



# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



## Newsletter – May 2023

### Value

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

"A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out."

Walter Winchell

"Good friends are like stars. You don't always see them, but you know they are always there"

Anon

### Year 6 SATs

A huge well done to all our year 6 children who completed their KS2 SATs exams this month. The children were a credit to our school and all tried their very best which is all we can ask for.

### Termly Leaflet

Our Spring term class leaflets are now available on our website. Leaflets contain useful information about topics classes will be studying this term, class routines and upcoming events so please do take a look.

[www.welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk/curriculum/curriculum-overview](http://www.welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk/curriculum/curriculum-overview)

### Royal Albert Hall



On Sunday April 30th 2023 the Chamber Choir went to the Royal Albert Hall for a Hertfordshire Gala concert. This was very important as all the schools in our county sang together. There was also a brilliant orchestra and dancers at the front of the stage.

We were all singing with the Hertfordshire symphony orchestra and there were 87 schools singing with us.

The Royal Albert Hall was absolutely massive. There were loads of seating and we all saw the royal box. It was a lovely experience and we would like to thank all the adults who organised and helped during this event.

Thank you to Mrs Dunstan for planning this trip, Mrs Harrison for teaching us our songs, Mrs Phillips and Miss Parkin for supervising us. We really enjoyed it!

### School Games



We are thrilled to have received retained the School Games gold award for 2022/2023. A huge well done to Mrs Southall for making this happen.





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### Coronation activities in school



We had a lovely day celebrating the Kings Coronation in school on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

The children looked great in their red, white and blue outfits and enjoying an indoor tea party due to the weather.

Thank you to you PFTA for arranging special coronation bookmarks for all children.

### Year 5 Saxons and Viking Day



On Tuesday the 3rd of April, year five had a man called Phil come in for a Saxon and archaeologist day. We all thought we were going to be Saxons but we were actually Danes (Vikings).

We started off by lining up in the corridor being strictly instructed to be silent like a real Saxon. We gradually made our way into the hall, and had to sit in a space in the middle next to a pretend fire.

Next, we got told there would be nine stations that you could work your way through the day but if you did want to move to a different station you would have to finish the activity you were doing. At one station there were a couple of doctors (school pupils) who would come and give you a sickness card that you would have to act out. Zachary got a garlic bag and it stunk!

In the afternoon, we saw Phil had changed into some other clothes and we got told we were going to be archaeologists. There was a tray on each table and we were split up into groups. In our groups we would have a tool to dig up soil and find the objects inside of the soil.

In conclusion we all enjoyed the day and had great fun. We would like to thank the year five teachers and TAs and Mrs Moates daughters for running the groups and Phil from The History People for running the event.

### PTFA Movie Night

The children enjoyed a special screening of Matilda the Musical at our School Council and PTFA movie night.

A huge thank you to the School Council, along with the PTFA for organising event and parents for supporting the event. It raised an amazing £455. Well done School Council for coming up with such a fab idea



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### Plastic Busters Week 2nd May – 5th May

Green Group arranged a Plastic Free Week! The rules were that you had to come into school with a single-use plastic free lunchbox. Each plastic free lunchbox earned points and if the points of every student in the school was over 100 plastic free lunches, we would gain extra play. This is better for the environment and makes our great school greener. Plastic cannot decompose as easily as paper so this is a great strategy to lessen the plastic in our school. We gained 294 points in just a week which shows that nearly everyone is participated. We all enjoyed the extra play so why not do something better for the environment.



### **Here are some tips to be as plastic free as possible:**

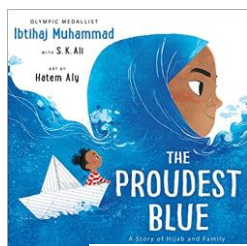
- Use any spare lunchboxes with compartments, so you have extra storage and your food lasts for longer.
- Try not to use clingfilm.
- Buy giant packs of food and put them into smaller containers and please recycle the packaging that comes with food.
- Heat-up leftovers and serve for the next day in a Thermos flask!

### 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.

We have recently registered [www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk](http://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.

### This month's book recommendations:



#### **The Proudest Blue by Ibtihaj Muhammed**

A beautiful and powerful story about the bond shared between siblings and being proud of yourself and your beliefs.

#### **Just Call me Spaghetti Hoop Boy by Lara Williamson**

This hilarious and heart-warming story is the perfect read for our upper KS2 children. This is a story about the power in all of us to be extraordinary.







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### Water bottles

We encourage all children to have a water bottle in school. While we know there are a vast array of bottles available, please be assured that a simple bottle will suffice. Please clearly label water bottles with your child's name.

### Quicksticks Hockey – 16<sup>th</sup> May

**Team names:** Ryan, Daniel, Lotty, Maisy, Rafa, Ben, Kye, Evie, Martha, Alice

**Star Player:** Kye



On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2023, a group of year 6 went to Monks Walk to complete in a hockey tournament. Our first game was against Brookmans Park, we drew 0-0 but played really well and deserved to win. Kye was captain for all six games. The second game was against St Michael's. We played very well but lost 1-0 after we conceded an unlucky goal. This was the team that won the tournament. The third game was against Oaklands and this game was quite tight. We drew 0-0. Our fourth game was tough but Martha managed to score in the first couple of minutes. After this Applecroft put a lot of pressure on us. In the last minute or so their front player shot the ball with a lot of power and it went airborne. Kye somehow managed to save it and we won 1-0. Our fifth game was a tough one but Ryan scored a really good goal so we won 1-0. The 6<sup>th</sup> game was against Howell, we drew 0-0 but had so many chances. We overall had 11 points, giving us joint 3<sup>rd</sup> place with Oaklands. We will receive our bronze medals soon. – Kye and Martha

### This Girl Can Play Rugby – 17<sup>th</sup> May

**Team names:** All year 6 girls

**Star Players:** Lucia, Martha, Evie and Elsie



On Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2023 every girl in year 6 went to Welwyn Garden City rugby club for a tag rugby event. The star performers were Lucia, Martha, Evie and Elsie. We learnt different activities like tackling, matches and different warm ups. It was very nerve racking because there were around 10 different schools and 30 children from each school. We were all mixed up in different groups so not all of us were together. We learnt that when you tackle you have to go down by the hips and put your shoulder into the hip, not your head into the stomach, it was a lot easier than expected. – Lily-Grace and Lucia





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### May birthdays

Happy birthday to all who celebrated in May:

Lucia, Freddie, Violet, Bethany, Archie, Zac, Oliver, Mmesomachukwu, Amia, Harry, Milan, Charlie, Ronnie, Orla, Logan, Teddy, Jack, Ashley, Laney, Isla, Isaac, Huxley, Tion, Evelyn, Aaran, Emily, Tomos, Thomas, Bastian, Nyla, Bobby, Benjamin, Grace, Mia, Marty, Ethan, Kiara, Billy

Mrs Branch, Mrs Jameson, Mrs Newstead, Mrs Anstey, Mrs Redgers, Miss Lewis, Mrs Porter

### 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.



Telephone 01438 714169 E-mail: [admin@welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk) Website: [www.welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk](http://www.welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk)



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### Diary Dates

		Summer Term 2023
29 <sup>th</sup> May - 2 <sup>nd</sup> June		<b>Half term</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> - 7 <sup>th</sup> June		Year 6 PGL
6 <sup>th</sup> June		Year 2 Knebworth House Trip
9 <sup>th</sup> June		Year 3 Celtic Harmony Visit
9 <sup>th</sup> June		Year 4 and 5 Young language leader visit
13 <sup>th</sup> June		Reception Ark Farm visit
14 <sup>th</sup> June		Year 4 Verulamium Visit
16 <sup>th</sup> June		Year 2 PTFA cake sale
16 <sup>th</sup> June		KS2 French day
22 <sup>nd</sup> June		Sports day
23 <sup>rd</sup> June		<b>INSET day - school closed</b>
26 <sup>th</sup> June		<b>INSET day - school closed</b>
28 <sup>th</sup> June	5.30pm	New reception parents meeting
28 <sup>th</sup> June	8.45 - 10.30am	School Family Worker Coffee Morning - Garden Room
29 <sup>th</sup> June		Sports day reserve date
3 <sup>rd</sup> July		NSPCC online safety workshop - virtual
6 <sup>th</sup> July		Music Evening
7 <sup>th</sup> July		School reports sent home
8 <sup>th</sup> July		PTFA Summer BBQ
11 <sup>th</sup> July		Open Evening
13 <sup>th</sup> July		Budge-up day
14 <sup>th</sup> July		Year 1 Seaside Day
19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> July	TBC	Year 6 show
20 <sup>th</sup> July	9.30am	Year 6 Leavers' Eucharist at St Mary's Church for whole school
21 <sup>st</sup> July	<b>1.20pm</b>	<b>Term ends</b>

