



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



NEWSLETTER 10th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start the newsletter this week with a huge thank you to Mrs Friend for the time she spent in school earlier this week taking individual and sibling photos of the children. Very soon your child will be bringing home a QR code to enable you to preview the photos, along with further information about how to order prints and packs. Having seen her in action with the children, I am sure that you will all be thrilled with the final results.

On Tuesday this week we welcomed some visitors from the Tenax Schools Trust, who spent the day looking at the teaching of maths across the school. The children were very enthusiastic talking about the way they learn maths in school, and our visitors loved spending time in lessons and seeing maths in action. It is always a pleasure welcoming people to school and being able to share the teaching and learning that takes place within the four walls.

Today the school is a sea of yellow as we say "Hello Yellow" in support of Young Minds and World Mental Health Day. Thank you for your support in helping us show young people that they are not alone with their mental health. Right now, the world can be a tough place for children and young people to grow up in – and many are feeling the pressure. Your support today is helping Young Minds raise vital funds to show them that things can get better.

I hope you will join us next Wednesday 15th October at St Mary's Church for our Harvest Festival, beginning at roughly 9:15am. This is the first opportunity of the year for the whole community to come together in church. Each class will share a short item for us all – perhaps a poem or a song – and we shall celebrate the Achievers of Term 1 for each class.

As in previous years, we are supporting St. Mary's Church in collecting donations of non-perishable food that 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.

Thank you in advance for your generous support of these two charities. All donations of food can be brought into class on either Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.

With best wishes for the weekend,

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 13th October

Year 5 swimming

Wednesday 15th October

Harvest Festival service at St Mary's Church, 9.15am (approx.). All welcome to join us

Year 6 cake sale after school – all fundraising to their end of year trip and Diabetes UK

Thursday 16th October

Flu immunisation in school

Autumn Parents' Consultations after school – please see email message sent on 24/9/25 – appointment to be booked via your Arbor account. Please note that neither Signing Club nor Nature Explorers Club will be running

Friday 17th October

DLD Awareness Day – the children are invited to wear their own clothes but to include something purple and/ or yellow. No donations are required

Last day of Term 1

Monday 27th October

Term 2 begins – children return to school

Year 5 swimming

Monday 3rd November

Year 5 swimming

Monday 10th November

Year 5 swimming

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

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Charlie	For his enthusiasm for his phonics
Year 1	Owen	For his engagement and support for his peers
Year 2	Roma	For her engagement in class
Year 3	Alex	For excellent piece of writing in English
Year 4	Pashey	For excellent focus during English
Year 5	Jesse-Jack	For his contributions in all lessons
Year 6	Lance	For his excellent work in English

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.

SEND Parent Information Day – 16th October, 10am to 4pm

This free event offers:

- Practical workshops to support children with SEND
- Opportunities to speak with professionals from education, health, and charities
- Advice and resources for families navigating SEND services

Parents and carers can **book their free workshops** via the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/veetxmvsSq>

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	98.2%
Year 1	95.6%
Year 2	99.5%
Year 3	99%
Year 4	99.7%
Year 5	94.1%
Year 6	90%

Whole School Attendance

96.3%

Yearly attendance to date:

96.4%

The children in Year 4 have the highest attendance this week



Well done Year 4!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	99.1%
Year 1	98.9%
Year 2	98.1%
Year 3	96.1%
Year 4	99.3%
Year 5	99.3%
Year 6	95.3%

Well done Years 4 & 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.

Hopefully you have received and read the important message sent out earlier today concerning the popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the "Spy Dogs", "Spy Cats" and "Spy Pups" series. I would urge all parents to take note and follow the steps indicated in the bullet points at the end of this message.