



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



NEWSLETTER 26th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Back to normal newsletter service this week after I was unable to write my usual column last week, having accompanied Year 6 on their residential journey to the PGL site at Grosvenor Hall, near Ashford. We had a fantastic week together, despite getting drenched by torrential rain as soon as we arrived! The week is incredibly valuable for the children as they are faced by a number of challenges and develop in so many ways – whether that is through pushing themselves to climb higher than they thought they could, or simply through staying away from home for four nights. The children should all feel incredibly proud of their efforts, and hopefully they managed to catch up on some sleep across last weekend!

Enormous thanks to Miss Walker, Mrs Harris, Mrs Ray, Mrs Reeves, Mrs White, Mr White and Miss Crann for accompanying the children at various points during the week and supporting them the whole way. Opportunities like these would not happen without your dedication and commitment.

Almost as soon as this year's school journey has finished, we turn our attention to next year! It was great to be able to share information with Year 5 parents about next year's trip on Thursday evening and the follow-up letter and information will be sent home early next week. It was also lovely to see a group of Reception parents in school on Wednesday afternoon as Mrs Penfold led an information session about the EYFS curriculum. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Any parents who have been into school this week have had a sneak preview of our new library area, with the majority of the furniture having been delivered and installed at the end of last week. The area is not quite finished yet, with extra touches still to be added, but already it looks wonderful, and both children and staff are enjoying working in the space. You will all get a chance to see it very soon when you come into school for the first Parents' Consultations of the year, which will be held from 3:20-8:00 on Thursday 16th October. This year we have decided to run one long session, with the aim of supporting families who have fed back that they would welcome the opportunity of a later time slot.

Finally this week, there is an opportunity for girls in Years 5 and 6 to get involved with some winter cricket coaching being offered by Town Malling Cricket Club on the field opposite school. Two qualified coaches and two girls from the ladies' team will be running softball coaching sessions for 6-8 weeks, beginning this Saturday 27th September, however if this is too soon, girls are welcome to join in subsequent weeks. There is no cost involved, and the sessions run from 10:30-12:00 each Saturday morning. The only request is that parents/guardians remain close to the field for the duration of the sessions. For further information, please contact Abbi Vallance on 07773681677.

With best wishes for the weekend,

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 29th September

Year 5 swimming

Meeting for Ash Class parents/ carers at 6pm regarding the process for applying for secondary school places. Please see email message sent on 22/9/25

Thursday 2nd October

Change to the published menu – please see menu sent with this newsletter

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. 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	Phoebe	For always being eager to learn
Year 1	Liam	For trying really hard with his learning
Year 2	Benjamin	For his lovely writing
Year 3	Grace	For her amazing contributions in class discussions
Year 4	Shivansh	For being kind & caring and living out our school values
Year 5	Adesire	For being an all round superstar!
Year 6	Chloe	For her mature attitude to learning

Caterlink – Lunch Accounts (for parents who pay for their child's meals)

Please note: the cost of a hot mid-day meal increased to £3.05 from 1st September.

Squirrels Section, 1st West Malling Scout Group

There are vacancies in the Squirrels section at 1st West Malling Scout Group for children aged between 4-6 years starting in January 2025 and for the terms ahead. The children must be aged 4 years to attend.

Please email justjo-westmallingscouts@hotmail.com for further information.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	100%
Year 1	100%
Year 2	99%
Year 3	93.8%
Year 4	97.3%
Year 5	93.4%
Year 6	92.9%

Whole School Attendance

96.1%

Yearly attendance to date:

96.5%

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



Well done Years R & 1!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	99.1%
Year 1	98.9%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	98.1%
Year 4	96.6%
Year 5	99.3%
Year 6	98.2%

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.

Childhood infections, like measles and whooping cough, are rising across the country with several places reporting outbreaks. Measles is an infection that spreads very easily and can cause serious problems in some people. Having the MMR vaccine is the best way to prevent it and not infect others. Please check your child's Red Book or contact your GP practice to see if they are up to date. Children will need both doses of the MMR vaccine to be fully protected. New dates for community clinics where Kent and Medway under-19s can catch up on their vaccinations, including MMR, are now available.

Visit the [Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust website](https://www.kent.nhs.uk/) to find out more and book an appointment.