



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



NEWSLETTER 31st October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 2 and the lengthy run-up to the festive season. Mind you, with the West Malling village Christmas lights being turned on in two weeks' time on Sunday 16th November, our minds are going to be nudged that way very soon! I hope everyone managed to enjoy a good half term break despite the damp weather. Thank you all for your donations today in exchange for the children wearing their own clothes. All the bottles will be put into the bottle tombola at the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 29th November.

I would like to take the opportunity at the start of a new school term to talk about attendance once again. Regular attendance is proven to support children's attainment in school and support their character development within the school community. We are seeing a number of children missing sessions at school due to medical and dental appointments that have been booked during school time. We are also experiencing a number of children returning to school after a period of absence (which has been phoned/emailed in as illness) who then talk openly with their friends about the holiday they have just been on. I would therefore like to ask for your support with the following:

- There are 175 days each year when children are not at school. Please, wherever possible, could routine medical and dental appointments be booked during this time?
- One of our school values is 'trust' and we want children to understand the importance of being honest. Holidays should not be booked during school time, but if this is the case, please could we ask parents to be honest with us when they provide the reason for their children's absence?

At the end of last term, we said goodbye to Mrs Savage, who has supported children in both the main school and McGinty SRP in her role as a teaching assistant. We are incredibly grateful for her calm personality and contribution to the school and wish her all the very best of luck as she explores other interests & pursuits and spending more time with her family. Miss Hay, well-known to the children through her roles as a midday supervisor and after-school club leader with Premier Education, has joined our teaching assistant team for two days per week.

Please stay safe if you are out trick-or-treating tonight and ensure that you respect the wishes of those members of the community that do not want to get involved.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 3rd November

SEND Coffee Morning, 9am to 10am, school hall – please see flyer sent with this newsletter

Year 6 completing The Lancaster Model – letter sent home to parents on 16th October

Year 5 swimming

Thursday 6th October

Nature Explorers Club is **NOT** running today

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...

... Will return next week

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	99.5%
Year 1	96.7%
Year 2	98.1%
Year 3	92.5%
Year 4	93.9%
Year 5	92%
Year 6	91.8%

Whole School Attendance

94.4%

Yearly attendance to date:

95.6%

The children in Year R have the highest attendance again this week



Well done Year R!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	98.2%
Year 1	97.8%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	97.5%
Year 4	95.5%
Year 5	100%
Year 6	97.1%

Well done Year 2 – you arrived on time every day 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.

Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership has launched a campaign called 'Clear Minds, Safer Homes', an initiative developed to raise awareness of the risks associated with parental cannabis use. Cannabis use is often perceived as low-risk, but even casual use can impair parenting capacity, decision-making, and emotional availability, potentially putting children at risk. Attached is a link to an information leaflet for parents.

https://www.kscmp.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0013/220090/Clear-Minds-Safer-Homes-parent-leaflet...