



West Malling Church of England Primary School and The McGinty SRP



NEWSLETTER 20th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The media this week has been focussed on the clearly distressing outbreak of invasive meningococcal disease in the Canterbury area of Kent. Again, I would like to reassure you about the very low level of risk in school, using information shared with us by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the DfE.

While meningococcal disease (meningitis and septicaemia) can affect all ages, recent outbreaks have shown that older children, teenagers and young adults are more likely to be affected. Meningococcal infection does not spread very easily. The bacteria can only be passed to others through prolonged, close physical contact.

It is always important for parents and carers to make sure that children stay up to date with all their routine vaccinations, as these offer important protection against infectious disease outbreaks. Parents and carers should also be aware and alert to the signs and symptoms of invasive meningococcal disease, and should seek urgent medical help if children develop any symptoms - [Meningitis - Symptoms - NHS](#)

The incredibly low risk means that all primary schools are operating as normal, and all children are expected to attend as usual.

Thank you to everyone who donated to Comic Relief today in order to wear their own clothes to school. There was lots of red on display as we got involved, and by donating to Comic Relief, you are supporting local community organisations and change-makers in the UK and across the world. Your money has helped people eat, sleep and stay safe – thank you.

It has become noticeable that a growing number of children are not wearing the correct school uniform to school and I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our expectations. These are clearly set out on the school website: <https://www.west-malling.kent.sch.uk/school-uniform/>

In particular I would like to stress the following:

- Trainers should only be worn on PE days. At other times suitable black school shoes (not boots) should be worn.
- School jumpers and cardigans do not need to have the school logo but should be V-necked and royal blue in colour. On PE days the zipped hoodie, available through School Trends, may be worn as an alternative. Fleeces and sweatshirts of other colours do not form part of uniform.
- Unless wearing a summer dress, all children from Years 1 to 6 should wear a school tie (normal or elasticated) with their shirt, blouse or polo-shirt.
- On PE days all shorts or jogging bottoms should be black. PE kit is part of school uniform and is not simply a non-uniform day.

Best wishes for the weekend.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

w/c Monday 23rd March

Gymnastics, Dance club & Tennis club finish this week

Monday 23rd March

Scootability coaching for children in Years 1,2 & 3 – please see overleaf

Year 4 swimming

Wednesday 25th March

Change to the published menu – dessert is chocolate cake

Parents' Consultations, 3.20pm to 8pm

Thursday 26th March

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

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

Last day of Term 4

Monday 20th April

Term 5 begins – children return to school

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Juno	For independence in her play
Year 1	Tommy	For his enthusiasm in our history learning
Year 2	Isla-Mae	For being a great role model
Year 3	Moses	For trying really hard and working hard in his challenges
Year 4	William	For excellent engagement in lessons, particularly science
Year 5	Francesca	For her resilience this week
Year 6	Michael	For his attention to detail

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 so far – there is still time to donate:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rnd26-west-malling-church-of-england-primary-school-and-mcginty-speech-and-language-srp>

Free Scootability Coaching Day for Years 1, 2 & 3 - 23rd March 2026

We have been successful in securing Scootability coaching for children in Years 1-3. These children should wear PE kits into school on the day, if not already a PE day.

Many thanks Jo White - Families & Community Manager

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	100%
Year 1	90.5%
Year 2	97.6%
Year 3	93.3%
Year 4	94.4%
Year 5	93%
Year 6	98.1%

Whole School Attendance

95.2%

Yearly attendance to date:

94.8%

The children in Year R have been in school every day this week



Well done Year R – that's amazing!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	97.4%
Year 1	98.1%
Year 2	96.2%
Year 3	95.8%
Year 4	90%
Year 5	98.7%
Year 6	97.5%

Well done Year 5 – you were the most punctual again 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.

March is Sleep Awareness Month. This year's campaign carries the message: **"Good nights start with good routines."** The focus is on promoting healthy bedtime habits for children, recognising that sleep is the foundation of growth, learning, and emotional well-being. With increasing challenges such as overstimulation, irregular schedules, and evening screen use, the initiative aims to empower families, educators, and healthcare professionals to prioritise children's sleep health.

<https://www.sleepsociety.org.uk/event/european-sleep-research-society-esrs-sleep-awareness-month-20...>