



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School

Newsletter – May 2026



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*

Well done Year 6

A big well done to all our incredible Year 6 children for completing their SATs this month! We are so proud of the hard work, determination and resilience you've shown throughout.

Remember, SATs are just one small part of your journey, and they don't measure all the amazing things that make you *you*. Now it's time to take a deep breath, relax and look forward to the fun and exciting final term of primary school!

Staffing Update

Very sadly, we will be losing Mrs Southall and Ms Webb from our teaching team at the end of this year. Ms Webb will be moving out of the area and Mrs Southall has decided to take early retirement and move back North to be nearer to her family. Both have contributed huge amounts to our school community and we will miss their professionalism, wisdom, kindness and humour next year. Mrs Southall will also be missed for her unwavering commitment to ensuring that all of our pupils have access to high quality sporting provision and the opportunity to represent our school at the countless after school and weekend events that she attends and coordinates.

Upcoming events in June

Reception Class Cake Sale

Friday 12th June

PTFA Father's Day Gift Shop

KS2 Shop - Monday 15th June
KS1 Shop - Tuesday 16th June

Upcoming Trips/Visits

Please ensure you have completed the consent forms and made payment via ParentMail

Year 6 PGL Trip

Monday 1st – Wednesday 3rd June

Year 1 Seaside Day

Wednesday 3rd June

Reception Ark Farm Visit

Thursday 4th June

Year 5 Hatfield House Trip

Monday 15th June

Year 6 St Albans Cathedral

Tuesday 16th June

Year 3 Celtic Harmony

Friday 19th June

Year 4 Verulamium Museum

Monday 22nd June





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Charity Donations

We are delighted to announce that last year Welwyn St Mary's raised an amazing total of £5,045 in charitable donations. Some of the charities that have benefited from these donations are the RSPCA, WWF, North Herts Cancer Care, Children in Need, Save the Children and Walser's Tanzania Charity. Well done to everyone for this amazing achievement.

Some of you may remember that Mrs Harrison was treated by the Lister Hospital Macmillan Cancer Care Centre 2 years ago. Since then, together with friends, family and members of our school community, she has been fundraising to help support the vital work of the unit. Highlights include a series of choir concerts, featuring both of our school choirs and the Welwyn St Mary's Community Choir, a sponsored 20 mile walk alongside a number of our teachers, a choral workshop day and singing carols in John Lewis and Waitrose with many members of our school family.

Last week Mrs Harrison was thrilled to be able to visit the cancer care centre and reconnect with some of the lovely staff who helped to care for her so well throughout her chemotherapy journey. She was delighted to present them with a cheque for £9374 from her combined fundraising efforts. Thank you to all members of our school community who helped in reaching this fantastic sum and a huge well done to Mrs Harrison for all her hard work!





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May Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated their birthday in May.

Aaran, Albert, Alyssa, Amia, Ashley, Bethany, Bobby, Charlie, Emily, Evie, Freddie, Freya, George, Grace, Huxley, Huzaifah, Isaac, Isaac, Kiara, Libby, Marty, Mateo, Mia, Milan, Oliver, Orla, Sebastian, Serene, Tion, Violet, Mrs Branch, Mrs Jameson and Mrs May.

Year 5 Class Assembly

Our Year 5 had their class assembly on Wednesday 6th May. The assembly theme was “A day in Year 5”. The children discussed what they are currently learning and what a typical day at school is like. Thank you to parents, carers and grandparents who came along to watch and well done to our Year 5 pupils and teachers for another great class assembly.

Year 6 Football

Over the last few months, Year 6 have participated in several football matches against local schools. We are proud to say that Welwyn St Mary's capped off a successful year by placing top of the North Herts league table. A fantastic achievement.

They played their final game against Creswick School on Thursday 7th May. Creswick were the winners of South Herts league table. It was a very tight game, with both teams playing extremely well. Welwyn St Mary's went into the lead twice before Creswick scored in the last few minutes to win the game at 3-2. Despite the loss, our team showed incredible skill, resilience, and sportsmanship.

We would like to take this opportunity to say how proud we are of every player involved. Thank you to all the parents who came along to support every game. Thank you to Mrs Southall and Thriving Stars for the coaching and support.

PTFA Year 1 Cake Sale

Well done to Year 1 for baking and donating cakes for the Year 1 Cake Sale. Thank you to everyone who bought a delicious cake and helped raise a fantastic £264.





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2026 Sports Day

Huge congratulations to all the children who took part in Sports Day! Your enthusiasm, determination, and sportsmanship made it a fantastic event. We were so proud to see everyone giving their best and cheering each other on.

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who came along to cheer from the sidelines— It meant the world to the children and added so much to the day's atmosphere.

We'd also like to take a moment to recognise the incredible efforts of our staff. From planning and organising to coordinating activities on the day, their hard work made the whole event run smoothly and successfully.

And finally, a special well done to Normans House, who came first in KS2 and Vikings House who came first in Reception & KS1—what a fantastic achievement!

Rec & KS1 Results		KS2 Results	
Vikings	1177	Vikings	958
Romans	1158	Romans	1026
Normans	1093	Normans	1041
Saxons	1131	Saxons	980

Labelling Uniform

Following a very high volume of lost property uniform this term, please ensure that all items of clothing are labelled with your child's name and ensure any pre-loved uniform has the previous owner's name removed. This includes coats, jumpers and hats which are often taken off in the playground during break times and are very difficult to reunite with their owners if not labelled.





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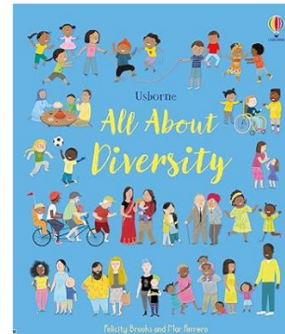
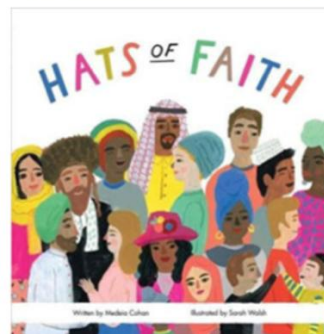
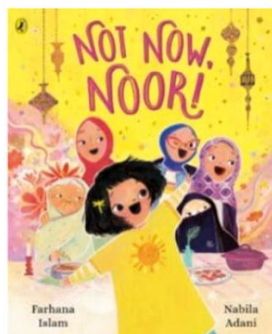
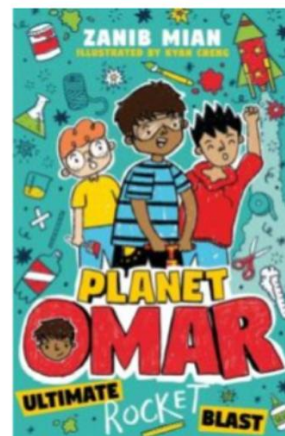
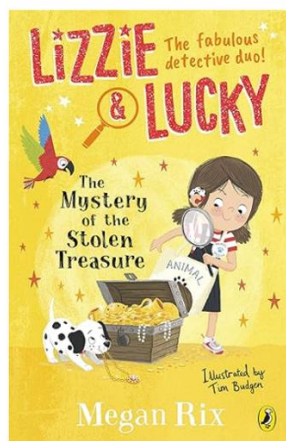
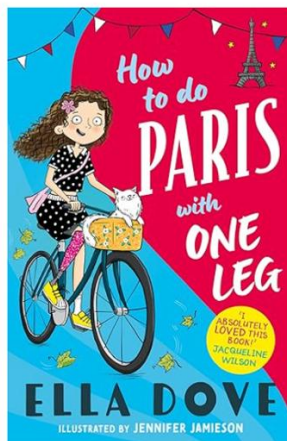
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Diversity Group Book Recommendations

May's list of recommended books from our Diversity ambassadors.

They have chosen books that focus on different aspects of diversity in stories whether fiction or non-fiction. If you can't find these in the local library, as the librarian to reserve one for you. Happy reading!



- How to do Paris with one leg by Ella Dove
- Lizzie and Lucky: The Mystery of the Stolen Treasure: 2 BY Megan Rix
- Planet Omar By Zainab Mian
- Not Now Noor! By [Farhana Islam](#) & [Nabila Adani](#)
- Hats of Faith By [Medeia Cohan-Petrolino](#) & [Sarah Walsh](#)
- All about Diversity By felicity Brooks and Mar Ferrero





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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.

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.





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





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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

2026 Summer Term	
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

