



West Malling Church of England Primary School and The McGinty Language SRP



NEWSLETTER 13th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday, the school was invaded by the Roman army as Oak Class enjoyed a wonderful Roman Day to complement their learning in history. Their outfits merely added to the enjoyment of the day, and they covered so much with Des from Portals to the Past. The children learned about the history of the Roman Empire and Roman food, took a quiz, looked at a variety of Roman artefacts, including trying on weapons and armour and played a Roman game called 'delta'. The favourite, however, had to be the battle re-enactments between the Romans and the Celts in the afternoon! Des made a point of saying how impressed he was with the children's knowledge and the questions they asked, as well as their behaviour being amongst the best he has come across when delivering workshops in schools. (He also gave a special mention to the adults in the class for their participation and enthusiasm!)

This week has seen a couple of themes running across the school. It has been Children's Mental Health Week with the theme of 'This is My Place', encouraging everyone to create an environment that gives children and young people a sense of belonging. To know our place and really feel part of our environment is a basic human need. It can have powerful and long-lasting impacts in lots of areas of our lives, including our physical and mental health, education, employment and relationships. The children have all talked about and engaged with activities linked to creating the feeling that we belong, empowering us to contribute to the world and make a real difference.

Tuesday saw us acknowledge Safer Internet Day 2026. Everyone is talking about AI, and with many children and young people hearing about and using AI online, it is important they have the skills and confidence to make safe choices when they are using smart technology. Safer Internet Day explored the impact of AI on all of our lives, looking at how AI can be used for good, and giving advice and guidance that empowers people to use AI safely and responsibly. At the start of the week, William, Patrick, Chloe and James, our Digital Leaders and School Ambassadors delivered an inspiring assembly about online safety. They explained what AI is and gave us some top tips for how to use it safely. They also shared with us how realistic AI can make images and the dangers that this can cause.

I sincerely hope that the rain relents over half term and enables everyone to get outside and enjoy some time in the fresh air. We have an INSET day on the first day after half term which means the first day back in school for the children will be Tuesday 24th February. I look forward to seeing you all then.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 23rd February

INSET day – school CLOSED to children

Tuesday 24th February

Children return to school

Monday 2nd March

National Offer Day – secondary school (Year 6)

Year 4 swimming

Year R Vision & Hearing screening

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

Monday 16th March

Year 4 swimming

Thursday 19th March

Class photos

w/c Monday 23rd March

Last week of school clubs for Term 4

Achievers of the Term

Year	Name
R	Carter P
1	Aaliyah
2	Isla R
3	Dylan
4	Ayla
5	Thomas
6	Alessio Jimmy

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	94.8%
Year 1	96.7%
Year 2	96.2%
Year 3	91.8%
Year 4	95.6%
Year 5	92.3%
Year 6	91.5%

Whole School Attendance

93.8%

Yearly attendance to date:

94.6%

The children in Year 1 have the highest attendance this week



Well done Year 1!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	99.1%
Year 1	99.2%
Year 2	99%
Year 3	96.1%
Year 4	94.1%
Year 5	99.1%
Year 6	99.1%

Well done Year 1 – 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.

Safer Internet Day this year was on Tuesday 10th February with the theme 'Smart tech, safe choices - Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'. The link below is to some top tips for parents and carers from the UK Safer Internet Centre. <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-parents-and-ca...>