



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



NEWSLETTER 17th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As always January seems to be rushing by! We began this week with a morning of focus on our emotions and feelings, linked to our use of the Zones of Regulation. During this time pupils explored different feelings and emotions, considered which of the four coloured zones these feelings would link to and thought about strategies to help them get back to the green zone to ensure they are ready to learn. Throughout the school year we will continue to work with the Zones of Regulation and more information for parents can be found in the leaflet which will also be sent out today.

Yesterday afternoon a team of 18 athletes from Years 3 and 4 travelled to Aylesford Secondary School to participate in a Sportshall Athletics competition. Each child competed in two track and two field events, with everyone trying their best and displaying wonderful behaviour and sportsmanship. The event is one of my favourites in the sporting calendar for the sheer enthusiasm and enjoyment on the faces of all the children. We are currently all waiting in suspense, as analysing all the results to work out the final standings is a very complicated task and we will be notified of the final result at some point next week. Watch this space!

Keeping with the sporting theme, it is nice every once in a while to be able to acknowledge exceptional achievements that take place outside school:

- Betsy and Hettie (Years 5 & 2) have qualified for the Dance Inspirations Grand Finals which take place next weekend in Blackpool – the home of dance in the UK.
- James's (Year 5) football team are now the Junior Premier League winners for the whole of Kent and Essex, and travel to St George's Park (England's training ground) this weekend for the national final.

All three children carry the best wishes of everyone at West Malling with them when they compete at a national level in their respective competitions. What a way to let your light shine!

Best wishes for the weekend.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

w/c Monday 20th January

After school clubs begin – confirmation of places to be sent Friday 17th January (2.30pm-3pm)

Monday 20th January

Year 4 swimming

Tuesday 21st January

Young Voices concert at the O2 for choir members

Friday 24th January

Oak Class Roman workshop – children to dress as a Roman

Monday 27th January

SEND Coffee Morning – see flyer sent with this newsletter

Year 4 swimming

Monday 27th & Tuesday 28th January

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

Appointments to be booked via the Arbor portal/app

NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS WILL BE RUNNING ON EITHER DAY

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

Advanced notice:

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

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Ruby	For her fantastic reading
Year 1	Esme	For thoughtful responses
Year 2	Freya	For her amazing reading and ideas in English
Year 3	Ava-Mae	For her improved engagement in class
Year 4	Daniel	For perseverance and resilience
Year 5	Alissa	For her amazing maths
Year 6	Pippa	For being "ready to learn" all week

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.

Malling Sea Cadet Unit based at the Malling School

Malling Sea Cadets now have a junior section from 9-11 years. They are a disciplined youth organisation based on the traditions and values of the Royal Navy and undertake many activities which in turn give young people a head start in life. For more information click on the link below.

<https://www.sea-cadets.org>

They are always on the lookout for adult volunteers too. This is not just going into uniform and instructing, but many other support roles. Indeed, they are looking for a Stores Officer to account and look after their uniforms. For more information email:

cotmsseacadets@themallingschool.kent.sch.uk

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	93.7
Year 1	95.2
Year 2	90.9
Year 3	98.1
Year 4	89.7
Year 5	87.6
Year 6	90.2

Whole School Attendance

91.8%

Yearly attendance to date:

94.1%

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	100%
Year 1	97.4%
Year 2	97%
Year 3	95.4%
Year 4	97.2%
Year 5	97.2%
Year 6	100%

Well done Years R & 6 – you arrived on time every day 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>