



West Malling Church of England Primary School and The McGinty SRP



NEWSLETTER 6th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a super day we had in school yesterday to celebrate World Book Day! There were lots of book-related activities taking place and everyone looked very cosy in their pyjamas and onesies – especially while drinking hot chocolate in the afternoon! We saw some fantastic photos of children reading in unusual places. These will shortly go on display in the hall for all to see. Similarly, there was lots of creativity on display with the Potato Characters that were produced. It was almost impossible to choose winners as everyone had clearly gone to great lengths, but congratulations to Reece (Chestnut), Eben (Lime), Isla (Cherry), Evalyn (Mulberry), Shivansh (Oak), Lilly (Willow) and Lance (Ash). With everyone having fun designing and making, everyone was a winner!



Please can I take this opportunity to remind you that we are hosting a presentation from the 'Smartphone Free Childhood' organisation on Monday 9th March from 1:45-2:45. With so much talk about smartphones in the national media, this is an opportunity to come and listen to some practical ideas and have some friendly conversation about helping children thrive in the age of smartphones. There will be discussions about what is currently working for families – from first phones to healthy habits at home. I hope as many of you are able to attend as possible.

This afternoon Year 6 had a fascinating talk from a local magistrate. This is a session that we run every year and is particularly valuable as the transition to secondary school moves closer. This is always a fascinating afternoon where the children learn huge amounts about the concept of citizenship, the role of laws and justice in England, and the way the legal system operates.

Year 1 also had an interesting afternoon on Thursday this week, when they received a visit from Mrs Lee (a School Governor) to talk about the toys that she played with as a child. This links to their history learning about the history of toys and how they have changed over time.

Cont/ over

WHAT'S ON?

w/c Monday 9th March

BikeAbility course for Year 6 children who signed up

Monday 9th March

Year 4 swimming

Parent Workshop 'Smartphone Free Childhood', 1.30-2.45pm in the school hall. All welcome

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

Last week of school clubs for Term 4

Monday 23rd March

Year 4 swimming

Wednesday 25th March

Change to the published menu – dessert is chocolate & beetroot brownie

Parents' Consultations, 3.20 to 8pm – appointments available to book via your Arbor account

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

The children noticed that even where toys have broadly remained the same, they are now made from different materials. They asked some great questions and found the concept of a childhood without iPads and technology almost unbelievable. There was a sense of wonder about how people could buy toys without ordering them on Amazon! Huge thanks to Mrs Lee for giving up her time to come in and support the learning taking place in school.

With best wishes for the weekend.

Mr Rye

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Lena	For her enthusiasm for her story telling
Year 1	Finn O'S	For improved focus in phonics
Year 2	James	For persevering with his maths
Year 3	Hettie	For perseverance in maths
Year 4	Jelani	For having a great week
Year 5	Lily F	For living out our school values
Year 6	James	For his kindness

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.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	97%
Year 1	89%
Year 2	93.8%
Year 3	95.8%
Year 4	95.6%
Year 5	98.3%
Year 6	94.7%

Whole School Attendance

95.2%

Yearly attendance to date:

94.7%

The children in Year 5 have the highest attendance this week



Well done Year 5!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	98.3%
Year 1	97%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	96.4%
Year 4	86.9
Year 5	98%
Year 6	97.5%

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.

Self-Injury Awareness Day (SIAD) is a global awareness event celebrated on March 1. It draws attention to self-harm, which is a way of communicating distress. It is primarily a way to cope with feelings. Methods can include cutting, biting, burning, scratching or picking at skin, hitting themselves or pulling out hair. If you are worried about self-harm more information is available in this Self-Harm Toolkit. <https://czone.eastsussex.gov.uk/health-wellbeing/mhew/self-harm>