



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



NEWSLETTER 9th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and I hope everyone was able to enjoy a wonderful Christmas with lots of fun and laughter. It would seem that the 2026 weather has been sent to try us, as with freezing temperatures and now pouring rain, it does make me wonder what we have in store next! Please do make sure that all children have a coat in school every day this term to enable us to get outside as much as we can.

Next Tuesday 13th January is our final Open Morning of the year. Applications to start in Reception in September 2026 close on 15th January, so next Tuesday is the last chance for people to have a look round if they are yet to apply. If you know of anyone locally who has a child who will turn five between 1st September 2026 and 31st August 2027, then please mention the Open Morning to them so they can come along and see us in action.

In case you missed the important information regarding next year's term dates in the previous newsletter I thought it would be worthwhile repeating it this week. The Tenax Schools Trust has worked with its schools to set slightly different term dates for the 2026-2027 academic year. For the first time, this will see us have a two-week break in October 2026. The hope is that this will support the wellbeing of both children and staff. Term dates for children are therefore as follows:

Term 1: Tuesday 1st September 2026 to Friday 16th October 2026
Term 2: Monday 2nd November 2026 to Friday 18th December 2026
Term 3: Monday 4th January 2027 to Friday 12th February 2027
Term 4: Monday 22nd February 2027 to Thursday 25th March 2027
Term 5: Monday 12th April 2027 to Friday 28th May 2027
Term 6: Monday 7th June 2027 to Thursday 22nd July 2027

Our INSET days, when the school will be closed to pupils for staff training, fall outside of these dates, with the exception of **Friday 25th September**. Please make a note that the school will be closed to pupils on this date.

Best wishes for the weekend – and let us all hope we can stay warm and dry!

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 12th January

Year 4 begin swimming lessons

Tuesday 13th January

Final Open Morning, 9.30am to 11am, for September 2026
Reception class admissions. Places available to book via the school office

Thursday 15th January

Change to the published menu – please see flyer sent with this newsletter

Friday 16th January

Places at clubs notified to be notified to parents late afternoon

Monday 19th January

Year 4 swimming

School clubs begin today

Monday 26th January

Year 4 swimming

Monday 2nd February

Year 4 swimming

Thursday 5th February

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

Monday 9th February

Year 4 swimming

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Sienna-Mai	For her fantastic effort with her writing
Year 1	Mia	For settling in well and trying really hard
Year 2	Grace	For her brilliant ideas
Year 3	Albana	For her brilliant writing
Year 4	Maya	For always being kind and helpful
Year 5	Darcey	For demonstrating outstanding behaviours this week in all lessons
Year 6	Jimmy	For his lovely manners and helpful attitude

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	95.2%
Year 1	95%
Year 2	95.7%
Year 3	93.3%
Year 4	96.3%
Year 5	88.9%
Year 6	93.9%

Whole School Attendance

93.9%

Yearly attendance to date:

94.6%

The children in Year 4 have the highest attendance this week



Well done Year 4!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	95.6%
Year 1	96%
Year 2	99%
Year 3	97%
Year 4	91%
Year 5	96.6%
Year 6	97%

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.

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/>