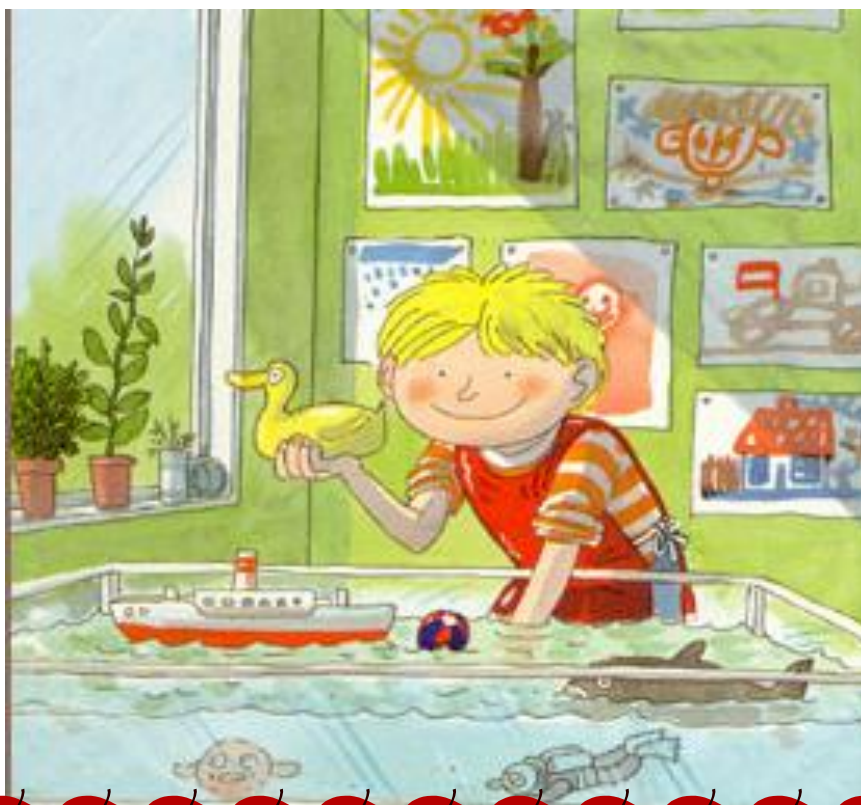


Autumn Term

2026

Reception

*Ourselves,
Festivals and Celebrations*



Reception

Welcome to Year R

Acorns	Apples
Mrs Sanyal <i>Class teacher</i>	Mrs May <i>Class Teacher</i>
Mrs Culkeen <i>Teaching Assistant</i>	Mrs Hanley <i>Teaching Assistant</i>
Mrs Tucker <i>PPA cover</i>	Mrs Fry <i>PPA cover</i>
Miss Sutcliffe Miss Spence Miss Kinsella <i>Supporting both classes</i>	



We hope that you find all of the information in this leaflet useful. If you have any further questions about the term ahead, please feel free to contact us via the school office.

Please also read the leaflet about Starting School in your Welcome Pack from last term.

Your child will shortly receive a reading book, flashcards and a Home Learning Record book. Please ensure that they bring these to school every day and that you write a comment for each time you have heard them read or practised their flashcards with them. Flashcards can stay at home as we have sets of these in school.



To support the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds phonics teaching in the classroom, please read with your child for a short period every day and practise their flashcards. Your child will not only benefit from reading to you but also from hearing you read to them.

We encourage each child to learn and follow simple daily routines in order to enable them to become independent and responsible for their own belongings. It would be an enormous help to the staff and your child if you would ensure that each day they have their:

- book bag
- lunch box (if needed)
- snack (if they want one)
- **water** (no juice, flavoured water or squash please)

Please ensure water bottles are named and carried so they do not leak in book bags.

Daily fruit is available to the children during the morning, but they are also welcome to bring fresh fruit or vegetables from home in a named container. Please feel free to provide a healthy snack option for the afternoon too as we appreciate that your child may need extra snacks.

Uniform

- White blouse, shirt or polo shirt (with or without logo)
- Maroon school sweatshirt or sweatshirt-style cardigan with school badge
- **Winter:** Grey skirt, pinafore or tailored trousers
- Socks (winter): with skirt - long grey socks/grey tights, with trousers - grey ankle socks
- Sensible black shoes (not boots or trainers) - ideally fastened with Velcro to encourage independence
- School fleece (optional)
- Waterproof coat
- School book bag (not rucksack please)

Please ensure that all of your child's clothing is named, including all P.E. kit and shoes/trainers.

Our PE day is Tuesday. Please ensure that your child comes to school on these days wearing their PE kit. Please ensure all PE uniform is named.

For health and safety reasons, jewellery should not be worn in school. If your child has pierced ears, earrings should be studs only. Earrings must be removed before school on days when we have P.E. lessons.

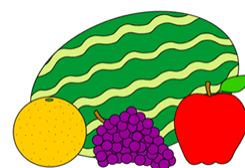
Long hair must be tied back for PE; we would also appreciate it if children with long hair could tie it back during the general school day with plain and simple bands, clips or ribbons in brown, black or maroon.



Nail varnish should not be worn in school.

Topics for this term

Our first topic this year is 'All about me'. In this topic we will be thinking about:





What makes me special



My family



Rules and feelings



Things I like/don't like



My favourite things



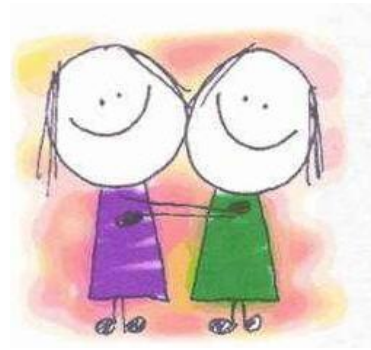
My home



My friends



Keeping myself healthy



Our second topic this term focuses on 'Festivals and Celebrations' and will include:



Harvest ~ We will look at how our natural environment changes throughout the season of Autumn. This includes visiting our nature reserve. We will also think about how we get our food and why harvest time is so important.

Diwali ~ We will find out how families from the Hindu and Sikh faiths celebrate Diwali.

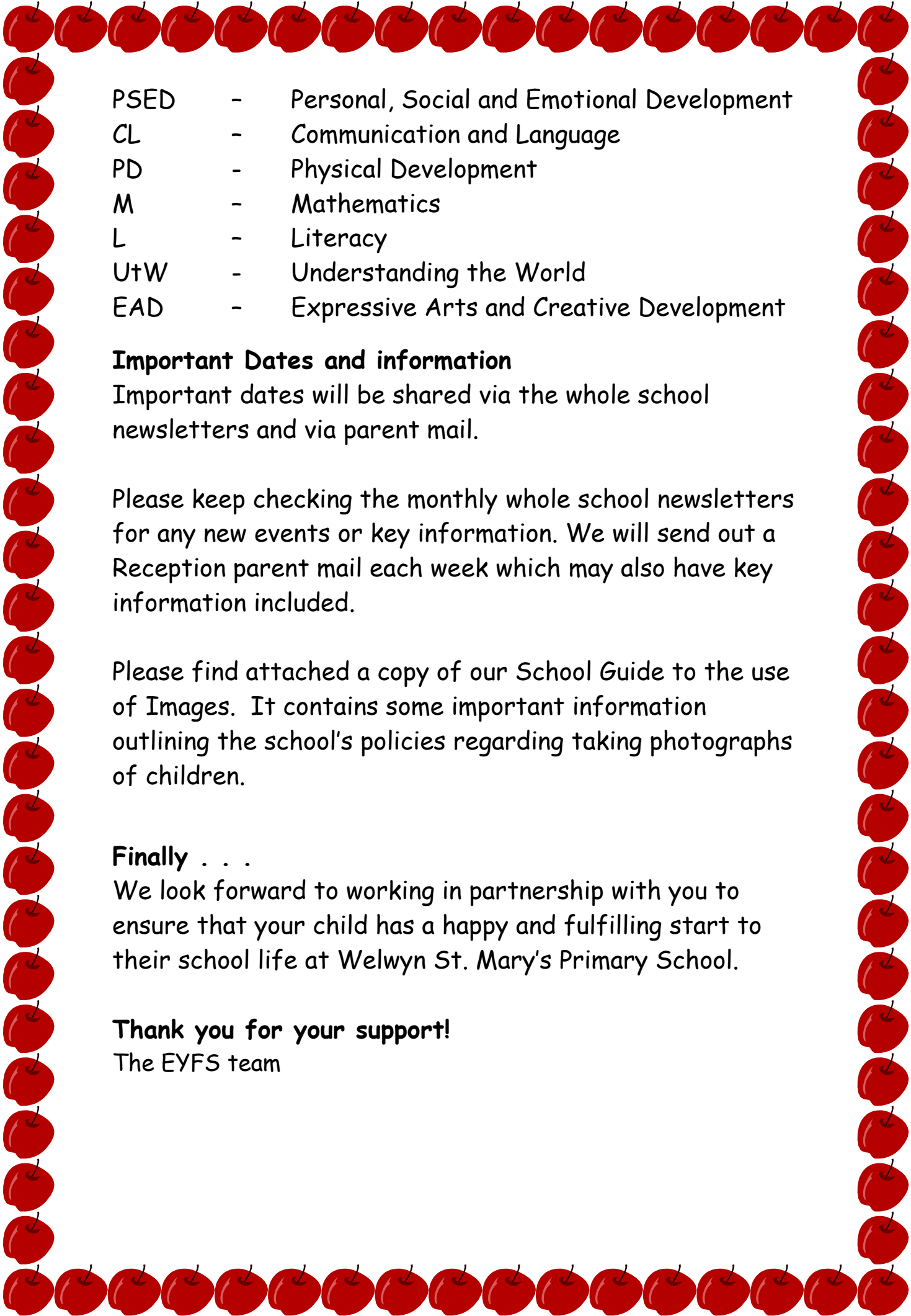


Fireworks ~ We will think about how we can keep safe. We will also be learning about pattern and colour.



Christmas ~ We will find out how and why Christians celebrate Christmas. We will learn about the birth of Jesus within the Nativity story.

All of our topics will be cross-curricular and include the various strands from the Early Year Foundation Stage framework:



PSED	-	Personal, Social and Emotional Development
CL	-	Communication and Language
PD	-	Physical Development
M	-	Mathematics
L	-	Literacy
U+W	-	Understanding the World
EAD	-	Expressive Arts and Creative Development

Important Dates and information

Important dates will be shared via the whole school newsletters and via parent mail.

Please keep checking the monthly whole school newsletters for any new events or key information. We will send out a Reception parent mail each week which may also have key information included.

Please find attached a copy of our School Guide to the use of Images. It contains some important information outlining the school's policies regarding taking photographs of children.

Finally . . .

We look forward to working in partnership with you to ensure that your child has a happy and fulfilling start to their school life at Welwyn St. Mary's Primary School.

Thank you for your support!

The EYFS team



Welwyn St. Mary's School Guide to the use of Images

Respecting and Caring for the Whole School Community

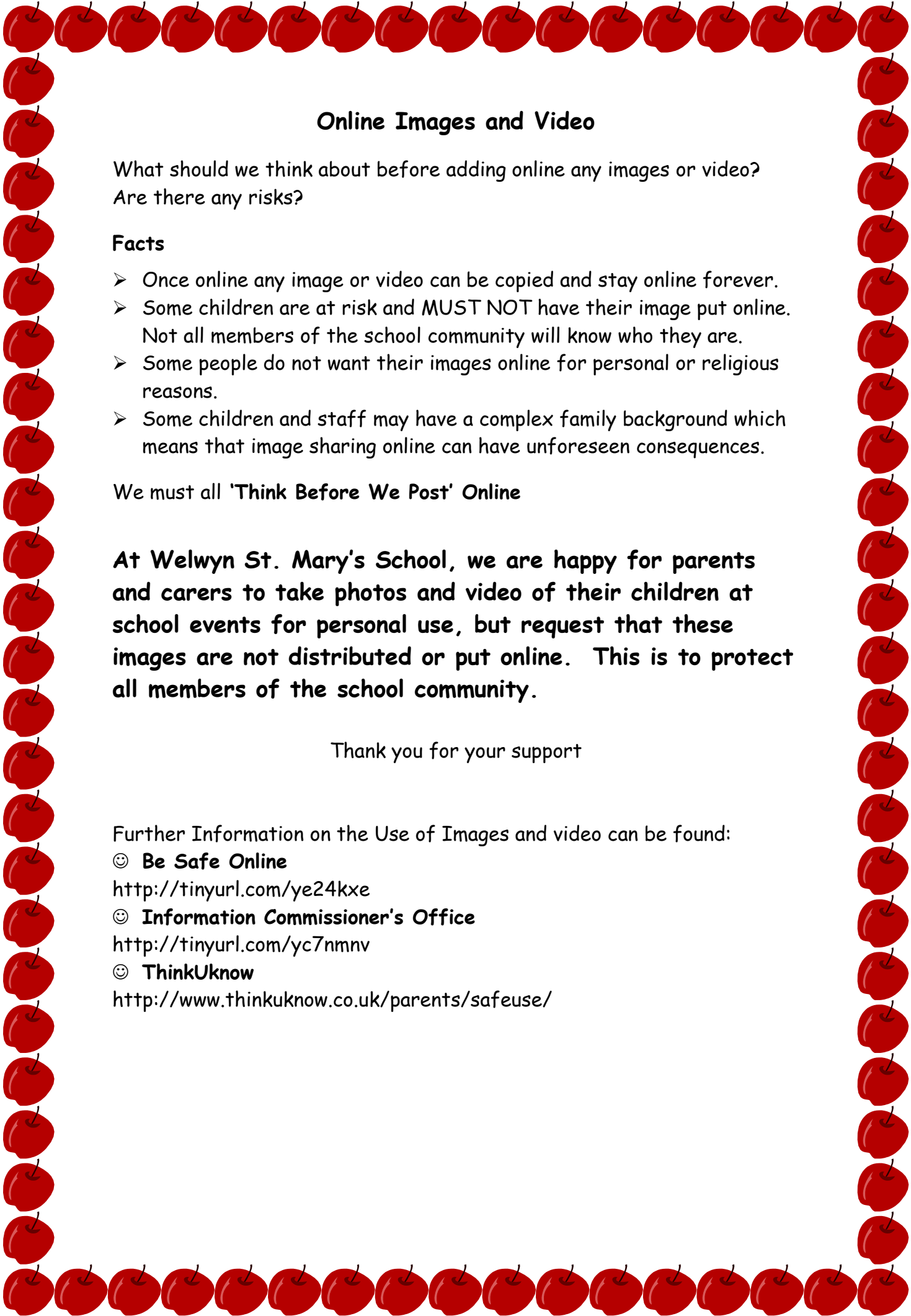


Using Images Safely and Responsibly

We all enjoy and treasure images of our family and friends. Our new born baby, first steps, family events, holidays and school events are moments we all like to capture in photos or on video.

We then have the added and exciting dimension of adding our images and video to our social network, such as Facebook, YouTube and many other online websites. This means that we can easily share our photos and video with family and friends.

Whilst this is naturally useful, in schools and educational settings we do need to protect and safeguard all children and staff in our school, including those who do not want to have their images stored online.



Online Images and Video

What should we think about before adding online any images or video?
Are there any risks?

Facts

- Once online any image or video can be copied and stay online forever.
- Some children are at risk and **MUST NOT** have their image put online. Not all members of the school community will know who they are.
- Some people do not want their images online for personal or religious reasons.
- Some children and staff may have a complex family background which means that image sharing online can have unforeseen consequences.

We must all **'Think Before We Post' Online**

At Welwyn St. Mary's School, we are happy for parents and carers to take photos and video of their children at school events for personal use, but request that these images are not distributed or put online. This is to protect all members of the school community.

Thank you for your support

Further Information on the Use of Images and video can be found:

☺ **Be Safe Online**

<http://tinyurl.com/ye24kxe>

☺ **Information Commissioner's Office**

<http://tinyurl.com/yc7nmnv>

☺ **ThinkUknow**

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/safeuse/>