



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter - November 2023

Value

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

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

Harvest Appeal

Thank you for all your generous donations raising £639 to our Harvest appeal. Please see personal thanks from The Right Reverend Dr Alan Smith of St Albans attached to the newsletter Parentmail.

Staff Changes

We are sorry to say that Mrs O'Smith will be leaving Welwyn St Mary's at Christmas in order to spend more time with her young daughter. Thankfully she has agreed to stay on as a supply teacher so we hope that we will still see her from time to time. We thank her for all her work with Reception and Year 1 children this year and for six successful years at Welwyn St Mary's.

We are also sad to say goodbye to Mrs Lythall, from the school office who will be leaving us at the end of term to start a new role in finance at Monk's Walk. We wish her well in her new role and thank her for her hard work over the last 8 years at Welwyn St Mary's.

PTFA Christmas Fair

A friendly reminder that this **Saturday, 2nd December** is our annual PTFA Christmas Fair. Come and join us between **1-4pm** and enjoy a variety of festive stalls, including arts and crafts, delicious food and drink, games, and a performance from our school choir. We have also arranged some fantastic raffle and tombola prizes that you won't want to miss out on! We look forward to seeing you there and sharing in the joyful festivities.

School Christmas Dinner

Our school Christmas Lunch is taking place on **Wednesday 13th December**. Children will also be allowed to wear a Christmas jumper or other Christmassy accessory. Children should wear their normal school uniform/PE kit but may replace their school jumper or hoodie with a Christmas jumper. If you don't have a Christmas jumper, please don't feel the need to buy one. Children can wear other Christmas themed accessories (e.g. tinsel or a Red/Green top) instead. We will also be making our usual paper hats in school. If your child has PE on Wednesdays, please send their PE top in a bag for them to change into.

Taking part is optional and we will be asking for a suggested donation of £2, or whatever you can spare, to Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day if your child would like to take part. Donations will be collected via Parentmail.





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Christmas Productions

We look forward to welcoming you to this year's Christmas performances;

- **KS1 - Baarmy Bethlehem** - 6th December 1.30pm, 7th December 9.30am & 6.00pm
- **Reception - Is there a baby in there?** - 12th December 1.30pm

In order to ensure the smooth running of the event and the safety of everyone involved, we kindly request that you adhere to the following guidelines:

1. **Arrival and Seating:** Please bring your allocated tickets with you to gain entry. Arrive 10 minutes prior to the start time to allow for seating. The seats will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.
2. **Photography/Recording:** We understand that you may wish to capture these precious moments however photos and videos are not permitted during the performances. There will be an opportunity to take photos at the end of the production but we ask that these are kept for personal use only.
3. **Behaviour:** We kindly request that all audience members are respectful and refrain from any disruptive behaviour, so that every child's part can be heard.

PTFA Fireworks

Thank you to everyone that came along to the PTFA fireworks night. We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to the PTFA and all the volunteers who helped organise and manage the event. It was a pleasure to see so many families join us for this special event. Together you raised an amazing £1728.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

Staff held a coffee morning to support MacMillan which contributed to the amazing £671.21 raised by St Mary's Church Welwyn.

K Club Christmas boxes



K Club collected and filled 50 boxes which is the most that our school has ever collected for our Christmas Child Appeal.

Thank you for your generous donations!

- K Club





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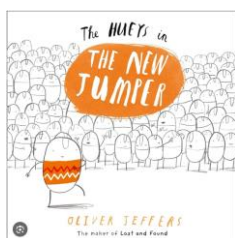
Year 3 Class Assembly

Thank you to all the parents for coming and supporting Year 3 in their recent class assembly on Remembrance.



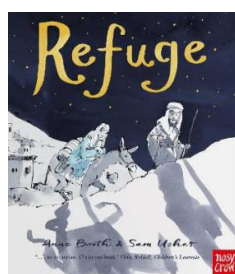
Book recommendation

This month's book recommendations:



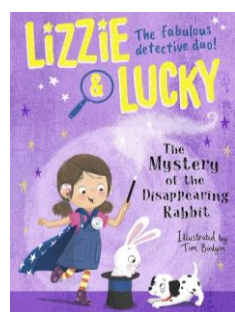
The Hueys in the New Jumper by Oliver Jeffers

A wonderful story about individuality. The thing about the Hueys is that they are all the same. They all look the same, think the same and do the same things. Until one day, Rupert knits himself a new jumper... How will the other Hueys react?



Refuge by Anne Booth and Sam Usher

A powerful picture book that gives a timely and timeless retelling of the Christmas story, inspired by refugee children everywhere.



Lizzie and Lucky, by Megan Rix

Young detective, Lizzie and her puppy, Lucky, are off to a magic show. But during the performance, a world-famous rabbit disappears - and not on purpose!

All of these books can be reserved and borrowed from your local Hertfordshire library.
We also have copies at school.



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Year 5 Basketball - 6th November

Team names: Edward, Freddie, Sebby, Charlie B, Alessio, Betsy, Ella, Poppy, Ava

Star Player: Betsy & Freddie

On Monday 6th November some Year 5 children went to Stanborough for a basketball tournament. Our first game was against Brookmans Park. The girls played the first half and the boys played the second half. The final score was 5-0 to them. Even though we lost, we felt proud of ourselves. Our second game was against St Michael's. We lost 6-0 but still felt very proud of ourselves. As we lost both games, we didn't qualify for the next round. We would like to thank Mr Gauden and Mrs Jameson for taking us and supporting us.

- Betsy and Ava

Netball Fixture - 21st November - School Games Event

Team names: Dolly, Bethany, Caitlin, Nyla, Camilla, Maisie, Sophia, Dia, Sienna

Star Player: Dolly



On Tuesday 21st November some of the girls in the netball team went to a tournament at Stanborough school. Our first game was against Commonswood. They had more experience than us and had been playing netball for longer than us. At the end of the game, we shook hands and lost 8-1. Our second game was against St John's. They were less experienced than us but they still did a great job. The match ended 4-4. Our netball team has only been playing for around 6 weeks so we were very proud of our performance. We would like to thank Miss Parkin and Ms Hewitt for supporting us and warming us up.

- Maisie and Caitlin

Boys County Table Tennis - 23rd November - School Games Event

Team names: Max, Douglas, George, Elliot



On the 23rd of November we went to Edge Grove school for a county table tennis event. We played against four different schools from other districts. They were very tough opponents who had played table tennis for most their lives. We would like to thank Mrs Southall for taking care of us and staying there the whole day.

- Elliot and George





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November birthdays

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated in November:

Charlie, Olive, Beatrix, William, Jessica, Elizabeth, Annabelle, Arlo, Jasper, Emilia, Harriet, Camilla, Ronnie, Lottie, Frances, Daisy, Elli, Isobel, Milly, Isabelle, Lilly, Ella, Danny, Robert, Kitty, Loulou, William, Charlie, Annabel, Caitlin, Fred, Harriet, Sienna, Charlie, Sophie, Mrs Pullin, Mrs Weaver, Mrs Noakes

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.

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 2023	
Fri 1st December 2023	PTFA Dress Down Day
Sat 2nd December 2023	PTFA Christmas Fair
Wed 6th December 2023	KS1 Nativity performances
Thu 7th December 2023	KS1 Nativity performances
Tue 12th December 2023	Rec Nativity performance
Wed 13th December 2023	School Christmas Lunch and Christmas clothing/accessory
Thu 14th December 2023	Whole school Christmas service
Thu 14th December 2023	Year 5/6 Carol service
Wed 20th December 2023	Terms ends
Spring Term 2024	
Thu 4th January 2024	Term commences
Fri 5th January 2024, 9:30am - 10:30am	Prospective Reception Parents Open Morning
Fri 19th January 2024	Year 4 Cake Sale
Mon 29th January 2024	Year 5 Viking workshop
Wed 31st January 2024	Year 3 and 4 Production
Thu 1st February 2024	Year 3 and 4 Production
Fri 9th February 2024	KS1 Festival of Words
Tue 13th February 2024	Year 3 Greek Day
Fri 16th February 2024	KS2 Speaker's Cup
Fri 16th February 2024	Year 3 Cake Sale
Mon 19th February 2024 - Fri 23rd February 2024	Half term
Thu 29th February 2024	Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop
Mon 4th March 2024 - Fri 8th March 2024	PTFA Mother's Day Gift Shop
Thu 7th March 2024	Year 5 Countryside Learning Day - Woodhall Estate
Fri 15th March 2024	Year 2 Cake Sale
Mon 25th March 2024 - Fri 29th March 2024	PTFA Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt
Thu 28th March 2024	Terms ends
Thu 28th March 2024	Whole school Easter service
Summer Term 2024	
Mon 15th April 2024	Term commences
Tue 16th April 2024	Year 4 Faith Tour



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Wed 24th April 2024	PTFA Meeting - 7pm
Mon 29 th April 2024	Year 6 GoConstruct KNex Challenge Day
Fri 17th May 2024	Year 1 Cake Sale
Wed 22nd May 2024	Class Photos
Thu 23rd May 2024	Sports Day
Mon 27th May 2024 - Fri 31st May 2024	Half term
Mon 3rd June 2024 - Wed 5th June 2024	Year 6 PGL
Mon 10th June 2024 - Fri 14th June 2024	PTFA Father's Day Gift Shop
Fri 14th June 2024	Year 2 Knebworth House
Fri 21st June 2024	INSET day - school closed
Mon 24th June 2024	INSET day - school closed
Thu 27th June 2024	New Reception Parents Meeting
Fri 28th June 2024	Reception Cake Sale
Fri 28th June 2024	Year 3 Celtic Harmony
Sat 29th June 2024	Welwyn Festival Parade
Thu 4th July 2024	Music Evening
Sat 6th July 2024	PTFA Summer BBQ
Wed 10th July 2024	WSM's Talent Show
Wed 10th July 2024,	Open Evening - 6pm-7pm
Wed 17th July 2024,	Year 6 Show - 6pm
Thu 18th July 2024	Leavers' service
Thu 18th July 2024,	Year 6 Show - 6pm
Fri 19th July 2024	Terms ends
Mon 22nd July 2024	INSET day - school closed
Tue 23rd July 2024	INSET day - school closed



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