



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



NEWSLETTER 21st November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Friday saw lots of spots and Pudsey ears in school as we came together to raise money for Children in Need. Thank you to everyone that donated, either in cash or online, as we were able to donate nearly £300 to a very worthy cause that supports so many small charities up and down the country. Many thanks also to Jo White for co-ordinating the activities during the day and the online fundraising page.

This week saw us hold Open Mornings on both Tuesday and Thursday for prospective Reception parents for next September. These were both very well attended and there were lots of positive comments about the learning environment, the calm and friendly atmosphere within the school and particularly the talk given by our Year 6 Ambassadors and the tours given by all Year 6 pupils. The Year 6s really did act as wonderful role models for the school. There is still one more Open Morning after Christmas on the 13th January, so please do mention this to anyone you know that has children who should be starting school in September. We want to share our wonderful school with as many people as possible!

Following on from last week's newsletter, there have been two further football tournaments this week. On Wednesday a mixed team spent the morning at Aylesford Secondary School, participating in an inclusive event aimed at children who enjoy sport, and football in particular, but who do not participate outside of school. We took part in a carousel of footballing activities, before playing a number of small-sided games against other schools. Everyone had a great time, and it was a fantastic opportunity to pull on the school kit and represent the school at an outside event.

This morning, a team of Year 5 and 6 boys headed to Aylesford Football Club to compete in a tournament – our fourth football festival in the last three weeks! Watch this space to find out how they got on in next week's newsletter.

Speaking of the cold weather, please could I remind you to ensure that children come to school with a coat. We like to get the children outside at both break and lunch whenever possible, even in light rain, so it is important they are dressed appropriately to enable them to stay dry and warm. Similarly, this is the season where colds, sniffles and sore throats start to emerge. We all suffer from these and having the ability to be resilient and power through is an important message for us as adults to pass on to our children. When children have a cold or sore throat, please continue to send them to school. We will always contact you if a child really is too unwell to be in, but coughs and runny noses are part of life that we just have to cope with! Research and statistics bear out that every day of primary school missed has a negative effect on a child's eventual outcomes and success at secondary school and beyond.

Very best wishes for the weekend.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 24th November

Year 5 swimming

Thursday 27th November

LAST day of Tennis Club for Term 2

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

Tuesday 16th December

Key Stage 2 trip to the panto

Wednesday 17th December

Christmas jumper and lunch day

Deadline for ordering a Christmas lunch is Thursday 11th December – please see overleaf for link to order

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	Ozzie	For his enthusiasm for his learning
Year 1	Madeleine	For her enthusiasm for her learning
Year 2	Rowenna	For her lovely writing
Year 3	Ada	For brilliant writing and perseverance in maths
Year 4	Freddie	For becoming more confident to join in with class activities
Year 5	Freddie	For pushing himself in his English this week
Year 6	Sophia	For her enthusiasm for her learning

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 will be available to collect from the school office from Monday 24th November.

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.

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	98.2%
Year 1	98.9%
Year 2	89.1%
Year 3	98.5%
Year 4	85.8%
Year 5	95.2%
Year 6	97%

Whole School Attendance

94.6%

Yearly attendance to date:

9534%

The children in Year 1 have the highest attendance this week



Well done Year 1!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	95.5%
Year 1	94.7%
Year 2	96.4%
Year 3	95.2%
Year 4	96.1%
Year 5	94.5%
Year 6	93.9%

Well done Year 2 – 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.

This week is UK Malnutrition Awareness Week. This was founded to raise awareness of undernutrition and dehydration in the UK. In 2024, 3.9 million children (26%) were classed as being in "absolute low income after housing costs". This is the highest level of child poverty since these Government records began in 1994/5. Jo White co-ordinates our own food bank here at school and if you would welcome some support with food then please do not hesitate to speak to either Jo or Mr Rye.