



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



NEWSLETTER 7th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week saw a visit to the school from a member of the Rochester Diocesan Board of Education. Ruth Parnell came to have a look at how our school vision and values influence the way we work in school and was full of enthusiasm and praise for what she saw. As we walked around school, listened to some of the incredible singing in Mrs Cunningham's Hymn Practice, experienced the fantastic learning environment and watched the warmth of the relationships between both pupils and adults and pupils, the school vision came to life in front of us.

We have two school Open Mornings coming up at 9:30am on Tuesday 18th November and Thursday 20th November for prospective parents, who are considering West Malling as the school for their child's reception year. If you know of anyone with children who will start school in September, then please mention these dates to them, as we would like as many people as possible to see the West Malling difference first-hand for themselves.

Our attentions next week turn to Remembrance. Many of you may be attending Remembrance Services this Sunday, and our School Ambassadors and Castle Team Captains in Year 6 will be leading our own Remembrance Service on Tuesday 11th November. This will be held at 11:00am, enabling all children to participate in the two-minute silence and take note of this important annual event. I would like to personally thank one of our newest parents, Mrs Peek, who managed to succeed where I had failed, in persuading the Royal British Legion to provide us with poppies, and remembrance-themed accessories, for the children to purchase.

You will all know that parking is a regular theme in my newsletters, and I need to bring it to the forefront of people's minds once again. As we head towards the winter and the weather becomes colder and wetter, we often see more and more cars trying to park closer and closer to school. Please can I encourage parents not to do this, and to park further away from the school. There is often space on the roads away from the immediate vicinity of school, the Walking Bus operates regularly at both ends of the school day, and Ryarsh Lane car park is free from 2:45pm onwards as an alternative parking location.

Earlier this week there was an altercation when a parent collecting her child from the nursery at the top of the road was prevented from leaving by a number of cars that had parked inconsiderately on the yellow hatched area at the top of the drive. This is clearly marked "No Parking", and I would expect all parents to adhere to this. I cannot stress strongly enough that incidents such as this cause significant harm to the reputation of the school within the local community. I started this newsletter by repeating once again the positive views people have of our school when they spend any time in the building with us during the school day. I am sure you will therefore share my frustration when there are instances of parental behaviour that undermine all our efforts.

With best wishes for the weekend.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 10th November

Year 5 swimming

Tuesday 11th November

Remembrance Service in school (children only)

Thursday 13th November

Year 5 assembly at 9am - parents are invited to come along and share in the children's learning

Friday 14th November

Children in Need – see overleaf for details of our fundraising and where to donate

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

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

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Carter P	For his lovely engagement this week
Year 1	Primrose	For her enagement & explanations
Year 2	Octavia	For her fabulous phonics
Year 3	Seb	For his excellent work in maths
Year 4	Danny-Lee	For showing amazing focus and interest in his learning
Year 5	Rachel	For excellent work in English and science
Year 6	Sridhanya	For her contributions in class

Children in Need – Friday 14th November

We are coming together to support BBC Children in Need by participating in the "Challenge Yourself 2025" event. We will be dressing in our own clothes, donning Pudsey outfits, wearing ears and spots to raise awareness for a cause that is close to our hearts. Please help this worthy cause by donating to our justgiving page - <https://www.justgiving.com/page/joanne-white-wmcep-9>

With grateful thanks as always, Jo -Families & Community Manager

Foundation and Key Stage 1 Nativity

Advanced notice for those of you who may need to take time off work - 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	96.8%
Year 1	90%
Year 2	99.1%
Year 3	97.8%
Year 4	93.5%
Year 5	95.2%
Year 6	88.2%

Whole School Attendance

94.3%

Yearly attendance to date:

95.5%

The children in Year 2 have the highest attendance this week



Well done Year 2!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	98.2%
Year 1	97.8%
Year 2	96.4%
Year 3	95.6%
Year 4	96.1%
Year 5	99.3%
Year 6	95.8%

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 well as Remembrance, next week is also 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>