



West Malling Church of England Primary School and The McGinty SRP



NEWSLETTER 2nd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Back to normal newsletter service this week following the INSET Day last Friday and being unable to write my usual column the week before, having accompanied Year 6 on their residential journey to the PGL site at Grosvenor Hall, near Ashford. We had a fantastic week together, with the continuing dry weather certainly helping! The week is incredibly valuable for the children as they are faced by a number of challenges and develop in so many ways – whether that is through pushing themselves to climb higher than they thought they could, or simply through staying away from home for four nights. The children should all feel incredibly proud of their efforts, and hopefully they have now managed to catch up on some sleep!

Enormous thanks to Miss Walker, Mrs Ogden, Mrs Hayward, Mrs White, Mrs Lansdown and Miss Chapman for accompanying the children at various points during the week and supporting them the whole way. Opportunities like these would not happen without your dedication and commitment.

Almost as soon as this year's school journey has finished, we turn our attention to next year! It was great to be able to share information with Year 5 parents about next year's trip yesterday evening and the follow-up letter containing the key information will come home with your children today. It was also lovely to see a group of Reception parents in school last Wednesday afternoon as Mrs Penfold led an information session about the EYFS curriculum. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Since I last wrote, Oak and Willow classes have attended a lunchtime concert in the Malling Abbey as part of the Music@Malling Festival. This was a fantastic opportunity to see and hear classical music performed live by professional musicians, and I know that the children thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. Mrs Mazey and Mrs Hanes also received a number of comments from members of the public attending the concert, commending the children on their attitude and behaviour. It is always nice when people acknowledge the way children are representing the school when we are out and about.

Thank you to those of you that supported Mrs White and her Macmillan cake sale after school last Friday. A total of £125.50 was raised in support of the Macmillan Cancer Care charity, which will go towards the provision of specialist health care, information, and financial and emotional support to people affected by cancer. Thanks to Mrs White for her organisation, and to everyone for your purchases and donations.

Very best wishes for the weekend,

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 5th, Tuesday 6th & Wednesday 7th (if required) October

Individual and sibling (those who attend the school) portraits.

CHILDREN MUST WEAR THEIR SCHOOL UNIFORM ON THESE DAYS

Friday 9th October

Hello Yellow for Young Minds – own clothes day + something yellow if you have it! Please see overleaf for further details

Monday 12th October

Year 5 swimming

Wednesday 14th October

Harvest Festival service at St Mary's Church at 9.15am. all welcome to join us

Thursday 15th October

Own clothes day – please donate a bottle to the PTA (bubble bath, wine, soft drink etc)

Tennis Club is **NOT** on today and will resume on Thursday 5th November

PTA Film Night – details attached to this newsletter

Friday 16th October

Last day of Term 1

Monday 19th – Friday 30th October

Half term holidays

Monday 2nd November

First day of Term 2 – children return to school

Year 5 swimming

Thursday 5th November

Parents' Consultations – details to follow

Monday 9th November

Year 5 swimming

Wednesday 11th November

Remembrance Service in school (children only)

Thursday 12th November

Year 5 assembly, 8.50am - parents are invited to come along and share in the children's learning

Friday 13th November

Children in Need – further details of our fundraising to follow

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Madalyn	For being super keen with her phonics
Year 1	Reece	For brilliant use of vocabulary in recalling a story
Year 2	Keira	For believing in herself
Year 3	Sidney	For his enthusiasm for all his learning
Year 4	Rafferty	For working hard and thoughtful contributions in English
Year 5	Isla H	For participating well this week
Year 6	Whole Class	For their amazing efforts at PGL

Kent Fire & Rescue

Kent Fire and Rescue Service has launched a brand new YouTube Kids mini-series, 'Be Safe with Us'.

We know children love watching their favourite programmes and videos, so we've created something that's both fun and educational! Our short videos are designed to help teach children important safety skills including understanding fire engines, what to do in an emergency, and the importance of smoke alarms.

They're a great way for the family to learn together about staying safe at home. We hope you enjoy them!

You can watch the videos here: <https://www.kent.fire-uk.org/besafewithus>

Macmillan Cake Sale

Thank you to you all, whether you baked, donated or purchased cakes and strawberries – we raised an amazing £125.50 for this wonderful charity. Jo White x

Hello Yellow for YoungMinds – Friday 9th October

On Friday 9th October our school will be taking part in Hello Yellow to raise awareness and funds for YoungMinds, the UK's leading charity for young people's mental health.

We invite the children to wear their own clothes and something yellow, if they can please. A suggested donation of £1 per pupil will help us support this great charity. Cash on the day or donate online at:

<https://fundraise.youngminds.org.uk/fundraisers/WestMallingCEPrimarySchool>

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	85.5%
Year 1	96.9%
Year 2	97.2%
Year 3	95.7%
Year 4	95.6%
Year 5	93.9%
Year 6	94.1%

Whole School Attendance

94.4%

Yearly attendance to date:

95.6%

The children in Year 2 have the highest (in school) attendance this week



Well done Year 2!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	98.2%
Year 1	91.5%
Year 2	87.7%
Year 3	96.0%
Year 4	86.2%
Year 5	87.6%
Year 6	93.9%

Well done Year R – 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.

Attendance at school is crucial to prepare young people for a successful transition to adulthood, and to support their longer term economic and social participation in society. We want all our pupils here every day. A good 'hub' for attendance resources has been put together by the Children's Commissioner:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/back-into-school/resources-for-families/>