



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



NEWSLETTER 13th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Success! The outside lights are up at home and the tree is finally decorated too! Everything is starting to feel very Christmassy now, and this was only added to by the wonderful Nativity performances from KS1 earlier this week. The children performed 'Simply the Nativity' to the rest of the school on Tuesday morning, then followed this up with performances to parents on both Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. The warm and enthusiastic reception from the audience showed what an incredible job the children did. As I said at the end of both performances, there is something about watching children perform a Nativity that seems to begin the festive period. Perhaps it is that it provides us with that moment of joy and calm to reflect on the real meaning of Christmas.

For some children, performing on stage in front of an audience comes naturally, and this was an opportunity for them to shine. For others, simply standing on stage or singing in front of other people is way out of their comfort zone and takes real determination. The singing was amazing and the whole performance was a real credit to everyone involved. Special thanks to all the adults involved with KS1 that gave their time and effort into making it such a success.

Last Friday night saw KS1 remain behind after school for their Christmas party and disco, organised by the PTFA – and tonight it is the turn of KS2. The children really enjoyed themselves last week and I am sure the same will be said for the older children later on. These events take a significant amount of organisation, and my thanks go out to those PTFA members who both organised the event and gave up their time to help supervise the children.

As we approach the end of term, it is with sadness that I am letting you know we shall be saying goodbye to Mrs Babadi this time next week. An opportunity has arisen to allow her to spend more time with her family and pursue a variety of other interests. Mrs Babadi has given a huge amount to the school in various teaching assistant roles over nearly ten years at West Malling. I know many of you as parents, and all the children, will wish to join me in both thanking her and wishing her all the very best for the future.

Finally this week, I would like to congratulate the Year 6 boys that played football against Ryarsh last night. It was our first league match of the season and despite their best efforts we unfortunately lost a very close game 4-3. All the boys gave their all (as shown by the colour of their white and blue shirts at the end!) and there was bucketloads of commitment and teamwork on display. Well done everyone, and we can now prepare for our remaining fixtures after Christmas.

There is lots happening in the final week of term with a pantomime performance of Jack and the Beanstalk organised by the PTFA on Monday, Christmas dinner, Christmas jumper day and the Christmas Service in church on Wednesday, and lots more besides!

Very best wishes for the weekend.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

w/c 16th December

NO CLUBS RUNNING THIS WEEK

Monday 16th December

Pantomime for all children (kindly funded by the PTFA)

Wednesday 18th December

Christmas Jumper & Dinner Day

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

Friday 20th December

Last day of Term 2

Santa Dash – ALL children to wear PE kit to school, accessorised with a Christmas hat or other festive headwear if they have one

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**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

Term 3 begins

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

Choir rehearsal resume today, 3 -4pm

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January**

Swimming lessons start for Year 4

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January**

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

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

### Achievers of the Week

| YEAR   | NAME        | Commended for                                                               |
|--------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Year R | George      | For great singing in the Nativity & being a lovely member of Chestnut Class |
| Year 1 | James       | For his enthusiasm & confidence in the Nativity                             |
| Year 2 | Whole Class | For their amazing Nativity performances                                     |
| Year 3 | Marco       | For his improved handwriting                                                |
| Year 4 | Teslim      | For amazing writing in English                                              |
|        | Layla       | For her progress & independence in her writing                              |
| Year 5 | Taylor      | For good focus and excellent participation                                  |
| Year 6 | Sienna      | For her focus this week                                                     |

### ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

#### THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

| CLASS  | Attendance |
|--------|------------|
| Year R | 86.7%      |
| Year 1 | 77.3%      |
| Year 2 | 91.2%      |
| Year 3 | 92.8%      |
| Year 4 | 97.9%      |
| Year 5 | 93.6%      |
| Year 6 | 96.9%      |

#### Whole School Attendance

91.6%

#### Yearly attendance to date:

94.5%

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



Well done Years 4!



#### PUNCTUALITY PANDA

| CLASS  | % Arrived on time |
|--------|-------------------|
| Year R | 98.9%             |
| Year 1 | 96.4%             |
| Year 2 | 94.5%             |
| Year 3 | 99.2%             |
| Year 4 | 96.4%             |
| Year 5 | 97.6%             |
| Year 6 | 98.6%             |

Well done Year 3 – 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.

A reminder, following my letter last week about the purchase of mobile phones for children, that the following links may be of interest:

[www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/have-a-conversation](http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/have-a-conversation)

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/social-networking/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/parent-controls-docs/parental-control-whatsapp.pdf>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/is-snapchat-safe-for-my-child/>