



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



NEWSLETTER 28th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

When we return on Monday morning the first window on the advent calendars will have been opened and we really will be thinking about the festive season that lies ahead of us. I am sure that many of you, like me, will be putting the decorations up this weekend, and do please come along tomorrow for an extra dose of Christmas cheer at the school Christmas Fayre. This will run from 11:30am until 2:30pm with lots of fun stalls for you to try your hand at. It would be lovely to see as many of you there as possible.

We received an early dose of Christmas fun on Monday this week when we were visited by our friends from The Family Trust who shared their Christmas Show with us. This was a fun retelling of the Christmas Story which reminded us of the real reason for all our celebrations – something which we all try to keep in mind amid the excitement.

When I wrote last week, I was about to head off to a football tournament with a group of Year 5 and 6 boys. Although cold, thankfully the sun was shining and we enjoyed a great morning of sport. The boys really shone with their enthusiasm, determination and perseverance and were a real credit to themselves with the way they behaved throughout the festival. We played six games, winning one, drawing three and losing two, which meant we did not qualify for the semi-finals, but everyone should be very proud of their performances.

That was not the only physical activity taking place, as on Wednesday the PASS PE organisation led 'balanceability' sessions for Chestnut and Lime children using balance bikes. This is an annual session that works on children's balance and co-ordination, and more than anything, is just great fun! All the children had a great time whizzing round the playground.

Many of you have spoken to me in recent weeks about the continuing (and growing) issue of vehicles being parked outside school that are clearly linked with particular local businesses. There is growing frustration among parents, school and the Parish Council with the area being used as additional 'business parking' and causing significant disruption at both ends of the school day. There is no quick fix to the situation, but behind the scenes we are working closely with the Parish Council to develop a plan that will enable us to control the access to the road/car park and keep it exclusively available for parents dropping off and collecting before and after school, and for the cricket and football clubs when there are sessions and games on. I would urge all parents to remain patient for a little longer to assist us in getting these plans formalised and actioned.

Very best wishes for the first weekend of Advent.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Saturday 29th November

Christmas Fayre, 11.30am to 2.30pm

w/c 1st December

LAST WEEK OF SCHOOL CLUBS FOR TERM 2

Monday 1st December

Year 5 swimming

Thursday 4th December

Year 4 assembly at 9am - parents are invited to come along and share in the children's learning

Friday 5th December

Silly Socks Day for SlideAway bereavement charity – please see flyer sent with this newsletter

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 – please see overleaf for more details. Tickets available from **24th November**

Tuesday 9th December

Year R and 6 NCMP (height & weight)

Wednesday 10th December

Foundation & Key Stage 1 trip to the panto

Thursday 11th December

Deadline for ordering a Christmas lunch – please see overleaf for link to order

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	Thiago	For his contributions in class
Year 1	George	For his confidence & perseverance
Year 2	Pollyanna	For being ready to learn and her confidence in asking for help when needed
Year 3	Jacob	For his contributions in class all week
Year 4	Jack	For working hard and contributing well in lessons
Year 5	Aubree	For being an independent learner
Year 6	William	For always being ready to learn

Foundation and Key Stage 1 Nativity

The performances of '**Knock Knock! The Nativity**' will take place on Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th December at 2.15pm. Tickets will be restricted to a total of 2 per family and are available **to collect** from the school office.

If we have any extra capacity, we will notify parents closer to the performance dates.

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).

We would be grateful if you could complete this short questionnaire to enable the kitchen to order sufficient supplies:

<https://forms.office.com/e/VBvieQkwG2>

The questionnaire should be completed even if your child does not want a lunch. The deadline for responses is 11th December.

Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who supported us last week. We raised £282.80!

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	90.5%
Year 1	95.3%
Year 2	95.8%
Year 3	96.1%
Year 4	91.3%
Year 5	94.8%
Year 6	96.4%

Whole School Attendance

94.4%

Yearly attendance to date:

95.2%

The children in Year 6 have the highest attendance this week



Well done Year 6!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	97.3%
Year 1	93.7%
Year 2	98.1%
Year 3	96.4%
Year 4	95.5%
Year 5	98.6%
Year 6	96.4%

Well done Year 5 – 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.

As we enter the festive period we would appreciate any donations you are able to offer our school Food Bank, run by Jo White. Poverty, and the desire to ensure children enjoy Christmas, can make the period very stressful for many families. Any donations of non-perishable food or toiletries would be very gratefully received. Thank you.