



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter December 2019

Value

Our value for this half term is:

Trust

'Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.'

Luke 19:17

"Trust takes years to build, seconds to break"

Anon



Christmas Fair



A huge thank you to our excellent PTFA for organising another brilliant Christmas Fair. Thank you also to all of the families who attended and to all families, pupils and staff who helped to make it such a success. We are very grateful. The money raised will be used to benefit all of our children.

Parish Christmas Card Competition Winners



Audrey in Year 1 is the winner of the Christmas Card competition, and Maisie in Year 1 is the runner up. Audrey's design will be used for Christmas cards sent to every home in the Welwyn parish. Very well done indeed. Well done to all the children who entered. The standard was very high.

Christmas Post

Our Christmas post box can be found inside the main school entrance. Children are invited to post Christmas cards to their friends, in envelopes clearly marked with name and class, so that they reach the right person.





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Poppy Appeal

Thank you to all who bought a poppy for Remembrance Day. Our school raised £167.18 for the Royal British Legion.

Year 5 and 6 Carol Service

This Carol Service will take place at 6.00 pm on Thursday 19th December at St Mary's Church. Attendance is **compulsory** for all years 5 and 6 children. This is always a very special service and year 5 and 6 parents are warmly invited to attend (2 tickets per child will be distributed).

Class Attendance Trophy

Congratulations to class BC3 who won the class attendance trophy for November (the third month in a row).

BC3 - 98.9%

MJ5 - 97.9%

HT6 - 97.8%

AT2 and MN2 - 97.7%

LR - 97.5%

Uniform

Please note that children should wear black shoes, not ankle boots, to school.

Badminton



On Thursday 28th November the Welwyn St Mary's badminton team travelled to Ridgeway Academy to compete in this year's tournament. Marley, Jasmine, Ellie and Sean finished fourth overall. Both the semi finals and 3rd/4th place matches went to playoffs after draws in both matches! Well done to all four members of the team, they each showed great determination for every point won!

Queenswood Cross Country

On Tuesday 12th November, Welwyn St Mary's travelled to Queenswood School for the Primary Mid-Herts Cross Country Race. We were competing against 14 other schools including Applecroft and Sherrardswood. It was a cold, but sunny day and we walked the course first to check for any hidden rabbit holes or tree roots and to check where the hills were! The boys ran first with Luca coming 2nd and Lucas coming 4th out of 73 runners. The boys' team was Luca, Thomas G, Lucas, Brendan, Sean and Zach. They all finished very high up in the running order, which boded well and showed that they had trained hard.

Next came the girls. Josie finished 4th and the other girls - Poppy, Willow, Coral, Roxy and Sophie all ran extremely well in tough, muddy conditions, competing against approximately 70 other runners. We were proud of them all.





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Overall, Welwyn St Mary's came 1st with Brookmans Park coming 2nd and St John's Digswell coming 3rd. Thanks must go to all the parents who help train the children each week and encourage them to dig deep and show resilience in tough conditions.

Table Tennis



Our table tennis team continues to go from strength to strength! After winning our 'family' round, we are now district champions and have qualified through to the county finals on 6th December. Congratulations to all our team who showed enthusiasm, sportsmanship and superb skills throughout the tournament. Thank you to Mr O'Neill for being an excellent coach.

Basketball



Our year 6 team played very well at the basketball competition at Stanborough School on 15th November. We came 3rd, but only on goal difference. Great sportsmanship and determination were shown by all. Arthur was chosen as player of the competition for our school because of his dedication and focus. It was very difficult to choose one player, I could have easily given a certificate to all. Well done team.

Cricket

Over the last 6 weeks years 2 and 3 have had some cricket sessions provided by Chance to Shine. The children had a wonderful time learning new skills and a greater understanding of the game of cricket. The children's new found passion can be followed up with the 'All Stars' programme by the ECB.

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars>

Club Providers

From January, all lunchtime and after school clubs and activities will need to be booked and paid for directly with the providers. We hope that this will make it easier for parents by liaising directly with the organisers. Further information will follow.





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Music lessons

If your child is interested in learning the flute or clarinet, please speak to the school office. There is a minimum number of children the music service need to provide a teacher, and so we need to gauge interest before this can be arranged.

If your child would like to stop music lessons, we require a half-term's notice. So please contact the school office before the Christmas holidays if they would like to stop at February half term.

Piano lessons

We are sad to announce that Ms Karg will not be returning to Welwyn St Mary's after her maternity leave, but are delighted that Mrs Lee is able to continue teaching our children.

French/Golf Exchange Request

A family from our twin town of Champagne-sur-Oise is arranging a trip for their 7 year old son in conjunction with the Welwyn Golf Club. If you are interested in hosting this family, probably during the Easter Holidays, please contact the school office.

New lunch system

We are pleased to let you know that our new school lunch ordering system will be going live in early February 2020. The new system will enable you to order and pay for your child's lunches online and offers much greater flexibility and control to parents, together with easier and more flexible payments.

In order to use the new lunch system, you will need to register with School Grid, the company who provide the online ordering system on behalf of Hertfordshire Catering. To do this, we require your consent to pass your email and contact details to School Grid.

NB - if you do not consent for us to provide your contact details and email address to School Grid it will not be possible for your child to take school lunches.

Even if your child usually has a packed lunch, we strongly recommend registering with School Grid as this will enable you to book special meals such as Christmas Lunch or to order your child a school meal if they forget to bring their packed lunch to school.

Please complete the online form which will be sent out via Parentmail, to consent to us providing your contact details to School Grid and setting up a school dinner account for your child. Further details about the new lunch system will follow in the new year.

Sickness Procedures

Please could we remind you that if your child suffers from vomiting or diarrhoea, whatever the cause, they should not attend school until 48 hours after the last episode. This is necessary to limit the spread of infection in school. It is especially important as we have a number of vulnerable children on roll.

We will continue to remind children of basic hygiene measures in school and would be grateful if you could reinforce the following guidance at home:

- Always wash your hands thoroughly after visiting the toilet
- Use tissues to blow your nose and throw them away promptly
- Cover your mouth when you cough

Thank you for your help.





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Reception Places 2020

The window for applications is now open and closes on 15th January 2020. Please be aware that we require our own Supplementary Information Form to be completed and returned to the school office as well as your online application to county. For more information please visit www.hertsdirect.org/admissions

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.

Walser's Tanzania Charity

Please see below some photographs of the children at the school that we support by donations to the Walser's Tanzania Charity. Perhaps you can talk to your child about these. What is the same as Welwyn St Marys? What is different? They were so pleased with our money sent at harvest time.





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Diary Dates

Autumn Term 2019	
4 th December	1.30 pm and 6 pm Key Stage 1 Christmas production
5 th December	9.00 am Key Stage 1 Christmas production
10 th December	Whole School Pantomime visit - Beauty and the Beast (Gordon Craig)
11 th December	1.30 pm and 6.00 pm Years 3 and 4 Christmas production
12 th December	6.00 pm Years 3 and 4 Christmas production
17 th December	Christmas lunch
17 th December	6.30 pm Choir Christmas Concert in church - refreshments from 5.45 pm
18 th December	1.30 pm Reception Nativity
19 th December	6.00 pm Year 5 and 6 Carol Service at St Mary's Church - attendance compulsory
20 th December	Term ends at 1.20 pm
Spring Term 2020	
6 th January	Spring term commences
16 th January	Year 3 swimming begins
24 th January	3.05 pm PTFA year 6 cake sale
29 th January	Year 6 trip to RAF Hendon
29 th January	Year 4 Faith Tour
31 st January	MJ5 class assembly
13 th February	Year 3 Greek Day
14 th February	MN2 class assembly
14 th February	3.05 pm PTFA year 4 cake sale
17 th - 21 st February	Half term holiday
26 th February	Year 2 National Gallery trip
6 th March	MR class assembly
13 th March	CD1 class assembly
13 th March	3.05 pm PTFA Reception cake sale
20 th March	LR class assembly
27 th March	M1 class assembly
3 rd April	Term ends 1.20 pm





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Summer Term 2020	
20 th April	Summer term commences
22 nd April	Year 2 Fire of London day
24 th April	3.05 pm PTFA year 2 cake sale
8 th May	May Bank Holiday
11 th May	SATs week
15 th May	3.05 pm PTFA year 1 cake sale
22 nd May	Sports Day
25 th - 29 th May	Half term holiday
9 th June	AB5 class assembly
10 th June	Year 3 Celtic Harmony trip
12 th June	3.05 pm PTFA year 3 cake sale
16 th June	Year 4 Verulamium Museum trip
19 th June	INSET day - school closed
22 nd June	INSET day - school closed
24 th June	Year 2 Kew Gardens trip
17 th July	Term ends 1.20 pm
20 th - 21 st July	INSET days - school closed
Autumn Term 2020	
2 nd September	INSET day - school closed
3 rd September	Autumn term commences
26 th - 30 th October	Half term holiday
20 th November	Occasional day - school closed
18 th December	Term ends at 1.20 pm
Spring Term 2021	
4 th January	Spring term commences
15 th - 19 th February	Half term holiday
26 th March	Term ends at 1.20 pm
Summer Term 2021	
12 th April	Summer term commences
31 st May - 4 th June	Half term holiday
16 th July	Term ends at 1.20 pm





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19th - 22nd July

INSET days - school closed

