



West Malling Church of England Primary School and The McGinty SRP



NEWSLETTER 22nd May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to begin this week's newsletter by sharing some early staffing news in connection with next academic year. I am very pleased to announce that Mrs Emily Reeves has been successful in gaining a position as Assistant Head of Inclusion at Ryarsh Primary School and will therefore be leaving West Malling at the end of this academic year. This is a well-deserved reward for Mrs Reeves, who has been a key member of the West Malling family for the whole of her teaching career over the past 14 years, including serving as a Staff Governor/Local Committee Member. Having worked in the McGinty Speech and Language SRP and undertaken the NPQ SENCO qualification, the move is absolutely the right one for her at this stage in her career, and I am certain she will contribute her significant experience to the growth of her new setting.

There will also be further change in late September as we shall bid a temporary farewell to Mrs Clara Cunningham as she will begin her maternity leave ahead of the birth of her first child. We shall see Mrs Cunningham for a short while at the start of next year, but on behalf of the whole school community I would like to take this opportunity to wish Mrs Cunningham and her husband well as they prepare for their new arrival.

The staffing structure for 2026-2027 is currently being worked on to take account of these changes as we set the budget for the next academic year, with the aim of ensuring we are able to maintain the greatest degree of continuity and highest quality of education possible for the children in both the main school and SRP. I shall, of course, provide further information about next year's staffing as we move through Term 6.

I promised last week that I would update you all on our performance at the Tonbridge and Malling District Boys' Football Tournament which was held at Rusthall Football Club last Friday. Despite playing some really good football, we finished the group stage with a record of won 1, drawn 1, lost 1, which meant we narrowly failed to qualify for the knock-out stages.

The team had an almost immediate opportunity to go again, however, as yesterday saw the annual Oakwood Park Grammar School summer tournament. With the addition of Darcey to the ranks, the team played brilliantly all morning, winning 3 of our group games, drawing 2 and only losing 1, seeing us qualify comfortably for the quarter-finals. Unfortunately, we were subject to a questionable refereeing decision resulting in a penalty in that game, which saw us lose the game 1-0. The team should feel very proud of their efforts in both tournaments, with excellent teamwork and sportsmanship on display throughout. Well done to Patrick, George, Samuel, Darcey, Daniel, William, Sonny and James.

I hope the weather forecast proves correct and everyone is able to get outside and enjoy a sun-filled half term with friends and family. I look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 1st June.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 1st June

Term 6 begins – children return to school

Year 3 swimming

Tuesday 2nd June

Information Evening at 6pm in Willow classroom for Year 5 parents/ carers regarding the Kent Test for transfer to secondary school September 2027

Wednesday 3rd June

Year 3 and Year 5 trip to Hemsley Conservation Centre

Choir Club and Mathletics/ TTRS are **cancelled** today

Monday 8th June

Year 3 swimming

Tuesday 9th June

Meeting for new Chestnut (September '26) parents at 6pm

Monday 15th June

Year 3 swimming

Wednesday 17th June

Year 6 trip to Rochester Cathedral for the Church Schools Festival

Monday 22nd June

Year 3 swimming

Tuesday 23rd June

Sports Day – more details nearer the time

Thursday 25th June

Year 3 assembly at 9am - parents are invited to come along and share in the children's learning

Tuesday 30th June

Reserve Sports Day (in case of inclement weather on 23/6)

Achievers of the Term

Year	Name
R	Ozzie
1	Liam
2	William
3	Ada
4	Finley
5	Darcey Rosie
6	Sonny

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

We continue to remind 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.

West Kent Mind

One of our Year 6 pupils and his family are raising money for West Kent Mind during Mental Health Week - West Kent Mind do amazing work for those facing challenges with their mental health. In January alone, West Kent Mind received almost 30 referrals of young people needing support. Early support can change a child's life, help them feel heard, understood and supported before difficulties become overwhelming.

Your support for Move For Mental Health week will make a huge difference. Thank you for any thing you're able to donate.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/scott-burns-1776331077516>

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	91.3%
Year 1	92.7%
Year 2	98.1%
Year 3	92.7%
Year 4	92.5%
Year 5	96.3%
Year 6	90%

Whole School Attendance

93.2%

Yearly attendance to date:

94.7%

The children in Year 2 have the highest attendance this week



Well done Year 2!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	95.8%
Year 1	99.1%
Year 2	99%
Year 3	96.4%
Year 4	93.1%
Year 5	98.1%
Year 6	99.4%

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.

Originally created for Autism Awareness Month, Childnet have published new guidance for parents and carers of autistic young people, with strategies to help you support them whilst they are navigating online spaces.

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/supporting-autistic-young-people-online/>