



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



NEWSLETTER 14th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Since Christmas, Mrs Hawken and Mrs White have held two coffee mornings in school aimed at parents of children who have SEND. These have been well-attended and well-received, both as a useful source of information and an opportunity for parents to meet and discuss a whole range of issues. We have arranged two further meetings which are targeted at specific audiences as a way of trying to support parents with particular challenges.

- Monday 31st March from 9:00am – 10:00am
Coffee morning specifically for parents of children in Years 5 and 6 who have an EHCP. This meeting will be attended by an Educational Psychologist with a focus on transition to secondary school.
- Thursday 12th June from 7:00pm – 8:30pm
A virtual workshop for parents of all Year 6 children run by the Specialist Teaching and Learning Service talking about secondary transition. The link for this meeting will be sent out closer to the time.

Yesterday Year 6 headed up to London to visit the London Archives, stepping into the role of history detectives to investigate the inquiry question: How did the Government keep Londoners safe during WWII? As part of the workshop, they explored different wartime safety measures, including images of air raid shelters, rationing and evacuees. They also examined a fascinating artefact - a map showing the most damaged areas in London - and explore the accompanying exhibit. Their enthusiasm, curiosity and behaviour were outstanding! This experience will support their upcoming work on the novel Resist by Tom Palmer, helping them connect historical resistance with WW2 London and beyond - key themes that will be explored in their new Literacy Tree text.

This week we have welcomed seven trainee teachers to experience various aspects of school as part of their training. As you know, our school is part of the Tenax Schools Trust. The teacher training arm of this umbrella is known as Teach Kent and Sussex and as a school we both host trainee teachers for the entire duration of their training, as well as supporting with experience days.

Teach Kent and Sussex are partnered with Ambition Institute to provide teacher training in our schools. The programme of classroom-based teacher training allows people the opportunity to take the next step in their career by training to become a qualified teacher. Scan the QR code below to find out more about shaping futures, including yours, today. You can also email contact@teachkentandsussex.org.uk to ask any questions and find out more.



Very best wishes for the weekend.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 17th March

Year 4 swimming

Last Fun Fitness Club and Dance Club for Term 4

Wednesday 19th March

Last Choir Club for Term 4

Friday 21st March

Red Nose Day – the children are invited to wear their own brightly coloured clothes and to get involved in our lunchtime activities. Details of our Just Giving page are overleaf

Last KS1 Sports Club and Football Club for Term 4

Year 6 Fun Night – please see flyer sent home via email on 13th March. **Children must be accompanied by an adult**

Monday 24th March

INSET day – school closed

w/c Tuesday 25th March

Last week of clubs for Term 4 (no Choir, KS1 Sports or Football which all finished last week)

Tuesday 25th & Wednesday 26th March

PTFA Mother's Day Tea – please see flyer sent with this newsletter

Thursday 27th March

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

w/c Monday 31st March

NO CLUBS RUNNING THIS WEEK

Monday 31st March

Last swimming sessions for Year 4

Tuesday 1st April

Year R Hearing and Vision screening

Wednesday 2nd April

Church service at St Mary's at 9.15am (approx.). Parents welcome to join us

Friday 4th April

Last day of Term 4

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Ezmai	For her fantastic reading
Year 1	Isla-Mae	For her confidence and brilliant independent work
Year 2	Pippa	For her lovely writing
Year 3	Pashey	For her amazing RE work
Year 4	Sebastian	For working incredibly hard
Year 5	Sonny	For his amazing maths
Year 6	Lily	For her excellent contributions

Walking Bus – We Need You!

We need a volunteer to walk with the morning bus, potentially on a Tuesday, each week. Please let the Office or Jo White know if you can help. Thank you!

Red Nose Day - Friday 21st March

The children are invited to wear their own brightly coloured clothes into school for an online donation. There will also be some lunchtime activities for the children to enjoy.

Our Just Giving page for online donations can be found here:

<https://click.contact.justgiving.com/>

Netball Club (Years 3 to 6)

We are looking for 6 children to join Netball Club which runs from 3pm to 4pm on Tuesdays. If your child would like to join please speak to Jo White or the school office. P.E kit required!

Understanding Emotional Regulation – Friday 21st March

Please see flyer sent with this newsletter

Class Photographs

Photographs are ready to view using the QR code on your proof card. If you have already scanned the QR code on the Proof and registered, you will receive an auto email notification.

If you have not done it yet, please don't panic, you can still view by scanning the QR code on your Proof and following the instructions.

The order cut-off for free delivery to school is **Thursday 20th March**.

REMINDER: there are children in school whose image **MUST NOT** be used online. If you decide to purchase a class photograph, please **DO NOT** post a copy of the image on any social media platform. Thank you for your support.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	97.9%
Year 1	95.9%
Year 2	97.9%
Year 3	94.2%
Year 4	96.7%
Year 5	94.7%
Year 6	95.7%

Whole School Attendance

96.1%

Yearly attendance to date:

94.1%

The children in Years R & 2 have the been in school the most this week.



Well done Years R & 2!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	95.8%
Year 1	99.1%
Year 2	97%
Year 3	95.4%
Year 4	98%
Year 5	94.1%
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.

There are many educational benefits for children when learning and exploring with water, but it is important we also consider any potential safety risks alongside this. Research published by the Royal Life Saving Society UK reports that children under the age of five are most at risk of drowning. The statistics tell us that one child a month drowns at home in England. A new campaign, Splash Safely at Your Pad, has been designed to help children and families enjoy water play safely at home.

<https://www.rlss.org.uk/listing/category/splash-safety-at-your-pad>