



# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



## Newsletter - October 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*

### Staffing Update

A very warm welcome to Mrs Pullin and Miss Howe our newest teaching assistants. We hope you are very happy here at Welwyn St Mary's.

We are sad to say goodbye and thank you to Mrs Bradshaw for all her caring work as a teaching assistant. We wish her all the best for the future.

### STEM Hub Grant

We are delighted to share that we have been awarded a grant of just over £20,000 from Howmet Aviation. The money will be used to develop a STEM Hub within school, creating a space dedicated to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths to enrich our curriculum and inspire all our children to explore and engage with a range of activities across these subjects. We look forward to sharing more with you as the project progresses.

### Harvest Appeal

Thank you to all who gave so generously to our harvest appeal. We raised a wonderful £674 for Mission Direct.

### 24/25 Term Dates

Our term dates for 2024/25 are now available on the school website. Please take careful note of these when booking holidays as we do not approve term time absence for holiday in any circumstances.

We would also like to draw your attention to the change of timings for our INSET days in 2024/25. Because of how Hertfordshire term dates fall next year, we have allocated most of our available INSET days at the end of the summer term so that we break up on a Friday. This means that there will not be a four-day weekend in June 2025 as has been the case for the past few years.

### Nearly New Uniform

Our PTFA has very kindly revamped our nearly new uniform process to make it easier to drop off and purchase items of good quality pre-loved uniform.

A green wheelie bin clearly labelled 'PTFA NEARLY NEW UNIFORM' has been positioned in the driveway area between KS1 and KS2 pick-up/drop-off areas. Please place any items of uniform for donation in this bin. Please wash and fully dry all items before donating and only donate items in good condition - no rips, tears, permanent stains or items that have significantly faded or greyed.

For more information about PTFA nearly new uniform, please refer to the ParentMail sent on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023.





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### Book recommendation

November is a time to remember and give thanks for those who served in World wars. These thoughtfully crafted tales are a poignant way to ensure the memory of the fallen heroes lives on. Through beautifully illustrated pages and age-appropriate narratives, these books teach our young ones about the profound impact of war while honouring the bravery of those who served. We have some titles in school and all of these books can be reserved and borrowed from your local Hertfordshire library.

### This month's book recommendations:



*Respect: The Walter Tull Story* by Michael Morgan

*The Lion Above the Door* by Onjali Q. Rauf

*Friend or Foe* by Michael Morpurgo

*Where the Poppies Now Grow* by Hilary Robinson & Martin Impey

### Hertfordshire's School Admissions Consultation 2025/26

Hertfordshire County Council is running a consultation on the proposed admissions arrangements for the school year 2025/26 and is seeking responses from parent/carers, schools and community groups.

The proposed changes are:

1. If the proposal to close Hexton Primary School is approved, to amend the admission arrangements for Pirton Primary School to give increased priority to children from the parish of Hexton.
2. Amend the schemes of coordination to clarify The funding agreement process for new or proposed free schools, the process for informing the home LA of a school's decision to increase their PAN and to reduce the timescale for responding to allocations from 14 days to 7. This will allow more time for effective processing of responses prior to the next allocation round.
3. Retain the remainder of the county council's existing admission arrangements for 2025/26, including PANs, Relevant Areas and schemes of coordination.

The consultation period runs until 11 December 2023. Please visit [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions2025](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions2025) for more information and to respond online.

If you have any queries, please email [admissions.consultation@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.consultation@hertfordshire.gov.uk) or call 01992 555876 (Kellie Gilbertson-Hoy) or 01992 555840 (Rebecca Pendry).





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### Year 6 Tag Rugby - 13<sup>th</sup> September

**Team names:** Oliver W, Billy, Bear, Fletcher, George C, Ryan, Zac, Bradley, Thomas S, William H, Ava, Daisy, Isabelle, Francesca, Lottie R, Sophie G, Sophia, Olivia M, Dolly, Dia

**Star player:** Billy and Sophie



On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September, some of Year 6 went to the Tag Rugby Tournament at Monk's Walk. First, we did some warm up games and then we got into groups for the real matches. The girls were up against the girls from the other schools and the boys did the same. The girls' first game was 2-2, the second game we lost 4-3 and the third game

was 4-4. Overall the girls came last out of four teams. Sophie was the captain. The boys' first game was 2-2, the second game we lost 5-2, the third game we won 4-2 and the last game we won 6-0. Ryan was the captain and overall the boys came second out of five teams. We all enjoyed the tournament and would like to thank Mr Gauden and Mrs Southall.

### Year 4 Tag Rugby - 26<sup>th</sup> September

**Team names:** Zara, Juliet, Harper, Chloe, Alba, Kiara, Nancy, Mia, Poppy, Chelsea, Burt, Finley M, Finley W, Jacob, Kyle, Freddie, Marcus, Ted, Jamie

**Star player:** Zara, Harper, Finley

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Year 4 children went to Monk's Walk school for a Tag Rugby tournament. The girls won 2-0 against Brookmans Park and the boys won 5-0 against Brookmans Park. Then the girls won 5-1 and the boys won 4-0 against St Michaels. The girls went on to win 3-2 against Templewood and the boys won 4-0 against Templewood. The boys and girls both got into the final against Homerswood. The girls won 3-1 and the boys won 4-1. We would like to thank Mr Gauden and Mrs Soppett-Moss for taking us.

- Juliet, Jacob and Poppy

### Year 5 Tag Rugby - 27<sup>th</sup> September

**Team names:** Alessio, Freddie, Tomos, Bailey, Rene, Jake, Edward, Sam, Archie, Layton, Mia, Nyla, Betsy, Amelie, Orla, Scarlett, Maisie, Tami, Ava, Charlotte

**Star player:** Tomos and Amelie

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September some of Year 5 went to Monk's Walk for a rugby tournament. We won every game and we topped the group for boys and girls.

On the girls' first game we won against Brookmans Park and the score was 7-0. On the boys' first game we went against Brookmans Park and the score was 5-1. On the girls' second game we went against Homerswood and the score was 4-1. On the boys' second game we went against Homerswood and the score was





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3-2. It was a hard game but Bailey scored the winning try. On the girls' third game we went against St Michael's and the score was 4-2. On the boys' third game we went against St Michael's and the score was 5-0.

The star player for the girls was Amelie for good teamwork, a lot of trys and pulling a lot of tags off people. Amelie is a good player. The star player for the boys was Tomos for good passing, good trys, good sportsmanship and pulling a lot of tags off people. The top try scorers were Jake and Amelie.

- Betsy & Jake

### Netball Festival - 28<sup>th</sup> September

**Team names:** Sophia, Dia, Bethany, Isabella, Emilia, Arabella, Betsy, Nicole, Ava, Mia, Camilla, Maisy G, Daniel, Aanvi, Connie, Nyla, Ella, Francesca, Maisie S, Caitlin, Dolly, Scarlett

**Star player:** Nyla & Daniel

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September, girls and boys from Year 5 and 6 went to a netball competition at Monk's Walk school. There were lots of different schools to play. In one court there were three places to play. Two of them were to play matches and the other was for practice. The first match for Team A was against Templewood and we lost 1-0. Team B lost their first game against Homerswood and second game against Commonswood. The second game for Team A we played Templewood again but won 2-1. Our third game we lost 1-0 against Commonswood.

Team B lost their third game against Brookmans Park. The star player for Team A was Daniel and for Team B was Nyla. We would like to thank Mr Gauden, Miss Parkin and Ms Hewitt.

- Francesca & Nyla

### Multisport Event - 2<sup>nd</sup> October - School Games Event

**Team names:** Teddy, Wyatt, Ronnie, Sammy, Willow, Bethany, Izzy, Alana

**Star player:** Teddy

On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, we took part in a multisports event at Stanborough. There were a variety of sports including archery, badminton, running and skipping. We split into groups. My favourite one was the running. Some people did archery but some of us didn't. It was an amazing time at the sports hall. We drank lots of water to not get dehydrated. Thanks to Ronnie's mum, Bradley's mum and Mrs Porter for taking us.

- Teddy

### Cross Country - 3<sup>rd</sup> October - School Games Event

**Team names:** Faris, Orla, Amelie, Riley, Douglas, Ella, Kitty

On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, three year 5's went to Stanborough Lakes. The course was really hard because it had a lot of hills but in the end we finished it. It was nearly 2.5km. We were representing Monks Walk school. The boys went first and Faris came 24<sup>th</sup> out of about 50 children. Next were the girls and Amelie came 25<sup>th</sup> and Orla came 6<sup>th</sup>. We were all very proud of ourselves. Monks Walk came first out of Ridgeway, Onslow and Stanborough. We would like to say thank you to Mrs Southall.

- Orla & Amelie





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### Multisport Event - 6<sup>th</sup> October - School Games Event

**Team names:** Milan, Leon, Ronnie, Amara, Orla, Ben, Izzy, Robyn



On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October, we took part in a non-competitive event at Monk's Walk school. We did archery, handball, minigolf, tag rugby and tug of war. We would like to thank Mr Gauden and Mrs des Forges for taking us. Thank you.

### Indoor Athletics - 9<sup>th</sup> October

**Team names:** Jasper, Callum, Ellis, Danny, Renos, Ronnie, Oli, Orest, Harry, Monty, Alex, Rocco, James, William, Marcus, Omari, Poppy, Catherine, Chelsea, Michelle, Grace, Chloe, Nicole, Annabel, Violet, Evie, Chloe, Amara, Daisy, Grace

**Star player:** Annabel and Alexander

On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October, half of Year 4 went to Stanborough Sports Hall. We competed against St Michaels, Brookmans Park and St Johns. We did 12 different events. Our star players were Annabel and Alexander in P4. Thank you to Mrs Crofts, Mrs Rogers and Mr Gauden for taking us. We all had an amazing time.

- James and Danny



### Netball and Football Fixtures - 10<sup>th</sup> October - School Games Event

**Netball team names:** Sophia, Maisy, Dia, Bethany, Dolly, Francesca, Daniel D, Aanvi, Ella

**Football Boys team names:** Oliver B, Ryan, Max, Oliver W, Billy, Preston, Riley, George, Zac, Bear

**Football Girls team names:** Kitty, Ava, Dulcie, Daisy, Amelie, Betsy, Scarlett, Liahna, Isabelle



On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October, some Year 5 and 6 children went to a football event. Our first game was against Brookmans Park and the score was 2-0 at half time but in the second half we scored another two goals and won 4-0. Then we had a rest and were trying to decide the team for the next game. Once we had decided the team, we got our players into position and started. Unfortunately no one scored and it ended 0-0. We were very proud of ourselves because Brookmans Park are a really good team. We all had so much fun and would like to thank Mr Gauden and Mrs Southall for taking us and supporting us throughout the games.

- Betsy, Scarlett & Amelie





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### October birthdays

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated in October:

Leon, Noah, Kyle, Clara, Rosie, Francesca, Eira, Bradley, Violet, Harry, Aanvi, Eli, Alba, Daisy, Autumn, Georgaina, Elliot, Emily, Elliott, Maxwell, Toby, Elijah, Oscar, Elsie, Mrs Howard, Miss Dines, Miss Birch

### 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	
Wed 1st November 2023	Prospective Reception Parents Open Morning
Thu 2nd November 2023	Year 5 PLASTAZOT workshop
Sat 4th November 2023	PTFA Fireworks Night
Mon 13th November 2023 - Fri 17th November 2023	Anti-Bullying Week
Wed 22nd November 2023	Prospective Reception Parents Open Morning
Fri 24th November 2023	Occasional day - school closed
Fri 1st December 2023	PTFA Dress Down Day
Sat 2nd December 2023	PTFA Christmas Fair
Wed 13th December 2023	School Christmas Lunch
Thu 14th December 2023	Whole school Christmas service
Thu 14th December 2023	Year 5/6 Carol service
Wed 20th December 2023	Terms ends

