



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter – March 2025

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*

Ofsted

We are delighted to share with you all our Ofsted report from our recent inspection, which is now available on the [Ofsted website](#). Please do read through this, which we feel is overwhelmingly positive and captures so much of what is amazing here at Welwyn St Mary's.

Please also take the time to read Mr Whiteland's accompanying letter, which adds a little more detail on feedback we received during the inspection and is available on the [school website](#).

Staff Changes

We are saddened to say goodbye to Mr Stockton and Madame Farrington. Please join us in thanking them for everything they have done for the school over the years and wish them the very best in their retirement.

We look forward to welcoming Mrs Foster who will be joining us as a PPA cover Teacher and Mr Daly, our new Site Manager.

We're pleased to share that Mrs Kinsella is recovering well following her spinal surgery. Thank you for all the well wishes, we look forward to welcoming her back to school when she is able.

World Book Day

A huge thank you to all of our parents and carers for your support on World Book Day. The children looked fantastic in their costumes, and they had a great day taking part in various book-related activities.

Mask competition winner

Thank you to all the children that made a mask for our World Book Day competition. We were so impressed with all of the masks - it was very difficult to select the winners!

	Reception	Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
1st Place	Edward (<i>Acorns</i>) - Paul from The Toucan Brothers	India (<i>Beech</i>) - Stickman	Kiara (<i>Poplars</i>) - Wicked
2nd Place	Darcey (<i>Acorns</i>) - Elsa	Bethany (<i>Cedars</i>) - Schnitzel von Krumm	Reeve (<i>Hazels</i>) - Hulk
3rd Place	Joseph (<i>Acorns</i>) - Flat Stanley	Bo (<i>Beech</i>) - Dog Man	Seren (<i>Larches</i>) - Brenda the Bee Theo (<i>Hawthorns</i>) - Dog Man

Upcoming events

Last day of term

A friendly reminder that we have an early finish on **Friday 4th April**. Rec & KS1 1.15pm, KS2 1.20pm. We return to school on **Tuesday 22nd April**.

Year 3 Swimming

Swimming will run each Monday from **28th April** for children in Year 3.

Year 1 Hertfordshire Zoo

Year 1 will visit Hertfordshire Zoo on **Wednesday 30th April**. Please complete the consent form via Parentmail.

Class Photos

Class photos will take place on **Friday 2nd May**. Please could all children come to school in full, smart school uniform. We will notify individual classes if we require them to bring in PE kits in a bag.





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Royal Albert Hall

On Sunday 23rd March, some children from Year 5 & 6 who attend choir went to the Royal Albert Hall in London to perform a series of songs with choirs from other schools.

At 7.40am our parents dropped us off at the Howard Centre train station. There, we waited for the train in separate groups. When we got off the train, we went into the underground station. It was crowded and we had to stay near each other.

When we got off the underground, we walked to the Royal Albert Hall. As soon as we laid eyes on it, we knew we were going to have a great time.

We had to wear blue wristbands so the staff could know where we needed to sit.



We put our stuff down in this elegant bar and had our snack. We chatted for a while and then we were called to go into the place we would be performing. We met the conductor, Rufus Frowde, and James Slimmings the County Youth Choir Director.

We began practising. It was fun and we got to meet Big Gub, an experienced rapper. He sang two of the songs. One of them was 'Believer' by Imagine Dragons which we were singing in.

The songs we sang were 'If I have words' by Camille Saint Saens, 'When I grow up' from the Matilda musical, 'Believer' by Imagine Dragons, 'Make your own kind of music' by Barry Mann & Cynthia Weil and 'You're the Voice' by John Farnham.

The performance was set in a production sort of way, with three actors to tell a story. The story was about three friends that talked about the types of live music they liked and making playlists.

Once it was finished, we left the building feeling really happy. We loved it.

We would like to thank Mrs Harrison, Mrs Dunstan, Mrs Phillips, Mrs Bould, Mrs Noakes and our parents for taking us. Overall it was a great experience and we would love to do it again.

- Ivy & Tami

Year 5 Distraction training

On the 13th March, the whole of Year 5 took part in distractions training which taught us about not using anything that could distract you near the road. Harry demonstrated if it is easier to walk with or without a phone. We all thought that it was easier without a phone. We timed Harry to prove this. We also made posters to inform people that we should be safe while crossing the road. Thank you to Mrs Jameson and Chi, for teaching us not to use technology near the road.

- Annabelle & Milan





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Year 4 Faith Tour

On Tuesday 4th March, we went to three places of worship in Bedford on a Faith Tour. I enjoyed the Guru Granth because it is interesting, and I liked seeing Guru Granth Sahib and I liked the person who showed us around. I could see the Palki Sahib very close.

In the mosque I liked learning about the throne. It looked very beautiful. I liked listening to the man because he explained everything very well. It looked like a palace because it was all nice colours. I enjoyed the mosque. It looked amazing.

I loved the church because the vicar was very friendly, and he explained so much. I liked how we could look around and he played the organ. We enjoyed everything. I learnt a lot of things I did not know.

- Amelia

Year 5 Dance Festival

On the 18th March, the Year 5 classes took part in the Welwyn & Hatfield Dance Festival. The schools that took part were Holy Family, St Michael's and Oaklands. 5 Poplars danced to 'One Short Day' from the musical Wicked. 5 Pines danced to 'Firework' by Katy Perry. In the finale there was 24 children from our school dancing with a collaboration of all the schools. The song for the finale was 'Stargazing' by Myles Smith. We would like to give a special thank you to Mrs Tucker for teaching and organising our dances. Thank you to Mrs Moate and Mr Hawley for supporting us and cheering us on. Thank you to Mrs Jameson for bringing the props and also cheering us on. Thank you to our parents for watching us. We really enjoyed every moment of it.

- Harriet & Jacob

Year 6 Tree Planting



On Wednesday 12th March, 6 Rowans went to the sports field to plant some young trees. We planted hedges and further back we planted some Oak trees and a few Rowan trees. We split into groups of three and planted 10-15 hedges and 6-10 bigger trees. Mr Anstey came in the afternoon and talked to us about why we are doing it. We planted trees because it gives us more oxygen, food and habitats for the animals and gives us more shade. We would like to thank Mr Anstey and Mrs Mather for taking us.

- Sophie & Connie

HCL New Summer Menu

The HCL Summer menu is now available to order via [School Grid](#). Summer sees the return of a sandwich/roll option each day. The full menu is also available to see on the [school website](#).

Please remember to book no later than 9am on the day you wish your child to have a lunch. We recommend booking for the full term in advance.

A reminder that from the 1st April, the price of a meal will increase to £3.55. All children in Reception and Key Stage one are entitled to free school meals.





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Rising Stars Holiday Club

We're delighted that Rising stars will be offering a holiday club at Welwyn St Mary's during the Easter Holidays.

This has been requested by parents, and we're delighted to be able to help fill the need for holiday care in the village.

Rising stars will be providing a fun-filled program including: Arts & Crafts, Sports & Games, Inflatables & More!

Secure your child's place now! Book here.

Rising Stars Wrap-Around Clubs Ltd Ofsted Registered 2753242
Childcare vouchers accepted

**WRAPAROUND CLUBS
EASTER HOLIDAYS 25
WELWYN
ST MARY'S
PRIMARY**

8.00 - 5.00 - £32.50
(INCLUDES BREAKFAST AND LIGHT TEA)
8.00 - 1.00 - £27.00
12.00 - 5.00 - £27.00
10.00 - 3.00 - £27.00
PLEASE BRING A PACKED LUNCH

Open to children from all schools | Mon 7 April - Thursday 17 April | For children aged 4-11

Activities include:
Sports | Inflatables
Indoor and Outdoor games | Chill and Care
Arts and Crafts | (games, puzzles etc)

To book please go to risingstars.magicbooking.co.uk

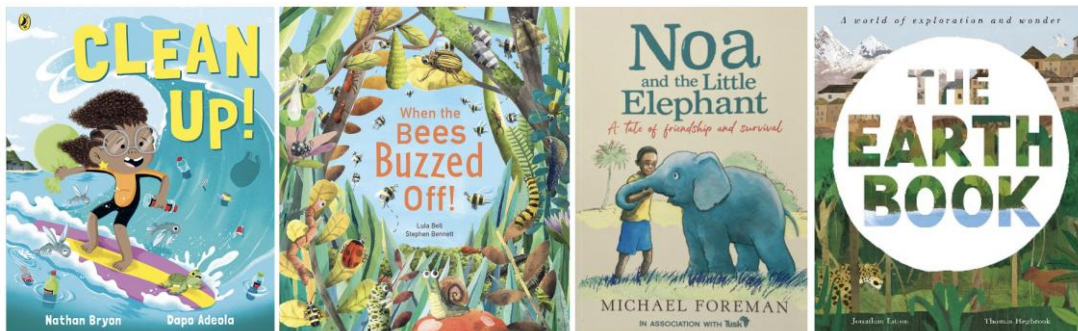
Need more information? info@risingstars-wraparound.co.uk

Book recommendation

This month's book recommendations:

On April 22nd, we celebrate Earth Day. Earth Day is an annual celebration that raises awareness of the need to protect Earth's natural resources for future generations.

Here are some recommended reads suitable for any young reader interested in caring for the planet.





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District Indoor Athletics – 5th March 2025

Team names: Edward, Jake, Layton, Billy, Toby, Nathan, Freddie, Jack, Faris, Fred, Charlie W, Charlie B, Rene, Sam, Bailey, Isla D, Neave, Nyla, Scarlett, Caitlin, Camilla, Mia, Maisie, Tami, Isabella, Betsy, Amelie, Tiffany and Orla



On Wednesday 5th March, some Year 6 children went to district indoor athletics at Ridgeway Academy. We took part in various events and came first in 3 events, came second in 7 events, third once and fourth twice. Overall WSM boys came 2nd and WSM girls came 3rd. Overall it was an amazing experience. We would like to thank our parents for taking us and Miss Veasey and Mrs Mather for supporting us all the way.

- Neave and Mia

District Tag Rugby – 12th March 2025

Team names: Edward, Nyla, Billy, Scarlett, Freddie, Betsy, Jack, Tami, Faris and Orla

On Wednesday 12th March, some Year 6's went to a district tag rugby tournament. Our first match was against Applecroft, we won 3-0. Then we played against Templewood and won again, 4-0. Our final match was against St John's and we won 2-0. Since we won all of our games so far, we got into the semi final. We played against Brookmans Park and lost 2-1. For our final match we played Applecroft again and won 1-0. Overall Faris scored 6 tries and Freddie scored 5. Jack scored 3 and Edward scored 1. We would like to thank Miss Veasey and Mrs Soppett-Moss for taking us.

- Edward & Nyla

National Cross Country – 22nd March 2025

Team names: Monty & Zara

On Saturday 22nd March, Zara and Monty from Year 5 went to Coventry to take part in the National Cross Country after qualifying in the County top 10. The Year 5 girls went first, and Zara came 47th out of 154 participants. She came in the top 40%. Next, was the Year 5 boys and Monty came 65th out of 164 participants. Monty also came in the top 40%. We both did amazingly well and learnt a lot from the experience.

- Monty





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March Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated in March:

Oria, Ava, Nina, Penelope, Orla, Louie, Chantelle, Teddy, Ellie, Charlotte, Sam, Callahan, Isla, William, George, Rory, Connie, Isla, Milo, Nico, Scarlet, Jack, Juliet, Reggie, Finley, Omari, Charlie, Eliza, Teddy, Joseph, Olivia, Cerys, Mr Stockton, Miss Howe, Mrs Mather, Miss Hawkins, Miss Milnes, Mrs Spence, Mr Hawley

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 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.

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

Diary dates are regularly updated on the school website:

www.welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk/news-dates/diary-dates

2025 Summer Term 1	
Wed 2nd April 2025	PTFA Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt
Thu 3rd April 2025	Easter Service [St Mary's Church]
Fri 4th April 2025	Terms ends – Rec & KS1 1.15pm, KS2 1.20pm
Tue 22nd April 2025	Term commences
Wed 30th April 2025	Year 1 Hertfordshire Zoo
Fri 2nd May 2025	Class Photos
Mon 5th May 2025	Early May bank holiday – school closed
Wed 7th May 2025	Year 5 Class Assembly
Fri 9th May 2025	Year 1 Class Assembly
Mon 12th May 2025 - Thu 15th May 2025	KS2 SATs
Fri 16th May 2025	Year 1 Cake Sale
Wed 21st May 2025	Year 5 Woodhall Estate
Thu 22nd May 2025	Sports Day
Fri 23rd May 2025	INSET day – school closed
Mon 26th May 2025 - Fri 30th May 2025	Half term

