



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



NEWSLETTER 16th May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Congratulations to our Year 6 children, who this week have punctuated, read, calculated and problem-solved with as much determination as they could manage. I am immensely proud of each and every one of you for the way you have tackled the SATs tests this week. From the initial nerves on Monday morning, through the inevitable challenging questions that have cropped up, you have all remained positive and shown amazing focus in every test. Perseverance is one of our school values, and there could not have been more of it on show this week. I know the results of your efforts will be good, but what matters to me more than anything is that you all did your best – no test result can ever change what an incredible group of young people you are.

During the afternoons this week, once the days' tests have been completed, Year 6 have been working on a variety of business enterprise activities. Having costed out materials and ingredients to think about what their profits might be, they are selling their produce after school next Tuesday 20th May. The rest of the school will be visiting the Enterprise Market during the afternoon, but from 2:45pm parents are also welcome to spend a few pounds and purchase any remaining items if they wish.

Recently, Mrs Holman, Mrs White and I met with our School Attendance Officer – the person from the Local Authority tasked with supporting schools with their attendance. School attendance is something that really matters. The curriculum in all subjects is sequenced and organised in such a way that missing odd sessions here and there really does impact on children's learning.

Attendance percentages can often be somewhat misleading. Achieving 90% in an exam would be an amazing result. However, a school attendance figure of 90% is the equivalent of missing a morning of school every single week! Even a figure of 95% is the equivalent of missing an hour of learning each week. Put another way, a child could have an attendance of 95% and never be taught a single history lesson – ever! There is a large bank of statistical evidence that highlights children with a primary school attendance of less than 95% find secondary school far more challenging. This effect has an even greater negative impact on their results at secondary school if the attendance is lower than 90%. Moments matter, attendance counts.

Good luck to the Year 5 and 6 boys who are giving up their Saturday morning to represent the school at the Tonbridge and Malling District Schools' Football Tournament tomorrow. Let us hope that the sun continues to shine and enables us to have an enjoyable morning of sport.

Very best wishes for the weekend.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 19th May

Willow Class trip to the British Museum

Change to the published menu – dessert will now be fresh fruit

Year 3 swimming

Wednesday 21st May

Service at St Mary's Church, 9.15 (approx.) start. All welcome to join us

Friday 23rd May

Last day of Term 5

Monday 2nd June

Term 6 begins – children return to school

Year 3 swimming

Tuesday 3rd June

Information Evening at 6pm in Willow classroom for Year 5 parents/ carers regarding the Kent Test for transfer to secondary school September 2026

Monday 9th June

Year 3 swimming

Tuesday 10th June

Meeting for new Chestnut (September '25) parents at 6pm

Friday 13th June

Father's Day Breakfast – details to follow

Monday 16th June

Kent Fire & Rescue sessions – all classes

Year 3 swimming

Tuesday 17th June

Sports Day – details to follow in due course

Thursday 19th June

Year 6 Rail Safety workshops – pm

Friday 20th June

Year 6 to the Church Schools Festival, Rochester Cathedral

Monday 23rd June

Year 3 swimming

Tuesday 24th June

Reserve Sports Day

Thursday 26th June

Year 2 assembly at 9am - parents are invited to come along and share in the children's learning

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Leo	For being really engaged with our topic
Year 1	Pollyanna	For her confidence and brilliant writing
Year 2	Isla	For her enthusiasm for learning
Year 3	Isla	For her fantastic understanding of time
Year 4	Rachel	For her independence this week and working incredibly hard on her writing
Year 5	Kate	For effort and achievement
Year 6	Ava	For her positive attitude

Your Walking Bus Needs You!

Could you help 'conduct' the Walking Bus on Friday mornings? We need a volunteer from September or sooner if you can. Please contact Jo White via the school office or at jwhite@west-malling.kent.sch.uk

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	90.5%
Year 1	97.1%
Year 2	95.2%
Year 3	97.4%
Year 4	95.7%
Year 5	93.8%
Year 6	97.7%

Whole School Attendance

95.5%

Yearly attendance to date:

94.3%

The children in Year 6 have the highest attendance this week



Well done Year 6!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	96.8%
Year 1	99%
Year 2	96.4%
Year 3	95.3%
Year 4	96.7%
Year 5	97.6%
Year 6	99.3%

Well done Year 6 – 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.

Home broadband is increasingly essential for supporting learning. Households receiving benefits such as Universal Credit could be eligible for discounted social tariffs, helping them stay connected at lower costs.

For more information, please visit [Ofcom's website](https://www.ofcom.gov.uk).