



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter – July 2025

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

"Respect – to get it you must give it."
- Anon

Message from Mr Whiteland

As we approach the end of another school year...

Dear families,

Thank you for all of your support this year to make this school the very special place it is. It has been an extremely busy year, which included our recent Ofsted inspection in March. We were delighted with the extremely positive report and how they managed to capture all that is wonderful about Welwyn St Mary's. We will continue to strive for even better however and look forward to putting plans in place in the new school year.

It is hard to believe though that it is already the end of another school year for our pupils, and the end of an era at Welwyn St Mary's for our Year 6 children.

Thank you all for doing everything that you can to help your child see the importance and value of education and for encouraging them to make their experience of school as positive as possible. It is this guidance and support that you give them that will shape their view of school and the importance of a good education all the way through their formative years.

Thank you to our amazing children, staff and families for your hard work and support and for making this a wonderful school community. Also, thank you to our fantastic governors, who work really hard to support our school, ensure that sensible and strategic decisions are made in the best interests of the school and its pupils, and that appropriate challenge is offered to ensure the very best for all of our children.

Thank you as well to our amazing PTFA (especially to Ellen and Jax, our Co-Chairs) for all of their wonderful fundraising activities and for providing the school with new and exciting resources, experiences for the children and fabulous 'school community' opportunities for our children to enjoy and our families to be part of.

May I wish you all a safe and very relaxing summer and that it brings with it whatever you and your family need at this moment in time. God bless and we look forward to seeing you all in September on our return for the new academic year.

Best wishes,

Mr Whiteland
Headteacher

Upcoming events

Back to school

Term starts on Thursday 4th September.

Individual school photos

Please can all children attend in full school uniform, not PE kits, on Tuesday 9th September.

Bikeability

Year 6 will take part in Bikeability 8th to 12th September – see Parentmail for details.

Year 4 Swimming

Lessons take place on Monday afternoons this term, from 15th September.

Green Group Nature Day

17/09/25

Year 4 Faith Tour

A tour of places of worship in Bedford 07/10/25





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A farewell to our Year 6 Leavers



It is time to say goodbye to our Year 6 pupils as they head off to secondary school in September. We wish you all the very best of luck and happiness for the future. Please do stay in touch with us as we would love to hear where life takes you.

Year 6 show

Our Year 6 leavers' show this year was "The Wizard of Oz". We were treated to wonderful performances by our actors, singers and dancers. Congratulations on an incredible show. With thanks to all those who supported behind the scenes in making the staging, costumes and lighting, and in coaching the children on their performance. We were truly spoiled. Well done.





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Year 6 SATs

Well done to all of our Year 6 pupils and the teachers who have taught and supported them throughout their time at Welwyn St Mary's.

Here are the headline figures (but most importantly these are just the numbers - behind these, are individual children who you know and have supported, who you understand their needs and challenges they have faced, and we should be very proud of their own individual achievements, knowing their different starting points):

End of KS2 SATs Results	School 2025	School 2024	Nat Ave (2025) *2024 Nat Ave
Reading – Expected Standard	92%	85%	75%
Reading – High Standard	37%	43%	29%*
Reading – Average Scaled Score	107.5	107	106
Writing* – Expected Standard	83%	77%	72%
Writing* – Greater Depth	5%	10%	13%*
Maths – Expected Standard	85%	70%	74%
Maths – High Standard	25%	25%	24%*
Maths – Average Scaled Score	106	103	105
RWM – Expected Standard	76%	65%	62%
RWM – High Standard	3%	7%	8%*
GPS – Expected Standard	88%	75%	73%
GPS – High Standard	42%	42%	32%*
GPS – Average Scaled Score	108	106	105
Science* – Expected Standard	92%	88%	82%





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Governor Prizes

We are delighted to announce the recipients of this year's Governor Awards. Congratulations to the following children for their outstanding achievements:

KS2 Progress	Max
	Joey
KS2 Achievement	Caitlin
	Fred
Character	George R
	Isla B
All rounder	Camilla
	Tami
Contribution to school	Charlotte D
Values	Poppy
	Sophie F
Presentation	Orla
English	Rosie
Maths	Logan
PE	Amelie
	Jack
Art	Isabella

Online Safety Session

We hope that those parents who attended "The Two Johns" online safety session found it to be both useful and informative. As the session made clear, schools have no control over what children are able to access beyond their time in school. We therefore implore all parents to supervise their children's online use carefully – delaying giving smartphones until secondary school and being considerate of their use of any devices and smart TVs to help keep them safe from inappropriate content. We will be hosting sessions for pupils on 18th September and continue to revisit messages about eSafety in class.





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Welwyn festival parade



Thank you to all our families who joined in with the festival parade. It was wonderful to see so many of you and the range of different costumes, banners, flags and props tying in with the theme of "Save the Planet."

Thank you to Mrs Leech for organising the group.

Andrew Lewin MP Visit



We were pleased to welcome Andrew Lewin MP to our school last week. He was given a tour of school where he managed to watch some of Year 6 rehearsing their end of year show, plus some time in our lovely nature reserve where Year 3 were enjoying some outdoor learning. It was a great opportunity to show our local MP our school in action, and for many of our children to find out more about the role of politicians.





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Water Run



School council organised a water run in the last week of term. All children had the opportunity to run the course, through the water sprays and bubbles. Thank you to Mrs Crofts and Mr Daly for their hard work in making this event happen. Thank you for your generous donations, which are in excess of £280, and will be used towards an outdoor reading area.

Talent Show

On Wednesday 9th July Welwyn St Mary's hosted a Talent Show. The acts were Rosie in Hawthorns playing the piano, Bella in Hazels dancing, Violet and Amelia in Larches dancing, Lilly-Anne in Limes singing "Waiting On A Wish", Oli in Poplars playing piano, William in Pines singing, Max in Redwoods doing card tricks and Bailey, Sam, Alex and George in Rowans doing comedy, though sadly one of them was poorly. The judges were Mr Thompson (new Head of Year 7 at Monks Walk), Mrs Jackson, and Lyra who won the Talent Show last year. All the acts were brilliant. In third place was Bella, second place Oli and first place was Max. We would like to thank Mrs Tucker for hosting it.

Daisy and Kiara

Music Evening





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On 3rd July some of our musicians in school performed in a special evening concert. Guests enjoyed performances by 16 different instrumentalists (piano, violin, guitar and horn) along with 7 pieces from members of our school choir and choral ensembles. Well done to all the children for practising so hard throughout the year and for boldly stepping on to the stage to show your wonderful talents to family and friends. Thank you to Mrs Harrison for organising, and for the music teachers for their support. We are pleased to share that the retiring collection raised £220 which will be split between supporting music in school, and the Lister Hospital Cancer Unit. Thank you for your generosity.

Choirs of Welwyn St Mary's Charity Concert



Our talented singers have had a busy few weeks. After performing at Music Evening, our school choirs took part in a fundraising concert at St Mary's Church on 8th July to raise money for the Lister Hospital Cancer Unit and Chrones and Colitis UK. The concert featured performances from our school choir, Chamber Choir, 2 different quartets, the Welwyn St Mary's Community Choir and our fantastic Alumni Choir. A wonderful evening of singing was rounded off with an audience participation "Mash Up" and the combined choirs singing the very appropriate "Thank you for the Music". A huge thank you to Mrs Harrison and Mrs Dunstan for all their work over the year with our choirs, to parents for supporting our concerts and, most of all, to our children for giving up their lunchtimes every week to practice. We are very proud of you all.

Year 5 Monks Walk Cross-curricular day

All Year 5 children spent the day at Monks Walk on 10th July. They got to experience some exciting lessons across a range of subjects, and then the afternoon was spent taking part in different sporting activities. Thank you to Monks Walk for hosting the day and giving our children a taster of what life in secondary school is like.

HAPpy Camps

HAPpy Camps provide a range of fun experiences, including physical activity, enrichment, a healthy meal and snacks for eligible children. These camps are for children aged 4-16 (reception to year 11) who are registered to receive benefits-related free school meals. If you are entitled, you would have received the booking code via Parentmail.





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Music Lessons

If your child would like to sign up to music lessons in school, please register here:
<https://ukhertfordshire.speedadmin.dk/registration#/>

All of our music lessons are run via the Mid Herts Music Service and we currently offer: guitar, violin, flute, clarinet, saxophone, brass instruments and piano. Once registered, the Music Service will be able to advise you on availability. We are always looking to introduce new instruments into our offerings and will share these via Parentmail when they become available.

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.

Welwyn St Mary's PTFA have paired up with "My Name Tags" to help parents label their clothing while further fundraising for the school. Our school ID is 29167. MyNameTags will give 24% of the order value back to the school PTFA.

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.

July and August Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all who celebrate in July and August: Arabella, Sophie, Hayazahra, Zara, Logan, Alexandra, Adele, Isla-Belle, Amelie, Poppy, Mabel, Lily, Elin, Leo, Elsie, Alessio, Teddy, Oscar, Jacob, Fraser, Stanley, Ellis, Benjamin, Iris, Maeve, William, Toby, Harriette, Catherine, Joshua, Sacha, Freddie, Sophie, Arthur, Luca, Violet, Devon, Theo, Finn, Daniel, River, Florence, Jacob, Evelyn, Arthur, Betsy, Camilla, Alice, George, Finnley, Harry, Freddie, Sophie, Leonardo, Mollie, Oscar, Maria, Edward, Annabel, Ethan, Dylan, Lucas, Rene, Nate, Harley, Orest, Maximus, Lennon, Amelie, Leo, Finley, Elle, Megan, Olivia, Maya, Alfie, Jaxon, Elliott, Jude, Lucas, Marloe, Lily, Reeve, Marcus, Monty, Rhys, Rohan, Faris, Eden, Oliver, Billy, Miss Bryant, Mrs des Forges, Mrs Read, Miss Rayner, Mrs Porter, Mrs David, Mr Daly, Miss Clements and Mrs Crofts.





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Book recommendation

Access to technology and online world may increase during the summer holidays. Staff and parents/carers have had online safety training this term. To support children navigate the online world safely, here are some fantastic recommendations, books to support healthy digital habits over the holidays:



Chicken Clicking, Old MacDonal has a Phone, and Goldilocks: A Hashtag Cautionary Tale by Jeanne Willis — engaging storybooks that foster critical thinking about social media, oversharing and trolling.

Staying Safe online by Steffi Cavell-Clark & Thomas Welch is an book aimed to equip young readers with digital skill to live and learning safely when accessing a virtual world.

Usborne Staying Safe Online by Louie Stowell - this short chapter book shows how the internet is full of possibilities and potential dangers. Most importantly how to get help if needed.

Summer Reading Challenge 2025

Don't forget to join The Story Garden Summer Reading Challenge. Children can sign up at their local library to join the adventure and discover the magical world where stories grow.





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PTFA update

**WELWYN ST MARY'S
PTFA 2024-25**

**TOTAL RAISED
this year
£12,756
and counting...**

**Contributed this year so far
£11,502**

- hatching chicks
- cake sale funds for class activities/kit
- ice lollies at Sports Day
- PE t-shirts for reception
- First News subscription
- 2 x dining room tables
- EYFS furniture
- 4 x picnic tables with game boards
- 4 x gym benches

We are also delighted to have contributed £18,858 towards replacing the soft surfaces in the Early Years, KS1 and KS2 playgrounds! Fantastic achievement

SAME AGAIN NEXT YEAR!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Activities mentioned: Fireworks night, Break the rules day, Christmas cards, Refreshments at: - sports day, - music concerts & productions, - open days, Summer BBQ, Class cake sales (proceeds to the class), Movie Night, Christmas Fair (raised £4,487), Uniform sales, Gift shops, Discos.





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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.

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

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'

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.





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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

2025 Summer Term	
Mon 21st July 2025	INSET day – school closed
Tue 22nd July 2025	INSET day – school closed
Wed 23rd July 2025	INSET day – school closed
2025 Autumn Term	
Wed 3rd September 2025	INSET day – school closed
Thu 4th September 2025	Term starts
Mon 27th to Fri 31st October 2025	Half term
Fri 21st November 2025	Occasional day – school closed
Fri 19th December 2025	Last day of school – Rec & KS1 1.15pm, KS2 1.20pm
2026 Spring Term	
Mon 5th January 2026	INSET day – school closed
Tue 6th January 2026	Term starts
Mon 16th to Fri 20th February 2026	Half term
Fri 27th March 2026	Last day of school – Rec & KS1 1.15pm, KS2 1.20pm
2026 Summer Term	
Mon 13th April 2026	INSET day – school closed
Tue 14th April 2026	Term starts
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
Thur 22nd July 2026	Last day of school – Rec & KS1 1.15pm, KS2 1.20pm
Fri 23rd July 2026	INSET day – school closed

