



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School

Newsletter – March 2026



Our value for this half term is:

Justice

“Learn to do right. Seek Justice”

Isaiah 1.17

Staffing Update

We are delighted to confirm we have recruited Mrs Jones as our new Teaching Assistant for 2 Cedars, who joined us on Monday 16th March. We are also very fortunate to welcome Mrs Shutlar, who will be joining us after the Easter break, focusing on interventions and support for some of our children.

Bishop of St Albans Announcement

The Diocese of St Albans confirmed that the new Bishop of St Albans was announced on Thursday 19th March. The Right Revd Dr Andrew Paul Rumsey, currently the Suffragan Bishop of Ramsbury in the Diocese of Salisbury, will be moving to our Diocese later this year with his wife Rebecca and their family.

Read more here:

<https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/news/andrew-rumsey-next-bishop-st-albans-announcement/>

Bishop Andrew said, *“Please know that I will be praying for you and I ask you to pray for me and our family as we prepare for all that lies ahead.”*

HCL New Summer Menu & Meal Price Increase

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 8.55am on the day you wish your child to have a lunch. We recommend booking for the full term in advance.

Upcoming events in April

INSET day

Monday 13th April

Return to school

Tuesday 14th April

PTFA Yr 5 Cake Sale

Friday 17th April

Year 3 Swimming

Swimming will run every Monday from Monday 20th April.

PTFA Movie Night -Yr 1, 2 & 3

Tuesday 21st April

PTFA Movie Night -Yr 4, 5 & 6

Tuesday 28th April

Perform Workshop

Reception, Yr 1 & 2
Wednesday 29th April

PGL Parent's Meeting

Wednesday 29th April





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A reminder that from the 1st April, the price of a meal will increase to £3.65. All children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are entitled to free school meals.

Return to school reminder

Monday 13th April is an INSET day. Children will return to school on Tuesday 14th April.

Summer Term Uniform

From next term, children may come to school wearing summer uniform.

A full list of approved uniform items can be found on the school website. [Welwyn St Mary's C of E Primary School » School uniform](#)

Summer uniform guidelines:

- Children may wear a pink gingham dress with white socks. Playsuits are not permitted. If shorts are worn underneath a skirt or dress, they must not be visible.
- Children may wear traditional grey school shorts. Sports shorts are not permitted on school uniform days.
- A sun hat is also optional.

Please also ensure that any skirts worn to school are of an appropriate length and are not rolled up.

Routine appointments

We would like to remind you that, wherever possible, routine appointments for children should be booked outside of school time and, ideally in the school holidays, to minimise disruption to learning.

We understand that with some hospital, orthodontic and non-routine dental appointments, there is little choice and it can be difficult to book these around the school day or during the school holidays; we will continue to approve these absences if you cannot make arrangements for your child to be seen outside of school time. We will also always approve emergency medical appointments. We would ask, however, that if you do have to book an appointment for your child during school hours, as there is no alternative, that you minimise the time that they are away from school as much as possible, for example, booking these at the very beginning or end of the school day, or sending them to school before a mid-morning appointment, or returning them to school after an early afternoon appointment. Thank you in advance for your help with this and hopefully planning these appointments, so that they do not affect your child's learning at all.

Please be aware that other routine appointments, such as eye tests, should always be booked outside of school time and will not be recorded as authorised.





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Year 3 Steel Pans Music Day – Tuesday 3rd March

We walked into the hall and stood near the drums. Next, we hit the drums and it made a lovely sound. The drums had big dents inside them which made different noises. Before we played tunes, we clapped the beat. We each had a partner and took turns. We played the drums with a little stick which we had to hold when it was our turn.

- Lily

We had a drumming workshop and played the bamboo tamboo. We also played the oil pans and the steel pans. We were only gently tapping them, so they didn't need to be re-tuned with a cannonball. The oil pans were as hard as cooking pans.

- Robert





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Year 5 Viking Saxon Day

On Monday 2nd March, Year 5 took part in Viking Saxon Day. The children experienced the lives lived by those in Britain in the year 878 AD through practical activities such as scribe writing, pottery, candle making, weaving and role play. The children all looked fantastic in their costumes and engaged very well in this fun, practical learning of history.



Year 6 K'Nex Challenge

On Monday 9th March, all of Year 6 took part in a K'Nex Challenge. We were in pairs and had to make a rocket out of K'Nex pieces. The rocket had to be at least 20cm tall and have a booster. We had to have good teamwork, determination, respect and belief in each other. We had an hour to do this and then it was judged. The winners from 6 Rowans were Callum and Lucas and the winners from 6 Redwoods were Freddie, Finley and Ted. We would like to thank David for running it.

- *Callum and Lucas*





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Yr 2 Great Fire of London Day

On Wednesday 11th March, Year 2 children had a fun day experiencing life as it would have been in 1666 London before, during and after the Great Fire of London. The children learnt about the issues of the time and participated in a range of cross-curricular activities and crafts such as writing, weaving, perfume making and role play.



PTFA Year 2 Cake Sale

Well done to Year 2 for baking and donating cakes for the Year 2 Cake Sale. Thank you to everyone who bought a delicious cake and helped raise a fantastic £226.40.

PTFA Mother's Day Gift Shop

We are pleased to confirm that an amazing £707 was raised at the Mother's Day Gift Shop. Thank you to the PTFA for organising this, raising money and providing lovely gifts to loved ones on Mother's Day.





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March birthdays

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated in March.

Alan, Albie-George, Annalie, Callahan, Cerys, Chantelle, Charlie, Elijah, Eliza, Ellie, Elsie, Fia, Finley, Flora, Freddie, George, Harry, Isla, Jack, James, Joseph, Juliet, Lilia Rose, Louie, Milo, Nico, Nina, Olivia, Omari, Ori, Penelope, Reggie, Rory, Scarlet, Teddy, Teddy, Vinnie, William, Mr Hawley, Miss Howe, Mrs Mather, Miss Milnes and Miss Spence.

Reception Mother's Day Class Assembly

Our Reception year group celebrated their class assembly last Friday. The children did a fantastic job at singing and speaking confidently and clearly. Thank you to the parents and families who came along to support and thank you to the Reception teachers for organising a wonderful assembly in honour of Mother's Day.



Maths Challenge

On Thursday 26th February, the Year 5 Maths competition took place. The team was Amelie, Riaan, Jack and Finley B. There were four rounds. The first round was general maths and we scored 35/40. The second round was estimation. This was a challenging round and we scored 28/40. The third round was perplexing puzzles. There were four puzzles to solve and we got a score of 37/45. Round four was complex conundrums and this was our best round where we got full marks 40/40. The first, second and fourth round were live and we had 2 or 3 minutes to complete each question. We had 30 minutes to do round 3, as we had to do it beforehand. In total, we scored 140/165. Overall, we worked really well as a team and we were all very proud of ourselves and we hope we did the school proud too. We would like to give a huge thank you to Mrs Jameson for all of her support and encouragement.

- *Amelie, Riaan, Jack & Finley B.*





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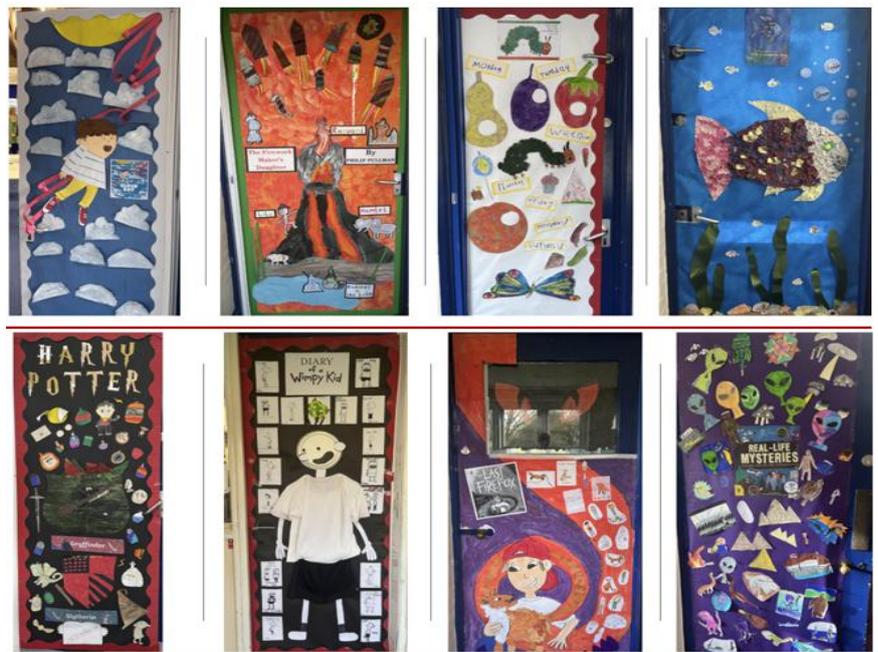


World Book Day

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.



Here are some photos of some of our fantastically decorated classroom doors celebrating World Book Day.





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WBD Potato Competition

Thank you to all the children who took part in our World Book Day competition. We were very impressed with all their imaginative ideas. The winners were:

Reception

1st Place	Maya Ali (Apples)- My Neighbour Totoro
2nd Place	William Oates (Acorns)- SuperTato
3rd Place	only 2 entries

KS1

1st Place	Jude Sidwell (1 Birch)- The Snail and the Whale
2nd Place	Edward Lewin (1 Beech)- Baby Bear
3rd Place	Danny Ali (2 Cedars) - Paddington

KS2

1st Place	David Torterella (4 Larches) - Inside the Tarantula
2nd Place	Leo Sidwell (4 Limes) - Oi Frog
3rd Place	Olivia Yates (4 Larches) - Winnie the Pooh

Well done to everyone who took part in the competition!





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Sporting Events



Year 3 Curling Event – Friday 27th February

On Friday 27th February, we took part in a curling event. We had a warm-up and we rolled the stone. We were against the girls first. The stone banged against the other stones and when the stone tapped, the warm-up was over. We first scrapped the stone along the floor. We scored ten, twelve and thirteen and we came second. The star players were James and Poppy. We lost by one point.

- James C



Year 6 Football

Our Year 6 football team have been busy this month, taking part in several matches. All of our players have performed brilliantly, showing great determination, teamwork and sportsmanship in every match. Thank you to all our parents who have come to support these games and thank you to Mrs Southall for organising and supporting the children.

Match against Applecroft - Thursday 5th March

Team: Orest, Callum, Ellis, Marcus, Nicole, Jasper, William and Kiara

Result: Lost 4-1

Match against Watchlytes - Monday 16th March

Team: Alexander, Callum, Marcus, Monty, Ellis, Ronnie, Jasper, Danny and William

Result: 4-0 win

Match against Homerswood - Tuesday 10th March

Team: Freddie, Nancy, Zara, Lucas, Burt, Jacob, Mia, Ted. Finley M, Kyle and Finley W

Result: 2-0 win

Match against Holy Family - Tuesday 17th March

Team: Burt, Lucas, Jacob, Freddie, Zara, Nancy, Finley, Kyle, Teddy, Mia, Finley and Ted.

Result: 2-1 win

Match against Waterside - Thursday 19th March

Team: Freddie, Lucas, Jacob, Teddy, Kyle, Annabel, Nancy, Zara and Fin.

Result: 6-0 win





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Year 6 Indoor Athletics Finals – Thursday 5th March

We were up against the top teams from Welwyn Hatfield area. There was a great team spirit all the way through the afternoon. Children cheered each other on and provided a supportive shoulder to those who didn't feel they had done as well as they thought they could. We are proud of all the children. The girls came 6th and the boys came 5th against some tough and very talented opposition. A special mention for Mia for great attitude and sportsmanship towards everyone and Alexander for being a wonderful representative of Welwyn St Mary's. Thank you all for trying as hard as you did.

-Miss Veasey



Year 6 Tag Rugby – Thursday 12th March

Team: Jacob, Teddy, Burt, Finley M, Ted, Zara, Elin, Mia, Nancy and Juliet.

On the 12th March, 5 boys and 5 girls took part in a tag rugby event at Monk's Walk School. We played all of the teams once and we did not lose one game. We demonstrated respect and teamwork. After playing, we had a ceremony. They announced we came 1st place by 4 points! The star player was Jacob. We would like to thank Miss Veasey and Mrs Southall.

- Teddy





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Netball Festival – Tuesday 17th March

Some Year 5 and Year 6 girls took part in a netball festival at Stanborough School. There were 14 teams that competed in total. Our A team came first place, winning all their games, which is an amazing achievement. It was a great experience for both teams and they all did us proud. Well done to everyone who took part.



Year 2 Handball Festival – Thursday 19th March

Year 2 walked to Monk's Walk School to take place in a handball festival. Everyone took part and the children had a great time. Well done to all the children who showed great enthusiasm, teamwork and respect for all players.





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Year 4 Football Festival – Thursday 19th March

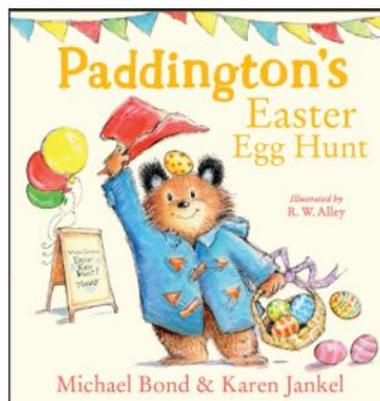
Some Year 4 girls and boys took part in a football festival at Monk's Walk School. This festival was to develop skills and a love of football. It was a great learning experience and huge progress was made by both teams.



Diversity Group Book Recommendations

March is the beginning of the Spring Season and there are signs of new life all around us. Whether you are celebrating Easter or looking for books with themes of new life, here is a selection of books recommended by the Diversity Group.

Spring Books



- **Busy Spring: Nature Wakes Up** Alex Morss & Cinyee Chiu & Sean Taylor
- **Paddington's Easter Egg Hunt** by Michael Bond & Karen Jankel
- **Here comes Spring!** By Susan Kantor



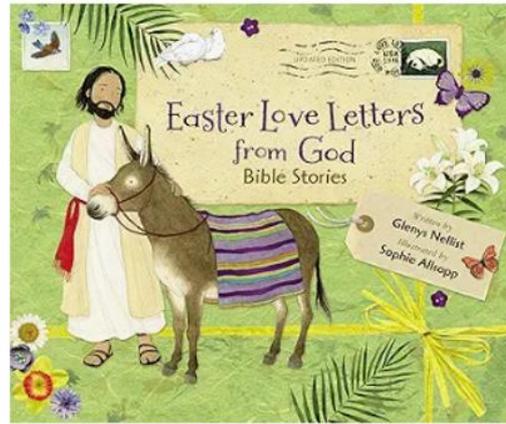
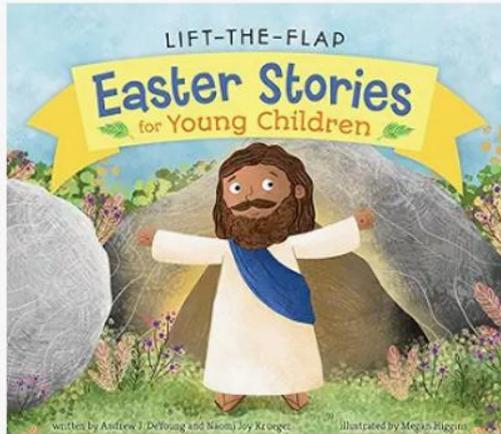


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Easter books



- **Lift-The-Flap Easter Stories for Young Children** by Andrew K. DeYoung
- **Easter Love Letters from God: Bible Stories** by Glennis Nellist & Sophie Allsopp

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.





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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.

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





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- Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education.'

Diary Dates

Diary dates are regularly updated on the school website:

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

2026 Summer Term	
Mon 13th April 2026	INSET day – school closed
Tue 14th April 2026	Term starts
Mon 4th May 2026	Bank holiday – school closed
Fri 22nd May 2026	INSET day – school closed
Mon 25th to Fri 29th May 2026	Half term
Saturday 4th July 2026	PTFA Summer BBQ
Friday 10 th July 2026	PTFA Break the rules day
Wed 22nd July 2026	Last day of school – Rec & KS1 1.15pm, KS2 1.20pm

