



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



NEWSLETTER 23rd January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

And still it rains! With the forecast appearing similarly bleak for next week, please could I encourage all parents to ensure children have a coat in school so that they can stay warm and dry when outside at break and lunchtime.

After school clubs restarted this week, and it has been lovely to have the buzz of activity after school each day with various activities taking place. I am currently not sure I feel quite so enthusiastic about squelching around on the field playing football tonight, but I am sure we shall have a good time! On that note, please could I make two requests of children/parents.

- Please could children ensure they have the appropriate kit for their clubs. If the club is outside, then it is important that children do not just have shorts and a t-shirt!
- If a child is unable to attend a club on a particular occasion, please could the child tell the adult running the club in person, or a message be sent through to the school office. This enables us to keep our registers up to date and ensure we are aware of where children are.

The next formal opportunity for parents to come into school, look at children's work and talk to class teachers will take place after half term in Term 4. We shall let you know the date as soon as it has been confirmed. However, please remember that learning is a partnership between home and school and we greatly value parent support. If you wish to discuss your child's progress at any point, then please do approach the class teacher at the end of the day and ask if you can arrange a time to speak to them. That parent/school relationship is something that I prize very highly.

Finally this week, I would like to mention our Young Worship Leaders in school. This group is very excited to be taking part in the Key Stage 2 Archbishops' Young Leaders Award this year. The Award aims to equip young people to 'be the change they want to see' in their local communities, and through a number of interactive lessons and practical challenges our Young Worship Leaders will be involved in serving their community and making a difference. Good luck to all of them as they undertake the programme.

Very best wishes for the weekend.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 26th January

Year 4 swimming

Friday 30th January

Year 6 Film Night - see letter (paper copy) sent home on 12/1/26

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

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	Carter W	For trying really hard
Year 1	Darcie	For trying hard with her reading & maths learning
Year 2	Lillybelle	For her great ideas in English
Year 3	Henry	For trying hard in maths
Year 4	Finley Caleb	For independent learning For some amazing learning & being a great friend
Year 5	Lilly	For showing great perseverance
Year 6	Samuel	For his passion in geography

Kings Hill F.C – Under 11 Hurricanes

Kings Hill Football Club are looking to recruit players for their under 11 girls Hurricanes team (girls in Years 5 & 6). For further details contact Jack on 07748318841.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	96.1%
Year 1	89.5%
Year 2	96.2%
Year 3	96.1%
Year 4	91.6%
Year 5	99.3%
Year 6	87.3%

Whole School Attendance

93.6%

Yearly attendance to date:

94.7%

The children in Year 5 have been in every day this week



Well done Year 5!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	97.4%
Year 1	98%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	96.4%
Year 4	92.5%
Year 5	99.3%
Year 6	96.4%

Well done Year 2 – you arrived on time every day 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.

The Festival of Sleep Day takes place on 3rd January every year to emphasise the importance of good sleep after the hectic holiday season. Tips for better sleep include creating a restful environment and establishing a calming bedtime routine. Research has shown the impact of using mobile phones and devices to be detrimental to a good night's sleep. Support, advice and guidance is available at <https://www.sussex.ics.nhs.uk/your-care/healthy-living/sleep-support/>