



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



NEWSLETTER 27th June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was Year 5's turn to head out this week, spending the day on Wednesday at Hemsley Conservation Centre. This is a small zoo and wildlife centre in Fairseat that offers visitors the chance to see some of the world's most endangered and least understood species. The children had a wonderful time and were so engaged in all the activities. They listened to a number of keeper talks, saw the otters get fed (their favourite activity) and had hi-fives with the squirrel monkeys (through the glass) – a brilliant day!

On Monday afternoon, Mrs White and Mrs Gibbons took a team of eight girls to a local netball tournament. The girls played incredibly well in the warm weather with wonderfully clean passing, and the improvement in their game since last year was clear for all to see. They ultimately finished a very creditable 11th out of 18 teams and were perhaps a little disappointed, but they should all be very proud of their performances – certainly Mrs White and Mrs Gibbons were.

We were treated to a wonderful class assembly from Year 2 on Thursday morning as they shared their learning from the term with their parents and the rest of the school. These assemblies are my favourite ones of the year as the children's pride in their work radiates across the hall. As always, there was so much content and depth to what they shared, much of it linked to environmental concerns brought up in their study of the text 'We Are Water Protectors'. With David Attenborough a personal hero of mine, and about to celebrate his 99th birthday, I hope that an understanding of the importance of caring for the natural world is something that all of our children are able to take away with them from West Malling when they leave.

Mention of leaving brings me neatly on to Year 6. In the final few weeks of their time with us they have been finding out more about a number of different careers, with parents kindly giving up their time to come and talk to the children about their own professions. Huge thanks to the parents who have assisted with this as I know how interesting and eye-opening the children have all found it. This week also saw the class undertake the first of two 'Money Matters' workshops, led by the Family Trust. These provide an invaluable opportunity to explore the world of money and finance, and concepts like saving and budgeting that are only too familiar to us as adults! I know the children are looking forward to the second session which will take place in the final week of term.

I am writing this letter ahead of the Colour Run which is taking place this afternoon. The weather seems set fair and I am sure we shall have a fantastic afternoon outside, having lots of fun, but also raising a significant amount of money for the PTFA.

Cont/ over

WHAT'S ON?

w/c Monday 30th June

ALL CLUBS END THIS WEEK

Monday 30th June

Year 3 swimming

Tuesday 1st July

Lime Class trip to Eagle Heights

Kingswood meeting for Year 5 parents/ carers at 6pm in Ash classroom

Wednesday 2nd July

Year 3 trip to the London Eye

Thursday 3rd July

New Chestnut Class transition afternoon, 1.15pm to 2.30pm (second half of class)

w/c Monday 7th July

NO CLUBS THIS WEEK

Monday 7th July

Year 3 swimming

Tuesday 8th July

Year 5/6 performances of 'Twist!', 1.15pm and 6.30pm. Tickets available from the office

Thursday 10th July

Final transition session for new Chestnut Class children, 9.30am to 11.30am

Whole school 'moving up' morning

Friday 11th July

Year 6 activity day

Annual reports to go home today

w/c Monday 14th July

NO CLUBS THIS WEEK

Monday 14th July

Last swimming session for Year 3

Year 6 rail safety workshop delivered by Network Rail

Thursday 17th July

Year 4 trip to watch 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' at The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury

Enormous thanks to Charman Morris for organising the event, and for all the volunteers who are giving up time this afternoon to marshall the course and throw the paint powder. So far, the total raised stands at £1,515, but I dare say by the time you are reading this it will have crept up even higher. Thank you all so much for your generosity.

Very best wishes for a warm and sunny weekend.

Mr Rye

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Owen	For his amazing story writing
Year 1	Ava	For her thoughtful responses
Year 2	Sophia	For her brilliant maths
	Savannah	For thinking about what she's writing
Year 3	Shivansh	For his enthusiasm for our Topic and his positive attitude to his learning
Year 4	Lily	For her lovely independent writing
Year 5	Betsy	For her excellent writing and effort in everything she does
Year 6	Harry	For his growing confidence

Netball

Do you, or someone you know, have an interest in Netball and would be interested in helping Jo White to run the after school club next academic year? This might also be suitable for a current Year 11/12 secondary school student who is taking Sports at Sixth Form. Please contact Jo if you're able to help. Thank you.

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

We are reminding an increasing number of parents to top-up the balance on their child's lunch account. Please ensure that accounts are always in credit. Caterlink operate a 'no debt' policy; if you do not have any credit please send your child in with a packed lunch.

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

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	92.8%
Year 1	99.5%
Year 2	93%
Year 3	91.9%
Year 4	97.2%
Year 5	90.3%
Year 6	92.3%

Whole School Attendance

93.6%

Yearly attendance to date:

94.3%

The children in Year 1 have the highest attendance again this week



Well done Year 1!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	96.7%
Year 1	99%
Year 2	96.4%
Year 3	96.3%
Year 4	97.2%
Year 5	97%
Year 6	98%

Well done Year 1 – 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.

This summer will see millions of people across the UK enjoying themselves at major events such as music festivals, sporting events and bank holidays. Unfortunately, these events and venues can be attractive targets for antisocial behaviour. The police are encouraging the public to trust their instincts and report anything that does not feel right to the police or security. We all have a role to play in keeping each other safe.

Report concerning antisocial behaviour at <https://www.gov.uk/how-report-antisocial-behaviour>