



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School

Newsletter – September 2026



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

Welcome back!

It has been so lovely welcoming everybody back to school this month and we look forward to a busy yet exciting and productive Autumn term! Whether you've returned back to school or have joined us for the first time this year, we're thrilled to have you all as part of our school community. We look forward to another fantastic term filled with learning, growth, and achievement. Our school vision aims for all of our children and community to **'Believe and Achieve'**, and with belief in ourselves, the support of each other and that of God, we can all reach our full potential to **'be the best that we can be'**. This is embodied through the inspiration we take from the Bible: **'With God, all things are possible'** as we all strive to get better each day. And seeing the children start term in such a positive way this month, I am sure we will!

Prospective Reception Parents Open Mornings

We will be offering three open mornings for prospective Reception families with children starting school in September 2027. These will be held on Wednesday 4th November, Wednesday 25th November and Wednesday 6th January 2027.

Open mornings will start at 9.30am with a talk from Mr Whiteland, the 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. Please book on via our [website](https://www.welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk).

Upcoming October events

Friday 2nd October

Yr 2 Scooterbility

Monday 5th October

Year 4 Pedestrian Skills

Tuesday 6th October

Year 5 Plastazote Workshop

Wednesday 7th October

Year 4 Faith Tour

Friday 9th October

Year 4 Pedestrian Skills

Monday 12th October

Flu vaccinations

Thursday 15th October

Year 4 Pedestrian Skills

Wednesday 21st October

Parent Consultations

Thursday 22nd October

Parent Consultations

Half Term

Monday 26th October- Friday
30th October





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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.

Staffing Update

We are delighted to welcome Miss Tallentire, our new 4 Lime teacher and Mrs Davis, our new 3 Hazels teacher. We also welcome Miss Chapman, Mrs Peet, Miss Males and Miss Sutcliffe to our TA team and Miss Mills to our office team.

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

Year 6 Bikeability

Our Year 6 recently took part in Bikeability sessions, delivered by the Hertfordshire Transport, Active and Safety Team. The course introduced the children to the important skills of riding safely on the road. They learned how to navigate left and right-hand turns, overtake parked vehicles and develop confidence in real-world cycling situations.

The children had a wonderful time and thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on experience. Huge congratulations to all who earned their nationally recognised Bikeability Award – what an achievement! Well done to everyone involved, and thank you to the Hertfordshire team for providing such a valuable learning opportunity!

PTFA Fireworks Display - Tickets now available

The PTFA are delighted to welcome back Fireworks Night and are pleased to confirm that ticket purchasing is now live for anyone who would like to attend the display on Saturday 7th November.

The link to purchase tickets is:

<https://welwyn-st-marys-ptfa-100692.square.site/>

Doors will open at 5.30pm with the display starting at 6.30pm. The event will take place on the KS2 playground.





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There will be a BBQ, hot drinks, mulled wine, beer, refreshments, snacks and more. For adults or children over the age of 3 our entry fee is £6.50 per person. Children under 3 are free. There are only a limited number of tickets available so they will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

Tickets will not be available on the door so please do not turn up without purchasing an online ticket.

Photograph Orders

Individual and sibling photographs which were taken on the 15th of September are now available to purchase via the Churchbury Photographic Website.

Your child should have brought home a code for their photos, which you will need to access the pictures. Please check their bag if they have not given this to you. If the code has been lost, please email admin@welwynst-marys.herts.sch.uk, giving your child's name and class, for a replacement.

The final date for placing orders for delivery to school is **Tuesday 13th October**.

You can still place orders after this time, but these will attract an additional fee for postage to your home address.

School Uniform Reminder

We would like to thank all parents for ensuring that the children have returned to school looking so smart in their uniforms. It's wonderful to see our students taking pride in their appearance.

As a reminder, please ensure that pupils follow our uniform policy, which includes:

- Long hair must be **fully** tied back, and hairstyles should be smart and moderate in style.
- No make-up or nail varnish.
- The only permitted jewellery is one pair of **plain stud** earrings (no other piercings). Earrings must be removed or taped for PE.
- Smart black school shoes (no trainers or boots please) when wearing school uniform. Plain black trainer-style school shoes without branding are acceptable.

Following a very high volume of lost property uniform last term, **please ensure that all items of clothing are labelled with your child's name**. This includes coats, jumpers and hats which are often taken off in the playground during break times, as well as water bottles and snack pots and are very difficult to reunite with their owners if not labelled.





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Welwyn St Mary's PTFA have paired up with "My Name Tags" to help parents label their clothing while further fundraising for the school. Our school ID is 29167. MyNameTags will give 24% of the order value back to the school PTFA.

For full details on the school uniform policy, please visit our website. Thank you for your continued support.

Considerate Parking

Please do remember to drive and park carefully and considerately when dropping and collecting children. Please only park in marked bays in Ottway Walk carpark and leave the disabled bays for those with blue badges. Cars should not be parked on yellow lines or zebra crossings as this obstructs the view and puts pedestrians at risk.

House Captains

Congratulations to our house captains and vice captains who were voted in by KS2 children.

	<u>NORMANS</u>	<u>ROMANS</u>	<u>SAXONS</u>	<u>VIKINGS</u>
<u>CAPTAINS</u>	Jack & Violet	Oscar & Eleanor	Leo & Amelie	Finn & Olive
<u>VICE CAPTAINS</u>	Dylan & Olivia	Reid & Camilla	Riaan & Emily	George & Amelia

BBC 500 Words Competition

The annual 500 Words competition from the BBC is now open for entries. This competition is a wonderful opportunity for children aged 5 – 11 to showcase their imagination.

There is only one rule – the story must not be more than 500 words!

The judges are not looking at spelling, punctuation or grammar. They want children to write a story other children would like to read, without them feeling the pressure to make it perfect.

Entries open 29th September and close on 6th November. There is a live lesson on Wednesday 24th September at 11am.

For more information, please visit the BBC website at [500 Words](https://www.bbc.com/500words)

If your child does enter the competition, please ask them to give a copy of their entry to Mrs des Forges or Miss Clements so that we can celebrate their work in school.

Salli des Forges





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Year 5 Running Festival – 10th September

Team names: All Year 5

On Tuesday 10th of September, Year 5 went to a cross-country race at Monk's Walk. At the beginning we did warm-ups and then we started the race. We agreed that the girls were to race first and all of the boys were after. It was fun and very tiring. The fastest girls who made it to the next round were Karianna (2nd), Alice (6th), Harriette (9th), Sophie G (10th) and Rosie (11th) and the boys who made it to the next round were Jacob (1st) and Vinnie (10th). Well done to everyone for trying their hardest and having great attitude. Well done to Jacob and Karianna for getting a medal too. We would like to thank Mrs Jameson, Mrs Peet, Mrs des Forges and Mr Hawley for taking us on a wonderful and spectacular morning.

-Year 5 pupils

September birthdays

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated in September:

Jake, Autumn, Hendrix, Amelia, Millie, Ivy, Edith, Leo, Frank, Ash, Matilda, Lottie, Aubrianna, Connie, Lilah, Teddy, Sofia, Amelia, Miriam, Rosa, Charlie, Bobby, Kang, Felix, Monty, Ben, Sophie, Rosie, Luke, William, Finnley, Millie, Ethan, Eleanor, Leo, Harry, Ayana, Adam, Mrs Hanley, Mrs Phillips, Mrs Maouchi, Mrs Peet, Mrs Brunson and Mrs Parkin.

Music Lessons

If your child would like to sign up to music lessons in school, please register here:

<https://ukhertfordshire.speedadmin.dk/registration#/>

All of our music lessons are run via the Mid Herts Music Service and we currently offer: guitar, violin, flute, clarinet, saxophone, brass instruments and piano. Once registered, the Music Service will be able to advise you on availability. We are always looking to introduce new instruments into our offerings and will share these via ParentMail when they become available.





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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

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.





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[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.

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

Autumn Term 2026

Tue 29th September 2026	PTFA & School Fund AGM
Tue 6th October 2026	Year 5 Plastazote Workshop
Wed 7th October 2026	Year 4 Faith Tour Trip
Mon 26th October 2026 – Fri 30th October 2026	Half term
Sat 7th November 2026	PTFA Fireworks Night
Fri 20th November 2026	Occasional day – school closed
Sat 5th December 2026	PTFA Christmas Fair
Fri 11th December 2026	Whole School Panto
Fri 18th December 2026	Terms ends – Rec & KS1 1.15pm, KS2 1.20pm

Spring term 2027

Mon 4th January 2027	INSET day – school closed
Tue 5th January 2027	Term commences
Tue 9th February 2027	Year 3 Ancient Greek Day
Mon 15th February 2027 - Fri 19th February 2027	Half term
Mon 1st March 2027	Year 5 Saxon Day
Wed 10th March 2027	Year 2 Great Fire of London Day
Thu 25th March 2027	Terms ends – Rec & KS1 1.15pm, KS2 1.20pm

Summer term 2027

Mon 12th April 2027	Term commences
Mon 3rd May 2027	Early May Bank Holiday – school closed
Fri 28th May 2027	INSET day – school closed
Mon 31st May 2027 - Fri 4th June 2027	Half term
Mon 7th June 2027 - Wed 9th June 2027	Year 6 PGL Trip
Wed 9th June 2027	Year 1 Seaside Day
Fri 25th June 2027	Year 3 Celtic Harmony Trip
Wed 21st July 2027	Last day of school – Rec & KS1 1.15pm, KS2 1.20pm
Thu 22nd July 2027	INSET day – school closed

