



# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



## Newsletter - October 2024

### Value

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

*"Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share."  
1 Timothy 6:18*

As we come to the end of this first half-term, we would like to take a moment to congratulate all of the children for the wonderful way they have settled into school life. Their hard work, enthusiasm, and positive attitudes have been a joy to witness, and we are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved so far.

We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our parents and carers for your continued support. Whether it's helping your children with their learning at home, supporting school events, or volunteering your time in various capacities - your involvement makes a huge difference to our school community, and we truly appreciate it.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. We wish you all a restful half-term and look forward to seeing the children back refreshed and ready for the next term!

### Harvest Appeal

We want to express our deepest gratitude for your incredible support of the Bishop of St Alban's Harvest Appeal this year. Thanks to your kindness and generosity, we are thrilled to announce that we raised £329 to support the vital work being carried out in partnership with The Leprosy Mission in Sri Lanka. In addition to this, we are also immensely grateful for the donations you made to support our local food bank. Your contributions will go directly to helping families in need within our own community, providing essential food and supplies during these challenging times.

### Cold weather

As the weather is starting to turn colder, please ensure your children come to school dressed appropriately to keep warm. Warm coats, gloves, hats, and scarves will soon be necessary, please make sure that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name to help us avoid any mix-ups.

### Upcoming events in November

#### Open Morning

We will be holding two open mornings on the **6<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November** for Prospective Reception Parents.

#### EYFS/KS1 Reading meeting

Reception and KS1 parents are invited to an early reading and phonics information session at 2pm on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November. Please complete the Parentmail form to confirm attendance.

#### Year 3 Assembly

Year 3 parents are invited to watch their Remembrance assembly on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November**. Please complete the Parentmail form to confirm attendance.

#### Year 4 Pedestrian Skills

Year 4 will take part in Pedestrian Skills Training on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November. Please ensure your child has a coat.

#### Occasional Day

A reminder that **school is closed on November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024**.





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### Choir at Hatfield House

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 20 members of our choir from Year 5 and 6 went to St Ethelreda's Church in Hatfield House to take part in a workshop for school choirs which was run as part of the Hatfield House music festival. The children had great fun learning new songs and some fun warm up techniques from the inspiring James Slimmings, who conducts the Hertfordshire County Youth Choir. They enjoyed singing with a choir from another Hertfordshire school and performed a short concert to Parents at the end of the afternoon. Thank you to Mrs Harrison for arranging the visit and to Poppy and Tami's mums for helping on the day.



If your child is interested in joining the Hertfordshire Music Service choir, please visit [www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/countyouthmusic](http://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/countyouthmusic). Or, if you want something more local, contact [choir@welwyn.org.uk](mailto:choir@welwyn.org.uk) at St Mary's Church, Welwyn.

### Year 5 Plasterzote Workshop



On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October, Year 5 went into the hall to make masks out of Plasterzote. We loved making them. First, we chose our mask, then we moulded the shapes in the oven. We stuck them on the mask with a glue gun. We really enjoyed it, and we would like to thank our teachers and all the parents that came and helped us.

- Fin and Ronnie

### Year 5 and 6 Science Day

In the morning, we learnt how quickly viruses spread with ultraviolet light. Next, we learnt who, what and where our viruses came from. After break, we used four different chemicals and water to make medicine. We learnt that not all people had the same medicine. After lunch, we used drug 1, 2 and 3 to find what drugs were suitable for different people. We thank our teachers and Cambridge Science Centre who led the session.

- Alexander and Leon





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### Alopecia Cake Sale

Thank you so much to everyone who supported the Alopecia Cake Sale! We're thrilled to share that we raised £414. Your generosity and kindness mean the world, and it will make a big difference. Thank you again for your amazing support!

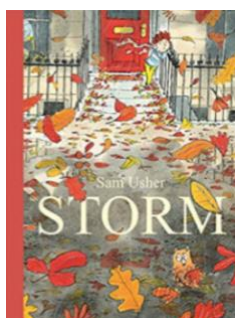
### Whole School Panto

We are looking forward to the whole school pantomime trip on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Full details have been sent via Parentmail. If you have not already, please complete the permission form and make payment before 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

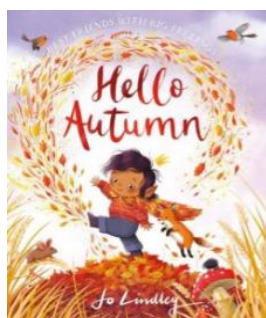
### Book recommendation

#### This month's book recommendations:

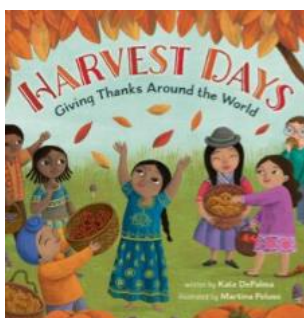
From collecting conkers and kicking up leaves, to picking pumpkins and watching squirrels gather food, there are plenty of delights for children to enjoy during Autumn time. Why not add cosying up and sharing our recommended reads to your list of fun things to do this Autumn half term.



**Storm**  
by Sam Usher



**Hello Autumn**  
by Jo Lindley



**Harvest Days**  
by Kate DePalma



**The Leaf Thief**  
by Alice Hemming



**The Hodgeheg**  
by Dick King-Smith

### Year 4 Girls Football Festival - 4<sup>th</sup> October

**Team names:** Olivia, Orla, Emily, Amelia, Lily, Harriet, Ellie, Millie, Liliane, Camilla

**Star Players:** Harriet

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, we went to Monk's Walk football festival. The first team we played against was Homerswood. We drew 0-0. They were a talented team, but they were a fair team to play. Then we played St John's and drew 1-1. After that we played Brookmans Park and lost 2-0 but they were fair. The last team we played against was Applecroft and we won 2-0. It was a great success. The star player was Harriet. Liliane got a medal and Amelia won a water bottle. We would like to thank Mrs Rogers and Miss Veasey for taking us.  
- Camilla, Liliane & Harriet







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### Year 4 Boys Football Festival - 4<sup>th</sup> October

**Team names:** Arlo, Riaan, Adam, Jacob, Dylan, Johnny, Oscar, Jack, Max, Enzo

**Star Players:** Arlo and Jack

On the 4<sup>th</sup> October, some Year 4 boys went to Monk's Walk football festival. First, we played against Applecroft and won 1-0. It was a close match. We won our second game 2-0, Riaan and Dylan scored. The next match we played against Oaklands and won 2-0, Enzo and Dylan scored. We won all our games because of our self-belief, passion and teamwork. Oscar made a great save in our last match to keep us in. Our top scorers were Enzo and Dylan.

- Arlo and Jack

### Year 6 Girls Rugby - 9<sup>th</sup> October

**Team names:** Scarlett, Isla, Camilla, Nyla, Tami, Betsy, Maisie, Ava

**Star Players:** Betsy

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October some Year 6 girls went to Gosling to play tag rugby. We played five matches in total. We won four of our matches and lost one. We had a brilliant time and really enjoyed it. We played against some really good teams that were very respectful. The star player was Betsy who did excellent work scoring six tries. We would like to thank Miss Veasey and Mrs Soppett-Moss for taking us. We had so much fun.

- Betsy and Scarlett

### Year 5 Girls & Boys Football Fixture - 10<sup>th</sup> October

**Team names:** Mia, Grace, Nicole, Juliet, Harper, Alex, Grace, Harriet, Fin, Ellis, Marcus, Teddy, Danny, Orest, Callum, Ben C and Ted

**Star Players:** Mia and Ted

For the girls, Juliet started in goal and after Sherrardswood scored about five goals we changed things around and put Harriet in goal. Mia had a few chances but didn't score. Nicole and Grace were really good in defence and Harper and Juliet were good in the middle. The result was 11-0 to Sherrardswood. They were Year 6 and it was a very tough game but we tried our best. We showed respect and determination in ourselves.

The boys played well with passion. We tried our hardest. Teddy was good for assisting. Callum, Ellis and Ben were solid defenders. Ted, Marcus and Fin were brilliant up front. Danny kept pushing the team on and cheering the boys on. Orest was fantastic in goal. Overall the score was 3-2 to Sherrardswood.

- Mia and Ted





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### District Cross Country - 10<sup>th</sup> October

**Team names:** Amelie, Orla, Caitlin, Nancy, Zara, Lucas, Burt, Freddie, Monty, Alba, Poppy W, Jacob, Evelyn, Finley, Alice

On the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024, some Year 5 and Year 6 children went to Stanborough Lakes for the Cross Country District Final Competition. For the boys Year 5 race, Monty came 1<sup>st</sup>. His determination and confidence pushed him to win. Freddie came 3<sup>rd</sup> and now those two go through to the County Cross Country. For the girls Year 5 race, Zara came 2<sup>nd</sup>, her motivation pushed her through. She will also go to the County Cross Country. The Year 6 race was brilliant. Amelie came 1<sup>st</sup> for the girls. Everyone else did amazingly too! We would like to thank Mrs Tucker for cheering us on and the parents for taking us.  
- Monty, Freddie, Alba & Jacob



### Year 4 Tag Rugby - 16<sup>th</sup> October

**Team names:** Juno, Ayana, Leo, Finn, Ethan, George, Beau, Voilet, Robyn, Orla

**Star Players:** George

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October, Year 4 went to a tag rugby tournament. We had a very fun time competing against all the teams. We tried really hard and gave it our best. We won against Applecroft. We tied against Sherrardswood. We won against Holwell and Harwood Hill. We put in lots of teamwork and determination to come this far. Our star player was George. All teams did great and put in a lot of effort. We would like to thank Miss Veasey and Mrs Moate for supporting us.  
- Juno and Ayana

### Year 5/6 Girls Netball Fixture - 16<sup>th</sup> October

**Team names:** Nyla, Caitlin, Maisie, Connie, Sophie, Elsie, Mia M, Poppy M, Evie, Alba, Daisy, Iris, Harper, Kiara, Grace, Alex A

**Star Players:** Daisy and Mia

When we arrived, we were split into two teams to play against Sherrardswood. The first game, Harper scored three great goals, the final score was 3-2 to Welwyn St Mary's. In the other match, we showed determination. Grace scored first, but then Sherrardswood scored five goals in the first quarter. In the second quarter, Sherrardswood scored another three goals. In the third quarter, Maisie showed self-belief and scored. In the final quarter, Sherrardswood scored one more so overall we lost 9-2. Both teams played very well. A massive thank you to Miss Veasey and Mrs Southall for cheering us on.  
- Mia and Harper





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### Year 6 Football Fixture - 17<sup>th</sup> October

**Team names:** Logan, Amelie, Charlie S, Archie, Scarlett, Billy, Sam, Joey, Nathan

**Star Players:** Nathan and Amelie

On the 17<sup>th</sup> October, some Year 6s played a football match against Commonswood. The final score was 9-0 to us. We did very well. Amelie got star player because she scored five goals and did very good passing. Nathan got star player because he did really well in defence. We'd like to thank Mrs Southall for taking us and Miss Veasey for being a good manager.

- Sam and Archie

### Netball Festival - 21<sup>st</sup> October

**Team names:** Nyla, Maisie, Ava, Connie, Sophie, Elsie, Annabel W, Grace, Mia M, Kiara, Harper, Iris, Nicole, Zara, Poppy W

**Star Players:** Daisy and Zara

Some Year 5 and 6 girls went to a netball tournament at Stanborough school. We played six games. We won five out of six games. We had lots of determination. Everyone played really well. It was very fun. We would like to thank Miss Veasey and Mrs Southall for taking us. We learnt to get in front of our player and our footwork. There were netball games happening all around us. It was loud!

- Zara and Nicole

### Year 5/6 Girls Football Fixture Night - 22<sup>nd</sup> October

**Team names:** Scarlett, Orla, Betsy, Amelie, Ava, Zara, Nancy, Mia M, Kiara, Mia R

**Star Players:** Nancy

The first thing we did when we got to Monk's Walk was warm up and then we trained our keeper, Betsy, by taking shots at her and then did some passing. After we warmed up, we played against Brookmans Park. They showed lots of determination. Our team showed lots of self-belief and teamwork. We won 1-0 with Amelie scoring a smashing goal in the bottom corner. In the second half we defended brilliantly and didn't concede a goal. Our second game was against St Michael's. In the first half Amelie scored three goals, Orla scored one and Betsy scored one. After the first half, sadly St Michael's couldn't continue the game. Our team showed lots of passion and teamwork. We would like to thank Miss Veasey and Mrs Southall for supporting us and a special thank you to Mr Murphy for supporting us.

- Kiara and Nancy

### October birthdays

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated in October:

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





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### 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](http://www.welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk/news-dates/diary-dates)

Autumn Term 2024	
Mon 4th November 2024	Return to school
Wed 6th November 2024	Prospective Reception Parents Open Morning 9.30am
Fri 8th November 2024	Year 3 Class Assembly - 9.15am & 2.30pm
Sat 9th November 2024	PTFA Fireworks
Tue 12th November 2024	Odd Socks Day (for anti-bullying)
Fri 22nd November 2024	Occasional day - school closed
Tue 26th November 2024	Prospective Reception Parents Open Morning 9.30am
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

