



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



NEWSLETTER 14th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I think all of us are ready for a break after what seems to have been a very cold, dark term! I suspect that January and February are always like this, but there do seem to have been very few bright, crisp winter days this year. Let us hope we get some sunshine during the week's break so that we are all able to get outside and enjoy the fresh air.

Our Digital Leaders and Prefects kick-started this week by delivering a fantastic worship for us linked to Safer Internet Day 2025. Online Safety is covered in every class as part of the curriculum. However, this annual day enables a particular focus on an aspect of the online world. The theme this year was 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online.' Just as one example of the work taking place, I know that Year 6 had some great discussions looking at different scenarios and deciding whether they were a potential scam or not. I frequently post interesting information and links about aspects of online safety at the end of the newsletter in the 'Safeguarding' section, so do take a look at the resources which are linked to such an important area.

Although today is Valentine's Day, we celebrated our End of Term Service themed around 'love' in church on Wednesday. It was lovely to see so many of you in church, enjoying the children's varied contributions. Congratulations once again to the Learners of the Term who received their certificates during the Service.

Today has seen some incredible and amazing footwear in school as we have been enjoying 'Silly Sock Day' in support of the charity Slide Away. Slide Away's vision is for every child in Kent to have access to bereavement support which acknowledges their grief and experience of loss following the death of a relative or friend. Slide Away offers support to children and young people in Kent who have been bereaved of a family member or friend and those who have a parent or sibling with a life-limiting illness. Thank you to you all for your generous donations in support of this special charity.

I hope you all have a good week and I look forward to seeing everyone again when the children return to school on Monday 24th February.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 24th February

Term 4 begins – children return to school

Year 4 swimming

Tuesday 25th – Friday 28th February

BikeAbility for Year 6 children who signed-up. Details sent home on 6th February with those children participating

Friday 28th February

Class photographs

Monday 3rd – Thursday 6th March

Book Fair after school – more details to follow

Monday 3rd March

Year 4 swimming

National Offer Day – Secondary Schools (Year 6)

Tuesday 4th March

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 – more details to follow

Monday 10th March

Year 4 swimming

Monday 17th March

Year 4 swimming

Achievers of the Term

YEAR	NAME
Year R	Aaliyah-Rose
Year 1	Benjamin
Year 2	Josh-Thomas
Year 3	Maya
Year 4	Thomas Layla Francesca
Year 5	Sienna
Year 6	Brooke

Understanding Autism: For Extended Family Members – 25th February

This is an introductory session aimed at grandparents, uncles, aunts and other extended family members, who want to better understand the autistic young people in their lives.

Including the following topics:

- What is autism?
 - o Overview of the Diagnostic Criteria
 - o Autistic Spectrum
- Masking
- Female Underdiagnosis
- Different Stress / Trauma Responses
- How you can help – the young person
- How you can help – the parents
- Common co-occurring conditions

The session is designed and delivered by Space 2 Be Me Family Support Officers who specialise in supporting parents of children with additional needs including autism, ADHD and PDA.

See flyer sent with the newsletter for further details.

School Uniform

School Trends are offering parents 15% discount until 24th February – use code **LOVE-ST** to claim your discount!

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	86.3%
Year 1	93.9%
Year 2	98.5%
Year 3	96.5%
Year 4	90.9%
Year 5	91.2%
Year 6	93.3%

Whole School Attendance

93.3%

Yearly attendance to date:

93.9%

The children in Year 2 have the been in school the most again this week.



Well done Year 2!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	97.9%
Year 1	99.1%
Year 2	97%
Year 3	96.2%
Year 4	99.3%
Year 5	99.4%
Year 6	97.3%

Well done Year 5 – 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.

Last week was Children's Mental Health Week with the theme of 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'. Place2Be want to equip and empower children, and the adults who surround them, to embrace self-awareness and explore what it means to them. They have created a series of fun and engaging resources for families, parents and carers.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>