



Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter - September 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*

Welcome back!

I am delighted to welcome everyone back to school for the start of what promises to be an exciting and productive Autumn term! Whether you're returning for another year or joining us for the first time, we're thrilled to have you as part of our school community. We look forward to another fantastic term filled with learning, growth, and achievement.

Prospective Reception Parents Open Mornings

We will be offering four open mornings for prospective Reception families with children starting school in September. These will be held on Wednesday 9th October, Wednesday 6th November, Tuesday 26th November, Wednesday 8th January 2025. 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 [completing this form](#). 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.

A Big Thank You to Howmet Aviation for Supporting our STEM Adventure!

We are incredibly grateful to Howmet Aviation for their generous grant, which made it possible for our KS2 children to visit the STEM Discovery Centre in Stevenage. Thanks to their support, both staff and students had a fantastic experience!

The children were thrilled to explore the interactive exhibits, attend an exciting "Mars Yard" show and tell, and participate in three hands-on STEM challenges. This inspiring visit sparked curiosity and creativity, and we are sure it will leave a lasting impression on all who attended.

Once again, a huge thank you to Howmet Aviation for helping make this unforgettable learning opportunity possible!

Upcoming events in October

Reception Harvest Festival at Church

Reception parents are welcome to join us at St Mary's Church on **Tuesday 8th October at 9.30am** for Harvest Festival. Please could all children come to school in full school uniform. There is no need to bring in PE kits.

KS1 & 2 Harvest festival

Children in KS1 and KS2 will be attending St Mary's Church on **Thursday 10th October** for Harvest Festival. Please could all children come to school in full school uniform. Unfortunately, there will be no space to invite parents as our school fills the church.

Parent consults

We will be holding parent consults on the evenings of **23rd & 24th October**. Full details and booking links we will sent out via Parentmail.





Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter - September 2024

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 classes 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. A 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!

Year 2 Scooterbility

A big thank you to Hertfordshire County Council's Active and Safer Travel Team for delivering a fantastic Scooterbility course to our Year 2 children. The course was a great success, and the children had a wonderful time learning how to control their scooters safely, practise basic pedestrian skills, and understand the importance of sharing space with others. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and gained valuable skills to help them stay safe while scooting.

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:

- No make-up or nail varnish
- Long hair must be tied back, and hairstyles should be smart and moderate in style
- The only permitted jewellery is one pair of stud earrings (no other piercings). Earrings must be removed or taped for PE.
- Smart black shoes (no brightly coloured trainers) when wearing school uniform.

Additionally, we kindly ask that **all clothing be clearly labelled** with your child's name to prevent any lost items. For full details on the school uniform policy, please visit our website. Thank you for your continued support.





Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter - September 2024

Reading Buddies

On Friday 20th September, Year 5 met our Year 3 buddies. We asked some questions about them, and we told them about ourselves. We also read to each other. We had lots of fun and enjoyed spending time with our buddies. Sadly, some people were off school, so some people got two buddies, so we are having another meet up soon. This will be happening regularly to make sure our buddies feel safe, happy and have a good time during Year 3. We would like to thank our teachers for pairing us up with our buddy.

- Kyle and Grace G



Book recommendation

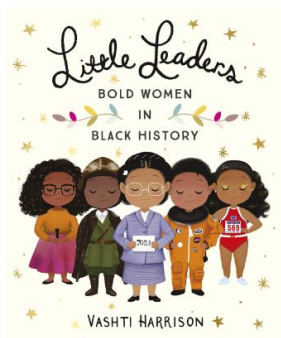
This month's book recommendations:

During October, we celebrate Black History Month. This is a time to celebrate the achievements made by black people, past and present, and to learn about black history. With this in mind, here are our book recommendations for this month which we hope will captivate and inform.

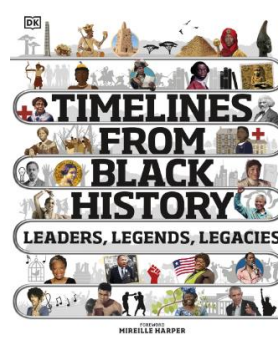
We have some of these titles in school and all are available at our local library.



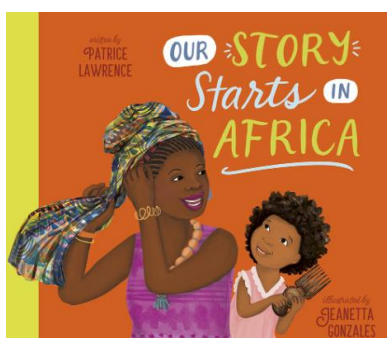
Reading age: 9+



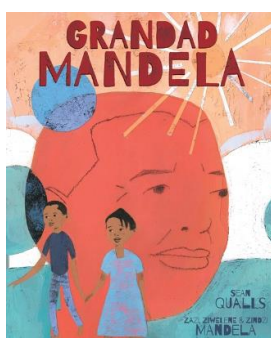
Reading age: 7+



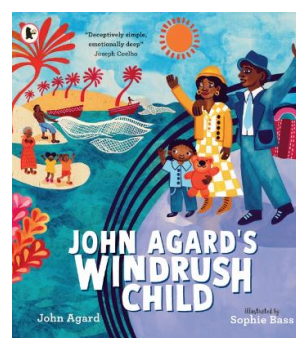
Reading age: 9+



Interest level: 6-8



Reading age: 6+



Interest Age: 4-6 years





Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter - September 2024

Sports Leaders Training - 11th September

Team names: Nyla, Isla B, Ava, Maisie, Charlie W, Charlie S, Ivy and Orla

On Wednesday 11th September, we attended sports leader training at Monk's Walk school. We have two adult trainers; Mr O'Niell and Mr Williams. We learnt lots of different skills and took part in fun activities that we can't wait to show the rest of the school. We had lots of fun and would like to thank Mrs Moate and Miss Veasey for taking us.

- Isla B & Nyla

Year 5 Running Festival - 18th September

Team names: All Year 5

On Wednesday 18th September, Year 5 went to a running festival at Monk's Walk school. We competed against 7 other schools. The girl's competitive race was first and Zara won. Her self-belief got her to the finish line with room to spare. Then the boys competitive race started. Monty took an early lead, his determination led him to win the race. Our school came first overall. We would like to thank Mrs Jameson, Miss Veasey, Mr Hawley and Mrs Moate for taking us.

- Harry & Monty

Following the fantastic results at the running festival, 6 boys and 6 girls have been chosen to represent the Monk's Walk family of schools. This is the highest number of children who have ever qualified. Well done to those who have been selected.

Year 3 Multisports - 19th September

Team names: All Year 3

Star Players: 3 Hazels - Leo, 3 Hawthorn - Maxwell & Olivia

On Thursday 19th September, Year 3 went to a multisport event at Monk's Walk school. 3 Hawthorns class took part in dodgeball and cricket. 3 Hazels did handball and cricket. We learnt the basic rules of handball, for example you must be outside of the goal semicircle to score a goal. We liked scoring lots of runs in rapid fire cricket. There were lots of other schools taking part as well. We would like to thank Miss Veasey, Mrs Southall, Miss Milnes and Mrs Maouchi for taking us.

- Sophie R and William





Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter - September 2024

August birthdays

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated in August:

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

September birthdays

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated in September:

Maisie, Poppy, Ethan, Matilda, Eleanor, Isabella, Lottie, Aubrianna, Ben, Sophie, Leo, Connie, Harry, Ayana, Jesse, Teddy, Burt, Charlie, Rosa, Rosie, Finley, Isabella, Luke, Sofia, William, Jack, Charlie, Amelia, Adam, Bobby, Finnley, Freddie, Lilah, Kang, Millie, Miriam, Frank, Liliane, Felix, Monty, Mrs Hanley, Mrs Phillips, Mrs Maouchi, Mrs Thompson, Ms Hewitt, 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.

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.





Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter - September 2024

Diary Dates

Autumn Term 2024	
Tue 8th October 2024	Reception Harvest Service [St Mary's Church]
Wed 9th October 2024	Prospective Reception Parents Open Morning 9.30am
Thu 10th October 2024	KS1 & KS2 Harvest Service [St Mary's Church]
Thu 24th October 2024	Year 3 visit to Church
Mon 28th October 2024 - Fri 1st November 2024	Half term
Wed 6th November 2024	Prospective Reception Parents Open Morning 9.30am
Sat 9th November 2024	PTFA Fireworks
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]
Sat 7th December 2024	PTFA Christmas Fair
Thu 12th December 2024	Rehearsal for the Year 5 and 6 Carol Service [St Mary's Church]
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

