



West Malling Church of England Primary School and The McGinty SRP



NEWSLETTER 15th May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Congratulations to our Year 6 children, who this week have punctuated, read, calculated and problem-solved with as much determination as they could manage. I am immensely proud of each and every one of you for the way you have tackled the SATs tests this week. From the initial nerves on Monday morning, through the inevitable challenging questions that have cropped up, you have all remained positive and shown amazing focus in every test. Perseverance is one of our school values, and there could not have been more of it on show this week. I know the results of your efforts will be good, but what matters to me more than anything is that you all did your best – no test result can ever change what an incredible group of young people you are.

I have written this week's letter very early this morning as I shall be out of school for the majority of the day with a group of Year 5 and 6 boys at the Tonbridge and Malling District Boys Football Tournament. I am keeping my fingers crossed that we do not have the same torrential downpours and hailstorms that descended yesterday! Best of luck to the boys, and I shall let you all know this time next week how we got on.

The Tenax Schools Trust Central Team have been considering the new Ofsted Framework that came into force in January 2026. Ofsted plays an important part in the educational landscape. Those working in education will have seen inspection change again and again over time: what is inspected; how judgements are made; the language used; what is reported to parents and carers. Our professional view is that this set of changes are the most far-reaching for some time.

We therefore thought it would be helpful to share some information about these changes with the parent bodies of all Tenax Schools, away from the immediacy of a 'live' inspection. The attached information leaflet and link to a short video contained within it, will hopefully give you a flavour of how the inspection process has now evolved.

Best wishes for the weekend.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 18th May

Year 3 swimming

Wednesday 20th May

Cherry Class trip to Pizza Express

Pentecost service at St Mary's Church, 9.15am (approx.) start. Parents and carers welcome to join us

Thursday 21st May

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

Chestnut Class trip to Maidstone Museum

Friday 22nd May

Last day of Term 5

Monday 1st June

Term 6 begins – children return to school

Year 3 swimming

Tuesday 2nd June

Information Evening at 6pm in Willow classroom for Year 5 parents/ carers regarding the Kent Test for transfer to secondary school September 2027

Wednesday 3rd June

Year 3 and Year 5 trip to Hemsley Conservation Centre

Monday 8th June

Year 3 swimming

Tuesday 9th June

Meeting for new Chestnut (September '26) parents at 6pm

Monday 15th June

Year 3 swimming

Wednesday 17th June

Year 6 trip to Rochester Cathedral for the Church Schools Festival

Monday 22nd June

Year 3 swimming

Tuesday 23rd June

Sports Day – more details nearer the time

Thursday 25th June

Year 3 assembly at 9am - parents are invited to come along and share in the children's learning

Tuesday 30th June

Reserve Sports Day (in case of inclement weather on 23/6)

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Albie	For his fantastic reading
Year 1	Nevaeh	For her effort in her learning
Year 2	Rowenna	For her great ideas
Year 3	Lily	For persevering with her learning
Year 4	George	For independent working
Year 5	Lily B	For settling so well
Year 6	Whole class	For their mature attitude towards their SATs this week

Caterlink – Lunch Accounts (for parents who pay for their child's meals)

We continue to remind an increasing number of parents to top-up the balance on their child's lunch account. Please ensure that accounts are always in credit. Caterlink operate a 'no debt' policy; if you do not have any credit please send your child in with a packed lunch.

West Kent Mind

One of our Year 6 pupils and his family are raising money for West Kent Mind during Mental Health Week - West Kent Mind do amazing work for those facing challenges with their mental health. In January alone, West Kent Mind received almost 30 referrals of young people needing support. Early support can change a child's life, help them feel heard, understood and supported before difficulties become overwhelming.

Your support for Move For Mental Health week will make a huge difference. Thank you for any thing you're able to donate.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/scott-burns-1776331077516>

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	88.3%
Year 1	88.6%
Year 2	96.2%
Year 3	98.5%
Year 4	86.9%
Year 5	95.3%
Year 6	99.4%

Whole School Attendance

93.6%

Yearly attendance to date:

94.7%

The children in Year 6 have the highest attendance this week



Well done Year 6!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	98.2%
Year 1	96.2%
Year 2	99%
Year 3	95.7%
Year 4	94.7%
Year 5	100%
Year 6	100%

Well done Years 5 & 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.

With KS2 SATs having taken place this week and GCSEs in full swing in secondary schools, it is worth keeping an eye out for any children who seem particularly stressed. The YoungMinds website has support and advice for children and young people coping with the stress of exams. More information is available at:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/exam-stress/>