



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter - March 2023

Value

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

"When you forgive you don't change the past, but you do change the future"

Bernard Meltzer

"Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you"

Ephesians 4: 32

Staff changes

We are delighted to announce that the governors have appointed Stuart Whiteland as our new Headteacher from September 2023. We look forward to working with his leadership in the next exciting chapter of our school's life.

Welcome to our new full time reception teacher, Miss Popham who will be joining us after Easter for the summer term. We hope she will be very happy here.

It is with sadness that Mrs Mansfield is not able to return to Welwyn St Mary's due to personal circumstances. We thank her for all she has done for Welwyn St Mary's and our Reception children over the past eight years.

World book day 2023

Children and teachers enjoyed dressing up as book characters to celebrate World Book Day. They all looked fantastic and enjoyed a number of reading themed activities throughout the day. A massive thank you must go to all parents for helping the children look so amazing.



Year 2 Great Fire of London Day

On February 28th, year 2 were transported back to 1666! The children enjoyed a whole day learning about The Great Fire of London and were emersed in drama activities to bring their imaginations alive.



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Speakers Cup 2023



On Friday 10th March at 9am, our school held the Speakers' Cup competition. Eight children said a speech on multiple topics including: medicines through the ages, football and Florence Nightingale. They were all really interesting but my favourite was Evie's speech about secondary school. She came first! Francesca spoke about frogs and came second. Thomas spoke about American football and came third. Well done to all the people who took part in the competition. The judges were Mr Riley from Monk's Walk school, Mrs Westley, Mrs

Hesketh, a governor and Ben from Year 6. Thank you for judging and giving excellent feedback to each person.

- Francesca and Thomas

Year 2 Class Assembly

Thank you to all the parents/carers that came to support our year two children at their class assembly. We hope you enjoyed the performance as much as we did.



Reception class assembly

On Friday 24th March, Reception performed their class assembly. They focused on sharing their knowledge of 'People Who Help Us', which was their topic in spring term. The children sang three songs and acted as different occupations. They gave ideas of how to stay safe, including holding a parent's hand when crossing the road. Thank you to the parents for helping your children to learn the words. We hope you enjoyed it.





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Decorated eggs - Winners

Thank you to everyone that participated in our decorated eggs competition. The standard was so high and all the children and adults loved seeing them on display.

They were all egg-stremely creative. Well done all!

Prize	Winner	Name of Egg
Best Reception egg	Charlotte (MR)	Rosa
Best year 1 egg (joint)	Maxwell (M1)	Eggy
Best year 1 egg (joint)	Rosie (M1)	Eggcellent Dreams
Best year 2 egg	Elsie (A2)	The solar system
Best year 3 egg	Alexandra (SH3)	Turtle egg hatching
Best year 4 egg	Amelie (P4)	Bass-Vegas
Best year 5 egg	Ava (A5)	Grandpa's great egg-scape
Best year 6 egg	Tommy (HM6)	Qatar Wegg Cup
Best theming R/KS1	Aaran (LR)	Spiderman Egg
Best theming KS2	Freddie (BC3)	The tree of egg-ceptional values
Best book themed egg R/KS1	Bethany (LR)	Princess Rapunzel
Best book themed egg KS2	Arabella (P4)	Matilda
Cutest R and KS1	Harriet (A2)	Safari eggs
Cutest KS2	Sienna (A5)	Old McDonald's Farm
Most realistic R/KS1	Olive (MN2)	Cactus Egg
Most realistic KS2	Kiara (BC3)	Egg cream van
Most imaginative R/KS1	Harriette (DC1)	Egg-ceptional
Most imaginative KS2	Maisie (A5)	Egg and spoon race
Most work R/KS1	Liliane (MN2)	Egg-streme sports
Most work KS2	Loulou (A5)	Egg storys
Best WSM theme	Burt (SH3)	Egg-cellent
Prettiest	Olivia (A2)	Easter Egg Nest





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Year 5 Dance Festival



On Tuesday 21st March year 5 went to the Dance Festival at Campus West in Welwyn Garden City. The dance festival contained four different schools, Welwyn St Marys, Temple wood, Oaklands and Harwood Hill. The theme for this year was 'to infinity and beyond'. The first class to do a dance was A5 who danced to 'You've Got a Friend in Me' by Toy Story. It was about an alien invasion in our school playground but the aliens turned out to be friendly. The next dance was JT5 who danced to the song 'Sky Fall of Stars' by Coldplay. Our movements expressed the energy of the music. The other schools' dances were very energetic and very enjoyable to watch too. We all enjoyed the festival very much and would do it again if we could. We want to thank Mr Anstey, Mr O'Neill, Mrs Lansbury and all the other Welwyn St Mary's staff who joined us, especially Mrs Tucker who organised the whole festival.

- Henry and Ryan

School uniform policy

Our school uniform policy has been updated in line with new government legislation on uniform and can be found on our school website. www.welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk/parents/school-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 are very difficult to reunite with their owners.

New school lunch menu

As of 17 April 2023, the price of a school meal will be £3.25. We are aware that this is a substantial increase from the current price, and we will be carrying out a tendering process at the next contract renewal date to ensure that we continue to offer families meals that represent good value for money.

Sports day 2023

Save the date! Our whole school sports' day will take place one Thursday 22nd June. In the event of bad weather on this date, it will be held on Thursday 29th June as a reserve date. Parents, Grandparents and carers are warmly invited to watch. Tickets are not necessary. More details will follow via ParentMail.



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An update from the PTFA

The PTFA have had a busy month, kicking off on the 10th March with the return of our quiz night. Congratulations to the winners - Team "The Last Hurrah" and a massive thank you to all that came and supported, raising an impressive **£890!!**



On the 17th March it was Receptions turn to hold their cake sale. Fantastic effort from baking, buying and selling. The children and parents had lots of wonderful choice of treats from cupcakes to doughnuts and biscuits, with lots of gluten free and vegan bakes too. Reception raised a fantastic **£288.55** for their year group.

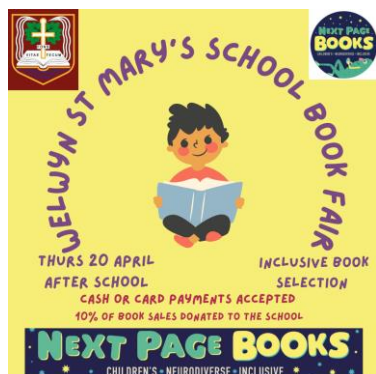
Swiftly followed was the return of our Mother's Day Gift Shop which took place throughout the following week. The children had so much fun choosing their favourite gifts which were beautifully wrapped ready to label. From trinket boxes to cute keyrings, the Mother's Day gift shop was a huge success, selling 325 gifts and raising **£681.50**.



Lastly, to end the term on a high, we have welcomed back our Easter Egg Hunt for Reception, KS1 and Year 3!

The PTFA want to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in helping and supporting all our events and we wish you all a happy Easter.

Next Page Bookshop - 20th April



Save the date! We will be holding a Next Page Bookshop in the school hall on Thursday 20th April afterschool.

Children will have the opportunity to browse the books before the end of day.

Cash or card payments accepted. 10% of book sales will be donated to the school.

Full details will be sent out via ParentMail next term.



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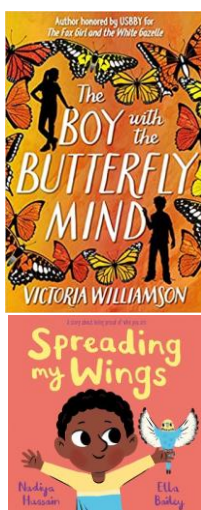


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Book recommendation

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 Boy with the Butterfly Mind by Victoria Williamson

Perfect for our older readers, an uplifting and inspiring story about acceptance, blended families and discovering that in the end, being yourself is more than enough.

Spreading my wings by Nadiya Hussain

A touching story about embracing our differences and being proud of who you are.

Badminton – 5th March

Team names: Daniel R, Om D, Jonathan S, Elisa M, Martha W, Sophie P, Thomas B and Daniel D

In March 5th 2023, a badminton tournament was held at Stevenage Leisure Centre. The tournament attracted a range of players from different skill levels, and the games were played with great enthusiasm and energy. There were around nine schools competing. Ten girl teams and nine boy teams. We all had fun and did our best, we worked together and even won some matches but unfortunately the boys ranked 2nd to last and the girls team came last in their category. We learnt a lot from the experience, and in our opinion we did pretty good as it was Welwyn St Mary's first time competing. We thank Mrs Southall for organising the event. We had a great time playing badminton together and hope more badminton tournaments can happen in the future.

- Elisa





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District Football - 14th March

Team names: Teddy, Zachary, Charlie, Ben, Rafa, Elliot, Fred, Tommy, Douglas

Star Player: Ben and Charlie



On Tuesday 14th March the district football team went to an event at Ridgway Academy. First, we played De Haviland who were very fast and played well but with a great goal we won 1-0. Next, we played Commonswood who had a skilful winger but Ben handled it and Zach and Charlie held the back line. Teddy made a great save which kept us in the game. After that, we played Creswick. We had a corner which Ben kicked into the area and Charlie tapped into the goal. We won 1-0. Finally for the last game in the group stages which we played Holwell. We had most of the possession which resulted in us having about 8 shots and them none. Finally, they got scrappy and Ben was there for a great shot. Then we found out we were in the semi-finals and played Green Lanes which was a very physical game and won 2-1. We got to the final against Brookmans Park which had Arsenal and Watford academy players. We lost 7-0 and got silver medals. Brookmans Park are going to play at Wembley before the FA Cup Final. We would like to thank Mr Gauden and Mrs Southall for being there and cheering us on.

- Zachary & Teddy

G + T Netball - 22nd March

Team names: Mia, Alice, Daisy, Ella, Laney



On the 22nd of March we went to a netball friendly. At first, we did a couple of warm ups before the games. When we were sorting out teams all the schools were split up so we can make new friends and meet new people. It was so fun and not too pressuring since it wasn't a competition. We really enjoyed it and learnt a lot on the way through.

- Mia

District Cross Country - 29th March

Team names: Ben, Tommy, Douglas, Thomas, Riley, Ryan, Kitty, Ella, Zoe, Elsie, Sophie, Anabelle

On Wednesday 29th March the year 5 and 6 cross country team went to Sherrardswood school to compete in a cross-country competition. First the girls race took place and Kitty came an amazing 4th place. The boys were cheering them on right till the end. Then, the boys were roaring to go. There was silence and the whistle blew, the boys were off. Tommy took a quick lead but sadly rolled his ankle, but he didn't give up and came 37th out of 60. Ben went speeding off after Tommy's injury and came 1st! Overall we got 3rd place in the boys and girls race. It was an awesome day. We would really like to thank Mr Gauden and Mrs Southall for cheering and encouraging us all the way.



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February birthdays

Happy birthday to all who celebrated in February:

Scarlett, Jamie, Mia, Chelsea, Chloe, Samuel, Corey, Nysha, Charlotte, Isabelle, Isabelle, Reid, James, Oscar, Max, Henry, Jamie, Kye, Elsie, Preston, George, Callum, Teddy, Ella, Alex, Ted, Raffi, Cyril, Mrs Tucker, Mrs Harrison, Mrs Bould

March birthdays

Happy birthday to all who celebrated in March:

Antonia, Cerys, Ava, Oria, Douglas, Olivia, Ethan, Orla, Bear, Louie, Chantelle, Charlotte, Sam, Teddy, Isla, George, William, Connie, Isla, Milo, Nico, Tianna, Scarlet, Jack, Jonathan, Omari, Charlie, Teddy, Mr Stockton, Mrs Mather, Mr Anstey, Mrs Primrose, Mrs Lansberry, Miss O'Smith, Miss Milnes, Mr Hawley, Miss Spence

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
17 th April		Term commences
19 th April	7.30pm	PTFA Meeting
20 th April	3.15pm	Next Page Bookshop
21 st April		School Council/PTFA Movie Night
26 th April		PCSO visit in Reception
30 th April		Chamber Choir at the Royal Albert Hall
2 nd May		Year 5 Saxons Workshop
2 nd May - 5 th May		Operation plastic free lunch box week
3 rd May	6pm	Diversity parents evening workshop
4 th May		PGL Parent Meeting
5 th May		Coronation Day activities in school
9 th - 12 th May		Year 6 SATs week
15 th May	9.15-11.30	Understanding Anxiety in Children Workshop Part 1
19 th May		Year 1 PTFA cake sale
22 nd May	9.15-11.30	Understanding Anxiety in Children Workshop Part 2
22 nd May		Year 1 Paradise Wildlife Park Trip
22 nd May		Year 6 GoConstruct K'Nex Challenge
24 th May	1.30pm & 6pm	Year 3 and 4 Production
24 th May	8.45 - 10.30am	School Family Worker Coffee Morning - Garden Room
24 th May		Class photos
25 th May	6pm	Year 3 and 4 Production
29 th May - 2 nd June		Half term
5 th - 7 th June		Year 6 PGL
6 th June		Year 2 Knebworth House Trip
9 th June		Year 3 Celtic Harmony Visit
13 th June		Reception Ark Farm visit
14 th June		Year 4 Verulamium Visit
16 th June		Year 2 PTFA cake sale
16 th June		KS2 French day
22 nd June		Sports day
23 rd June		INSET day - school closed
26 th June		INSET day - school closed
28 th June	5.30pm	New reception parents meeting
28 th June	8.45 - 10.30am	School Family Worker Coffee Morning - Garden Room
29 th June		Sports day reserve date
6 th July		Music Evening
7 th July		School reports sent home





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11 th July		Open Evening
12 th July		Governor Drinks
13 th July		Budge-up 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
21 st July	1.20pm	Term ends



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