



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter - September 2020

Value

Our value for this half term is:
Generosity

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

2 Corinthians 9:6

"Real generosity is doing something nice for someone who will never find out."

Frank A Clark

Welcome back

Welcome back to everyone. It is lovely to see you all even if our routine is a bit different. A special welcome to all those children new to our Reception classes and those who have joined further up the school. We hope you will all be very happy and successful.

Staffing

We are delighted to welcome back all our staff apart from Mrs Jameson and Miss Lewis who are still undergoing hospital treatment. We wish them both a full and speedy recovery. Please keep them both in your thoughts.

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 and for Mr Morris for helping. Work includes:

- Refurbishment of the Key Stage 2 boys' toilets
- New windows at the front of the school and in the quad
- Gutters cleared
- Hall parapets repaired
- Radiators painted
- Interactive whiteboards in BC3 and A5
- Repair to Garden Room roof
- Lock down alarms

Year 1 phonics screening

The government have announced that all Year 2 children will have their Year 1 phonics screening test carried forward to the second half of the autumn term. We will prepare the children in school through our catch up teaching programme. Teachers will let you know how you can help at home.





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Forgotten Items

Please ensure your child has all necessary items with them each day. We cannot accept water bottles and so on at the school office in order to minimise risk.

Tanzania Fundraising



Using donations made by Welwyn St Mary's, the school our sponsored child attends in Isupilo in Tanzania has been able to repair their roof. We look forward to receiving further updates from them this year.

Past pupils' GCSE success

Out of the top four at Bishop's Hatfield, three of the girls were from Welwyn St Mary's: Millie, Tia and Eliyah.

Annabel achieved ten grade 9s at Stanborough.

Very well done girls we are very proud of you. Please send in any more success stories so we can share.

Fundraising

Eliza in Year 6 has been so grateful for the support she has received from HOPE for Paediatric Epilepsy London that she is doing the 'September 30' challenge to raise money for the charity.

Eliza has written more about her experience and the challenge on the just giving page below. Any donations, pounds or pennies would be greatly appreciated as every little really does count. Thank you in advance.

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/neil-williamson-3?utm_term=96GXKYwRV

Secondary School Admissions

The applications for secondary school places to start in September 2021 opened on **1st September 2020**, and close on **31st October 2020** for children in year 6. Applications can be made using the electronic system available at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions. Parents received the leaflet "Moving On 2021" at the end of the summer term which contains further details.

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





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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.
- 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 2020
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
19 th - 22 nd July	INSET days - school closed

