



West Malling Church of England Primary School and The McGinty SRP



NEWSLETTER 13th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is important to start this week's newsletter with an acknowledgment of the difficulties everyone is currently experiencing getting to and from school with the road closures on both West Street and Offham Road. The school were given no prior knowledge of these road closures, and it was only thanks to a message from a parent who lives locally that we were able to send out a message yesterday afternoon to at least give some warning ahead of pick-up yesterday. There are conflicting stories about how long the roads may be closed for, ranging from the roads being back open later today, up to a closure until 18th March.

In the meantime, I would urge parents to try not to drive close to the school site as this will create huge congestion. Please park a considerable distance away from school and walk the last part of the journey. Of course, the Walking Bus operates from Tesco car park before school and the Ryarsh Lane car park is free from 2:45pm at the other end of the day.

You may have seen the bike shed crammed with bikes this week as Year 6 have been undertaking their Bikeability training. Beginning on the playground, the cyclists have then moved out onto the roads later in the week to develop their skills, road awareness and cycling safety. This is a very valuable course and the feedback from all the instructors was that the behaviour and listening from the children led to great success out on the road. Well done to Year 6 for your participation.

Today we welcomed Miss Hannah Ireland into school. Miss Ireland will be teaching Mulberry Class for the last three weeks of Term 4 until Easter as part of her continuing professional development with the Tenax Schools Trust and Teach Kent and Sussex. Miss Davies will be working in an alternative school for the same period to gain valuable experience in an alternative setting. We wish Miss Davies the very best for the remainder of the term, and are all looking forward to working with Miss Ireland.

On Monday afternoon Becky Mackay from the organisation 'Smartphone Free Childhood' delivered a very interesting presentation and workshop for parents. I know it was hugely appreciated by those who attended and when we receive further information from Becky, we shall share it with the whole parent community.

I hope the sun shines this weekend to enable everyone to enjoy a special Mother's Day.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

w/c Monday 16th March

With the exception of Gymnastics, Dance Club and Tennis, all school led clubs will now finish this week.

Monday 16th March

Year 4 swimming

Thursday 19th March

Class photos. Children should wear full school uniform today **NOT** P.E kit

Friday 20th March

Red Nose Day – the children are invited to wear their own clothes in return for a donation. Wear something red if you have it! See over for our Just Giving link

w/c Monday 23rd March

Gymnastics, Dance club & Tennis club finish this week

Monday 23rd March

Scoutability 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, 3.20 to 8pm – appointments available to book, until 19th March, via your Arbor account until

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	Georgia	For her fantastic reading
Year 1	Ralph	For his contributions & being a fantastic role model
Year 2	Elsie-Mae	For her amazing learning
Year 3	Pixie	For being a great role model
Year 4	Isla G	For having a fabulous week
Year 5	Eliza	For stepping out of her comfort zone this week
Year 6	Sonny	For his calm and considered attitude to his learning

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 – Friday 20th March

The children are invited to wear their own clothes – to include something red if they it – in return for a donation to:

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

... or bring cash in on the day.

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	99.1%
Year 1	95.7%
Year 2	97.1%
Year 3	99.1%
Year 4	95.9%
Year 5	97.7%
Year 6	97.2%

Whole School Attendance

97.4%

Yearly attendance to date:

94.8%

The children in Years R & 3 have the highest attendance this week



Well done Years R & 3!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	98.3%
Year 1	95.2%
Year 2	98.1%
Year 3	96.4%
Year 4	88.8%
Year 5	98.7%
Year 6	96.3%

Well done Year 5 – you were the most punctual 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 and today, Friday 13th March, is World Sleep Day. 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...>