



Welwyn St Mary's Gazette



Believe and Achieve

Issue No 11

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Hello everyone!

In this edition of the Welwyn St Mary's Gazette, we are going to share with you some of the things that the teachers and children believe are the best things about their year group. See if you can find something from your new class and what you could look forward to.

We also have some 'bubble news' from the children in school.



Bubble news - Periwinkle

We have had such a fun week in Periwinkle bubble. Every morning we start with a Mrs Branch workout and then move onto our learning. All the children have worked very hard with their maths and English and we have seen some fabulous pieces of writing! After lunch every day, the Year 5 and 6 children read with, and to, the reception children.

They have all really enjoyed this time together and it is heart-warming to see them work so well together. In the afternoons, we have been getting messy, being creative and working collaboratively on junk model castles. I hope you'd agree that they all did a fabulous job! Periwinkle children also made medals of themselves as champions!

We are really proud of them all.

Mrs Branch, Mrs Howard and Miss Bryant.



Wow! These are fantastic medals!

Bubble news - Aqua

The children in A4 have been busy working at school the past few weeks. They have been enjoying many maths and English activities, testing themselves on their multiplication, completing data handling activities and even writing their own newspaper reports. The children produced fantastic PowerPoint presentations after researching their favourite castles. Children presented to the rest of the class in the school hall where they have been learning.

We are extremely proud of all the children for the hard work and effort they have shown since returning to school.

Well done everyone!

Mr Ashman and Mrs Rogers



Year 3

The team say...

"Year 3 are full of energy, have enquiring minds and kind hearts".

You can look forward to the year 3 and 4 production!

In year 3, you get the chance to go swimming.

The children say....

"We don't leave anyone out".

"We help each other".

"We work together"

"We are all friends".



Year 2

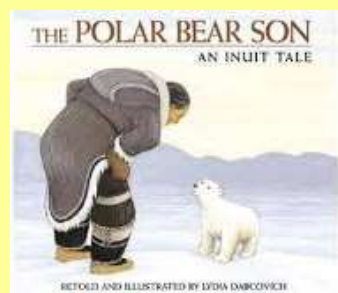
We study a rich range of topics and try and make them link to other subjects.

In MN2 our main history topics are Guy Fawkes and The Great Fire of London. Children usually love these topics because we use role play and drama to bring them to life. Our traditional tale topic is all about tales from the Arctic and children enjoy learning The Polar Bear Son story.

MN2 also have many opportunities to learn about different artists and the class have loved learning about Van Gogh and visiting the National Gallery in London.

We have many outdoor lessons including PE, science and art. We like to go outdoors to link our learning and explore nature in the school grounds. For example, we recently carried out a tree study including making a clay leaf tile and sketches of trees and leaves.

It's fun in MN2 but we also work hard!



In AT2 we have so much fun!

We look forward to our Christmas production where we can all act on the stage.

We create some beautiful pictures based on various artists such as Kandinsky and local artist Annelie Boon. We also visit the National Gallery in London to see Van Gogh's famous 'Sunflowers' painting as well as lots more.

We learn to join our handwriting in Year 2 and we read loads of lovely books including books by Dick King-Smith, Roald Dahl and Jill Murphy which helps us to improve our writing.

We use the large apparatus for some PE lessons in the gym and we create a dance based on the musical 'Cats' which we perform to another class. We learn all about The Gunpowder Plot and The Great Fire of London.

In science we learn about animals' habitats and their diets and we visit the nature reserve to look at the changing seasons.



Year 1

The team say...

"My favourite thing about teaching year 1 is the creativity it allows, it is never dull."

"I like the way the children bring their own ideas to subjects we explore which helps make each day lively and fun. It is a year that moves quickly as the children make so much progress in a short space of time that you cannot hang around- hence, displays and classroom role-play areas are changed regularly to maintain motivation."

"The topics we cover are fun and the children are always keen and energetic in their approach to school life. It is certainly not an easy year group to teach as it is physically demanding and needs careful organisation - little children are always looking for the next thing to capture their interest and you have to be at least one step ahead of them at all costs, but it is very enjoyable."

Reception

The Team say...

"The best thing about teaching reception is that no day is the same. We get to have so much fun and can enjoy playing the games you enjoy with you. I like getting involved in role play activities with both classes. I love seeing how children collaborate to create things and learn to share their ideas with one another. I love the creativity in reception as you make things and show us your imagination".

"The best thing about teaching in reception for me is that I welcome children into my class who more often than not cannot read or write a single word, including their name, yet when they leave to go into year 1 they are often reading and writing sentences! The progress in this year group really is amazing and a joy to be able to teach".

"I love to teach the children music, especially when the whole class joins in. I like encouraging the children to take a chance, think outside the box and be creative".

The children say...

"I like playing outside".

"I have made friends".

"I like going up a reading level".

"I have learnt how to be kind and play nicely".

"I like playing pirates with my friends".

"I like maths".



Year 4

"I love teaching in year 4 because the children are secure in school and beginning to develop into independent learners. It's so lovely watching them blossom over the year as we put on our play and work together on Smoothie Week. We get to do lots of investigating and it's great to see the children so excited by everything they discover!"

"I like teaching year 4 and especially enjoy the Romans topic which I know you will all enjoy".

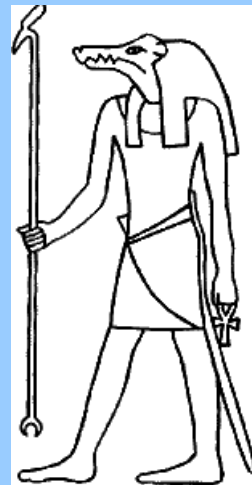
Year 4 go on a trip to the Roman Baths each year as part of their Romans topic.



Year 5

"I love teaching year 5 pupils. They are always enthusiastic and have a great sense of humour. They are keen to be independent in their learning and have good ideas to share with others".

The year 5 team are looking forward to the theme 'Out of this World', where you will focus on the Earth, Sun, Moon and planets. They're also looking forward to exploring Ancient Egypt.



Year 6

The teachers say...

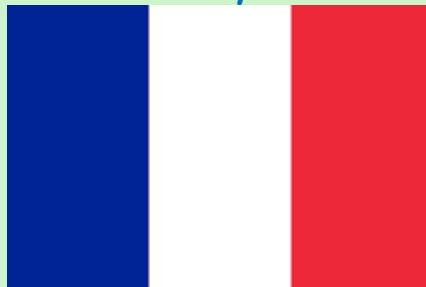
"I absolutely love teaching year 6 and have done so now for a very long time! I particularly enjoy getting to know each child and seeing them develop not just academically but also socially. In year 6, we can have mature conversations and debates as well as have a joke. I find it very rewarding when children feel they are ready to move on to secondary and I enjoy helping them in this process".

"I love teaching Year 6 as it's a key moment in a child's life - a unique and special year. Children develop more independence, a huge amount of resilience and, most importantly, become aware of who they are - both as learners and as young adults".

"One of the best things about teaching in Year 6 is seeing how all of the things that children have been taught during their time in school suddenly come together - it's as though things 'click' and they are ready to move on to secondary school; that is so rewarding as a teacher. I also love the work that we do, especially our history topics as children seem to really enjoy finding out about the past; and finally going to PGL and watching the children challenge themselves and achieve things they didn't expect to".

French

If you have been learning French in class with Madame Farrington or at lunchtime, see if you can practise key phrases over the summer holidays.



Get to know Ms Mercurio

1- How long have you worked at Welwyn St Mary's?

I have worked at Welwyn St Mary's for almost a year now. Ironically, I have only spent 6 months actually at school!

2- What do you enjoy most about your job?

I most enjoy getting to know the children and their individual personalities and watching them go from strength to strength. I also enjoy coming up with fun lesson activities that the children will learn from whilst also having a great time.

3- What's your favourite meal?

Being Italian this will probably not come as much of a surprise but my favourite



meal is PASTA! In particular, lasagne but almost all pasta is fine by me. My favourite dessert has to be warm chocolate fudge cake with a big scoop of vanilla ice cream. Yum!

4- If you could take three items to a desert island, what would you take?

Family aside, I would take a signal mirror not only to send a signal but so that I could also start a fire, stay warm and cook. The second item would be a hammock so that I could get a good night's sleep off of the ground. The third item I would take would be a photo of my little girl.

5- What do you like to do to relax?

I have a very energetic 2 year old daughter so I do not really get much, if any, time to relax but on the rare occasion I do, I like to go to watch a show at the theatre or go to a spa for a few hours to swim or sit in the Jacuzzi.

Get to know Miss Snowden

1 - How long have you worked at Welwyn St Mary's?

I have worked at Welwyn St Mary's for 4 years in October.

2 - What do you enjoy most about your job?

I don't even have to think about this question. It's seeing all the children growing as people and in confidence each day and getting to know you all. From teaching Reception, I can see you all when you are turning 5 that year and growing up year by year. It's amazing but don't grow up too fast!

3 - What's your favourite meal?

I have so many meals I love to make and enjoy but I do like chicken fajitas with salad, cheese and mayo with a homemade brownie for pudding.

4 - If you could take 3 items to a desert island, what would you take?

I think water as you've got to keep hydrated. I would take my camera to take amazing pictures. I love a bit of scenic photography. I'd take some matches so I can light a fire. I'm not as good as Bear Grylls who can light fires with glasses.

5 - What do you like to do to relax?

When I relax it is usually sitting in the garden, drawing or water painting the scenery. I like going on long walks, taking my camera to take some lovely photos. I also like movie nights with my brother or shopping with friends and family at the weekend.



Have a safe and restful summer holiday.



