



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School

Newsletter – June 2026



Our value for this half term is:

Truthfulness

"Tell each other the truth"
-Zechariah 8.16

Year 6 PGL Trip

On Monday 1st June, our Year 6 pupils travelled to PGL in Liddington for an exciting three-day residential visit. Despite the wet weather, the children had a fantastic time, embracing every challenge with enthusiasm and demonstrating excellent behaviour throughout the trip.

During their stay, the children took part in a wide range of adventurous activities, including canoeing, wall climbing, Aeroball, archery and the zip wire. They showed great determination, resilience and teamwork, making the most of every opportunity and creating memories that will last a lifetime.

A huge thank you to all our teachers who took the time out to make this experience possible: Mrs Phillips, Ms Logan, Mrs Mather, Mrs Harrison, Mrs Jackson and Mr & Mrs Southall.

Here is some feedback from some of the Year 6 Pupils:

"I had the best time. I really enjoyed being outside and with my friends. I am so proud of myself as I overcame so many fears. I would certainly recommend this for the Year 5s".
- *Burt*

"PGL was a blast. I stepped out of my comfort zone and achieved things I would never have thought of myself doing. I learnt a lot about nature, the wilderness and new friendships. You only do PGL once in primary school so do everything you can to make it the best, even if it means stepping out of your comfort zone".
- *Juliet*

Upcoming events in July

PTFA Summer BBQ

Saturday 4th July 3pm-6pm

Open Evening

Wednesday 8th July 6pm-7pm

Budge Up Day

Thursday 9th July

PTFA Break the Rules Day

Friday 10th July

Year 6 Leaver's Show

Wednesday 15th- 6pm

Thursday 16th- 6pm

Year 6 Leaver's Eucharist

Welwyn St Mary's Church

Thursday 16th July 9:30am

School Ends

Wednesday 22nd July

Rec & KS1 1.15pm

KS2 1:20pm

INSET Day

Thursday 23rd July





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Year 1 Seaside Day – Wednesday 1st June

Year 1 had a wonderful time learning how a day at the seaside has changed and developed over the years. Through a variety of engaging activities, the children explored what seaside holidays were like in the past and compared them with those of today.

The children made shell boxes and seaside postcards, took part in role-play activities, listened to stories and enjoyed a modified Punch and Judy puppet show. The children thoroughly enjoyed this hands-on learning experience.





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Reception Ark Farm Visit – Thursday 4th June

Our Reception children were delighted to welcome Ark Farm to school for a special visit. They enjoyed meeting a variety of farm animals and learning interesting facts about each one.

The children showed great responsibility and confidence as they carefully handled the animals with kindness and care. It was a fantastic hands-on learning experience that everyone thoroughly enjoyed.



Nature Reserve Working Party – 13th June 2026

Thank you to our wonderful helpers, Alexander, Thomas, Jessica, Sam, Harriet and their parents, who came along and helped at our nature reserve working party. A big thank you to Mrs Mather and Mr Daly for organising and helping too!

We helped at the nature reserve on Saturday in clearing back brambles and overgrown weeds. My brother and I cleared up the pathways with a pickaxe and a rake. There was a flower growing in the middle of one of the paths, so we moved the logs around it to help it survive.

I think it would be a good idea to have a competition to design an outdoor classroom and come out here a lot for lessons. I had great fun tidying up the nature reserve.

- *Alexander*





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Year 5 Hatfield House Trip – Monday 15th June

Our Year 5 children enjoyed a fantastic day out at Hatfield House, where they had the opportunity to learn first-hand about life in the countryside. They explored a range of topics, including arable farming, pig farming, forestry, gamekeeping and livestock farming. A highlight for many was the tractor rides!

Thank you to the Year 5 staff for organising the trip and to our parent helpers for giving up their time to support the visit.





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Year 6 St Albans Cathedral Trip – Tuesday 16th June

Our Year 6 children enjoyed a visit to St Albans Cathedral. On arrival, they were welcomed and told the story about St Alban.

The children then split into their class groups to take part in a variety of activities. They learnt about Taizé, the famous pilgrimage site in France, while listening to calming music, taking time for quiet reflection and writing their own song lyrics. They also explored the story of Genesis 1 by illustrating the seven days of creation and discussing important environmental issues.

After lunch, the children had the opportunity to explore the magnificent cathedral. Many were amazed by its impressive size, with one child describing it as "huge, with the walls reaching up to the clouds." The visit concluded with a fun lemon activity, where each child had to remember three unique features of their lemon before identifying it from a collection of everyone else's.

Year 6 learnt that this helped them to understand that everyone is different and they decided that it is *"good to be unique and if everyone was the same it would be very boring!"*.

A fantastic day had by all our Year 6 students with one child saying:

"Overall, it was a very fun and reflective day"





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Year 5 Celtic Harmony Camp – Friday 19th June

Year 3 spent the day immersed in Iron Age farming life at Celtic Harmony on Friday 19th June. This trip really helps to bring their learning to life, with opportunities to see the buildings, try the crafts and even mill their own flour.

Thank you to the Year 3 staff for organising the trip and to our parent helpers for giving up their time to support the visit.



Year 4 Verulamium Museum- Monday 22nd June

Our Year 4 children enjoyed a visit to Verulamium Museum. During their visit they admired mosaics of all sizes and had the opportunity to observe and handle a variety of Roman artefacts.

The children learnt many fascinating facts about Roman life. After exploring the museum, they walked to the Roman Wall before enjoying their lunch on the nearby field.

A big thank you to our Year 4 staff for organising such a fantastic educational visit, and to our parent helpers for their support throughout the day.





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Swimming Gala- Wednesday 20th May

On Wednesday 20th May some Year 5 and Year 6 pupils went to a swimming competition at Monks Walk School. The team was Luca, Monty, Jamie, Johnny, Olive, Elsie, Lily and Harriet. Overall, our school came 4th but unfortunately, we didn't get any medals. Our star swimmer was Luca, and we would like to thank Miss Veasey and Miss Soppett-Moss for taking us and Mrs Southall for organising it.

- *Luca and Monty*

Year 5 Girls Rounders Event – Friday 12th June

When we arrived, we started stretching and ran a lap around the field. When we were finished doing our warmup, we were greeted by Mr Williams and we met the other teams. There were 3 teams for Welwyn St Marys. Team 1 captain was Harriet, team 2 captain was Emily and team 3 captain was Juno. Team 1 played against Brookmans Park. We won with 2 rounders and 12 halves. Team 2 played against Homerswood and sadly they lost. Then team 3 played against St Michaels and luckily, we won. We had lots of fun and our star players were Elsie, Harriet, and Georgaina. We would like to thank Mr Hawley, Mrs Moate, Mrs Brunson and Mrs Pullin for taking us and supporting us.





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District Athletics- Wednesday 17th June

Wednesday was the much-anticipated District inter-school athletics event at the Gosling track.

The team were carefully selected and had a number of focused training sessions as well as practicing during lunchtimes. All the children were nervously excited and determined to do their absolute best. The competition was fierce and all had to perform to their maximum. We were thrilled to win the shield. We would like to thank the children who pulled out all the stops and the support team of staff and parents who organised, cheered and encouraged the children.

It was a resounding success and well done to everyone involved!



Mrs Southall

On behalf of all the pupils, staff and the entire Welwyn St Mary's community, we would like to say a huge thank you to our incredible PE Lead, Mrs Southall, for her many years of dedication to sport at Welwyn St Mary's.

Throughout her time at the school, Mrs Southall has inspired generations of children by placing sport at the heart of school life and providing them with an exceptional range of sporting activities, competitions and experiences, including district athletics. Her passion, commitment and enthusiasm have encouraged countless pupils to challenge themselves, develop their confidence and enjoy being active.





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We dedicate this year's District athletics success to Mrs Southall. Without her tireless dedication, many of these wonderful sporting opportunities would not have been possible.

As Mrs Southall begins her well-deserved retirement, we wish her every happiness for the future and hope she enjoys a long, relaxing and fulfilling retirement – she has certainly earned it!

PTFA Year Reception Cake Sale

Well done to Reception for baking and donating cakes for the Reception Cake Sale. Thank you to everyone who bought a delicious cake and helped raise a fantastic £302.

June Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated their birthday in June.

Amelia, Arabella, Beau, Chloe, Darcey, Emilia, Evelyn, Filip, Finley, Leo, Lucas, Milly, Oakleigh, Oliver, Olivia, Ollie, Oscar, Penny, Poppy, Ralphie, Thomas. Mrs Prudence, Mrs Fry and Mrs Mills.

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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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.

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.





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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.

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	
Saturday 4 th July	PTFA Summer BBQ
Wednesday 8 th July	Open Evening
Thursday 9 th July	Budge Up Day
Friday 10 th July	PTFA Break the rules day
Wed 15 th Thurs 16 th July	Year 6 Leaver's Show
Thursday 16 th July	Year 6 Leaver's Eucharist
Wed 22 nd July	Last day of school – Rec & KS1 1.15pm, KS2 1.20pm

