



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



NEWSLETTER 7th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy week in school with this week nationally being 'Children's Mental Health Week'. This year the theme explored has been 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself', encouraging children to be able to express their emotions. This continues to develop the work I mentioned several weeks ago that we have been doing around the Zones of Regulation and the linked information that was sent home for parents. All classes have carried out a variety of activities across the week, exploring the importance of self-awareness and expressing emotions, developing understanding that getting to know who they are can help them build resilience, grow and develop. I hope you have been keeping track of some of the learning taking place via the school's Facebook page.

Yesterday morning we were treated to a super class assembly by Lime Class, sharing the learning that has been taking place this term in Year 1. So many different areas of the curriculum were covered, and it was wonderful to hear the children talk so enthusiastically about their new knowledge. When aspects of learning link together it makes it much easier for the brain to make connections between them and therefore remember them. One example of this was with the appearance of mysterious eggs in the classroom which led to work around which animals might have been responsible. This was followed by the children designing their own eggs and creating the fantasy animals who may have laid them. My favourite has to be the 'Milky Way Galaxy Space Angel!' Another well done to everyone in Year 1.

Key Stage 2 have finished this week with two art days. If your children are in Years 3, 4, 5 or 6 then do make a point of asking them what they have been up to. I was lucky enough to start Year 6's work off for them yesterday morning when we looked at the work of the Mexican artist Diego Rivera. He is famous for painting large murals inspired by the designs of the Maya civilisation and the children explored some of the features of Mayan art and experimented with different painting effects that could be created by using natural materials. The Maya each had a spirit companion who supposedly imbued the person with a particular set of personality traits. After choosing the spirit companion that the children felt suited them best, they were beginning to create a design based on the Mayan symbol for their spirit. I am looking forward to seeing how the finished pictures turn out at the end of the project.

Looking ahead to next week, all classes will be carrying out some online safety work to coincide with Safer Internet Day on Tuesday. This will be kicked off by our Digital Leaders delivering an assembly to the rest of the school on Monday. We shall also all be in church on Wednesday morning for our end-of-term service, beginning at 9:15am, where we shall celebrate the Learners of Term 3 from each class. I hope that many of you are able to join us.

Very best wishes for the weekend.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 10th February

Year 4 swimming

Wednesday 12th February

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

Friday 14th February

Silly Socks Day – the children are invited to wear their silliest socks (with school uniform) in return for a donation to the bereavement charity, Slide Away. Suggested donation £1

Last Day of Term 3

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 Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Leo	For his engagement with his phonics
Year 1	Whole class	For their amazing class assembly
Year 2	Aurora	For her brilliant ideas in English
Year 3	Jordan	For his creativeness and drawing skills in PHSE & art
Year 4	Jesse-Jack	For his amazing poetry
Year 5	Lottie	For working well with others and her gymnastics skills
Year 6	Lulu	For trying hard this week

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.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	96.3%
Year 1	90.9%
Year 2	99.4%
Year 3	94.6%
Year 4	92.8%
Year 5	96.2%
Year 6	96%

Whole School Attendance

95.4%

Yearly attendance to date:

93.9%

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



Well done Year 2!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	97.9%
Year 1	98.3%
Year 2	97%
Year 3	93.8%
Year 4	98.6%
Year 5	94.1%
Year 6	98%

Well done Year 4 – 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.

As mentioned in the main body of this newsletter, this week has been 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/>