



# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



## Newsletter - September 2023

### Value

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

*"Always give thanks for everything to God the Father" - Ephesians 5.20*

### Welcome from Mr Whiteland

Welcome to all of our new families joining Welwyn St Mary's and welcome back to the rest of our families and school community for the start of the new academic year. It is a real honour and privilege to lead this wonderful school and I am looking forward to it immensely.

### Prospective Reception Parents Open Mornings

We will be offering three open mornings for prospective Reception families with children starting school in September. These will be held on **1<sup>st</sup> November, 22<sup>nd</sup> November and 5<sup>th</sup> January**.

Open mornings will start at 9.30am with a talk from Mr Whiteland, Headteacher. There will be a chance to tour the school with Year 6 guides and ask any questions.

Each open morning will be limited to 30 families. Spaces must be reserved in advance by emailing [admin@welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk). It is not possible to tour the school outside of these times. We respectfully ask that you make other arrangements for younger siblings, although children starting school in September are welcome to attend.

### Tesco Community Grant



Thank you to everyone who voted for us using the blue token Stronger Start scheme when shopping with Tesco over the past month. We are still waiting the overall vote results but are delighted to hear that during Tesco's Golden Grants weekend, Sybil found a golden token worth £5000 and awarded it to Welwyn St Marys.

Thank you Sybil! With budgets so tight all money is so helpful and such a large sum will help us to buy some wonderful equipment to enhance our children's playtimes. Hopefully Sybil will benefit in years to come.

### Congratulations Miss Lewis

We are delighted to let you know that Miss Lewis is expecting a baby girl early in the new year. We know that you will join us in offering huge congratulations to Miss Lewis and her partner. Miss Lewis is planning to start her maternity leave after Christmas. Therefore, we are delighted to let you know that we have arranged for Miss Popham to cover for Miss Lewis' maternity leave, so that we will have continuity and, for many children and families, familiarity.



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### Year 2 Scootability



Our year 2 classes enjoyed taking part in a Scooterbility session with Hertfordshire County Council Active and Safer Travel Team. The children learnt about controlling their scooters safely, basic pedestrian skills and sharing space with others.

"First I didn't know how to ride a two-wheel scooter and now I do!" - Monty

"I liked moving round the obstacle course, it was fun!" - Rosie

"I liked scooting around the cones at the end. I was very good at it!" - Jessica

"I liked using my scooting skills to move in and out of the cones and then stopping." - Eboney

### Year 6 Bikeability



Our year 6 classes took part in a Bikeability sessions with the Hertfordshire Transport, Access and Safety Team. The course introduced the children to riding on the road safely including left and right hand turns and over taking parked vehicles. The children all had a great time. Congratulations to all that earned there Nationally recognised Bikeability award.

### Jasper's Fundraising Trek

We are so proud of Jasper who undertook a 14 day, 105 mile trek across the alps with his dad and has raised an amazing £1385 for music education at Welwyn St Marys Primary School.

*"Me and my Dad did the Tour du Mont Blanc. The toughest day was when it was really rainy and very slippery. The best day was when me and my Dad were surrounded by bilberry bushes. The highest we climbed was 2500 metres above sea level and the amount that we climbed is more than Mount Everest."*

- Jasper

What an amazing thing for Jasper to have done. We are all very proud of his determination and perseverance and his desire to raise money to help other people. We are so thankful that his amazing sum raised will be able to fund the opportunity for our children to learn an instrument. Hopefully we will be able to inspire a new generation of woodwind players.

If you would like to sponsor Jasper, please follow the link below to his GoFundMe page:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/trek4tunes-music-equipment-for-welwyn-st-marys>



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### Congratulations Mrs Westley

Congratulations to Mrs Westley who recently received the Alban Award from the Bishop of St Albans, for outstanding services to Diocesan Church schools.

Thank you to everyone who came and celebrated with her.



### Termly Leaflets

Our Autumn term class leaflets are now available on our website. Leaflets contain useful information about topics classes will be studying this term, class routines and upcoming events so please do take a look.

[www.welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk/curriculum/curriculum-overview/](http://www.welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk/curriculum/curriculum-overview/)

### School Uniform

Thank you for continuing to support our school uniform policy and sending your children into school looking smart. A few reminders about school uniform:

- No jewellery, make up or nail polish - a single pair of small stud earrings are permitted for pierced ears, but these must be removed or taped over for PE. Bracelets, rings and necklaces are not permitted for health and safety reasons and children will be asked to remove them if worn to school.
- Hair accessories - these should be in school colours of black, brown or burgundy only. Pink/white hair accessories are acceptable with summer dresses. Hair accessories should be small and plain.
- Shoes - trainers should only be worn on PE days. Please make sure that children are wearing plain black school shoes (not boots) on non-PE days
- PE shorts - these should ideally be plain black, but very small logos are acceptable. We do not permit football club branded shorts. Please also avoid "hotpant" style shorts - all shorts should be of a suitable length for PE lessons.

### SMART (St Mary's Amateur Repertory Theatre)

SMART was founded to bring live theatre to children in Welwyn and the surrounding areas. Each year they put on a pantomime/play in the school hall for the local community. After a break during Covid restrictions, SMART is back and would warmly welcome new members. They are looking for performers and backstage helpers across all areas so there are plenty of opportunities to get involved even if you don't want to appear on stage. Any adults who would like to get involved are warmly welcome. If you would like more details, please contact the school office who can put you in touch with SMART.

### Welwyn St Mary's Community Choir

Our Community Choir is run by Mrs Harrison and meets on a Wednesday evening during term time from 7.45pm to 8.45pm in the school hall. The choir sings a wide range of music from Rutter to Les Miserable and Coldplay and is aimed at people who want to sing for fun. You don't have to be able to read music or audition,



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just be keen to join in! Fees for the choir are £15 per term but you are very welcome to join us for a free trial before committing. The choir sings a number of concerts each year to raise money for charities nominated by members and is a great opportunity to meet others. Please do come along or contact the school office if you are interested in learning more.

### Book recommendation

October is Black History Month, a time to celebrate the contribution black people have made over the centuries in shaping the dynamic and diverse country we have today. All of these books can be reserved and borrowed from your local Hertfordshire library.

#### This month's book recommendations:

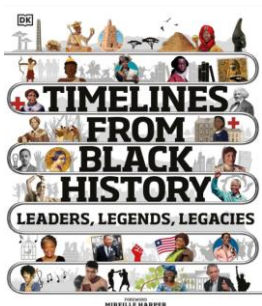


For our younger readers: **Coming to England** by Floella Benjamin

A picture book story about the triumph of hope, love and determination, **Coming to England** is the inspiring true story of Baroness Floella Benjamin: from Trinidad to London as part of the Windrush generation, to the House of Lords.

For our KS2 readers: **Coming to England** by Floella Benjamin

An inspirational chapter book version of Floella Benjamin's story of how courage and determination can overcome adversity.



**Timelines from Black History - Leaders, Legends, Legacies**

Travel around the world with this non-fiction book learning about the lives and values of significant individuals.





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### Running Festival - 13<sup>th</sup> September

Team names: Year 5



On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September, year 5 walked to Monk's Walk to compete in a running festival. There was a boys' race, a girls' race and a mixed fun run for everyone. The girls' race was first and they had to run two laps of the field. The race finished in a solid 15 minutes. The top twelve girls throughout the schools went to compete at Stanborough Lakes finals. Orla, who came 6<sup>th</sup> and Amelie, who came 3<sup>rd</sup> are our finalists in the girls' race. Then our boys set off. It was intense with Fred and a boy from St Michael's. It was a tight race but the boys also had two finalists, Fred who came 2<sup>nd</sup> and Faris who came 11<sup>th</sup>. We had a great time and it was really fun. We would like to thanks Mrs Tucker, Mr Hawley, Mrs Moate and Mrs Brunson for taking us.

- Caitlin & Jack

### August & September birthdays

Happy birthday to all who celebrated in **August**:

Yarden, Billy, Kobe, Eden, Monty, Faris, Marcus, Eddie, Clyde, Lily, Alana, Marloe, Lucas, Ella, Jaxon, Maya, Olivia, Leo, Finley, Elle, Megan, Amelie, Lennon, Maximus, Orest, Nate, Violet, Rene, Riley, Dylan, Ethan, Lucas, Victor, Edward, Annabel, Mollie, Sophie, Freddie, Mrs Porter, Mrs David, Mrs Clements, Mrs Crofts

Happy birthday to all who celebrated in **September**:

Dolly, Maisie, Poppy, Ethan, Eleanor, Ben, Sophie, Ryan, Leo, Harry, Jesse, Ayana, Teddy, Burt, Charlie, Rosa, Rosie, Finley, Ava, Isabella, Luke, Sofia, William, Jack, Charlie, Amelia, Adam, Bobby, Olivier, Finnley, Freddie, Lottie, Lilah, Kang, Millie, Miriam, Liliane, Felix, Monty, Wilf, Eashaan, Jasper, Miss Hanley, Mrs Phillips, Mrs Maouchi, Miss Parkin, Ms Hewitt, Miss Haley, Mrs Brunson

### 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.



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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.

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.

## Diary Dates

Autumn Term 2023	
Tue 3rd October 2023	Year 4 Pedestrian Skills
Thu 5th October 2023	Harvest Festival
Fri 6th October 2023	Year 4 Pedestrian Skills
Wed 18th October 2023	Parent consultations
Wed 19th October 2023	Parent consultations
Wed 19th October 2023	Year 3 Church Visit
Fri 20th October 2023	Year 6 - Legal Eagles day
Mon 23rd October 2023 - Fri 27th October 2023	Half term
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



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