



West Malling Church of England Primary School and The McGinty SRP



NEWSLETTER 27th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new term, and hopefully a change in the weather to have a slightly drier few weeks in the lead up to Easter. It has been good to get back into the rhythm of the school day after the half term break and feel the purposeful working atmosphere around the school.

I have several reminders in this week's letter about upcoming events this term. First, next Thursday 5th March is World Book Day. Detailed communication about this went home before half term, but the children are invited to come to school that day in their pyjamas, bringing with them their favourite bedtime story and a cuddly toy if they wish. To coincide with this, we shall be hosting the Scholastic Book Fayre from 3:00-3:30 from Monday to Thursday next week. Children will be able to use their World Book Day vouchers towards the cost of a book, but please note that this will be a cashless event so a device will be required to enable you to scan a QR code to make payment online.

Second, 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.

Schools have been asked to share the following information about extra urgent dental treatment which is now available in Kent and Medway. If you need urgent dental treatment, here is what you can do:

- phone your regular dentist, if you have one. Some practices offer appointments at short notice.
- contact Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT), Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm on 0300 123 4412 or email kcht.dentalhelpdesk@nhs.net
- phone Dentaline Out of Hours on 01634 890300, Monday to Sunday from 6pm to 10:55pm and Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays from 8:30am to 1:25pm.

Examples of urgent dental conditions:

- Severe pain - pain that is not manageable with over-the-counter pain relievers and is interfering with daily activities or sleep.
- Infections - swelling, redness or pus in the mouth, especially if spreading or accompanied by fever.
- Trauma - knocked-out teeth, fractured teeth or injuries to the mouth and jaw.
- Bleeding - uncontrolled bleeding from the mouth.
- Other - abscesses, pericoronitis (inflammation around wisdom teeth) and severe ulceration or lesions.

For a list of dentists offering urgent appointments near you, visit the [KM health and care website](#).

With best wishes for the weekend.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 2nd March

National Offer Day – secondary school (Year 6)

Year 4 swimming

Year R Vision & Hearing screening

Book Fair in the school library, 3-3.20pm, Monday to Thursday

Thursday 5th March

World Book Day

Friday 6th March

Magistrate's Talk – Year 6

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

w/c Monday 23rd March

Last week of school clubs for Term 4

Monday 23rd March

Year 4 swimming

Wednesday 25th March

Parents' Consultations, 3.20 to 8pm – further details to follow

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

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Evan	For his enthusiasm for learning
Year 1	Leo	For a great start to Term 4
Year 2	Elsie-Mai	For independent learning
Year 3	Paddy	For trying really hard
Year 4	Jordan	For his improved focus
Year 5	Elicia	For returning to school with a great attitude towards her learning
Year 6	Henry-James	For his positive attitude towards 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.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	97.8%
Year 1	96.4%
Year 2	95.8%
Year 3	98.9%
Year 4	95.3%
Year 5	98.4%
Year 6	88.6%

Whole School Attendance

95.7%

Yearly attendance to date:

94.6%

The children in Year 3 have the highest attendance this week



Well done Year 3!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	97.8%
Year 1	97.6%
Year 2	98.8%
Year 3	98.5%
Year 4	90.6%
Year 5	99.2%
Year 6	96.9%

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.

This week is Eating Disorders Awareness Week. More than 1 in 50 people in the UK are living with an eating disorder. Eating disorders that may affect children and young people include anorexia disorder, bulimia nervosa, binge eating disorder, and avoidant restrictive food intake disorder (which is most common in childhood). There is useful information at <https://www.youngminds.org.uk>