



West Malling Church of England Primary School and The McGinty SRP



NEWSLETTER 27th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start this week's newsletter with a big thank you for the effort that has clearly been made with children's uniform this week. The school was looking much smarter, and this really does have a positive effect on the way everyone holds themselves around the school.

It has certainly been a busy week this week with lots going on. It began on Monday with Years 1, 2 and 3 having a 'scootability' session with Alex out on the playground. This was a fantastic opportunity for all of the children to practise and develop their scooting skills, navigating various obstacles and tackling challenges while having huge amounts of fun in the process. While lots of the children have scooters at home, everyone found it very interesting to be taught how to use them properly and safely.

On Wednesday, the children who take part in English in Daisy class in the McGinty SRP had a fantastic experience in Greenwich mudlarking on the banks of the River Thames. This linked with the text they have been reading and studying. For those unfamiliar with the term, 'mudlarking' is the practice of searching the foreshore for historical artefacts during low tide. Originally an 18th century survival activity for the poor, it is now a popular hobby and form of amateur archaeology, which requires a special permit to uncover items spanning 2000 years of London's history. The children (and adults) had a wonderful time, with the highlights of their finds being a pipkin pot leg (up to 500 years old), a section of Roman roof tile, various clay pipes and three pieces of blue porcelain (up to 300 years old). I know that several of the children are eager to try and get back for another go!

Yesterday we were treated to a great class assembly by Cherry class. As always, the children took us on a journey through their recent learning across a wide variety of subjects. However, the highlight was undoubtedly their singing at the end, showcasing the song they have been learning in music. Everyone agreed it was very emotional, and the solos performed by James and Ava were spellbinding. Well done, everyone in Cherry!

Finally this week, please could I issue a reminder regarding the use of the ballpark before and after school. From the school building, we have witnessed a number of children climbing up the sides of the ballpark, and even, on a number of occasions, scaling the full height of the surrounding fence and climbing over the top to retrieve a ball that has come back over into the school grounds. A fall from such a significant height onto the tarmac could have terrible consequences, and I have spoken to the children in worship this morning to let them know that further instances of children climbing will mean that we shall have to keep the ballpark locked from early in the morning until much later at night.

As we enter Holy Week, with this Sunday being Palm Sunday, I wish you all peace ahead of the final week of term.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

w/c Monday 30th March

NO CLUBS THIS WEEK

Monday 30th March

Last swimming session for Year 4

Wednesday 1st April

Easter service at St Mary's Church, 9.15am approx. start. All welcome to join us

Thursday 2nd April

**Change to published menu – fishfingers & chips (M) or
vegan dippers & chips (V) or jacket potato**

Last day of Term 4

Monday 20th April

Term 5 begins – children return to school

Monday 27th April

Year 3 begin swimming lessons

Tuesday 28th April

Kent Fire & Rescue sessions for all years

Monday 4th May

BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

Thursday 7th May

Chestnut Class assembly at 9am - parents are invited to come along and share in the children's learning

Monday 11th – Thursday 14th May

Year 6 SATs week

Monday 11th May

Year 3 swimming

Monday 18th May

Year 3 swimming

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	George K	For his amazing reading and writing
Year 1	Kaleel	For being more settled and engaged
Year 2	Whole class	For their marvellous class assembly
Year 3	Taw-Jackson	For his amazing maths and being a fantastic role model, always kind
Year 4	Eddie	For his good contributions to lessons
Year 5	Rosie	For her love of learning
Year 6	Patrick	For his amazing knowledge on our Mudlarking trip

Caterlink – Lunch Accounts (for parents who pay for their child's meals)

We are reminding an increasing number of parents to top-up the balance on their child's lunch account. Please ensure that accounts are always in credit. Caterlink operate a 'no debt' policy; if you do not have any credit please send your child in with a packed lunch.

Red Nose Day

Thank you for your donations – we raised an amazing £328!!

School Clubs – Terms 5 & 6

Details of the available clubs will be shared with parents when we return after the Easter holidays. There will be a short sign-up period so please look out for the email which will be sent via Arbor messaging.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	97.4%
Year 1	98.1%
Year 2	98.1%
Year 3	93.6%
Year 4	93.1%
Year 5	94.3%
Year 6	94.1%

Whole School Attendance

95.2%

Yearly attendance to date:

94.8%

The children in Years 1 & 2 have the highest attendance this week



Well done Years 1 & 2!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	98.3%
Year 1	99%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	96.4%
Year 4	90.6%
Year 5	97.3%
Year 6	98.1%

Well done Year 2 – you arrived on time every day this week! 😊

Safeguarding

As a school we believe that safeguarding is not only about protecting children and young people from abuse and neglect, but also their families too. It is our intention, therefore, to support families by signposting them to universal services which may assist families when they are facing difficulties themselves. For reference, our Safeguarding Team is: Mr David Rye (DSL), Mrs Jo White (Deputy DSL), Mrs Gemma Hawken (Deputy DSL) & Mrs Sophie Ogden (Deputy DSL) and we are the people you should contact should you have any safeguarding concerns.

New resources have been published on the 'Kids Online Safety' website to help parents and carers understand and get support for online bullying and gaming. These new sections are designed to help families and give them more confidence in talking to their children about what they are doing and experiencing online.

<https://kidsonlinesafety.campaign.gov.uk/>