



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



## NEWSLETTER 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

In last week's newsletter I wrote about the team of athletes in Years 3 and 4 who competed in a Sportshall Athletics event at Aylesford Secondary School. As promised, I can now reveal that the team finished in a fantastic third place and I was able to award them their bronze medals in worship this morning. On Wednesday of this week, it was the turn of a Year 6 team to compete. Once again, all the children showed huge amounts of determination and perseverance and excelled. The points for this event have already been tallied and we finished an excellent fourth out of a large number of schools. That means 36 children have represented the school in an athletics event over the last couple of weeks and every single one of them should be immensely proud of the way they have let their light shine.

There was further extra-curricular activity on Tuesday night as our choir headed off to The O2 for the Young Voices concert. This is a truly extraordinary event with a massed choir of children numbering in the thousands filling the O2 with their voices. I know the children had a night that will stay in their memories for a very long time, and that the parents who were able to attend loved every minute, despite the late return back to West Malling! Enormous thanks to the staff team that accompanied the children for the afternoon and evening to ensure the trip was a success.

Another example of going the extra mile to do things differently took place in school today when Year 4 went back in time to experience life as a Roman. The children immersed themselves in a variety of presentations and activities as they learnt about all aspects of Roman life across the day. Experiences like this really help the curriculum come alive and enable the children to see their learning as so much more than just words on a page. If you are a Year 4 parent, I am sure you will be hearing all about it over the weekend!

Hopefully you all saw the flyer that came out with last week's newsletter, inviting anyone interested to a parents' coffee morning next Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January with a focus on Special Educational Needs. The morning will run from 9:00-10:00 and be hosted by Mrs Hawken (our SENCO) and Mrs White (our Families and Community Manager). This is a great opportunity to meet other parents who may have similar experiences to you, and I know from personal experience how valuable it is to be able to talk to someone else who can empathise and knows how you are feeling. We shall also be joined by an Educational Psychologist, whose knowledge and experience we can tap into on the day.

Very best wishes for the weekend.

Mr Rye

### WHAT'S ON?

#### Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January

SEND Coffee Morning – see flyer sent with this newsletter  
Year 4 swimming

#### Monday 27<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January

Winter parents evenings – please refer to the message sent home, via Arbor email, on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January.

Appointments to be booked via the Arbor portal/app

**NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS WILL BE RUNNING ON EITHER DAY**

#### Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

Year 4 swimming

#### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February

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

#### Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February

Year 4 swimming

#### Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February

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

#### Friday 14<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> February

Term 4 begins – children return to school

Year 4 swimming

#### Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February

BikeAbility for Year 6 children who signed-up. Further details to follow

#### Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February

Class photographs

### Achievers of the Week

| YEAR   | NAME    | Commended for                                      |
|--------|---------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Year R | Flo     | For her high levels of engagement                  |
| Year 1 | Rowenna | For her confidence & great English learning        |
| Year 2 | Albana  | For persevering with her writing                   |
| Year 3 | Ayla    | For her fantastic story                            |
| Year 4 | -       | Participating in their Roman workshop              |
| Year 5 | Patrick | For his incredible contributions to class learning |
| Year 6 | Aleesha | For her powerful 'speech' writing                  |

### Food Bank

If circumstances mean you are in need of some support and wish to receive a bag from the food bank, please do not hesitate to talk to Jo, either in the playground or by popping into school.

### Free Trial Session and £40 discount at Perform

Popular children's drama and dance school Perform is offering a Free Trial Session and a **special introductory discount of £40 to our pupils** you sign up by Tuesday 13th May 2025. Parents should quote WESX130525 when they book their free session by going to [perform.org.uk/try](https://perform.org.uk/try) or calling 020 7255 9120.

You can find out more about the classes at [perform.org.uk/try](https://perform.org.uk/try).

Alternatively, pdf flyers can be downloaded from [here](#).

### SEND Information, Advice and Guidance Show

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

### ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

#### THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

| CLASS  | Attendance |
|--------|------------|
| Year R | 85.8%      |
| Year 1 | 84.8%      |
| Year 2 | 87%        |
| Year 3 | 91.9%      |
| Year 4 | 88.6%      |
| Year 5 | 91.5%      |
| Year 6 | 93.3%      |

#### Whole School Attendance

**89.3%**

#### Yearly attendance to date:

**93.8%**

The children in Year 6 have the been in school the most this week.



**Well done Year 6!**



#### PUNCTUALITY PANDA

| CLASS  | % Arrived on time |
|--------|-------------------|
| Year R | 96.8%             |
| Year 1 | 99.1%             |
| Year 2 | 97.6%             |
| Year 3 | 95.4%             |
| Year 4 | 97.9%             |
| Year 5 | 96.5%             |
| Year 6 | 96%               |

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.

Deepfakes are fake images, videos and audio that look and feel like real content. They usually feature the likeness of real people to make it seem like they are doing or saying something they have not. Deepfakes are created with the use of artificial intelligence (AI), but real people need to give the AI information to create these deepfakes. So, AI cannot create deepfakes by itself. Internet Matters have produced the following resources to share with children and families:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/what-is-a-deepfake/>

<https://www.flipsnack.com/internetmattersorg/real-or-deepfake-guide-for-young-people-internet-matters/full-view.html>