



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



NEWSLETTER 28th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of Term 4. I hope everyone was able to blow away a few cobwebs last week over half term, get outside and enjoy at least a small amount of fresh air when the weather allowed.

It has been a very positive start to the new term, coming straight back to the busyness of school. Many members of Year 6 have been out and about on their bikes this week as they undertake their Bikeability training. This training comes in two parts. Initially the children remain on the school site, learning about their bikes, how to ride properly and safely, maintaining control and being aware of things around them. Having negotiated this, they move onto the roads to learn how to cycle safely, without putting themselves, or others, in danger. All the children demonstrated excellent listening skills during the training, enabling them to put their learning into practice to develop their ability to ride safely on the road. Congratulations to everyone who took part, and thanks to the trainers for their hard work across the week.

As our Year 6s have been cycling in the roads near school, I would like to use this opportunity to remind parents once again about the importance of driving and parking considerately. The morning Walking Bus operates every morning from Tesco car park, and I have worked hard with local council leaders to negotiate a period of grace in the Ryarsh Lane car park to enable parents to park there for free from 2:45pm to enable children to be collected at the end of the day. These measures are in place to remove the need for parents to park in the immediate vicinity of school. Once again, please could I urge parents not to drive down the approach road to the school gates as this gets congested and blocked so easily. Similarly, parents should **NOT** block the drives of local residents, use their driveways to turn vehicles or allow their children to play in them before and after school. Many thanks for your co-operation.

During worship on Thursday, we welcomed Reverend Ollie back to school. Rev Ollie spent a period of time in school last year experiencing life in a church school, and he has now joined the Kent Downs and Malling Team as an associate minister. This means he will be leading the majority of Sunday services at St Mary's and also leading our collective worship in school on Thursdays. It was lovely to see him again and we look forward to getting to know him better as we see more of him. Do make sure you say hello to him if you see him around West Malling during the week or over the weekend.

Finally, a reminder that next Thursday 6th March is World Book Day. Separate communication has been sent about this, but do not forget that the Scholastic Book Fair will be open in the school hall from 3:00-3:30 from Monday to Thursday next week – a perfect opportunity to pick up a bargain or two!

Very best wishes for the first official weekend of spring.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 3rd – Thursday 6th March

Book Fair after school in the hall

Monday 3rd March

Year 4 swimming

National Offer Day – Secondary Schools (Year 6)

Tuesday 4th March

Bags 2 School collection – please ensure bags are left in the bike shed by 9am

Magistrate's Talk – Year 6

Wednesday 5th March

Year 2 trip to Kent Life

Computing Club will NOT be running today

Thursday 6th March

World Book Day

Friday 7th March

Football Club is **CANCELLED** today

Monday 10th March

SEND Coffee Morning in the school hall, 9am to 10am.

Please see flyer sent with this newsletter for further details

Year 4 swimming

Thursday 13th March

Year 6 trip to the London Archives – **please ensure children arrive at school at 8.20am**

Monday 17th March

Year 4 swimming

Monday 24th March

INSET day – school closed

Achievers of the Week...Will return next week

Class Photographs

The class photographs were taken today, and your child should have a slip with a QR code on it. Please follow the instructions to register and you will be emailed notification once their photograph is ready to view.

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.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	92.1%
Year 1	95.5%
Year 2	98.8%
Year 3	99.2%
Year 4	95.3%
Year 5	95.3%
Year 6	93.3%

Whole School Attendance

95.8%

Yearly attendance to date:

94%

The children in Year 3 have the been in school the most this week.



Well done Year 3!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	95.8%
Year 1	99.1%
Year 2	97.6%
Year 3	96.9%
Year 4	98.7%
Year 5	96.5%
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.

Emotional literacy refers to the ability to recognise, understand and express our feelings effectively. It plays a crucial role in strengthening a child's wellbeing by enhancing their relationships and resilience. However, emotional literacy is not necessarily an innate talent, and its development may present challenges. The guide accompanying this newsletter gives parents practical tips on supporting children to cultivate this essential skill.