



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter - May 2024

Value

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

*"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little."
- Edmund Burke*

Year 6 SATs

Well done to all our Year 6 children who completed their KS2 SATs exams this month. The children have been a credit to our school and all tried their very best which is all we can ask for.

Staff Changes

Miss Parkin had made the bold and exciting decision to travel the world for a year and will be leaving us at the end of this academic year. Hopefully it's a temporary "au revoir" rather than goodbye as we very much hope there will be an opportunity for her to re-join us after her travels. Please join with us in wishing her all the best.

Trips

We have a number of class trips taking place throughout June:

- Year 1 Seaside Day in school on Wednesday 12th June
- Year 2 Knebworth House trip on Friday 14th June
- Reception Ark Farm visit in school on Wednesday 19th June
- Year 4 Verulamium visit on Wednesday 19th June
- Year 3 Celtic Harmony trip on Friday 28th June
- Year 5 Vertigo Adventures trip on Friday 28th June

If you haven't already done so, please give consent and make payment via Parentmail as soon as possible. Whilst we ask for contributions towards our trips, unfortunately, it may not be possible for the trips to go ahead if insufficient contributions are received.

Music Evening 2024

Due to staff illness, we have made the difficult decision to cancel music evening for this academic year. We are sorry for any disappointment this may cause but we hope to be able to run the event again next year.

Sports Day - Rescheduled

Thank you for your understanding regarding the difficult decision to postpone our Sports Day this month due to wet weather and unsafe field conditions.

Sports Day will (weather permitting) take place on **Wednesday 26th June** (KS2 children in the morning and KS1/Reception in the afternoon). We hope you can join us for a fun-filled day supporting the children.

Upcoming events

Back to school

We return to school **Monday 3rd June** for the final half term of the academic year.

PGL

Year 6 will be venturing to PGL Liddington for their residential trip from **Monday 3rd June - Wednesday 5th June**. Enjoy!

PTFA Father's Day Gift Shop

The gift shop will take place on the **11th & 12th June**. More details to follow from the PTFA.

KS2 French Day

Children will take part in a range of different French activities on **Friday 14th June**.

June INSET days

A reminder that school is closed on **Friday 21st June** and **Monday 24th June** for INSET days. We hope you enjoy the long weekend!

Reception Cake Sale

Friday 28th June on the KS1 playground. Join us to purchase some yummy treats.



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Year 4 Faith Tour

On Tuesday 16th April, Year 4 visited Queens Park in Bedford for a learning tour of three places of worship. The leaders of the Church, Gurdwara and Mosque work together to provide a co-ordinated immersive experience for school groups. This allows our children to reinforce their current study of Sikhism, prepare them for their Year 5 study of Islam, and appreciate Christianity in a much larger Church.

"I enjoyed going to the Gurdwara because there was so much to learn. I recognised the stand where they read from the Guru Granth Sahib."

- Milo

"I was very surprised at how big the Gurdwara was."

- Kyle

"I enjoyed seeing the Guru Granth Sahib because it was very special and I also liked the presentation about the Mosque. I liked the Gurdwara's carpet's awesome patterns."

- Callum

"Every religion came together to make a big community and that made it really special."

- Poppy M

"I really liked it because it was an experience that I will never do again. I especially liked that anybody could come into all three buildings for free without booking. I loved all of them because every one of them was so pretty."

- Nicole

Green Group trip to Mitsubishi Electric

On Friday 26th April, Green Group went on a trip to Mitsubishi Electric. The people who went were Ivy, Camilla, Kiara, Annabelle, Liliane and Mollie. When we got there, we went to a room and they talked to us about renewable and non-renewable electricity. We learned about how we can save energy in our house by turning off lights and turning down heating. We did an experiment where we measured the temperature of ice in hot water. We learned about solar energy and we made a circuit using solar panels to power a light and a fan. We also measured the amount of water that we use brushing our teeth for two minutes. We should turn the tap off to save water. We had so much fun and they gave us some torches and a pen in a pencil case to take home. Thank you to Mitsubishi Electric for having us and Mrs Mather for planning the trip.

- Annabelle





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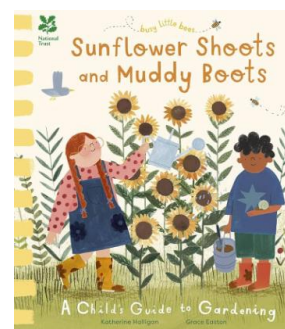
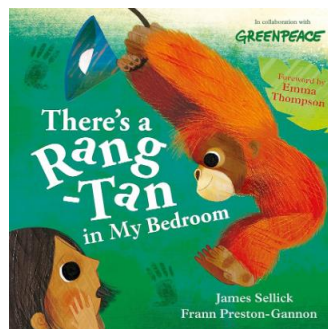
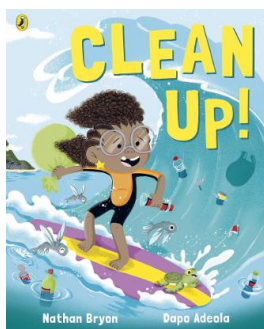
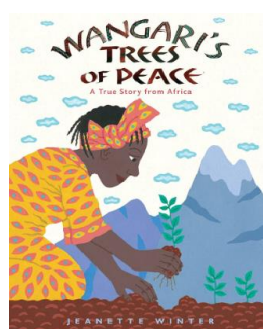
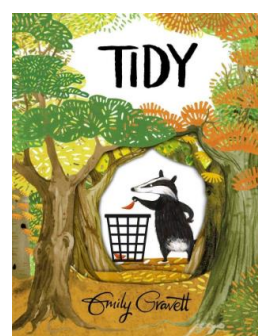
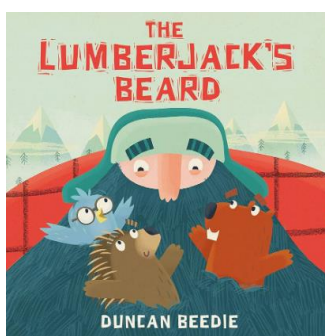
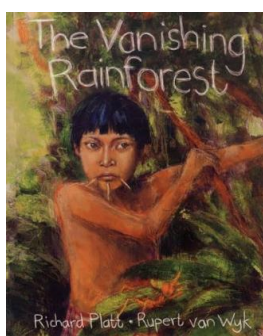
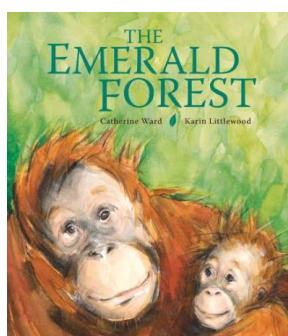


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Book recommendation

This month's book recommendations:

Wednesday 5th June is World Environment Day - the United Nations Day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment. Books about the environment can be a great tool for empowering children to understand their choices and to find hope in making a positive impact on our planet. We hope you enjoy some of our recommended reads about caring for the environment.



Water bottles

Whilst we ask all children to bring a water bottle into school, please do not feel pressured to make an extra journey to deliver forgotten bottles. Cups are available in each classroom so your child will have access to water throughout the school day.

Multisports - 15th February

Team names: Teddy, Charlie, Ronnie, Matthew, Willow, Bethany, Izzy, Alana

We are so lucky to be able to explore such a range of sports. The visit to Ridgeway on 15th Feb was just such an occasion. The eight children had the opportunity to have a go at speed stacking, boccia, curling, table tennis, badminton, archery and obstacle races. The laughter and enjoyment filled the air. Well done to everyone for having a go and representing our school in a way that upholds all our values.

- Mrs Southall





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Tri-Golf - 24th April

Team names: Ben, Bastian, Milo, Ellis, Alex B, Omari, Alex A, Alice, Iris, Annabelle

Star Player: Milo

We went to Monk's Walk School to do a Trigolf tournament. We had tonnes of fun. We especially liked the boys Vs girls challenges. We were really proud of Milo because he was the star player. It took quite a while to get there but it was worth the wait. We played against three schools. We would like to thank Mr Gauden and Mrs Porter for taking us.

- Alice, Omari & Annabelle

Water polo - 7th May

Team names: Sienna, Isabelle K, Izzy B, Sophie G, Charlie B, Charlie W, Sebby, Teddy F

Star Player: Isabelle and Teddy

On the 7th of May some of our Year 5 and 6 children travelled to Monk's Walk to take part in a water polo event. Once the children were ready, the staff at Monk's Walk began the event by going over some of the rules of water polo, before going into some drills and exercises in order to help the children when it came to game time. The children then played competitive matches against 3 other schools (Templewood, Homerswood, and St Michael's) scoring lots of goals and having lots of fun. Overall, the children enjoyed experiencing a new sport and had a really enjoyable afternoon.

- Mr Gauden

Year 2 Football fixture Vs Sherrardswood - 7th May

Team names: Max, Stanley, Luke, Leo, Eddie, Xander, Tion, Charlie, Teddy C, Finnley, Arlo, Ralphie, Freddie, William, Louie

Star Player: Leo S and Finnley

A first for WSM: a year 2 football fixture. This was a friendly against our local rival Sherrardswood. The children were fired up and ready to play, the sun shone down and the throng of parents cheered and encouraged throughout. The two teams put in a magnificent performance showing great understanding of positional play and team spirit. Determination to gain possession, pass accurately and shoot meant there were many opportunities for scoring goals. The scores at the end 8-1 and 4-1. Well done children we have many sporting stars of the future.



On the 8th of May, some Year 2 boys went out to a football match against Sherrardswood School. It was an easy game and we won 8-1. We knew it was not about winning or losing. We knew it was about teamwork and having fun. We would like to thank Mr Gauden and Mrs Southall for taking us.

- Luke



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Multisport - 9th May

Team names: Joey, Ashley, Logan, Ethan, Ivy, Izzy B, Isla P, Elsie H
On Thursday 9th May, we went to Gosling Sports Park to take part in the Multisport event. The schools were Holwell, Homerswood and St Mary's. We took part in a variety of activities including archery, javelin, tug of war, kick rounders, golf, handball, agility, racing and relay. We would like to thank Mr Gauden and Mrs Moate for taking us.
- Ivy & Ethan



Tag Rugby Vs Sherrardswood - 13th May

Team names: Jamie, Teddy, Oli, Harry, Rocco, Kiara, Chloe, Poppy W, Juliet, Harper



On Monday the 13th May, ten Year 4 children went onto the school field to play a game of tag rugby against Sherrardswood. On the first half, they advanced and scored three tries and then we had a comeback and scored five tries - two by Jamie, one by Oli, Teddy and Harry. During the second half, they scored eight tries and we scored four - by Juliet, Harry, Harper and Jamie. We would like to thank Mrs Southall for taking us.
- Chloe and Jamie

Year 3 Tag Rugby - 21st May

The wet weather can put a dampener on many things but not the grit and determination of our Year 3 children. Through the drizzle we marched to Monk's Walk school for an afternoon of tag rugby. We were met by the Sports Leaders from the school and soon were put through our paces in a series of drills and warm up activities.

Each of our six teams were put into groups against other schools and the tournament truly started. Although the first games were a little disappointing, we soon got the hang of it. Teamwork and perseverance were the essential ingredients.

Most of the children had great fun, loved being busy and played lots of matches. Well done to Johnny, Elsie and Jack in M3 and Adam, Harry, James, Riaan, George and Lily M in MS3 for being awarded medals as star players by the Sports Leaders and the teachers from Monk's Walk.

- Mrs Southall





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May birthdays

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated in May:

Dulcie, Freddie, Violet, Freya, Bethany, Archie, Zac, Harry, Amia, Milan, Charlie, Ronnie, Orla, India, Logan, Teddy, Ashley, Alyssa, Isla, Isaac, Huxley, Tion, Evelyn, Aaran, Emily, Thomas, Bastian, Nyla, Bobby, Grace, Mia, Marty, Kiara, Billy, Mrs Branch, Mrs Jameson, Mrs Newstead, Mrs Anstey, Miss Lewis and 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.





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Diary Dates

Summer Term 2024	
Mon 3rd June 2024 - Wed 5th June 2024	Year 6 PGL
Fri 7 th June 2024	KS2 Careers Fair
Tues 11th June 2024 - Wed 12th June 2024	PTFA Father's Day Gift Shop
Mon 10th June 2024 - Fri 14th June 2024	Year 1 Phonics check week
Wed 12 th June 2024	Year 1 Seaside Day
Fri 14th June 2024	KS2 French Day
Fri 14th June 2024	Year 2 Knebworth House
Wed 19th June 2024	Reception Ark Farm visit
Wed 19th June 2024	Year 4 Verulamium Visit
Fri 21st June 2024	INSET day - school closed
Mon 24th June 2024	INSET day - school closed
Wed 26 th June 2024	Sports Day
Wed 26 th June 2024	Year 1 STEMPoint Materials workshop
Thu 27th June 2024	New Reception Parents Meeting
Fri 28th June 2024	Reception Cake Sale
Fri 28th June 2024	Year 5 Vertigo Adventures
Fri 28th June 2024	Year 3 Celtic Harmony
Sat 29th June 2024	Welwyn Festival Parade
Mon 1 st Junes 2024 - 2 nd June 2024	Planetarium in school
Wed 3 rd June 2024	Green Group - Green Day
Fri 5 th July 2024	Reports sent home
Fri 5 th July 2024	Reception Me & My Senses STEMPoint workshop
Sat 6th July 2024	PTFA Summer BBQ
Wed 10th July 2024	WSM's Talent Show
Wed 10th July 2024	Open Evening - 6pm-7pm
Thurs 11 th July 2024	Budge up day
Tues 16 th July 2024	Olympics Games theme school lunch
Wed 17th July 2024	Year 6 Show - 6pm
Thu 18th July 2024	Leavers' service
Thu 18th July 2024	Year 6 Show - 6pm
Fri 19th July 2024	Terms ends
Mon 22nd July 2024 - Tues 23 rd July 2024	INSET day - school closed

