



West Malling Church of England Primary School and The McGinty SRP



NEWSLETTER 9th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start the newsletter this week with a huge thank you to Mrs Friend for the time she spent in school earlier this week taking individual and sibling photos of the children. Very soon your child will be bringing home a QR code to enable you to preview the photos, along with further information about how to order prints and packs. Having seen her in action with the children, I am sure that you will all be thrilled with the final results.

Today, the school is a sea of yellow as we say "Hello Yellow" in support of YoungMinds and World Mental Health Day. Thank you for your support in helping us show young people that they are not alone with their mental health. Right now, the world can be a tough place for children and young people to grow up in – and many are feeling the pressure. Your support today is helping YoungMinds raise vital funds to show them that things can get better.

Many of you will be aware that October is Black History Month. Racial diversity is a key component that is threaded throughout many of our curriculum subjects. Currently in English, Willow Class have been looking at the text 'Hidden Figures', which tells the true story of the African American women mathematicians who served as human computers for NASA during the Space Race, overcoming severe racial and gender barriers to ensure critical mission success. Similarly, Ash Class are exploring issues of racism and immigration in their work with the texts 'Windrush Child' and 'Fly Me Home'. Some of the discussions and writing have been very powerful indeed.

I hope you will join us next Wednesday 14th October at St Mary's Church for our Harvest Festival, beginning as soon after 9:00am as possible. This is the first opportunity of the year for the whole community to come together in church. Each class will share a short item for us all – perhaps a poem or a song – and we shall celebrate the Achievers of Term 1 for each class.

As in previous years, we are supporting St. Mary's Church in collecting donations of non-perishable food that will be shared between two local charities. Kenward Trust, in Yalding, offers residential rehabilitation for those with alcohol and drug addiction issues, as well as follow-on resettlement accommodation, to provide a safe home on the journey of recovery. The Pilsdon at Malling Community is a Christian-based community which seeks to provide an environment where people can rebuild their lives after experiencing a crisis, whether sudden or progressive.

Thank you in advance for your generous support of these two charities. All donations of food can be brought into class on either Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.

With best wishes for the weekend,

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 12th October

Year 5 swimming

Tuesday 13th October

Last day to buy Film Night tickets

Wednesday 14th October

Harvest Festival service at St Mary's Church at **9am**. 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

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 w/c 12/10/2026

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	Creddy-John	For being a kind friend
Year 1	Indiana	For her kindness
Year 2	Kaleel	For supporting his peers
Year 3	Sire	For his writing in English
Year 4	Dylan	For living out our school values
Year 5	Ava-Mae	For contributing well in class
Year 6	Stanley	For his fantastic writing and enthusiasm for his learning

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

Thank you for your donations. If you haven't donated already, please donate online at:

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

BikeAbility – Year 6

The course will run from 2nd February till 11th February 2027, each pupil will complete Level 1 training on the playground and if they pass this, they will do Level 2 training on the road. We have been able to secure this important training for FREE. This is a very useful course, offering your child the skills and confidence to ride safely but please note all the children's bikes MUST to be roadworthy and each pupil MUST have a properly fitting cycle helmet. Please complete the consent form by Monday 2nd November 2026.

<https://consent.bikeability.org.uk/tend-bug-exact>

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	97%
Year 1	94.8%
Year 2	93.6%
Year 3	92.9%
Year 4	95.3%
Year 5	91.5%
Year 6	92.8%

Whole School Attendance

93.9%

Yearly attendance to date:

95.3%

The children in Year R have the highest attendance this week



Well done Year R!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	99%
Year 1	95.9%
Year 2	92%
Year 3	96.1%
Year 4	93.8%
Year 5	93.9%
Year 6	95%

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.

Following the introduction of Benedict's Law in September, updated Government guidance makes dedicated, whole-school allergy policies and staff training mandatory. Our revised and updated Allergy and Anaphylaxis Policy is available on the school website, with the direct link to the policies page below:

<https://www.west-malling.kent.sch.uk/policies>