



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter – November 2024

Value

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

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."
Aesop

Poppy Appeal



A heartfelt thank you to all the parents and families who supported the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in school. Together, we raised an impressive £159.21, contributing to a district total of over £5,000! Your generosity helps provide vital support to veterans and their families. Thank you for making a difference!

PTFA Fireworks

Our PTFA fireworks night was a fantastic success, raising an amazing £2,000! Thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy the evening and to those who generously volunteered their time to make it all possible. From setting up to serving, to packing away at the end of the night— it wouldn't have been possible without you. Your support truly makes a difference. Thank you!

Jasper fundraising



A huge well done to Jasper in Year 5, who completed the final 115 kilometers of the Camino de Santiago in just five days—a challenging pilgrimage to the tomb of St. James in Santiago, Spain! Jasper's determination and positivity helped him conquer this incredible journey, and he raised an impressive £850 along the way, which he has generously donated to support Art at school. We're so proud of Jasper's accomplishment. Well done, Jasper!

Sweet Sale

The sweet sale was a fundraiser to raise money for both the school and Muscular Dystrophy as it is close in my family. Together we raised £320, thank you to everyone for their support. I would particularly like to thank Omari, Poppy M, Poppy W, Orla, Grace G and Eve for helping me sell sweets. Thank you to Mr Whiteland, Mrs Branch and Mrs Phillips for helping me and all my classmates for supporting me.

- Alex

Upcoming events in December

Christmas events

We have several Christmas events taking place at Welwyn St Mary's in December. Please see **full details on page 3** of this newsletter.

Last Day of Term

A friendly reminder that term finishes at 1.15pm (Reception and KS1) and 1.20pm (KS2) on Friday 20th December.





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Kiwanis Club (K Club)

K Club is short for Kiwanis Club and it is run by Mrs Maouchi and Eddie Cooper who comes every week to help us. K Club is a school club for helping other people, for example, helping to make friends, boosting confidence and learning new things.

This term we have done lots of fun activities such as getting buddies from 2 Chestnuts and have also run the Operation Christmas Child Appeal and collected 30 boxes of presents. Thank you for your kind donations.

Here are some quotes from K Club members:

"I have really enjoyed everything, specially creating the Christmas boxes to give presents to people"

"I really love K Club, it has helped me make loads of friends not just in KS2 but in KS1 as well"

"I have really enjoyed reading with my buddy. I can't wait for future projects and thinking of more ideas to raise money and helping less fortunate countries"



We are super excited to do lots more activities such as meeting our new buddies from 2 Cedars because we know we will have just as much fun as we did with 2 Chestnuts.

- K Club

The Nature Reserve

On Saturday, 16th of November a group of children and parents came to help at the nature reserve. The nature reserve was overgrown, so we needed to tidy it up. We cleared many of the paths and helped cut back the weeds and stinging nettles so it will be safer for people to go without being stung by the nettles. We also moved some of the logs to mark where the paths should be. At the back of the nature reserve, we also had a large bush which was cut back by Mr Godfrey. We cleared the pond which had lots of logs and overgrown brambles. Mr Tucker had a lot of equipment and helped save the school money by cutting some of the branches on the trees which were overhanging the pond. We helped the nature reserve and now it is looking much better. We are very grateful to everyone who gave up their time and brought equipment to help.

Thank you to Mr and Mrs Bingham, Jessica and Alexander, Mrs Davies, Charlotte and Isabelle, Mrs Reynolds and George, Mr and Mrs Tucker, Sam and Harriet, Mr O'Brien and Mr Godfrey.

Thank you also to Mr Anstey and Mrs Mather for organising the nature reserve working party.

- By Charlotte (6 Rowans)





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Christmas Celebrations at Welwyn St Mary's



Pantomime Trip

All children will be attending the morning performance of "Cinderella and the Glass Slipper" at Hertford Theatre on **Tuesday 3rd December**.

PTFA Dress Down Day

Friday 6th December is Dress Down Day and children are invited to come to school wearing their own clothes (non-uniform). Please make sure that all clothes are suitable for a day in school and the cold weather and no football kits please. In exchange we would like them to bring an item that can be used on one of the stalls at the Christmas Fair. More details will follow via Parentmail.

PTFA Christmas Fair

Our annual PTFA Christmas Fair will be held on **Saturday 7th December**. 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.

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper day

Our school Christmas Lunch is taking place on **Wednesday 18th 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.

Christmas Performances

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

- **Dance Club Performance** – Tuesday 10th December, 2.30pm
- **KS1 Nativity**– Wednesday 11th December 1.30pm and Thursday 12th December, 9.30am & 6.00pm
- **Reception Performance** – Tuesday 17th December, 1.30pm
- **Year 5 and 6 Carol Service** [St Mary's Church] – Thursday 19th December, 6.00pm

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 arrive 10 minutes prior to the start time to allow for seating. There will be a list of attendees on the door. 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. These must be kept for personal use only and not shared on social media.
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.
4. For the KS1 evening performance, children should arrive for 5.30pm. Please keep your child with you until they enter school.

Choir Performance

Families are invited to join the Welwyn St Mary's Choir at the following performances:

- Chamber Choir concert at St Ethelreda's Church Hatfield, 14th December (times tbc)
- 17th December - Choirs of Welwyn St Mary's Charity Concert (6pm at Church)





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Book recommendation

This month's book recommendations:

Our Christmas recommendation include books that celebrate the joy of the festive season, as well as stories about being kind to others, celebrating with loved ones and enjoying the magic of Christmas Eve.



Year 6 Multi Games – 17th October

Team names: Fred, Amelie, Teddy, Charlotte, Charlie B, Max, Camilla, Jack, Orla, Rene, Neave, Jake, Mia, Lewis, Caitlin, George, Izzy, Layton, Isabella, Charlie S, Isla B, Sam, Tami, Emmanuel, Isla D, Toby, Scarlett, Jesse, Poppy, Billy, Ava

The buzz and atmosphere were fantastic. So many schools in attendance gave our children a true sense of competition and pushed us to perform to our best. It is easy to do well in the comfort of our own school, during practices, but to transform this to inter school competition raises the stakes.

Our Year 6 children did us proud. Their behaviour, support of their teammates and politeness to the children from other schools were exemplary. The level of skill from our competitors was impressive but that did not phase our children.

A huge well done to Toby and Isabella for their overall standing in the archery competition and to Charlie B and Amelie in the table tennis.

Well done to our team from Mrs Harrison, Miss Veasey and Mrs Southall



Girls Football Fixture Vs Sherrardswood – 4th November

Team names: Orla, Betsy, Ava, Zara, Nancy, Mia, Kiara, Mia, Harper

Star Players:

On Monday 4th November, some girls went to the school field to play a football fixture. The final score was an amazing 19-1 to us. Ava and Orla both scored 5 goals each, Mia scored 4, Betsy scored 3, Mia scored twice and Nancy, Zara and Kiara each scored once. We would like to thank Mrs Southall, Mr Whiteland, Mr Murphy for cheering us on.

- Betsy



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League Football Fixture Vs Sherrardswood – 4th November

Team names: Fred, Charlie B, Charlie W, Jack, Faris, Bailey, Edward, Jake, Freddie, Amelie

Our team played an awesome league match against Sherrardswood School and won 12-0! Everyone worked together so well, and it was so much fun. Fred and Charlie W both scored a hat-trick. Faris and Jack scored 2 goals each. Jake and Edward also scored a goal each. The whole team did an amazing job! Thank you so much to all the parents who came to cheer us on. A big thank you to Mr. Murphy for coaching us and helping us play so well, and also to Mrs Southall and Mr Whiteland for setting everything up and supporting us.

- Bailey

Mid-Herts District Primary School Cross Country– 12th November

Team names: Monty, Freddie, Fred, Finley, Charlie B, Lucas, Zara, Amelie, Orla, Poppy, Evie, Alba

On Tuesday 12th November, some Year 5 and 6 children went to a cross country event at Queenswood school. When we arrived, we set up on the field. As the race began, the course was wet, but our determination pushed us through. We ran up a hill and round to the finish line. We were very successful! Fred came second, Monty came third, Finley fourth and Freddie seventh. For the girls, Zara came second. This amazing achievement got us joint second place out of nine schools. The boys team came first, and the girls team came second. We would like to thank our parents for taking us and Miss Veasey and Mrs Brunson for cheering us on.

- Evie, Finley and Monty

County Table Tennis – 21st November

Team names: Charlie B, Burt, Lucas, Jasper, Amelie, Mia, Zara, Nancy



Once again, our children have done us proud with the table tennis competition. The district level was a fabulous result for both the boys and girls teams. They won all their pool games convincingly, and led to the final for a place in the County competition. The finals proved a little more of a challenge, but again both teams were victorious.

The county event, held at Edge Grove School proved to be a big step up in skill and concentration. Ten schools played in two pools. We were challenged and needed to dig deep in

our determination and resilience. Both teams managed to win two games and earned us the third place in our pool. Although this means we were not able to proceed to the finals, the performance of our players was very much to be commended and celebrated.

Well done to all the team, and we look forward to some of them being able to attend again as Year 6s. We are so proud of all of you.

Year 6 League Football Fixture Vs St Michaels – 21st November

Team names: Fred, Charlie B, Charlie W, Jack, Bailey, Amelie, Jake, Faris, Edward, Freddie

On the 21st November some Year 6 players attended a football game at Ridgeway Academy. We played against St Micheal's school. It was a fair game, and we showed self-belief, passion and worked well together as a team.

Bailey had a great game in goal alongside a solid Freddie in defence. Our midfield consisted of Fred, Faris and Jack dominating the play. Our wingers were Charlie W, Charlie B and Edward whipping in crosses for Jake and Amelie at the top to finish it off. The final score was 10-2. We were very determined and confident. We would like to thank Mr Whiteland for taking us and Mr Murphy for coaching.

- Charlie W and Fred





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November birthdays

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated in November:

William, Mila, Henry, Olive, Beatrix, Charlie, Luca, Finley, Sophie, Fred, Harriet, Caitlin, Annabel, Charlie, Danny, Robert, Lilly, Ella, Milly, Elli, Isobel, Daisy, Frances, Harriet, Camilla, Ronnie, Emilia, Annabelle, Arlo, Jasper, Jessica, Elizabeth, Mrs Pullin, Mrs Weaver and 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 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 will be 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 combination of any type of unauthorised absence. The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

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

[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

Autumn Term 2024	
Tue 3rd December 2024	Whole School Panto Trip – Cinderella and the Glass Slipper [Hertford Theatre]
Fri 6th December 2024	PTFA Dress Down Day
Sat 7th December 2024	PTFA Christmas Fair
Tue 10th December 2024	Dance Club Performance – 2.30pm
Wed 11th December 2024	KS1 Nativity Performance – 1.30pm
Thu 12th December 2024	KS1 Nativity Performance – 9.30am & 6.00pm
Thu 12th December 2024	Rehearsal for the Year 5 and 6 Carol Service [St Mary's Church]
Tue 17th December 2024	Reception Nativity Performance
Wed 18th December 2024	Christmas Jumper Day for 'Save the Children'
Wed 18th December 2024	Christmas Lunch
Thu 19th December 2024	Whole School Carol Service [St Mary's Church]
Thu 19th December 2024	Year 5 and 6 Carol Service [6pm, St Mary's Church]
Fri 20th December 2024	Terms ends – Rec & KS1 1.15pm, KS2 1.20pm

Spring Term 2025	
Mon 6th January 2025	Term commences
Wed 8th January 2025	Prospective Reception Parents Open Morning 9.15am
Fri 17th January 2025	Year 4 Cake Sale
Tue 21st January 2025, 5:30pm - 7:00pm	Year 3 & 4 Disco
Tue 28th January 2025, 4:00pm - 5:30pm	Year 1 & 2 Disco
Tue 28th January 2025, 6:00pm - 8:00pm	Year 5 & 6 Disco
Wed 5th February 2025	Yr 3 & 4 production
Thu 6th February 2025	Yr 3 & 4 production
Fri 7th February 2025	Year 3 Cake Sale
Mon 17th February 2025 - Fri 21st February 2025	Half term

