



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



NEWSLETTER 10th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to everyone connected with the West Malling family. I hope you all had a good time over the Christmas period and were able to make lots of special memories with friends and family.

There has been a lovely atmosphere in school this week with children pleased to be back with their friends, but also welcoming the regular and well-known routines that come with the school day. I think there is something about the start of a new year in January that makes everyone determined to be the best they can be and remain as focussed as possible. The next set of Parents' Consultations are coming up on Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th January, which will provide an opportunity for you to talk with class teachers about the progress the children are making and identify their next steps. Please look out for separate communication regarding the booking process for these sessions.

Next week will see a focus in school on developing children's understanding of their own feelings and emotions. As adults we are very aware of when we feel tired, bored, upset, hungry or thirsty, and the subsequent steps we need to take to get ourselves back 'in balance'. While this sounds obvious, it is something that we have to consciously learn how to do – especially growing the vocabulary of how to precisely describe what we are feeling, rather than reducing it to a simple choice between 'happy' and 'sad'. In school we use something called 'Zones of Regulation' as a tool for this, and we shall be exploring this in more detail with the children next week. There will also be material coming home to give parents more information about this, along with some ideas for how you could replicate the strategies we use in school at home.

I would like to take this opportunity at the start of a new year to give out a couple of reminders. With winter upon us and the weather turning both wetter and colder, please could parents ensure that all children bring a coat to school? At the end of the day when staff are releasing children to parents, please could I ask parents to allow staff to send the children over to you, rather than encouraging children to leave the teacher without them being aware? It is important that staff are able to have sight of who they are releasing children to. If, for any reason, pick up arrangements are different from usual, please could I ask you to call the office to ensure we are aware of who will be collecting your child.

Once again, happy New Year to you all.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 13th January

Swimming lessons start for Year 4

Tuesday 14th January

Open Morning, 9.30am to 11am, for September 2025

Reception class admissions. Places available to book via the school office

Wednesday 15th January

PTA meeting, 7pm, at The Old Rectory, Leybourne. All welcome

Thursday 16th January

Change to the published menu – see flyer sent with this newsletter

Friday 17th January

Own clothes day for the PTA – please donate any used & unwanted Christmas gifts, e.g. candles, bath sets etc

Messages to be sent home via Arbor email confirming (or otherwise) places at after school clubs. These messages will be sent during the afternoon

w/c Monday 20th January

After school clubs begin

Monday 20th January

Year 4 swimming

Tuesday 21st January

Young Voices concert at the O2 for choir members

Monday 27th January

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

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	Liam	For settling into Chestnut Class so well
Year 1	Benjamin	For his participation & brilliant phonics learning
Year 2	Henry	For persevering with his learning
Year 3	George	For his fantastic maths
Year 4	Charlie	For being kind and also very hardworking
Year 5	Jimmy	For his amazing maths and being a fabulous member of Willow Class
Year 6	Leo	For his contribution and perseverance

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	83.2%
Year 1	96.5%
Year 2	96.4%
Year 3	97.7%
Year 4	95.5%
Year 5	89.1%
Year 6	97.9%

Whole School Attendance

94.1%

Yearly attendance to date:

94.3%

The children in Year 4 have the been in school the most this week.



Well done Years 4!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	98.9%
Year 1	99.1%
Year 2	97%
Year 3	91.5%
Year 4	98.6%
Year 5	96.5%
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.

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>