



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



NEWSLETTER 31st January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to those parents who attended the SEND-themed coffee morning on Monday hosted by Mrs Hawken and Mrs White. It was a good opportunity to be able to come together and begin to share some of the experiences of being a parent of a child with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities. Interesting information was shared by the Educational Psychologist in attendance and ideas for future sessions were generated. The next coffee morning will take place in the hall on Monday 10th March. This will be a very informal session, just with Mrs Hawken and Mrs White and without the Educational Psychologist, with greater opportunities for parents to talk between themselves.

I would like to take the remainder of this week's newsletter to remind parents about a couple of the school's expectations. The first of these is around school uniform. Full details can be found on the school website on the following page: <https://www.west-malling.kent.sch.uk/school-uniform/> along with the Uniform Policy. To make uniform affordable, there is no requirement for jumpers and cardigans to have the school logo and royal blue versions are readily available in most major supermarkets. The affordability, however, should not compromise the ability of children to wear the correct uniform.

I would like to draw particular attention to the following:

- Footwear should be plain, black school shoes – **not boots or colourful trainers.**
- On PE days, PE kit should be worn to school. **Shorts or jogging bottoms should be black** and children may wear either their **school jumper or school zoodie.**

Please could I ask for parents' support in ensuring that children are wearing the correct uniform at all times.

Finally, please could I ask parents to ensure their children are appropriately supervised outside the school gates at the beginning of the school day. Recently, there have been instances of poor behaviour on the field opposite school where children have been unsupervised. The children represent the school, and I would expect them to display the school values in their behaviour towards one another. I am sure discussions in school will serve as a reminder of our expectations, but I would appreciate these messages being reinforced at home, and your assistance in ensuring children are supervised before school. In the immediate future there will also be a member of school staff present on the field for a short time before school.

Very best wishes for the weekend.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 3rd February

Year 4 swimming

Thursday 6th February

Year 1 assembly at 9am - parents are invited to come along and share in the children's learning

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. Further details to follow

Friday 28th February

Class photographs

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Darcie	For fantastic effort in her writing
Year 1	Grace	For good explanations and use of vocabulary in maths
Year 2	Aurora-Joan	For her engagement with her learning
Year 3	Pashey	For her fantastic work on length & perimeter
Year 4	Dari	For excellent writing in his English
Year 5	Whole Class	For their participation in Roman Day
	Ethan	For always letting his light shine but particularly being such a compassionate member of the class
Year 6	Leah	For her wonderful narrative writing

SEND Information, Advice and Guidance Show

1pm to 3.30pm, Thursday 6th February. For further information please see flyer sent with this newsletter.

Understanding Autism: For Extended Family Members

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	91.1%
Year 1	90.4%
Year 2	94.8%
Year 3	93.8%
Year 4	94.1%
Year 5	95.6%
Year 6	91.7%

Whole School Attendance

93.4%

Yearly attendance to date:

93.8%

The children in Year 5 have the been in school the most this week.



Well done Year 5!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	98.9%
Year 1	97.4%
Year 2	98.2%
Year 3	96.9%
Year 4	97.9%
Year 5	95.9%
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.

There is a large amount of content available online, so it can be challenging sifting through it and working out what is accurate and useful. Being a critical thinker doesn't mean rejecting all the information you find. Instead, it means pausing, thinking twice and not accepting the things you see and hear online immediately and at face value. There is some useful advice at:

<https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/reliability-online/>