



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



NEWSLETTER 12th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is now firmly Christmas central in school! KS1 treated us to a wonderful Nativity at the start of the week. As I said to the audience of parents on both Monday and Tuesday, I always feel as though the school Nativity marks the start of Christmas. As well as the wonderful singing and acting, performances such as these are so valuable for building confidence in children. While there are some who love performing, it takes a great deal of courage for others to step foot on the stage. What came across in all the performances was the sheer sense of enjoyment and enthusiasm from the children. This was clearly evident to the audience as well as I have received some lovely emails from parents this week congratulating the children. Thank you to those of you who thought to email in – it makes a real difference to everyone in school when parents have taken the time to email positive thoughts into school. My thanks also go out to the whole of the KS1 team for preparing the children so well to perform.

On Tuesday I then had the pleasure of joining KS1 for their trip to The Hazlitt Theatre in Maidstone to watch the pantomime. We all had a wonderful time, and watching the children's faces was magical. For many of our children this was their first experience of watching a live performance in a theatre and the whole experience was very special. Huge thanks to last year's PTFA for providing us with a significant contribution to keep the cost to parents as minimal as possible – and thanks to the whole parent community, as it was the sponsorship for the Colour Run that enabled us to subsidise the trip. KS2 can look forward to a special day next Tuesday when it is their turn – and I get to go again!

Cherry Class have come away from Christmas for the day today as they have experienced a Victorian school day as part of their learning in history. Before entering the classroom they underwent a nail inspection, and they have written with pen and ink and also used chalk and chalk boards. There has been lots of chanting to learn things by rote, along with traditional PE drills and Victorian playground games. There was even a visit from the Victorian Headmaster with the cane in his hand (though I am pleased to say it did not come into use)! Let us hope that Miss Brooks and Miss Penighetti revert back to their Miss Honey personas next week!

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Christmas Service at St Mary's Church next Wednesday 17th December, beginning as close to 9:15am as we can manage. The church should look very festive as this is also our Christmas jumper day. The children should still be wearing normal school uniform, just with the addition of a Christmas jumper. I have heard the children practising their singing and it promises to be a magical event with carols, Christmas readings, the presentation of Learners of the Term and also a surprise or two!

Best wishes for the weekend.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

w/c Monday 15th December

NO CLUBS RUNNING THIS WEEK

Tuesday 16th December

Key Stage 2 trip to the panto

Wednesday 17th December

Christmas jumper and lunch day

Service at St Mary's Church at 9.15am (approx.). All welcome to join us

Friday 19th December

Last day of Term 2

Monday 5th January 2026

Term 3 begins – children return to school

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

Monday 19th January

Year 4 swimming

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Carter	For fantastic effort in the Nativity
Year 1	Aaliyah-Rose	For her beautiful singing in the Nativity and good understanding in maths
Year 2	Whole class	For their wonderful performance in the Nativity
Year 3	Rafferty	For his kindness to others
Year 4	Hugo	For being a great role model
Year 5	Johnny	For always making the right choices
Year 6	George	For persevering with his handwriting and getting into the 100 Club

Food Bank

Please can I ask for a small donation to our school food bank..... we have limited stock, as all was given out before half term. I know we'll be needed before Christmas and would like to be ready!
Many thanks as always Jo xx

Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 17th December

Please note that **NO** jacket potatoes will be available - if your child usually chooses this option and does not want a Christmas lunch you **MUST** send them in with a packed lunch.

Children in Years 3 to 6 who usually pay for their meals should have sufficient credit in their Caterlink account to cover the cost (£3.05).

SlideAway – Silly Socks Day

We raised £105.50 for this small, local charity. Thank you for your support, Jo White, Families & Community Manager.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	92.1%
Year 1	96.8%
Year 2	95.2%
Year 3	94.2%
Year 4	90.6%
Year 5	96.6%
Year 6	87.3%

Whole School Attendance

92.9%

Yearly attendance to date:

94.9%

The children in Year 1 have the highest attendance this week



Well done Year 1!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	96.4%
Year 1	96.8%
Year 2	99%
Year 3	95.8%
Year 4	94.2%
Year 5	98.6%
Year 6	97.6%

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.

More and more children are given presents that connect them to the online world at Christmas. Whether it is a games console, smart toy, mobile phone or wearable device, it is important to understand how to keep children safe while they use internet connected devices. Help is available from www.nspcc.org.uk.