



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



NEWSLETTER 9th May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

There has been something of a celebratory feel in school towards the end of this week. Yesterday Chestnut Class shared their learning with their parents and the wider school community in their class assembly. Early Years classrooms are very special places where magic happens. In those 11 months between September and July a whole new world is opened to our children. Letters and words start to have meaning – meaning that they can start to read, and also communicate by writing – and children are exposed to new knowledge of the world around them on a daily basis. This joy and wonder came across beautifully yesterday morning and I know both how hard the Chestnut team are working and what a wonderful year the children are having.

Nationwide there have been events to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day. As we lose the generation that took an active part in the Second World War, it is more important than ever that we remember the events that took place and use these to inspire us to work towards them never taking place again. The children have looked fantastic in red, white and blue today, and I know they have enjoyed finding out more about VE Day, and what it meant, during the course of the week.

Next week sees our Year 6 children tackle their end of Key Stage 2 assessments, commonly known as SATs. They will be undertaking assessments in English grammar, punctuation and spelling, English reading and maths. There are no tests for English writing or science at the end of KS2 as these subjects are reported as a teacher assessment judgement. The children have all worked incredibly hard, not just during Year 6, but throughout their time at West Malling, and I know they will all give their best.

Sitting tests causes the calmest of us to worry, so here are Mr Rye's top tips for parents to help the children over this weekend and during next week!

- Let them relax.
- Try and get outside and be active.
- Be supportive.
- Do not add to any pressure they are feeling – all any of us can do is our best.
- Try to get a good night's sleep and...
- Enjoy a good breakfast!

Of course, we can help with the last one as I am already looking forward to our Year 6 SATs week breakfast club and joining the children for a bacon or sausage sandwich each morning! It really does help get each day off to a positive start and my thanks go out in advance to those staff who are coming in early to help cook, serve and clear away.

Very best wishes for the weekend.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 12th – Thursday 15th May

Year 6 SATs week

Monday 12th May

Year 3 swimming

Thursday 15th May

Change to the published menu – '**Treat Day**' please see flyer sent with this newsletter

Monday 19th May

Willow Class trip to the British Museum

Year 3 swimming

Wednesday 21st May

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

Last day of Term 5

Monday 2nd June

Term 6 begins – children return to school

Year 3 swimming

Monday 9th June

Year 3 swimming

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	Whole Class	For their amazing confidence in their assembly
Year 1	Rowenna	For her brilliant writing and creativity
Year 2	Pixie Sienna	For persevering with her learning For amazing maths
Year 3	Teddy	For his investigation skills in science
Year 4	Harry	For resilience and perseverance in English
Year 5	George	For his super organisation, presentation and being totally focused in all of his learning
Year 6	Phoebe	For her creative writing

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

Perform Drama Workshops

Free Trial Session and £40 discount at Perform!
Popular children's drama and dance school Perform is offering a [free trial session](#) and a **special introductory discount of £40 for members of West Malling CE Primary School** if they sign up by Wednesday 14th May 2025. Parents should quote WESX140525 when they book their free session by going to perform.org.uk/try or calling 020 7255 9120. You can find out more about the classes at perform.org.uk/try.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	90.1%
Year 1	95.2%
Year 2	98.1%
Year 3	98.1%
Year 4	97.9%
Year 5	89.7%
Year 6	92.5%

Whole School Attendance

94.7%

Yearly attendance to date:

94.2%

The children in Years 2 & 3 have the highest attendance this week



Well done Years 2 & 3!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	100%
Year 1	98.8%
Year 2	94.7%
Year 3	96.3%
Year 4	96.7%
Year 5	97.1%
Year 6	98.3%

Well done Year R – 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.

It is important to look after yourself during SATs. You might be feeling worried about your SATs, how you will feel during the test and if you will be able to answer the questions. Some stress is normal and can help you do your best, but too much stress is not good for you. Follow the link below for some top tips to help:

<https://www.startingwell.org.uk/looking-after-yourself-during-sats>