



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



NEWSLETTER 30th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

With very little sunshine outside, I thought it would be nice this week to share a little happiness with news of what some of the children have been up to in the classroom.

Many of you will have seen Chestnut children arriving dressed up on Wednesday as they took part in 'Superhero Day' in connection with the theme for their learning this term. The class have been looking at the text 'Super Millie and the Super School Day' – a wonderful book where Millie realises that although she does not have superpowers, she can be super-kind and super-brave. Our Chestnut children followed Millie's example when tackling the super-obstacle outside, and when making super-wristbands and super-badges inside. The day finished with lots of superhero games and dancing with kindness definitely being the overall winner for the day.

The children from Chestnut have also been enjoying our new Orchard area in the centre of school. It is a lovely place to sit and relax with a book or an iPad. When we have wet lunch breaks Year 6 and their Chestnut buddies are really enjoying spending time in there together, and Mrs White's lunchtime club on a Tuesday and Thursday is always popular with a lovely vibe.

I think Year 6 will have welcomed those opportunities this week as they have been working hard undertaking a series of practice tests in preparation for their SATs, which will come round later this year. All of them have focused well and approached the week with positivity, letting their lights shine, with children from both Ash and the McGinty SRP showing resilience and determination despite a few nerves.

That resilience has perhaps been discussed during the wellbeing week of activities that the McGinty children have experienced. They have produced colour expression artworks, considered how mistakes contribute to making progress, concentrated on giving compliments and ended the week with a wellbeing walk playing nature bingo in Macey's Meadow!

There is a great deal of enthusiastic learning taking place in Oak Class at the moment as the children continue to develop their knowledge and expertise in all things Roman. I know how much they are all enjoying their history from the facts I keep being told, and there is lots of excitement building for the Roman day coming up in a fortnight's time at the end of term. Similarly, that enthusiasm has been seen in Willow Class too, where the children have been extremely creative (and gruesome!) when designing their own monster that Beowulf will have to battle. They have thought really hard about how to describe their monsters using Anglo-Saxon kennings ready to write the next chapter of their story. Meanwhile in Mulberry, the children have been thoroughly enjoying designing their own stop-frame animation sketches. They have been taking on the role of director, creating characters and carefully planning each scene as they prepare to film their animations.

With so much learning going on, I think we all need a rest this weekend!

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 2nd February

Year 4 swimming

Dance Club not running today

Thursday 5th February

Year 1 assembly at 9am - parents are invited to come along and share in the children's learning

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**

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

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Lilly Belle	For her perseverance with her learning
Year 1	Eben	For his independence
Year 2	Esme	For persevering with her maths
Year 3	Olivia	For living out our school values
Year 4	Fleur	For living out our school values
Year 5	Teslim	For his positive attitude towards his learning this week
Year 6	Whole class	For their positive attitude towards their SATs practice this week

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	97%
Year 1	97.1%
Year 2	97.6%
Year 3	93.6%
Year 4	94.7%
Year 5	95%
Year 6	90%

Whole School Attendance

94.6%

Yearly attendance to date:

94.7%

The children in Year 2 have the highest attendance this week



Well done Year 2!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	93.9%
Year 1	96.2%
Year 2	99%
Year 3	94.5%
Year 4	92.5%
Year 5	98.7%
Year 6	98.2%

Well done Year 2 – 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.

Today is Parent Mental Health Day, founded by stem4 in 2022. The day was created to raise awareness of the vital link between parents' and carers' mental health and the wellbeing of the whole family. While today is an important moment in the calendar, the challenges parents and carers face are year-round. The website below is a hub for practical tools, expert advice, and support to help you look after your own mental health and support the young people in your care, every day of the year.

<https://stem4.org.uk/pmhd/>