



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



NEWSLETTER 6th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We were treated to a wonderful class assembly from Lime Class yesterday, sharing their learning from across the wider curriculum. Much of their work linked to the text 'Iggy Peck, Architect' and there were some wonderful towers and paper sculptures on display. Equally important was the exploration of vocabulary around feelings and being able to put words to the emotions that we feel. Even as adults this is something that we can sometimes find hard!

Many thanks to everyone who enabled the Film Night to take place after school last Friday. The hot dogs and popcorn went down a treat, and the children certainly seemed to find it a good way to end the week.

This week we have linked up with Teach Kent and Sussex and hosted a number of trainee teachers gaining experience of different sectors of education as part of their teacher training. Four secondary trainees have been experiencing aspects of life in a primary school as a way of understanding the foundational knowledge that children acquire that equips them to be successful when they transition into KS3. Similarly, eight primary trainees have spent time in the McGinty Speech and Language SRP to consider the specialist approaches and adaptations that take place in a setting dealing with complex Special Educational Needs. I know that all the trainees gained valuable insights during their time with us, and huge thanks to the West Malling staff and children for enabling the visits to take place.

Wednesday next week is our End of Term Service. Normally, this would be held in the church and would be open to all parents to come and join us. However, the boiler in the church remains broken and there is therefore no heating. Although we experienced this at Christmas, the nature of church buildings means that over time it has lost the little residual heat it had and is now exceptionally cold. The February service is not quite the same as Harvest or Christmas, and is not one where all classes and children 'perform'. **Therefore, on this occasion, we shall be holding the service in school which means we shall only have space for the parents of the Learners of the Term to attend.** I apologise for this but am sure that you will understand our rationale for wanting to make sure the children remain warm when the weather is so awful at the moment.

Finally this week, please could I draw your attention to the Coffee Morning being held in school on Monday. This is being hosted by Mrs Hawken (SENCO) and Mrs White (Families and Community Manager) and is a chance for interested parents to come and have an informal conversation about additional needs in general, and more specifically about the Zones of Regulation approach that we use in school.

Very best wishes for the weekend.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 9th February

SEND coffee morning – please see flyer sent with this newsletter

Year 4 swimming

Wednesday 11th February

Our usual end of term service will take place in school due to the ongoing heating issues in church. **The service will be for the parents of Achiever of the Term nominations only**

Reading Club is CANCELLED today

Thursday 12th February

Oak Class Romans workshop – see letter (paper copy) sent home on 16/1/26

Friday 13th February

Last day of Term 3

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 Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Amelia	For her fantastic reading
Year 1	Whole class	For their fabulous class assembly
Year 2	Sidney	For his fantastic hockey skills
Year 3	Sophia	For the kindness she shows to everyone
Year 4	Jacob	For his outstanding work in English
Year 5	Ramalee	For settling so well
Year 6	Ethan	For his perseverance & then mastery of short division

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	94.3%
Year 1	93.3%
Year 2	96.2%
Year 3	93.3%
Year 4	93.1%
Year 5	96.7%
Year 6	92.4%

Whole School Attendance

94.1%

Yearly attendance to date:

94.6%

The children in Year 5 have the highest attendance this week



Well done Year 5!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	95.7%
Year 1	96.4%
Year 2	97.1%
Year 3	95.2%
Year 4	94.4%
Year 5	98.8%
Year 6	98.8%

Well done Years 5 & 6 – 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.

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week. This week aims to support young minds, encourage open conversations, and promote healthy habits. The theme for 2026 is 'This is My Place' with the aim of supporting the systems around children and young people to help them feel they belong. There is lots of information and resources available for families on the Place2Be website: <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>