



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



NEWSLETTER 16th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Having survived the icy return to school, this week we have been subjected to a deluge of rain, with lakes appearing on the playground like never before. I do not think I have ever known as wet a start to the school year as this. Year 4 began their series of swimming sessions at Larkfield on Monday afternoon, but perhaps we could have held the session outside here! Currently, the forecast for next week seems drier, if not brighter, so I am keeping everything crossed that we can get everyone outside far more than we have achieved this week.

Tuesday this week saw us host our final Open Morning of the 'season'. Once again, the Year 6 School Ambassadors did a wonderful job standing up and talking about our school to the audience, before showing them round. It was a privilege to stand watching and listening, thinking about how much they have grown in the time they have spent with us. I always get caught out at about this time every year, when I realise that we only have another six months with this group of children before they make their transition to the next stage of their education.

The period after Christmas is often tricky from a financial point of view. Citizens Advice have helpful advice and contact information on their website, which I would draw attention to for anyone that may be struggling to manage their finances. Worries are always much easier to deal with when they are shared. There is also a specific service for new or soon-to-be parents.

<https://citizensadvicenwk.org.uk/local-advice-and-support/debt-advice/>

Citizens Advice Bureau's Money and Perinatal Mental Health Service

This is for new parents or soon-to-be parents in Kent who are struggling with money and mental health. It is free confidential and impartial money advice and support to help people take control of their finances. A dedicated specialist advisor provides support to:

- Deal with any debt (including help to secure write-off debts)
- Manage money better
- Identify and claim new benefits
- Improve mental health and well-being and more

To get help now, email referral@nwkent.cab.org.uk

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 19th January

Year 4 swimming

School clubs begin today

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 – details to follow

Year 4 swimming

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Charlene	For her perseverance with her writing
Year 1	Emilia	For settling in well and for her confidence
Year 2	Evan-Rhys	For extending his ideas
Year 3	Sienna	For perseverance in maths
Year 4	Micaiah	For settling well
Year 5	Jimmy	For effort this week
Year 6	Alissa	For her determination to be the best that she can be

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	95.7%
Year 1	97%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	94.8%
Year 4	97.2%
Year 5	96.6%
Year 6	94.2%

Whole School Attendance

96.3%

Yearly attendance to date:

94.7%

The children in Year 2 have been in every day this week



Well done Year 2!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	94%
Year 1	94%
Year 2	94.3%
Year 3	95.2%
Year 4	92.5%
Year 5	95.9%
Year 6	98.8%

Well done Year 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.

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/>