



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



NEWSLETTER 14th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We had a very moving Remembrance Service on Tuesday, led by our School Ambassadors and Castle Team Captains. The format we use follows that of a traditional Remembrance Service, including the reading of the West Malling roll of honour. I always find this part of the service especially powerful, listing the names of those who gave their lives in the two World Wars and ensuring that they are not forgotten.

We were also joined for the service by one of two visitors that have been in school this week. We frequently have professional visitors in school, looking at various aspects of the way we do things here at West Malling. This year, one of the jobs for our School Ambassadors in Year 6 is to greet any visitors and have a short conversation with them. All our Ambassadors have now had the opportunity to do this over the last couple of weeks, and it has had a profoundly positive impact on our visitors. It is a way of demonstrating that the school is built with the pupils at the front of our minds and also allows them to develop valuable 'informal' conversation skills. Thank you, Isaac, Luke, Bobby, Chloe, Alessio and James for doing such a good job!

As you are aware we are part of the Tenax Schools Trust, and our visitors this week were carrying out annual Trust reviews of our Safeguarding and Special Educational Needs provision. Both reviews were full of praise for the way we do things here, and the development of the teaching approaches and learning environment in order to use the latest scientific research to develop children's learning continues to have a positive impact. While we are confident in what we do, it is always good to have an external pair of eyes that can quality assure the work that is taking place.

The frequent rain means we must be in the football tournament time of year! Over the last week I have taken two teams to different festivals. At the end of last week, our girls' team took part in a tournament at Aylesford Football Club. We drew one game and lost the remaining, but all the girls had a great morning of football and relished the opportunity to play competitively against other schools. This week it was the turn of a mixed team from lower Key Stage 2. The majority of the team we took do not play football outside of school and we were up against some very tough opposition. However, the behaviour and attitude of the team was wonderful, and we all had a great time. The celebrations when Henry scored in the last game were worthy of World Cup winners! Well done to everyone who has represented the school so well, and keep your eyes peeled for further newsletters as there are more tournaments to come!

Final mention this week goes to Year 5 for their fantastic class assembly yesterday, themed around space. As well as sharing their scientific learning, the work on the text 'Hidden Figures', looking at racial discrimination, was very powerful. Well done, Willow – keep up the good work.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the West Malling light switch on in the town on Sunday afternoon.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Sunday 16th November

West Malling Christmas Lights switch on event

Monday 17th November

Year 5 swimming

Tuesday 18th & Thursday 20th November

Open Mornings, 9.30am to 11am, for September 2026

Reception class admissions. Places available to book via the school office

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 – further details to follow

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

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Mason	For engaging more with his peers
Year 1	Ruby	For her independence and engagement
Year 2	Ava	For being so kind and caring
Year 3	Cillian	For settling so well this week and participating in class discussions
Year 4	Maks	For the improvement in his English, great maths and always smiling!
Year 5	Benedict	For pushing himself in his learning
Year 6	Bobby Br	For his engagement in lessons and embracing his role as a School Ambassador

Children in Need

There's still time to donate. Please see our justgiving page - <https://www.justgiving.com/page/joanne-white-wmcep-9>

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.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	95.5%
Year 1	95.6%
Year 2	86.4%
Year 3	96.6%
Year 4	92.3%
Year 5	99%
Year 6	95.5%

Whole School Attendance

94.6%

Yearly attendance to date:

95.4%

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%
Year 2	99%
Year 3	97%
Year 4	95.5%
Year 5	98.6%
Year 6	94%

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.

This week has been National Anti-Bullying Week. The theme for 2025 is 'Power for Good', empowering children to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes. We want young people to use their Power for Good to speak out, support others, and build a world where kindness wins. Anti-Bullying Week is co-ordinated nationally by the Anti-Bullying Alliance and they have produced a free parent and carer pack which can be downloaded at the following address:

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2025/parents-and-carers>