



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Interim Newsletter - September 2019

Value

Our value for this half term is:

Thankfulness

"Always give thanks for everything to God the Father"

Ephesians 5.20

"Write your troubles in the sand, but carve your blessings in stone"

Anon

Road safety

Continuing our message to keep our school community safe, please can we remind parents to use school footpaths including around the staff car park. Vehicles enter and leave site at all times of day.

Apparatus

Please do not allow children to use playground apparatus before and after school. Insurance does not cover use out of school hours or when a member of staff is not there to supervise. Most importantly, we would not like anyone to suffer an injury. Thank you.

Individual and family photographs

Churchbury Photographic will be in school next Tuesday, 17th September to take individual and sibling photographs. We are pleased to offer the opportunity for family members outside of school to have their photograph taken with their school children from 8.00 to 9.00 am. No appointment necessary. Please see further details at end of newsletter.

School Fund and PTFA AGM and welcome evening

We would be delighted to welcome all parents/carers to our AGM next Tuesday, 17th September at 7.30 pm in our school hall. Drinks will be served from 7.15 pm and the aim is to give everyone a brief over view of what our School Fund and PTFA do for our lovely school. It will not be a lengthy meeting but it should give you an over view of all the great projects they have funded and how you might get involved if you wish to.

Additionally new Reception parents are invited by our PTFA to a wine and cheese evening at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 24th September also in our school hall.

MacMillan coffee morning

We are pleased to be holding a coffee morning from 9.15 to 11.00 am in the school hall to raise funds for MacMillan Cancer Support. It is a great opportunity to get to know some more parents and carers within our school community. If you would like to come please bring your own mug or cup. If you are not able to attend the event but would like to buy a raffle ticket with the chance to win a cake made by Mrs Noakes, please send in £2 in an envelope with your child's name and class.

To promote the event we have opened a "design a poster" competition for children. The challenge is to design and make an eye-catching poster to advertise the coffee morning in support of MacMillan. Children





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can use any art materials they like and be as creative as they please! Their prize will be a cake from the coffee morning. Closing date: Tuesday 17th September 2019

Year 4 swimming

A reminder to parents that Year 4 will be swimming at Stevenage Swimming Centre on Thursday afternoons from 2.30 -3.00 pm starting 26th September until 5th December 2019. There will be no swimming lesson on 24th October 2019 due to parent consultations. **On swimming days the children will not return to school until approximately 3.45 pm.**

Reading helpers

We welcome the help of any parents or grandparents to listen to our children read. Please contact the school office if you can offer some time.

Secondary School Admissions

The applications for secondary school places to start in September 2020 opened on **Monday 2nd September 2019**, and close on **31st October 2019** for children in year 6. Applications can be made using the electronic system available at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions. Parents will have received the leaflet "Moving On 2020 - School Open Events" at the end of the summer term.

Teaching Assistant/MSA vacancy

We have a vacancy for a teaching assistant/midday supervisory assistant position. Please visit www.teachinherts.co.uk for details of the position and how to apply. The deadline for applications is 19th September.

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.

Term Time Absence and Penalty Notices

A reminder that Hertfordshire County Council issues Penalty Notices which meet the Hertfordshire Code of Conduct regardless of the overall level of the pupil's attendance. Please be advised that the Governing Body has agreed that Welwyn St Mary's will be following this guidance.

This means that unauthorised absence exceeding 15 sessions (each day is two sessions) over 2 consecutive terms risks a fine of up to £120 per parent for each individual child. The Local Education Authority may issue you with a Penalty Notice under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996, for failure to secure your child's regular attendance at school. One session is equal to a morning or an afternoon.





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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.

Please note that:

- Even brief term time holidays can affect children in school adversely for some weeks. Both before and after the actual vacation.
- Very few children can afford to miss aspects of the school curriculum.
- Staff are unable to provide activities for your child to complete during unauthorised absences from school.
- It is also highly unlikely that your child will be able to 'catch up' on the work undertaken by classmates whilst your child is on holiday.

We appreciate your understanding and thank you for supporting us in maintaining our high attendance record.






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Diary Dates

Autumn Term 2019	
17 th September	Individual and family photographs
17 th September	7.30 pm PTFA and School Fund AGM in school hall - all welcome
24 th September	New Reception parents' wine and cheese evening
27 th September	Macmillan coffee morning in the school hall - all welcome
1 st October	7.30 pm PTFA meeting
7 th October	9.30 am Reception Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church - parents welcome
10 th October	Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church for Years 1 to 6 - children only
11 th October	PTFA Quiz Night
23 rd and 24 th October	Parent/teacher consultations
28 th October - 1 st November	Half term holiday
6 th November	9.30 am Open morning
22 nd November	Occasional day - school closed
30 th November	 PTFA Christmas Fair
4 th December	1.30 pm and 6 pm Key Stage 1 Christmas production
5 th December	9 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 pm Years 3 and 4 Christmas production
12 th December	6 pm Years 3 and 4 Christmas production
17 th December	Christmas lunch
18 th December	1.30 pm Reception Nativity
19 th December	6 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
17 th - 21 st February	Half term holiday
3 rd April	Term ends 1.20 pm
Summer Term 2020	
20 th April	Summer term commences
8 th May	May Bank Holiday





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11 th May	SATs week
25 th - 29 th May	Half term holiday
19 th June	INSET day - school closed
22 nd June	INSET day - school closed
17 th July	Term ends 1.20 pm
20 th - 21 st July	INSET days - school closed





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CHURCHBURY
PHOTOGRAPHIC

Invite you to a

**Family
Photo Session at
Welwyn St
Mary's
Primary School**

**On Tuesday 17th September
From 8:00 until 9am**

This is an opportunity for any family members outside of School,
to have their
photographs taken with the School children.

On School photograph day pupil's have their photograph taken
individually as well as with siblings within the school.