



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



NEWSLETTER 17th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today has been DLD Awareness Day in school. Developmental Language Disorder is a hidden, but common, condition that affects 1 in 14 people causing difficulties understanding and using language for no known reason. Obviously, with the McGinty Speech and Language SRP being a key part of the school, this is something that is close to our hearts.

Developmental Language Disorder is diagnosed when children fail to acquire their own language for no obvious reason. This results in children who have difficulty understanding what people say to them, and struggle to articulate their ideas and feelings. Recent research has shown that, on average, 2 children in every class of 30 will experience DLD severe enough to hinder academic progress. The 2025 DLD Awareness Day theme is 'You can't see DLD.'

It was lovely to see so many of you in church on Wednesday for our Harvest Festival, and to celebrate our Achievers of the Term. Thank you for all the generous donations of food, which we transported up to church the following day to join the contributions that had already been placed up at the altar. As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, these will be shared between two local charities. Kenward Trust, in Yalding, offers residential rehabilitation for those with alcohol and drug addiction issues, as well as follow-on resettlement accommodation, to provide a safe home on the journey of recovery. The Pilsdon at Malling Community is a Christian-based community which seeks to provide an environment where people can rebuild their lives after experiencing a crisis, whether sudden or progressive.

A similar thank you goes out to those of you who came back after school yesterday for the first Parents' Consultations of the year. These are always important occasions that enable conversations to take place between the partnership of parents and teachers to help further the children's progress.

Please note that there is no INSET Day after half term, with Term 2 beginning on Monday 27th October. I hope everyone can enjoy a well-earned rest and break next week, and look forward to seeing you all again in a week's time.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 27th October

Term 2 begins – children return to school

Year 5 swimming

Friday 31st October

Non uniform day – the children are invited to wear their own clothes in return for a bottle donation to the tombola at the Christmas Lights event on Sunday 16th November

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

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 – further details of our fundraising will follow

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

Achievers of the Term

Year	Name
R	Elijah
1	Nevaeh Tommy
2	Isla-Mae
3	Evalyn
4	Henry Jack
5	Emma
6	Lottie

Year 6 BikeAbility Sign Up

This was sent home on 24th September and currently we have 13 of the 33 Year 6 pupils signed up to take part. Please action ASAP and at the latest by 18th November. Any questions speak to Jo, many thanks.

Hello Yellow for YoungMinds

We raised an impressive £285 last Friday thank you all for your support, Jo.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	96.8%
Year 1	91.1%
Year 2	92.4%
Year 3	92.3%
Year 4	91%
Year 5	91.7%
Year 6	93.2%

Whole School Attendance

92.6%

Yearly attendance to date:

95.8%

The children in Year R have the highest attendance this week



Well done Year R!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	96.4%
Year 1	98.7%
Year 2	97.1%
Year 3	98.1%
Year 4	98%
Year 5	99.3%
Year 6	96.5%

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.

Next week is National Adoption Week. Our Designated LAC Teacher in school is Mrs Hawken. Her role is to promote the educational achievement of Looked After Children and support them to realise their full potential. The term LAC refers to any child up to the age of 18 who has been in the care of the LA for more than 24 hours. This includes children in the care system, such as those living in a children's home, those in foster care and those living away from their parents. There are a number of useful websites with further information:

<https://family-action.org.uk/> <https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/factors-that-impact-mental-health/vulnerable-children/loo...>