



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter - April Interim 2020

Value

Our value for this half term is: *Service*. This is very apt given the wonderful work being done across our nation by the NHS and other key workers. Our thanks goes to them all.

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

Edmund Burke

"There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service."

1 Corinthians 12:5-6

Home learning

Well done to all our children, and their parents, for so much excellent home learning. We hope the last two weeks have been more holiday based with the Easter activities taking precedence in your homes and gardens.

Now term is about to re-commence we will continue to send out themed work for each year group via the Home Learning section on our website and Parentmail. Online learning will continue with Purple Mash and Times Tables Rock Stars. From Monday 27th April Sumdog will also be available for all families. This is programmed learning in maths and literacy pitched at your child's level. We will be able to track their progress in school. Additionally the BBC are launching a host of teaching, for all ages, from Monday 20th April. Hertfordshire county are preparing materials too which we will forward in due course.

We have, and will continue, to send over other materials and links but please just sift out what might help you as there are so many.

As before please just do what you can as all your circumstances vary. Always prioritise reading every day if you can as the benefits are huge. Thank you all very much for your support in continuing your child's education. We are available via the admin email for queries and please continue to send in your photos to our magazine email address.

School learning

Very well done to our key worker children for their great work in school even during the holiday period. We have been so impressed with their attitudes and cheerfulness, as well as their creativity and maturity. Please see Ms Anstey's article in our next magazine. Thank you too to our great staff team for keeping school going so well. It's been calm, very productive and extremely happy. Special thanks to Mr Stockton and our amazing cleaning team who have been here throughout and are even more valuable than ever.

Building work

Our refurbishment of the KS2 boys' toilets has been postponed due to covid restrictions, but grounds maintenance has continued so school is looking lovely and smart. We are very pleased to see the three new fruit trees planted in quad have taken well. All are in blossom. They were a gift to help celebrate the Welwyn Garden centenary. It is a lovely link as apparently all the original homes in Welwyn Garden had fruit trees supplied in their gardens.





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We are also very pleased to say the KS2 playground shed is being replaced and new picnic tables have been ordered for KS2 playground and the Garden Room.

Good news

We are delighted to say Miss Lewis's treatment has been able to go ahead and she is making excellent progress. Please continue to keep her in your thoughts. We are also delighted to say that Mr and Mrs Ashman are expecting their first baby in September.

Hand writing competition

We will shortly be sending details of the Queen Mother's handwriting competition. This is a great chance to share skills. Standards will be very high but we have had a winner in the past. Do please read the instructions very carefully.

Thank you

Thank you very much for the lovely cards and messages we have received in school. We are keeping them all to treasure as they really do mean a lot at this tricky time. Please stay safe and well and we very much look forward to being back together as our WSM family before too long.

Decorated egg competition

Entries have now closed for the decorated egg competition and winners will be announced soon. Thank you to all to have entered. You have given the judges a hard job.

Stay at home street parties

Friday May 8th celebrates the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Most events have been cancelled/postponed to prevent social mixing. However do think of the idea of a 'stay at home street party'. This is a national initiative of having a picnic in your front garden, if you have one, and decorating the front of your house in red, white and blue. That way people on their daily exercise will be able to share your efforts and be reminded of the momentous day when war in Europe ended in 1945. However hard lockdown may seem to us this landmark date does put things in perspective.





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Worship

The Welwyn team ministry is continuing to broadcast services and reflections online. For more information, please visit: <https://www.welwyn.org.uk/covid-19-updates> Do please get in touch if you are in need of support or would welcome the occasional phone call from someone in the church community. The clergy continue to be available for you and their contact details are on the website.

Health

The NHS is concerned that people with other ailments are not seeking help from their GP. Bridge Cottage Surgery, now has eConsult which is an online way of obtaining guidance and help if you can't get through easily on the phone. You just need to complete the relevant online form and the surgery will respond as appropriate. This might be an email, telephone or video consultation, or a face-to-face appointment if appropriate. Click on this blue link and complete the relevant details <https://bridgecottagesurgery.webgp.com/>. Many other practices are offering the same service which can be found on their websites.

Scams

All sorts of scams continue to surface and the police are particularly concerned as many of them look incredibly professional and it's very easy to be taken in. If you don't already belong to the OWL (Online Watch Link) it is very worthwhile signing up to this as they send regular email alerts. Click the blue link and complete the details from the green 'Join a Watch' box: <https://www.owl.co.uk/>

Keeping fit and occupied

Many of our families have been taking part in PE with Joe Wicks each weekday at 9am, via his YouTube channel. Additionally The Royal Academy of Dance is doing a weekly 20 minute 'ballet' for adult beginners. This is particularly designed for balance and posture and only needs a bit of floor and the back of a chair.

Entertainment wise 'The Shows Must Go On' each Friday at 7 pm feature a previously recorded Andrew Lloyd Webber musical livestreamed. Plus The National Theatre, on their own website rather than YouTube, is livestreaming previously recorded productions <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>

Local Information

Welwyn Parish Council has produced a leaflet with useful information and numbers which is being delivered to all homes, but can also be found at <https://welwynpc.egnyte.com/dl/Zyk4karZn6/>

Katie's Bakery is now only delivering within Welwyn Village. The shop remains open 8.30 - 1 pm on Mondays, Wednesday, Fridays and Saturdays, with only one person allowed in the shop at a time.

Trussells Butchers is still advertising its delivery service.

Lemon Plaiice and Taj Mahal are still offering take-away delivery.

Cote Brasserie has just started delivering meals within Hertfordshire twice a week.

Brocket Recipe Boxes delivers all the ingredients and recipes to produce complete fresh meals using locally sourced free range meat and veg to homes within a 10-mile radius, email: brocketboxes@outlook.com.

School Office Open Hours

A reminder that the school office will be open between 8.30 and 9.30 am for the purpose of completing the registration of children. Please email admin@welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk if you need to contact the school as this account will be monitored regularly.





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Pupil Premium

For every child registered for Pupil Premium, the school receive additional funding which is spent on raising the attainment of those pupils. If you are entitled to Pupil Premium funding, your child could access a range of additional benefits, including extra help in class, additional resources, free school trips and visits and one free club per term.

If you think that you might be eligible for free school meals and are not currently registered, please complete the simple online application form which can be found at: www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals Once you have registered your child, please speak to the school office to claim a new school jumper or cardigan.

