



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



NEWSLETTER 3rd October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I write this week's newsletter it promises to be a damp end to the week, which is a shame after some lovely sunshine earlier on. Let us hope that we get at least a little bit of brightness across the weekend. On the subject of weather, we are now very much in the autumn season, but we try to get the children outside at morning break and lunchtime as much as possible. It is therefore important that all children bring a coat to school every day. This is England, which means just because the sun is shining in the morning, there is no guarantee it will remain so for the rest of the day!

You will all be very aware, I am sure, of the Government drive to improve school attendance, which has not yet reached pre-Covid levels. Attendance is a subject I mention relatively frequently in newsletters as it helps to keep it fresh and at the forefront of our minds. There is a significant bank of evidence linking strong school attendance at primary school with strong GCSE outcomes at secondary school. Conversely, children with poor attendance are far less likely to achieve well and are more likely to find jobs and careers more challenging. Children being consistently in school now, really does make a difference for later in life.

So, what do we mean by 'good' attendance? We obviously aim for children to be in school every day, but we do acknowledge that everyone gets ill from time to time. Our school target (which is the same for every child individually) is for children to be in school 95% of the time. Percentages can sometimes be misleading, as even this figure means a child is missing school for one hour every week. Put another way, you could go through your entire primary school life of seven years with an attendance of 95% and never ever be taught maths! When it is put like that, it suddenly becomes clear just how important school attendance is.

However, I would also like to take this opportunity to say, "Thank you," for your efforts as parents this year so far in getting your children to school. Our current whole school attendance figure for the year stands at 96.5%, which is above both our target and the current national average. Let us continue to work together to maintain this figure as we move through the year.

There are a number of interesting resources available online to support parents with getting children to school. A good 'hub' for these has been put together by the Children's Commissioner, so do have a browse using the link below, and of course, please feel free to talk with either Jo White (Families and Community Manager) or myself if you have any queries regarding attendance.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/back-into-school/resources-for-families/>

With best wishes for the weekend,

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 6th - Wednesday 8th October

Sibling (those in school not younger) & individual portraits being taken. **CHILDREN MUST WEAR THEIR SCHOOL UNIFORM ON THESE DAYS**

Monday 6th October

Year 5 swimming

Friday 10th October

Hello Yellow for Young Minds – please see letter sent with this newsletter for further details

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

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

Last day of Term 1

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Indiana	For her fantastic re-telling of our story
Year 1	Eben	For settling in well and trying really hard
Year 2	Alfie	For his enthusiasm for learning and lovely writing
Year 3	Josh Thomas	For his excellent English work and positive attitude
Year 4	Ava-Mae	For her independent learning
Year 5	Dari	For great use of previous knowledge in History
Year 6	Bobby Ba	For being proactive in his learning

Macmillan Cake Sale

We raised the amazing total of £221.50 – I am so pleased, proud and grateful for the wonderful support. Thanks, Jo x

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	96.4%
Year 1	100%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	94.8%
Year 4	98.7%
Year 5	89.7%
Year 6	96.5%

Whole School Attendance

96.2%

Yearly attendance to date:

96.5%

The children in Years 1 & 2 have been in school everyday this week



Well done Years 1 & 2!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	97.3%
Year 1	96.7%
Year 2	96.2%
Year 3	95.5%
Year 4	96%
Year 5	99.3%
Year 6	94.7%

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.

One of the Children's Commissioner's aims is for every child, no matter their background, to attend a fantastic school, every day, and to be engaged and ready to learn. School attendance is the main theme of my column in this week's newsletter, but the link below is to a helpful collection of resources for families.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/back-into-school/resources-for-families/>