



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School

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Our value for this half term is:

Trust

"My god is my strength in whom I trust."

Psalm 18.2

Staffing Update

We are sadly saying goodbye to Ms Hewitt at Christmas. She has secured a teaching post at another school from January and will finish here at the end of term. We would like to thank her for all that she has done for our children over her time at Welwyn St Mary's and to wish her all the best in her new role. We are really fortunate and are delighted, however, to have recruited Mrs Hadley to join our 2 Cedars team and we look forward to welcoming her to our school.

2025 BBC Children in Need



The school council held their first fundraising event of the year – Children in Need 2025. The children came dressed to school in their pyjamas and we are delighted to announce the school raised £526. A great amount! Thank you to everyone who supported and donated to this wonderful cause.



3 Hazels had 'a nice little nap' during Children in Need Day as they were all in their pyjamas.

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 – Friday 19th December

Reception & KS1 finish at 1.15pm
KS2 finish at 1:20pm.





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Anti-Bullying Week

This month, we celebrated Anti-Bullying Week through a range of school activities. On Monday, 10th November, everyone was invited to wear a pair of odd socks for **Odd Socks Day** to celebrate individuality and promote kindness and acceptance. Both children and staff made a fantastic effort in taking part in this fun event, which added a wonderful splash of colour to the day!



PTFA Fireworks Night

Our PTFA fireworks night was a great success, raising an amazing £1,730! 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!





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Welwyn St Mary's Christmas Events 2025

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Fri 28 th November	Choir at St Mary's Church for Christmas light switch on - 4.15pm
Sat 29 th November	PTFA Christmas Fair - 1pm to 4pm (school choir to sing at 3pm)
Wed 3 rd December	Choir at Monk's Walk Family Christmas Concert – 6.30pm at St John's Church, Digswell
Tue 9 th December	Dance Club Performance – 2.30pm
Wed 10 th December	Year 2 Nativity Performance – 1.30pm & 6.00pm
Thu 11 th December	Year 1 'A Sprinkle of Christmas' class assembly 9.15am & 2.30pm
Mon 15 th December	Charity Choral Concert – 6.00pm, St Mary's Church
Tue 16 th December	Reception Nativity Performance – 9.15am & 2.30pm
Wed 17 th December	Christmas Lunch. Children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper or festive accessory.
Thu 18 th December	Whole School Church Service- 9.30am, St Mary's Church (full school uniform please)
Thu 18 th December	Year 5 and 6 Carol Service – 6pm, St Mary's Church





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Sporting Events



Year 6 League Football Fixture Vs Templewood- 6th November

Team: Teddy, Burt, Ted, Lucas, Zara, Mia, Jacob, Finley W, Kyle and Freddie
Star Player: Burt

Some Year 6 students played a football match against Templewood on the school field. We won 4-0. Burt scored 2, Ted scored one and Teddy scored another. We all played really well and helped each other. We would like to thank our coach and Mrs Branch for taking us.

- Burt and Zara.



Year 6 District Table Tennis – 7th November

Boys Team: Burt, Jasper, Lucas and Fin M
Girls Team: Nancy, Felicity, Annabel and Zara.

Some Year 6 students took part in a Table Tennis tournament. The boys won three out of four games in the first round. In the 2nd round, the boys won 4 out of 4 games and then in the 3rd round they won 3 out of 4 games and in the finals they won 4 out of 4 games. For the girls, in the first round we won 3 out of 4 games and in the 2nd round we won 4 out of 4 games. For the 3rd round we won 4 out of 4 games and in the finals we won 3 out of 4 games. Because of the results, both the boys' and girls' table tennis teams made it to the County tournament. We showed great teamwork and determination and we would like to thank Mrs Southall for taking us.

- Jasper and Felicity



Mid-Herts District Primary School Cross Country– 11th November

Boys: Monty, Freddie, Jacob, Finley W and Lucas.
Girls: Zara, Poppy, Nancy, Alba and Evie.

On Tuesday 11th November, some Year 6 students took part in a cross-country event at Queenswood School. They all achieved outstanding results, with Monty finishing 1st for the boys and Freddie close behind in 2nd place. For the girls, Zara came 1st, with Poppy securing 3rd place for the girls. This fantastic achievement earned us 1st place overall out of nine schools. Welwyn St Mary's returned to school delighted and proudly carrying a very large cup! We would like to thank the parents for their support, and Miss Veasey and Mrs Brunson for cheering the team on.





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Year 6 Football Fixture Vs St Johns- 13th November

Team: Callum, Ellis, Danny, Lillie, Marcus, Nicole, Orest, Ronnie, William.
Star Players: Marcus, Orest and Ellis

On Thursday 13th, a few of Year 6 had a football match against St Johns School. We played for 40 minutes and we won 2-1. Orest scored and so did Ellis. Both goals were assisted by Marcus. We used very kind words and both teams had good sportsmanship. It was a good game and no fouls were given. We had a great time. We would like to thank Mrs Southall and our coaches for taking us.

- Marcus & Orest



Year 6 District Basketball- 13th November

Team: Annabel W, Burt, Fin M, Finley W, Freddie, Grace S, Kyle, Mia, Nancy, Zara
Star players: Finley W and Annabel W.

Some Year 6 students went to Ridgeway School for a Basketball tournament. For every match, the boys played the first 3 minutes then the girls played the last 3 minutes. During each game, music played for 30 seconds. Whilst the music played, you could win power points- this is where you can score double the points. We played 7 games and won all 7. We came 1st overall and we each received a medal. We passed well, scored lots of hoops and showed great teamwork. We all had a great time. Thank you to Miss Veasey for supporting us.

- Freddie



Year 6 Tag Rugby – 20th November

Year 6 entered a Tag Rugby event at Monks Walk school. We played many matches and scored many tries. It was very icy and cold, so everybody was cold and excited for the matches. Most of us got very muddy but still enjoying the matches. Lots of us scored tries and made good passes to each other and kindness was shown through all our teams. The star players were Finley, Danny, Mia, Jacob, Nancy and Lillie. Thank you to the teachers who took us.

- Ted and Teddy





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Year 4 Football Fixture Vs Sherrardswood – 17th November

Team: Leo, William, Finnley, Louie, Stanley, Luca, Teddy and Maxwell.
Star Player: Louie

On Monday 17th November, the Year 4 Football team won 5-2 against Sherrardswood School. Leo Scored 3 goals, Finnley Scored 1 and William scored 1. Star player was Louie; he was great in defence. The first half ended in 2-1 to Sherrardswood. In the second half we worked really well as a team to get the win! Thank you very much to Mrs Southall for organising.

- Leo



Year 6 League Football Fixture Vs Sherrardswood- 20th November

Team: Burt, Fin W, Freddie, Jacob, Kyle, Lucas, Mia, Ted and Teddy.
Star player: Freddie

On Thursday 20th, some Year 6 went to Sherrardswood to play a football match against Sherrardswood School. Everyone showed respect, determination and teamwork. The star player was Freddie with an amazing performance on and off the ball. The players that scored were Ted with one goal, Teddy with one, Lucas with two goals, Freddie with one and an own goal from the other team. The final score was 6-0. Welwyn St Mary's and everyone involved showed amazing sportsmanship. We would like to thank Sherrardswood for letting us play there and Mrs Crofts and our parents for taking us and watching us. Also, thank you to our coach, Lorenc.

- Finley and Mia



County Table Tennis – 20th November

Boys: Burt, Fin M, Jasper and Lucas
Girls: Annabel W, Felicity, Nancy and Zara
Star Players: Annabel W and Burt

On the 20th November, some Year 6 went to a table tennis tournament. In the morning, the boys played. They played 4 games and won a lot. Overall, they came top in their pool and had a play-off against Haberdashers' School for first place. We lost all our games in final, but we were very happy to come second. Then in the afternoon, the girls played. They played 4 games as well and won loads. Overall, they came 2nd place in their pool and were in the 3rd place play-off. They won and came 3rd place overall. We would like to thank Mrs Southall for taking and supporting us.

- Lucas and Annabel





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Operation Christmas Child Appeal

Kiwanis' Club (K Club) at Welwyn St Mary's, have successfully collected over 31 boxes filled with your generous donations. This will provide a Christmas present for a child in another country. Many thanks to everyone who donated items.

Diversity Group

Here is a summary of the events that we participated in during the month of November.

World Kindness Day - Be kind to all and for instance, if someone is sad, talk to them and try to make them feel better. If someone is getting bullied, tell an adult and try to help them feel better. We hope this will help you understand how to help others.

Anti Bullying Week - In our classes we had different activities, for example, creating superheroes which stop bullying and that being different is a thing to be proud of. We had PSHE Jigsaw lessons about people being different is a good thing, because if we all were the same it would be boring and tiring. Being unique makes life more fun and enjoyable, so now we know that being different is a good thing.

Odd Sock Day – on 14th November we had Odd Sock Day to celebrate our amazing differences! Everyone loved wearing odd socks. We saw how cool, colourful and exotic everyone's socks were and this represented our differences.

Remembrance Day – is marked to remember the important people, from United Kingdom and other countries, who served our country in the war. Some Year 6 children went around the school to sell poppies to people to raise money for people who protected our country in the past. Now we can have our peaceful days because they sacrificed their lives.





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Book recommendations from the Diversity Group

Our November recommendations encourage us all to treat each other with kindness. If things do go wrong, we know we can talk to adults we trust. The book recommendations can be found in school, however, they are also available at the local library.

Younger children may enjoy the following books;

- Ruby finds a worry by Tom Percival
- Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You by Sonia Sotomayor
- Kindness makes us strong by Sophie Beer

Older children may enjoy the following books;

- The boy who made everyone laugh by Helen Rutter
- Let's fill the world with kindness by Alexandra Stewart and Jake Alexander



Book Trust's New 'Great Books Guide'

The Book Trust have just released their free-to-access 'Great Books Guide' for 2025-2026, which contains excellent recommendations of books that are categorised for different primary-age ranges. [GreatBooksGuide-2025-digital.pdf](#)

November birthdays

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated in November, Alice, Annabel, Annabelle, Arlo, Beatrix, Camilla, Daisy, Danny, Elizabeth, Finley, Frances, Georgia, Harriet, Harriet, Henry, Isobel, Jasper, Jaxson, Jessica, Lillie, Lilly, Luca, Mila, Milly, Olive, Robert, Ronnie, Sophie, William, Mrs Weaver, Mrs Noakes and Miss Smith and Mrs Pullin.





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Yr 4 Faith Trip

A beautiful write-up about the Y4 Faith trip last month:

First, we got off the coach and had our snack on some steps outside the Gurdwara because we were all hungry after the big coach journey. Then we set off for the Mosque. Everyone noticed the mosque straight away because it had some aqua green domes on top. When we walked in, we took our shoes off, covered our heads and noticed the stone was marble with a shimmer of gold, then we walked into the prayer hall and met a man. We sat on the carpet which had outlines of mats coloured in shades of green with an arch shape in the middle. A man talked about the Mosque and at the end of the slide show there was a photo of the Imam's cat! MEOW! Then we left to go to the church.

When we got to the church we stood outside and looked at it. It was much newer than ours because it has bright red bricks. After that, we went in and sat on rows of chairs then we met a lady who told us about their church and asked us a lot of questions. Then we met a man who took over for a little bit and talked to us about the font which used to be used as a horse trough. After a little bit, the man told us we could touch the font (or the very old horse trough) then we left to go to the Gurdwara to eat lunch in the Langar Hall.

Everyone was excited to eat in the Langar Hall because we were all hungry and it was a new experience. When we walked in, we covered our heads and we took our shoes off and we washed our hands. We walked in and sat down to eat lunch. We ate sitting on the floor in rows on some mats.

When we were all done a man gave an introduction to Sikhism and we asked some questions. Then the man told us to put our bags behind some chairs and we left for the prayer hall. When we were in, we all sat down. He started talking again about the music and something called the five K's then we asked some more questions. Then we got in to two lines down the middle and walked around the Palki Sahib (a canopy for the holy book) we saw the holy book (the Guru Granth Sahib) and then we left, went to pick our bags up, went to the toilet, put our shoes on, then we stood outside to get ready for a picture. When the picture was taken, we then waited for some traffic and we drove back to school.

By Monty Berryman and Jessica Bingham





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Santa Singing Workshop

A free singing workshop for children aged 6 and up at St Mary's Church on Tuesday 23rd December. Singing Christmas songs and putting on a concert at the end for friends and family. A lovely event for the whole family to get into the festive spirit.



KS2 Speaker's Cup

We are holding our annual Speaker's Cup competition for KS2 on Friday 13th February. This is to promote speaking and listening within our school and also to celebrate our children's diverse range of interests and hobbies. Furthermore, it is a good life-skill to be able to stand up in front of people and talk with confidence.

One entry from each class will have the opportunity to present a speech on the topic of their choice to KS2 and to four judges. The topic could be ranging from their hobby, to their love of a specific animal, to a part of history that they have enjoyed learning about. It is their choice. If your child would like to enter (it isn't compulsory), please support them to prepare a speech helping them with the following criteria:

- 3-5 minutes long
- Visual aids
- Clear, well-planned speech
- Good subject knowledge
- Engaging to the listener

Thank you for your support with this.
Jess Tucker

Forgotten items

We are receiving a very high number of forgotten items via the school office each morning, and requests from children to call parents for forgotten sports kits for clubs. Please could you remind children to bring all items they need for the day with them. We suggest packing bags the night before school to avoid the morning rush.





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Raising money for school

If you shop online you could be raising funds for our lovely school – at no extra cost to you!

- **Lovereading4kids.co.uk** sell a range of children's books at competitive prices, and the good news for us is that, if you nominate Welwyn St Mary's, 25% of the cover price will be given to us to spend with them on new books for our school library.
- **Easyfundraising.org.uk** – by going through this website to then purchase at other retailers, you can nominate Welwyn St Mary's to receive a percentage of the cost of your items (e.g. 4% at Argos, 2% at John Lewis, 9% at M&S).

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.

Absence Reporting

Please call or email by 9am on each day of your child's absence. Please can we ask that you advise us of the symptoms of any illness rather than just "feeling unwell" so that we can accurately record and monitor this.

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 is 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.

[Click here](#) for further information.





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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.

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
- Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education.'





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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

2025 Autumn Term	
Sat 29th November 2025	PTFA Christmas Fair
Wed 10th December 2025	Year 2 Christmas Play – 1.30pm & 6.00pm
Thu 11 th December 2025	Year 1 Class Assembly - 9:15am & 2.30pm
Tue 16 th December 2025	Reception Nativity Performance – 9:15am & 2.30pm
Wed 17th December 2025	Christmas lunch/Christmas jumper day
Thu 18th December 2025	Whole School Christmas Service [St Mary's Church]
Thu 18th December 2025	Year 5 and 6 Carol Service [6pm, St Mary's Church] We ask all to attend this special service.
Fri 19th December 2025	Terms ends – Rec & KS1 1.15pm, KS2 1.20pm
2026 Spring Term	
Mon 5th January 2026	INSET day – school closed
Tue 6th January 2026	Term starts
Wed 7th January 2026	Prospective Reception Parents Open Morning 9.30am
Tue 20th January 2026	Year 3 Greek Day
Wed 28th January 2026	Year 4 Performance – 1.30pm & 6.00pm
Mon 16th to Fri 20th February 2026	Half term
Fri 27th March 2026	Last day of school – Rec & KS1 1.15pm, KS2 1.20pm
2026 Summer Term	
Mon 13th April 2026	INSET day – school closed
Tue 14th April 2026	Term starts
Mon 4th May 2026	Bank holiday – school closed
Fri 22nd May 2026	INSET day – school closed
Mon 25th to Fri 29th May 2026	Half term
Saturday 4th July 2026	PTFA Summer BBQ
Friday 10 th July 2026	PTFA Break the rules day
Wed 22nd July 2026	Last day of school – Rec & KS1 1.15pm, KS2 1.20pm

