



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



NEWSLETTER 5th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today has been Silly Socks Day in school, with a variety of 'interesting' footwear on display! I have used it to break into my Christmas sock collection with the elf socks coming out today! Thank you for your donations, which will support the charity Slide Away. This is a special charity for us, which offers specialised support to all bereaved and grieving children and young people in Kent.

Thank you to Year 4 for a super class assembly yesterday morning. There was so much knowledge on display from a variety of subjects, made all the more meaningful by the interlinking of the curriculum. The Jews' desire for the Messiah, for example, is given added meaning in the context of their oppression at the time by the Roman Empire. The theme of 'freedom' in many different forms throughout the assembly was also very powerful.

The Christmas tree has gone up in the hall this week and school is feeling very Christmassy. You may have noticed a small table in the KS2 playground at the end of the day this week. Year 6 are selling wooden star decorations for £1.00 each with the idea that children take the star home to decorate and then bring it back into school to add to the Christmas tree. All proceeds are being split between Year 6's fundraising for their end-of-year leavers' trip and their charity for the year, Diabetes UK. All stars should be brought back into school by Friday 12th December.

The Christmas events step up a notch next week with the KS1 Nativity, entitled 'Knock Knock! The Nativity' being performed at 2:15pm on both Monday and Tuesday afternoon. If you are yet to get your tickets, then please do pop into the school office. KS1 are then jumping on the train on Wednesday to head to Maidstone to watch the pantomime 'Dick Whittington' ("Oh yes, we are!") which promises to be a fun-filled day for us all.

Advance notice that our Christmas Service at St Mary's Church is on 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 8th December

NO CLUBS RUNNING THIS WEEK

Monday 8th December

Final swimming session for Year 5

Monday 8th & Tuesday 9th December

Foundation and Key Stage 1 Nativity

Tuesday 9th December

Year R and 6 NCMP (height & weight)

Wednesday 10th December

Foundation & Key Stage 1 trip to the panto

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

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Albie	For his fantastic writing
Year 1	Freddie	For his effort and attitude to learning
Year 2	Arthur	For working hard
Year 3	Aurora	For her perseverance with her writing
Year 4	Whole class	For their fabulous assembly
Year 5	Harry	For being extremely focused this week
Year 6	Sienna	For her contributions in class

Silly Socks

If your child participated in Silly Socks Day in aid of SlideAway but forgot their £1 donation, could you please ensure this is brought to the school office on Monday. Every penny helps this very worthy bereavement charity. Thank you.

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).

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	95%
Year 1	92.1%
Year 2	94.8%
Year 3	94.2%
Year 4	92.3%
Year 5	96.6%
Year 6	90.6%

Whole School Attendance

93.6%

Yearly attendance to date:

95.1%

The children in Year 5 have the highest attendance this week



Well done Year 5!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	95.5%
Year 1	95.8%
Year 2	96.2%
Year 3	95.8%
Year 4	94.8%
Year 5	97.9%
Year 6	93.9%

Well done Year 5 – you were the most punctual again 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.

In keeping with our support for Slide Away, National Grief Awareness Week runs from Tuesday 2nd December to Monday 8th December 2025. It is marked on the same dates each year regardless of the day of the week. The theme for 2025 is 'Growing with Grief'. The aim is to highlight how grief is an ending in many ways, but can also be the beginning of something new. Grief is a deeply personal experience, but the following websites contain some useful support and links:

<https://www.thegoodgrieftrust.org/ngaw/> <https://www.macmillan.org.uk/cancer-awareness/grief-awareness-week>