



# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



## Newsletter – May 2025

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

### 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!

### E-Safety Event – Save the date!

We are excited to let you know that we have booked a whole school eSafety event on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July**. This will include a really important information session for parents about how to keep their children safe in the rapidly changing online world. The parent information session will take place from **6pm to 7pm** in the school hall. Please save the date in your diaries and look out for booking information in the coming weeks.

### Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel



Thank you to everyone who took part in the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel competition, which encourages people to walk to school instead of using cars that use greenhouse gases which pollute the air. Out of 1299 large primary schools that took part, our school came 450th place. Out of all the classes in our school, 3 Hawthorns were the winners with 270 active journeys.

In the poster competition, Iris (5 Pines) came first, and the runners up were Monty and Kang from 3 Hawthorns. The most eye-catching poster was Rosie's (3 Hawthorns). Thank you to everyone that entered the poster competition. They were all amazing. We hope that The Big Walk and Wheel has encouraged you to walk, scoot and cycle to school more often to help save the planet.  
- Izzy and Charlotte Year 6

### Upcoming events

#### PTFA Father's Day Gift Shop

The PTFA Father's day gift shop will be held at lunchtime on **9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> June**.

#### Reception Cake Sale

The PTFA reception cake sale will be held on KS1 playground afterschool on **13<sup>th</sup> June**.

### Upcoming Trips/Visits

Please ensure you have completed the consent form and made payment if you are able via Parentmail.

**Year 2 Waltham Abbey Trip**  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June

**Year 4 Verulamium Trip**  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June

**Year 1 Seaside Day**  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June

**Year 3 Celtic Harmony**  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June





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### 2025 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 Vikings House, who came first overall across the school—what a fantastic achievement!

Rec & KS1 Results		KS2 Results	
Vikings	1358	Vikings	1181
Romans	1201	Romans	1174
Normans	1131	Normans	1142
Saxons	1064	Saxons	1085

### Nature Reserve Working Party

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May, some children and adults volunteered their time to help clean up the nature reserve. Together we trimmed back hedges and brambles, dug out roots and moved logs, branches and leaves. We worked on the pond area and the outdoor classroom too.

A big thank you to Mr Davies, Charlotte, Isabelle, Mrs Reynolds, George, Mrs Ashford, Teddy, Mr Samuel, Jasper, Mr and Mrs Bingham, Thomas, Alexander, Jessica and Mr Godfrey. Everyone was very generous as they gave up their time to come and help and brought tools for everyone to work with.  
- George & Charlotte





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### Sue Murley author visit

As part of our literacy learning this term, we have arranged for local children's author Sue Murley to visit us on the 2nd July. Sue will be delivering two workshops for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children about writing a book and tips to improve their writing. She will also hold an interactive story time with our Reception children.

Sue will be signing copies of her book for children after her sessions. Please note that we will not be selling books on the day and children will either need to pre-order a book directly from Sue, or to purchase a copy from [Amazon](https://www.amazon.co.uk) or similar and bring it in for signing on the day. Details on how to preorder have been sent via Parentmail.

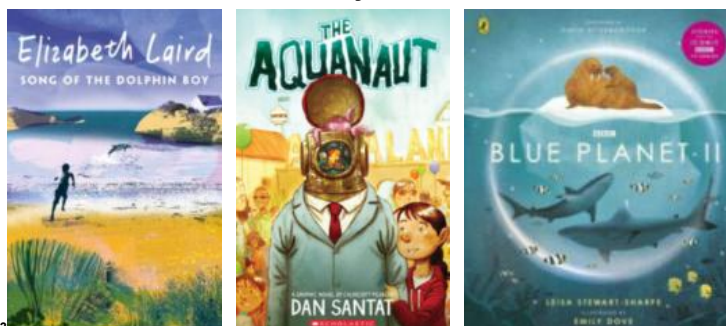


### Book recommendation

#### This month's book recommendations:

**Sunday 8th June** is World Oceans Day, a day to celebrate the vital importance of our oceans and to raise awareness of our need to protect their resources for future generations. The theme for 2025 is *Wonder*. From whales and whelks to shipwrecks and sharks, why not dive into one of these recommended books about oceans and seas.

#### KS1 and Early Years Reads:



#### KS2 reads:



Remember, all titles are available to borrow at your local library.







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### Cricket Fixture – 29<sup>th</sup> April

**Team names:** Archie, Charlie B, Sam, Bailey, Lucas, Jack, Finley W, Kyle, Jasper, Ted, Burt, Dylan, George T, Riaan, Arlo, Emily, Alex, Amelie, Lucas, Finley F, Charlie B, Ethan B

**Star Player:** Riaan

On 29<sup>th</sup> April, some Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 boys played a cricket match against Sherrardswood school. The final score was 60 to 30 to us in the Year 3 and 4 game. The score was 38 to 32 to Sherrardswood in the Year 5 and 6 game. The determination and teamwork were outstanding. The respect for each other was incredible as well. Showing three of the values of Welwyn St Mary's. The star fielder was Kyle for getting a wicket and a catch.

### Year 5 Dodgeball – 15<sup>th</sup> May



**Team names:** All Year 5 children

Year 5 walked to Monk's Walk for a dodgeball festival. We arrived and Mrs Tucker put us into groups of 3. Each team played 10 games.

Team 3 won all of their games, Team 1 won 5 games and Team 2 won four games. At the end, all schools waited to find out their place. Welwyn St Mary's came first! We really enjoyed showing teamwork, honestly and shaking hands. Thank you to Mrs Tucker, Mr Hawley and Mrs Southall for supporting us and to Mr Stockton and Mr Daly for accompanying us on our walk to and from the school.

- Finn, Oli, Burt & Lillie

### May Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated in May:

Isaac, Freddie, Violet, Freya, Bethany, Archie, Huzaifah, George, Amia, Albert, Milan, Charlie, Orla, India, Ashley, Alyssa, Isla, Isaac, Huxley, Tion, Evelyn, Aaran, Emily, Sebastian, Nyla, Bobby, Grace, Mia, Marty, Kiara, Mrs Branch, Mrs Jameson, Mrs Anstey, Mrs Porter, Miss Lewis

### 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.





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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.

#### **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](http://www.welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk/news-dates/diary-dates)

2025 Summer Term	
W/C Mon 9th June 2025	PTFA Father's Day Gift Shop
Fri 13th June 2025	Reception Cake Sale
Mon 16th June 2025	Year 2 Waltham Abbey Trip
Tue 17th June 2025	Year 4 Verulamium Trip
Wed 18th June 2025	Year 1 Seaside Day
Fri 20th June 2025	Year 3 Celtic Harmony
Thu 26th June 2025	New Reception Parents Meeting Evening
Thu 3rd July 2025	Music Evening
Fri 4th July 2025	Year 4 Class Assembly
Sat 5th July 2025	PTFA Summer BBQ/Festival
Mon 7th July 2025	E-Safety Parent information session – 6pm
Tue 8th July 2025	Choirs of WSM concert [St Mary's Church] 6pm
Wed 9th July 2025	WSM Talent show
Thu 10th July 2025	Budge Up Day
Fri 11th July 2025	PTFA 'Break the Rules' day
Wed 16th July 2025	Year 6 Show
Thu 17th July 2025	Year 6 Leavers' Service [9.30am, St Mary's Church]
Thu 17th July 2025	Year 6 Show
Fri 18th July 2025	Last day of school – Rec & KS1 1.15pm, KS2 1.20pm
Mon 21st July 2025	INSET day – school closed
Tue 22nd July 2025	INSET day – school closed
Wed 23rd July 2025	INSET day – school closed



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