West Malling Church of England Primary School and The McGinty SRP



NEWSLETTER 16th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see so many of you in church on Wednesday for our Harvest Festival, and to celebrate our Learners of the Term. Thank you for all the generous donations of food, which I transported up to church later in the day to join the contributions that had already been placed up at the altar. As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, these 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.

A similar thank you goes out to all those parents and staff that came together after school yesterday to ensure the PTFA Film Night was a fantastic success. All the children in the four rooms enjoyed their film with hot dogs, drinks and snacks, and it was a lovely way for us to finish the first term of the school year.

For the first time, we now have a two-week October break, meaning that we return to school on Monday 2nd November. Please could I take this opportunity to remind you all about the importance of children arriving at school on time, as we are seeing a significant number of children arrive late each morning. The school gates open at 8:35 and all children are expected to be inside and sat down for the register to be taken at 8:45 when the doors and gates close. Learning begins as soon as the children arrive, with vital recaps of previous learning, which are key to the children embedding their knowledge. **Being 5 minutes late into the classroom may not feel like much, but 5 minutes each day equates to nearly 16 hours of lost learning across the year!**

I hope everyone can enjoy a well-earned rest and break over the next couple of weeks, and I look forward to seeing you all again at the start of next month.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

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 – information emailed home on 13th October. Appointments bookable via your Arbor account

Monday 9th November
SEND coffee morning, 8.50-9.30 in the school hall – flyer attached
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

Sunday 15th November
West Malling lights switch-on

Monday 16th November
Year 5 swimming

Tuesday 17th November
Flu nasal spray – ONLY FOR CHILDREN WITH CONSENT FROM PARENTS (online consent/ decline)

Thursday 19th & Friday 20th November, 9.30-11am
Open mornings for September 2027 entrants (children born between 1st September 2022 & 31st August 2023). Please book places via the office

Monday 23rd November
Year 5 swimming

Tuesday 24th November
Years R & 6 NCMP (Height & Weight) – letters sent home on 7th September (Year R) and 8th September (Year 6)

Achievers of the Term

Year	Name
R	Bear
1	Lily Belle
2	Freddie
3	Roma
4	Olivia
5	Henry
6	Elicia Francesca

Hello Yellow for YoungMinds – Friday 9th October

Thank you for your donations – we raised an incredible £306 for this worthy cause.

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

2026 Poppy Appeal

The children in Year 6 will be selling Poppy Appeal merchandise during the afternoons of the first week back in November. If your child would like to purchase a poppy or other item please send in their money in a named & sealed envelope.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	90.5%
Year 1	93.1%
Year 2	98%
Year 3	97.1%
Year 4	94.7%
Year 5	87%
Year 6	95.3%

Whole School Attendance
93.5%
Yearly attendance to date:
95%

The children in Year 2 have the highest attendance this week

Well done Year 2!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	97.8%
Year 1	95.8%
Year 2	91.9%
Year 3	96.1%
Year 4	92.8%
Year 5	93.3%
Year 6	93.5%

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