

WELTON ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

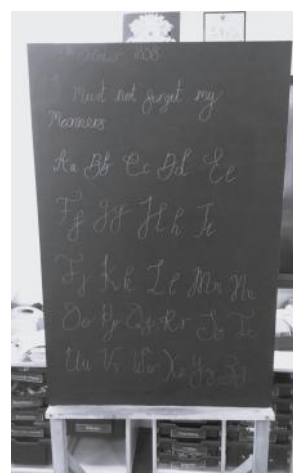


October 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a great start to our school year – a very special year for us as a school community. It is our school's 200th birthday where we are 'honouring the past, inspiring the present and shaping the future'. One of the highlights of the term has to be our Victorian Day. We combined the past and the present with children and staff either wearing clothes from today or clothes that would have been worn in 1826 when our school was founded. The children were welcomed to school by the old school bell and then experienced the day as a Victorian child in a Victorian classroom. By the end of the day there were many very grateful children who realised that school life today is so much better than it was in 1826!



The children had plenty to say about their experience. One Year 5 pupil remarked, "Victorian teachers were really horrific because of how strict they were!" Another added, "I'd love to do Victorian Day again because you got to experience what it was like instead of just being told."

Many children commented on preferring chalkboards to modern interactive whiteboards, appreciating the simplicity and novelty. The strict teaching style also sparked conversation, with several pupils noting how different it felt compared to their usual classroom environment.

Lunchtime brought even more joy, with traditional games like hopscotch and skipping proving to be a hit. Interestingly, quite a few children expressed a surprising fondness for the reduced use of technology and the more disciplined approach to learning.

As one child put it, "It is amazing to see how different it was to 2025." Overall, the day was not only a fun and engaging event but also a powerful learning experience that brought history to life.



Whilst the way we teach and what we teach today is very different from when our school was founded, what we aim for is still the same – every child and adult who is part of our school community to have opportunities, hope, be cared for, able to learn and to thrive as an individual and part of the wider community. Our vision, values and Bible verse are just as relevant today as they were 200 years ago.

Welton St Mary's Church of England Primary Academy's vision

'As an **inclusive** Christian community, we **value each person**, seeking to release everyone's full potential as promised by Jesus Christ. We seek to provide a safe, inspiring and creative learning environment providing opportunities for **all to flourish**. Through challenge, support and care, we **strive for excellence** in all that we do; always building on the foundations of shared values with consistently high expectations **rooted in God's love**. Together we are encouraged to be **agents of positive change** in this world.'

- **Inclusive** 
- **Value each person** 
- **All to flourish** 
- **Strive for excellence** 
- **Rooted in God's love** 
- **Agents of positive change** 

'May the God of love fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the

Holy Spirit'. Romans 15:13

Thank you for your support this term. We wish you all a restful week next week and look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 3rd November ready for an exciting and busy term on the lead up to Christmas.

Best wishes

Mrs Gough

Headteacher



Outdoor Services - Harvest Festival

Our outdoor services are always very special times for us to come together as a whole school community. It was great to see so many families join us for our Harvest Festival where we all had time to think and reflect on being a good neighbour. Thank you for your generosity in donations – these will make such a difference to local families who are experiencing difficult times.



Harvest has been recognised throughout our school's journey with local children playing an active role in gathering the harvest.

The headteacher wrote in their log book:

Aug 14th 1908- Closed the school today for Harvest Holidays for 5 weeks.

Aug 10th 1909 - Closed the schools today for the Harvest Holidays for four weeks. This year we are only having 4 weeks as the managers intend having a week later in the Potato picking season. Considering the wet weather the attendance has been most gratifying

Sept 16th 1912 - Commenced School after the Harvest Holidays. Several of the upper class children are absent assisting the farmers.

Parent survey – your views matter

Over the next few days you will be receiving a survey via Parentmail– your views and feedback matter to us and support us in driving the school forward. Please do take a few minutes to complete this.



Year 1 Parent Pop-In Session

Our recent Parent Pop-In Session for Year 1 was very well attended, and we're thrilled with the overwhelmingly positive feedback we received. Parents found the session both insightful and valuable in helping them better understand their child's learning and development.

Every parent who responded to our survey said they felt the session was helpful—and many commented on how special it was to experience learning alongside their child.

One parent shared:

"Sharing her learning while she is in the classroom has allowed her to take the lead and be confident in her learning. She loves to show us what she's been doing, and we can talk about what we've experienced together during the sessions."

Another parent added:

"A great insight into life in Year 1—what a lovely place to be! The teachers were all so welcoming and worked so hard to engage both the children and parents. The carousel of activities was a fabulous way to give us a taster of key learning in phonics and transcription."

Thank you to all the parents who joined us. We look forward to more opportunities to share in your child's learning journey!

Foundation Stage Parent Pop-In Session

A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for our Foundation Stage Parent Pop-In this week! It was absolutely wonderful to see such a fantastic turnout and to feel so much support from our families. The children were so proud (and a little bit excited!) to share their classrooms, activities, and some of the brilliant things they've been learning.

Events like these are such an important opportunity to connect home and school. We know that when you ask, "What did you do at school today?" the answer is often, "Nothing!" or "I can't remember." These sessions help bring learning to life and give you a glimpse into the busy, hands-on experiences your children enjoy every day.

Thank you again for taking the time to come along and for being such an important part of your child's learning journey. Your enthusiasm and encouragement mean so much to both the children and the staff.

Flash Fiction writing competition – Lincoln Book Festival

Congratulations to the children who took part in this writing competition. 180 stories were entered overall from children through to adults with 47 stories being in the Primary category. Within the primary category there was a shortlist of 5 (2 of these were children from our school) and a longlist of 18 stories (7 of which were written by children at Welton St Mary's). The children were invited to the Lincoln Arts Centre to read their stories to a team of judges and an audience. A massive well done to all the children who took part and were either shortlisted or longlisted.

Shortlisted

Hattie- 'Amongst The Trees'

Willow -'The Ultimate green Villains'

Longlisted

Elliot- 'Whispers in the mist'

Heidi – 'King Goldfish'

Joseph - 'The Lock-Jaw'

Sophie – 'The unwanted grip'

Martha – 'The End of Beginning'

Freddie – 'The Monster'

Jess – 'The Crocodiles in the Water'

Congratulations to Hattie who achieved Highly recommended and to Willow who was the primary category winner.



Bikeability

Learning to ride a bike and riding safely is a life skill. Our Year 5 children have recently received lessons – you may have seen them out on the roads. It was great to see all children making good progress over the week. There were children who showed real pride in learning how to ride a bike and children who learnt more about being safe on the roads.

There are a lot of children coming to school on bikes. Please remember to wear a helmet if cycling to school.

Parking on School Drive

Thank you to all the families who are now parking away from School Drive. Whilst there are still cars coming down School Drive at the start and end of the school day, there is less traffic.

A reminder that cars should not be parking in the **KEEP CLEAR** area outside the garages. There have been a few occasions recently when owners of the garages have not been able to gain access.

Reminder about school uniform

Children are expected to wear black shoes during the school day (throughout the school year). Trainers are only to be worn at lunchtimes when on the field (and it is dry) and for PE.

Wellies and waterproofs

There is no such thing as bad weather

Children go outside at lunchtimes in all weathers to experience play. Part of our school uniform is wellies and waterproofs. Please can you ensure children are sent to school with a named waterproof coat every day as all children will be going outside.

Please can you label all clothing. This term we have seen a significant increase in the number of unnamed jumpers and other items of clothing. You may have seen the lost property box outside school. We have not had to have a lost property box in recent years. One of our values is responsibility. We are encouraging the children to be responsible for their belongings - either wearing their jumpers or them being in their locker, but it really does help to return items to children when they are named.

Jewellery

Children are able to wear a watch and stud earrings. No other jewellery is allowed in school. Earrings **MUST** be taken out for PE unless ears have been newly pierced. If your child cannot take their own earrings out, we ask that they are not worn on PE days.

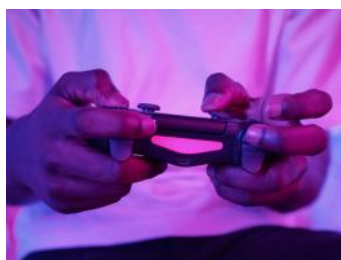
Our curriculum

To find out more about what your children are learning this year, please go to:

<https://weltonstmarysacademy.co.uk/our-curriculum/>



Free Sessions for Parents and Carers – Gaming & Gambling Harms



Many of our children are spending a lot of time gaming at home, and it can be difficult to understand the potential risks and benefits.

Ygam (The UK's leading charity dedicated to preventing gaming and gambling harms among young people) recent report with Mumsnet highlights growing parental concern about children's gaming habits — you can read more in the *Independent* article [here](#) and access the full report [here](#).

Ygam continues to offer **free awareness sessions** for parents and carers, and **training sessions** for professionals working with young people, to help explore the links between gaming and gambling harms.

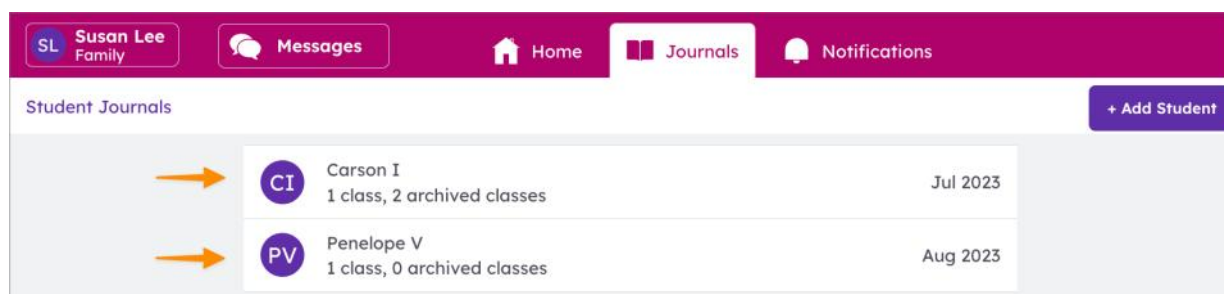
Parents & Carers: [Book a free awareness session](#)

Professionals: [Find upcoming training sessions](#)

"Education has an essential role to play – not just for young gamers, but also for the adults who care for them." – Helen Martin, Ygam

Seesaw

If you have more than one child using Seesaw, you can view all of their Journals from within one profile, without having to create a new profile to view each child's work. To view all of your student's work from one account, follow these instructions to add your child's **new** journal to your **existing** account or to **add another child** to your account. At any time, you can go into the Journals tab and select which of your student's journals you want to view.



Parent Portal

Due to a forced change in our Management Information System (MIS) RM Unify Parent Portal will soon no longer be available to parents. We recommend that you download all reports and assessment data from RM Parent Portal immediately. Attendance data after October Half Term will no longer be accurately displayed through Parent Portal. Please contact school via email enquiries@welton-st-marys.lincs.sch.uk to update permissions or to discuss any attendance queries.



Vacancy: EYFS / KS1 Teaching Assistant

Do you want to work in a team that makes a difference to young people?

We are seeking to recruit an EYFS / KS1 Teaching Assistant who:

- Has experience and skills to work with pupils with children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage One
- Is able to support the professional work of the teacher within the classroom.
- Has a desire to enthuse and inspire children with a range of needs.
- Is effective in forming positive relationships with pupils, staff and parents.
- Has good communication and organisational skills.
- Demonstrates the ability to work proactively and with flexibility as part of a team.
- Has a 'can do' positive attitude and a willingness to go the extra mile

The successful candidate will work mainly in the classroom and will be required to support individual pupils and small groups. There will be opportunities for professional development in aspects of SEND and teaching and learning.

If you are looking for a school where the children are enthusiastic learners, where there is a strong, positive culture of learning behaviours and where you can grow professionally, please book a time to come and visit.

For an application form and further details please look on our school website vacancies page:

[Vacancies - Welton St Mary's Academy](#)

Closing date for applications: midnight 30th October 2025

Interviews will be held: 6th or 7th November 2025

Vacancy: Parent Governor

Are you passionate about supporting our school and making a difference in the education of our children? Welton St Mary's Church of England Primary Academy is looking for a committed parent to join our Governing Body as a Parent Governor.

As a Parent Governor, you will:

- Have a voice in key decisions that impact our school and its students.
- Work with other governors to shape the school's vision and ensure its continued success.
- Represent the views and interests of parents while supporting the school's leadership.

What we are looking for:

- Critical listening and ability to ask effective questions
- Strategic thinking
- Excellent communication
- Problem solving and analysis

No prior experience is necessary; training and support will be provided.

If you are interested in helping to shape the future of our school and would like to apply please look on our school website vacancies page: [Vacancies - Welton St Mary's Academy](#)

Deadline for applications: 11/11/25



Free School Meal Application

As you may be aware, all children in Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 in England's state-funded schools receive a free meal under the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) policy.

If you have a child in Foundation Stage, Year 1 or Year 2 we urge you to apply for Free School Meals (FSM) even though you automatically receive UIFSM if you think that you are eligible. If you are successful in your application this will provide additional funding for school as well as vital benefits to your family.

If your child is in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 UIFSM no longer applies. If you feel you may benefit from Free School Meals (FSM) please ensure you apply ([click here](#)). If you are not eligible for free school meals you can purchase a hot meal each day at a cost of £2.50. Meals can be ordered through [Good Lookin Cookin](#).

Qualifying for FSM means you could benefit from:

- The Holiday Activities and Food programme. HAF provides free holiday clubs during Easter, Summer and Christmas for Reception to Year 11 ([click here](#))
- Reduced costs (50% discount) for school trips (including residentials), workshops and one paid-for afterschool club per term
- Free school meals from Year 3 onwards

To apply please visit Lincolnshire County Council [Apply for free school meals – Lincolnshire County Council](#)

If you would like any support with making an application, please do come into school and we can help.

Operation Encompass

We are an **Operation Encompass School**, part of a national scheme that runs jointly between all schools and the police.

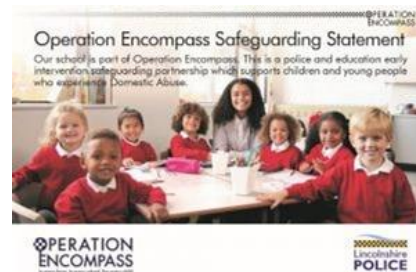
Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced, any domestic abuse.

Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school's staff (*the Designated Safeguarding Lead*), is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have recently experienced a domestic abuse incident.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

This information shared with the school is already covered in the schools' existing privacy notice. For further information in relation to how personal data in relation to yourself and your child(ren) is processed, please refer to Lincolnshire Police's privacy notice, which can be found on their website:

<https://www.lincs.police.uk/resource-library/data-protection/privacy-notice/>



Applying for Secondary School

Parents in Year 6 are reminded that the deadline for secondary applications is 31st October 2025.

Applications can be made online at <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-admissions/apply-school/> or phone 01522 782030 and make an application over the phone.

Scarecrow Trail

As part of our 200th anniversary, School Friends have planned a scarecrow trail full of historical characters remembering and celebrating our rich history. Between **Saturday 25th October and Sunday 2nd November the scarecrows will be out in the village for you to discover.**

Trail maps are £2 each and are on sale now! Maps are available to buy from The Nook, Welton Paper Shop and Taylors of Welton pet shop. Cash only if possible, please.

As part of the trail we have hidden letters with the scarecrows, these spell out three words associated with our 200th celebrations. Can you work out the words to be in with a chance to win some sweet treats.

Email wsmchoolfriends@gmail.com with the correct answer by November 3rd to take part.

**Safeguarding
is everyone's
responsibility**

Everyone in society has a responsibility to protect and safeguard children from abuse and neglect. We would like to signpost you to services of support for you and your family.

999 If you or your children are in immediate danger you should always call **999**. If it is not safe to speak use the "silent solution". Press 5 5 when prompted and this will tell us that you need us.

Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP)

If you believe that a child may be a victim of neglect, abuse or cruelty call the customer service centre: Children's safeguarding - **01522 782111** (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm) or **01522 782333** (outside office hours)

NSPCC Talk to the NSPCC for advice and support about a child, or to report a concern. It's free and you don't have to say who you are. Please call us on **0800 800 5000** or visit <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

Edan Lincs Domestic abuse service supporting men, women and children. Please call **01522 510041** or email info@edanlincs.org.uk

The Samaritans If you need someone to talk to, we are here to listen. Please call **116 123** or visit <https://www.samaritans.org/>

Childline Childline is here to help anyone under the age of 19. If you need to talk to a trained counsellor about anything, please call **0800 1111**

At school, our safeguarding leads are Mrs Gough, Mrs Thorner and Miss Sylvester. If you want to talk about any safeguarding concerns with a member of staff, please contact school on 01673 860339 or email enquiries@welton-st-marys.lincs.sch.uk



Dates for your diary

We have planned our annual calendar so that dates can be saved. We will keep you updated, if any dates need to be changed.

23rd October –End of term 1

3rd November – Start of term 2

6th November - Y4, 5 & 6 Author Visit - SF Said and Roving Book Shop in school (all years), please see Parentmail dated 17th October for further information.

10th November - Open afternoon for parents and carers of children starting school in September 2026 - appointment only at 2pm. Please email enquiries@welton-st-marys.lincs.sch.uk to book a space.

11th November - Year 4, 5 and 6 OPAL afternoon for parents

19th November - Phonics screen workshop for parents of children in Year 1. Further information to follow.

24th November - Discovery Day (Stick Man). Transition day for children who are due to start school in September 2026.

1st December – Christingle - Parents and carers are invited to join their children at 9.10am to make Christingles together. Children that do not attend Welton St Mary's are not able to attend. Parents of children in Year 6 are then invited to stay for the School Christingle Service.

w/c 1st December - Key Stage 2 Parents' evening (years 3 4 5 6)

5th December – Elfridges Christmas shop. Further information to follow.

8th December - Discovery Day (Nativity) 9:45am start. Transition day for children who are due to start school in September 2026.

9th / 10th / 11th December – Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 nativity performances (am). These performances are for adults and not children younger than school age. Tickets for sale in term 2.

12th December - Christmas jumper / wear something Christmassy day and Christmas dinner day

15th December – Carols on the Playground (pm) and wear your Christmas jumper / wear something Christmassy day

17th December – Whole school to church for Christmas Service

19th December – Pantomime in school

19th December – End of term 2

