



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



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

Welcome

Welcome back to all families. We hope you all had a restful break. An especial welcome to our new Reception children and Daisy Year 2, Nia and Sanjay Year 3, Lily-Mae in Year 4 and Josiah in Year 5. We also welcome back Mrs Castiglione from maternity leave, Miss Lewis to lead our EYFS and Mrs Primrose as teaching assistant in Year 2 and Year 4. Sadly Mrs Stripe is not yet fully recovered but we hope to see her back very soon.

MR

Sadly Miss Mansfield will not be in school immediately due to family reasons. We send our best wishes to her and her family. In the meantime Miss Hopkins took the class on Tuesday, and thereafter Mrs Mercurio and Mrs Twaites will job share the class. Mrs Twaites will teach Mondays and Tuesdays and Mrs Mercurio Wednesday - Fridays. Mrs Tucker will continue to be the PPA cover teacher on Thursday afternoons and Ms Spence, Mrs Brunson and Miss Snowden will continue to be the Teaching Assistants. Mrs Twaites and Mrs Mercurio are both experienced and enthusiastic Early Years teachers and were are fortunate to have them join us.

Building work

We are delighted with the huge amount of upgrading and improvement work that has taken place over the holiday period. Thank you to Mr Stockton for organising. Work includes:

- Refurbishment of the Key Stage 1 toilets
- New carpet in class MN2
- Roof renovation along the dining room corridor
- Painting and decorating
- Additional speed bump
- 5 mph signs to ensure we all drive slowly

In addition, the Key Stage 1 Playground refurbishment project is well underway.





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Prize winners

Well done to the following children for being awarded a governors' prize in our final assembly last term.

Year 2 Prizes:

<u>Progress</u>	<u>Attainment</u>
Calum K	Martha
	Sophie P

Year 6 Prizes:

<u>Progress</u>	<u>Attainment</u>	<u>Perseverance</u>	<u>Citizenship</u>	<u>Values</u>
Bayley A	Sally	Maria	Scott	Callum
Bianca	Maya	Christopher	Bailey L	Solveig
				Emma G
				Alice
				Kenzie
				Veda
				Luke
				Hugo
				Elizabeth
				Sophie M
				James
				Bryn

Attendance

We were delighted to award certificates for 100% attendance for the entire academic year 2018 - 19 to 22 children, and certificates for 98% attendance to 180 children. Congratulations to you all.

CCTV

A part of our ongoing safety culture we use CCTV coverage in and around the school building. This is monitored frequently and securely throughout the school day.

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.

Car Park drop off

Please be aware that the drop off zone is only for the use of parents of children in Key Stage 2. Please only stop long enough for your child to safely leave the vehicle onto the pavement. The car park in Ottway Walk may be used by parents and carers or you can "park and stride" from one of the other village car parks.

Please do not use the staff car park. This is for staff only. Please drive slowly and carefully at all times in and around the school premises, particularly at the crossing points.





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Car Park Safety

Please use the path around the staff car park for your families' safety when using the main entrance door.

Key Stage 2 pick up

Please utilise all of the entrance towards the Key Stage 2 gates at pick up, aiming for the section marked for your child's year. Please move away from the crossing and bike shed to avoid congestion.

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.

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.





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- 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
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
11 th May	SATs week





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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

