



# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



## Newsletter - September 2022

### Value

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

"Use what talent you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those who sang best."  
*Henry Van Dyke*

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

*We shared this prayer during worship:*

*Dear God,  
Thank you for giving us our new king and please help him in his reign.  
Sorry for the Queen and her family who are feeling very sad.  
Please may she rest in peace and rise in glory.  
We thank her for having 70 years as queen and that she was happy and served her country.  
Amen.*

*By Ivy in year 4 who was inspired to write this prayer and share with us in school after attending church.*

### Welcome back

These last four weeks have been very special as we have welcomed back our community; it has been lovely to see you all again. A special welcome to all those children new to our Reception classes and those who have joined further up the school. We hope you will all be very happy and successful. It has been a pleasure to see the passion for learning return in all classes and our values apparent everywhere.

### Welcome to new staff

A very warm welcome to our new teachers Miss Parkin and Mrs Hewitt, and to our new teaching assistants Miss Graham, Mrs Hanley, Mrs Porter and Miss Webb. It is lovely to have you all as part of our team and we hope you will be very happy and successful here.

### School Improvement Plan 2022-23

Each year we identify areas for improvement across our school as well as celebrating our achievements. All teachers have responsibility for a subject area and must keep us up to date with developments and good practice. Our overall points for improvement this year are as follows:

- To ensure all curriculum areas reflect diversity and equality of opportunity. Our aim is to ensure our curriculum content is relevant to pupils from all backgrounds. For example: women and men scientists celebrated, artists from different ethnicities are studied.





# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



## Newsletter - September 2022

- To promote pupils' understanding and awareness of the protected characteristics through a rich range of experiences both in and beyond the school. Protected characteristics include disability, ethnicity and race, gender, religion, sexual orientation and beliefs. Our learning displays and learning resources will reflect the protected characteristics and collective worship will be used as an opportunity to celebrate festivals of a range of cultures and countries.
- To develop time/processes for the children to further reflect on their learning so that our children remember their learning even more and are able to apply previous knowledge to new situations.
- To roll out our new phonics programme - Little Wandle.

### Designated Child Protection Leads

Mrs Branch is our Designated Child Protection Lead. Mrs Phillips and Mr Hawley will be our Deputy Designated Child Protection Leads.

### Message from Mrs Westley



Please may I send a massive thank you to staff, governors and families for the wonderful leaving gifts including the fabulous trip to swim with dolphins. The latter was absolutely amazing and I loved every minute. It was so well organised and we spent the whole day at Discovery Cove. Having checked in and collected wet suits we were free to enjoy snorkelling and the lazy river while we waited for the dolphin swim. Everywhere was beautifully landscaped and spotlessly clean. Our dolphin was stunning. Very strong and highly intelligent. She pulled each of us through the water which was surprisingly cold - not that it mattered. An unforgettable time. Thank you.

### Considerate parking

Please observe the parking restrictions in and around Ottway Walk, by not parking on the yellow zig-zags, and only using the disabled bays if you have a disabled blue badge, as these spaces are needed by some members of our school community. Thank you.

### A note on drop-off/pick up arrangements

Thank you everyone for complying with our pick-up and drop-off guidelines. The congestion has eased and the children are entering and exiting school swiftly and smoothly.





# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



## Newsletter - September 2022

### School works completed over the summer

Over the holidays, Mr Stockton, our site manager was very busy organising and undertaking a number of school improvements. Thank you Mr Stockton. The KS2 playground and path along the school building has had a face lift with a number of line markings and games e.g. a twister grid marked out. These not only make the environment brighter but also more welcoming for the children. It has been lovely seeing the children being so active on the playground and pathway.

Our Reception classrooms and CD4 had new carpet and vinyl laid. CD4 was also painted giving it a lovely fresh feeling. A2 also had new vinyl laid.

A lot of tree work took place around the school grounds. We have been promised the willow tree in the Reception area will grow back to look even better! We will all be able to monitor the new growth in spring.

Other works have included a new boiler for the front of the school, an upgrade of our CCTV, new KS2 exit doors and a new sound system for the hall.

### 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.





# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



## Newsletter - September 2022

- 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.



This event is being organised by your local School Games Organiser as part of the nationally funded School Games programme for pupils at your school.



### We are proud to provide our children sporting opportunities through the School Games

The School Games is a National government led initiative that every school in the country has access to. It is funded by Sport England National Lottery programme and delivered by The Youth Sport Trust.

In Hertfordshire, the School Games programme is delivered by 12 School Games Organisers (SGO's) all working to support a local and county offer of opportunity for all pupils aged 7-16.

The School Games mission is to put physical activity and competitive sport at the heart of schools and provide more young people with the opportunity to compete and achieve their personal best.

Sport offers opportunities for everybody. Hertfordshire run a wide variety of activities to support every child whether it be through Archery or Wheelchair basketball.

To find out more about the School Games and the opportunities available to your child, please watch The School Games in Hertfordshire video: <https://youtu.be/cMAdneidOeA>, visit the Herts Sports Partnership website: <https://sportinherts.org.uk/peschoolsport/schoolgames/>



[www.yourschoolgames.com](http://www.yourschoolgames.com)





# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



## Newsletter - September 2022

### Diary Dates

<b>Autumn Term 2022</b>		
27 <sup>th</sup> September	7 pm	PTFA and School Fund AGM Meeting
6 <sup>th</sup> October		Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church
21 <sup>st</sup> October		Legal Eagles sessions for Year 6
21 <sup>st</sup> October		Year 4 PTFA cake sale
24 <sup>th</sup> - 28 <sup>th</sup> October		<b>Half term holiday</b>
31 <sup>st</sup> October		Secondary school transfer application final date
4 <sup>th</sup> November		PTFA Fireworks
8 <sup>th</sup> November	7 pm	PTFA meeting
17 <sup>th</sup> November		Year 5 PTFA cake sale
18 <sup>th</sup> November		<b>Occasional day - school closed</b>
21 <sup>st</sup> November		<b>INSET day - school closed</b>
25 <sup>th</sup> November		Dress down day for contributions to Christmas Fair
26 <sup>th</sup> November		PTFA Christmas Fair
15 <sup>th</sup> December		Whole School Carol Service at St Mary's Church
15 <sup>th</sup> December	6pm	Year 5/6 Carol Service - <b>attendance compulsory</b>
21 <sup>st</sup> December	<b>1.20 pm</b>	<b>Term ends at 1.20 pm</b>
<b>Spring Term 2023</b>		
5 <sup>th</sup> January		Term commences - <b>new school day timings begin</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> January	5.30 - 7 pm	Year 3 & 4 disco
31 <sup>st</sup> January	4 - 5.30 pm 6 - 8 pm	Year 1 & 2 disco Year 5 & 6 disco
13 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup> February		<b>Half term</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> February		Year 6 PTFA cake sale
17 <sup>th</sup> March		Reception PTFA cake sale
30 <sup>th</sup> March		Whole School Easter service at St Mary's Church
31 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>1.20 pm</b>	<b>Term ends at 1.20pm</b>
<b>Summer Term 2023</b>		
17 <sup>th</sup> April		Term commences
19 <sup>th</sup> May		Year 1 PTFA cake sale





# Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



## Newsletter - September 2022

29 <sup>th</sup> May - 2 <sup>nd</sup> June		<b>Half term</b>
16 <sup>th</sup> June		Year 2 PTFA cake sale
23 <sup>rd</sup> June		<b>INSET day - school closed</b>
26 <sup>th</sup> June		<b>INSET day - school closed</b>
20 <sup>th</sup> July		Year 6 Leavers' Eucharist at St Mary's Church
21 <sup>st</sup> July	<b>1.20 pm</b>	<b>Term ends at 1.20 pm</b>

