast which was croissants, jam, bread, orange juice and Ribena. We did lots of activities after lunchtime which included "what is the time Mr Wolf?" and "la balle."

Parents that were from other French speaking countries came into school to help children with the activities. We had lots of fun and it wouldn't be possible without Madam Farrington.

The year six children helped serve younger children at the French breakfast. Year six also made the French day posters that were stuck on doors and walls in the KS2 corridors. We made menu's which we laid on the table we ate at. While we ate breakfast, we were listening to some French music and the hubbub of people ordering in French.

- Ethan





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Year 3 Celtic Harmony

Year 3 had lots of fun stepping back in time to discover what life was like during the Iron Age. The children got to experience making soup, grinding wheat and weaving wool.



Music Lessons

Our in-school music lessons are run by Herts Music Service. We currently offer guitar, brass, violin, recorder, bassoon and piano.

If your child is interested in learning any of these, 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.

Year 4 Verulamium visit



On Wednesday 14th June, Year 4 visited Verulamium Museum in St Albans. We had two sessions - one looking around the museum and one looking at artefacts. Some were genuine Roman artefacts and some were replicas. The museum guide was really interesting and told us lots of facts. We then visited the hypocaust which had a mosaic over it. Then we walked around the Roman walls. One piece was still there but mainly it was foundation stones. It was a really good trip.

School Council - Fair Trade Café



On Wednesday 28th June, School Council organised a Fairtrade cafe for the teachers. We baked lots of muffins, brownies and banana bread using fairtrade ingredients. We also provided fairtrade tea and coffee. We then spoke to the school in assembly about Fairtrade products and how they help farmers get a better wage and a better life. We reminded everyone about fairtrade and why we should try and buy fairtrade items at the supermarket if we can. The cafe raised £39.10 to be donated to Fairtrade.





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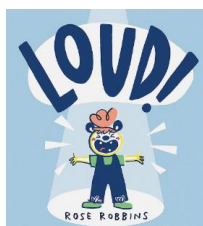


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Book recommendation

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:

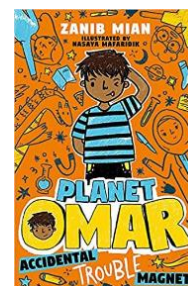


Loud by Rose Robbins

When Abigail can't concentrate in class, she gets bored and is naughty. But just when things are about to go wrong yet again, a teacher discovers exactly what to do to engage this little girl, and Abigail ends up finding a special voice of her very own. Readers and families will identify with the protagonist who displays symptoms of ADHD, but with the right encouragement, ends up triumphing.

Planet Omar by Zanib Mian

A graphic chapter book in the style of the Tom Gates or Diary of a Wimpy Kid series, Planet Omar takes on all sorts of issues, from dealing with school bullies and prejudice, especially against Omar's Muslim family, to forming new friendships and adjusting to change.



We have recently registered www.lovereadings4kids.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.

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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Six Nations Girls Tag Rugby – 18th May

Team names: Charlotte, Scarlett, Nyla, Connie, Sophie, Orla, Tami, Mia, Ava, Camilla

Star Player: Orla

On Thursday 18th May, ten girls went to a rugby tournament at Welwyn Rugby Club. Orla was our star player because she scored most of our tries and worked really hard. Ava was our team captain. We won every match and got to the finals but Brookmans Park beat us. We came 2nd. We had a great time and we loved it. It was a great sport to play and we hope to do it again. There were ten schools including us. We were in six matches and we won every match except the final. Our toughest competition was Brookmans Park. We learned that tag rugby is good for your health and could be a great way to make friends as you are in a team. We would like to thank Mrs Southall for taking us and cheering us all the way.

Six Nations Boys Tag Rugby – 18th May

Team names: Sebby, Rene, Billy, Tomos, Jake, Freddie, Nathan, Edward

Star Player: Tomos

On Thursday some year 4's went to tag rugby at Welwyn Rugby Club. There were loads of other schools there like Applecroft, Templewood and Sherrardswood. There were four pitches and the team on pitch one at the end won. Our first match was against Applecroft and we won 6-3, so, we stayed on pitch one. Our next game was against Commonswood, we lost 12-9. We moved onto pitch two. There we played Sherrardswood and lost 6-3 so moved onto pitch three where we played against Templewood and won 12-3. We moved up to pitch two and played Applecroft again. We lost and moved down. We won again securing 3rd place. The captain was Tomos and the star player was also Tomos. We would like to thank Mrs Southall for taking us.

Tri Golf – 22nd May

Team names: Arabella, Caitlin, Charlie S, Charlie W, George, Izzy, Rosie, Ella, Charlie B, Toby

Star Player: Caitlin and Charlie W



On Monday 22nd May, year 4 golf team set out to a golf tournament. We arrived ready to go, excitement bubbling inside us. We waited inside for the other schools to arrive then crossed a road and settled down on the grass. Moments later, we stood and walked to our first task. We had two minutes to practice and five minutes to earn points. We weren't hitting the balls into holes, only learning how to know when to putt hard or gentle. Our star players were Caitlin and Charlie W. We came 3rd out of seven schools and each got a medal. Then went back to school for lessons, our medals gleaming in the light. We'd like to thank Mr Gauden and the parent helpers who came along to cheer and watch us.
- Arabella & Caitlin





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Swimming Gala – 23rd May

Team names: Rafi, Daniel, Teddy, Maisy, Matthew, Dolly, Francesca, Dia

Star Player: Dolly and Daniel

The event was held at Monk's Walk swimming pool. We all had an individual race and then we had a four by one for boys and girls. At the end we had an eight by one with included the whole team. The scoring system was based on who had the lowest score so if you are first, you would have got 1 point and if you were eighth you got eight points. We came 3rd out of eight schools, which we are really proud of. We would like to thank Mr Gauden and Mrs Soppett-Moss for taking us there. We really enjoyed this experience. The two star players were Dolly and Daniel because of the great results and teamwork. Our teamwork was really good and we cheered each other on.

Mini Tennis District – 5th June – School Games Event



Team names: Milo, Burt, Annabel, Felicity, Jacob, Alba, Lucas, Evelyn

Star Player: Felicity

On Monday 5th June, year 3 entered a tennis competition at Welwyn Tennis Club. We played three games each. Everyone played really well with both teams trying their best at all times. Jacob and Burt showed great sportsmanship throughout the afternoon. The star player was Felicity who won all of her matches and showed great support to the rest of her team.

The most exciting game was Milo's first game when he was 7-0 down but won 9-7. We all felt nerves but we all won our first games. Milo's team won the competition which got us through to the county final.

- Burt & Milo

Bowls – 6th June

Team names: All P4 and CD4 children

On Tuesday 6th June, year 4 went to the Welwyn District Bowls club. Peter, the leader of the bowls club welcomed us and told us all about bowls and how to play. We learnt how to make the bowl curve and we tried to hit the white jack or get as near as possible. We were split into groups of three and each group had a coach who were really nice and gave us lots of good tips to help us get better. One of the coaches was an England player. She was called Elle and was a very good coach. Lots of people hit the jack. Bailey enjoyed that it was a new sport and a new experience. Betsy really liked the pusher trolley to collect all the bowls. Charlie really liked learning how to bowl. We all had fun and would like to thank the Welwyn Bowls Club for having us, all the coaches for helping us and Mrs Southall for organising it.

- Betsy, Faris, Charlie, Bailey, Tiffany

Sports Leaders Training – 7th June

Team names: Eashaan, Wyatt, George, Jasper, Daniel, Bear, Sophie, Ella, Lottie, Dia, Sienna, Olivia

Star Player: Jasper, Eashaan and Wyatt

When we arrived, we played a cone game where you had to go to a certain coloured cone with a selected amount of people. This helped us to use teamwork, communication and interact with other schools. Next, we got into partners, they couldn't be from the same school, where we played a game of who could get the cone first. It was a





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bit like head, shoulders, knees and toes. After that, we split up into two groups. Group 1 worked on communication skills by pretending to talk to reception children. They designed a game for the younger children. We found this really fun. In group 2, we designed a game using selected equipment. We made sure we could change the game to make it easier or harder depending on the age group. This was done with a group of five from different schools. When we had finished, group 2 explained the games to the group. We played the games and had fun. Next, Mr O'Neil asked us to nominate 3 star players which were Jasper, Eashaan and Wyatt. Thank you to Mrs Bryant for taking us.

- Jasper and Sienna

Girls District Dynamo Cricket – 8th June – School Games Event

Team names: Sophie, Martha, Mollie, Evie, Tianna, Ella, Eva, Dia

We had lots of fun and enjoyed it very much. We won most of our games. There were different schools with different sorts of people to challenge. Then it was the finals. It was very tricky. We got some good runs in and so did Brookmans Park. Then the winners were announced with all our fingers crossed... we came second. We were really proud of ourselves and we shook hands with Brookmans Park. We got a silver medal that we showed the class. Everyone was very supportive. We would like to thank Mrs Southall for taking us, we really enjoyed it.

- Evie & Sophie

Boys District Dynamo Cricket – 8th June – School Games Event

Team names: Sammy, Om, Jake, Ben, Teddy, Edward, Scott, Thomas

Star Player: Thomas

On the 8th June, the year 5 and 6 cricket team went to a tournament at the Welwyn Garden City Cricket Club. Our team first played Applecroft and we won 77-59 runs. By then it was very hot but we kept going. Our next game was against Homerswood and we won 113-34. Our second to last game was against St John's, it was our toughest game but we won 72-64, putting us through to the final! Against Brookman's Park. Sadly we lost by 7 runs and came second out of eight teams. Jake was the Captain. Zac had great bowling and batting and Thomas was good at returning the ball.

- Jake and Scott

District Athletics – 14th June – School Games Event

Team names: KS2

The District athletics meeting at Gosling is an annual highlight in sporting calendar. This year was no exception. Our team of 50 children performed, celebrated and supported each other with passion and compassion. They were determined and motivated to win, just as the location inspires all who compete there to do so. There were a number of first places in the track events as well as some close seconds and thirds. The field events, extended to year 3 for the first time, were particularly challenging with some very skilled competitors from other schools. We are pleased to have come third overall. We are so proud of all our children because of how they competed and conducted themselves. This type of event has provided inspiration for a number of children to take athletics to the next level, this is a powerful legacy which will hopefully continue. Many thanks to the organisers, especially Stuart Turkintine for such a great afternoon.

- Mrs Southall



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June birthdays

Happy birthday to all who celebrated in June:

Oscar, Poppy, Lewis, Michelle, Sasha, Beau, Chloe, Henry, Lily-Grace, Layton, Ophelia, Millie, Ralphie, Thomas, Rafiq, Amelia, Olivia, Edward, Finley, Max, Olivia, Lucas, Leo, George, Nathan, Darcey, Alec, Filip
Mrs Prudence, Mrs Baker, Miss Mills, Mrs Ragless, Mrs Mansfield

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

		Summer Term 2023
3 rd July		NSPCC online safety workshop - virtual
6 th July		Music Evening
7 th July		School reports sent home
8 th July		PTFA Summer BBQ
11 th July	6pm-7pm	Open Evening
13 th July		Budge-up day
14 th July		Year 1 Seaside Day
19 th /20 th July	TBC	Year 6 show
20 th July	9.30am	Year 6 Leavers' Eucharist at St Mary's Church for whole school - no parents
21 st July	1.20pm	Term ends

