



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



NEWSLETTER 6th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

So just like that, the first week of Advent has flown past! There is so much to do at this time of year, and the days seem to rapidly vanish in front of us. In worship this week we have been talking about Advent. While it is a time of excitement, it is also a time of waiting and preparation, and it is important that we try to find the time to pause and reflect as we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas.

That mixture of stillness and excitement was very much in evidence in church on Wednesday afternoon as KS2 took part in our inaugural carol concert. I am so pleased that so many of you were able to join us for a wonderful afternoon of music and singing. Having mentioned last week that the children's singing in hymn practice had brought a tear to my eye, I know from various conversations at the end of the concert that it had the same effect on many of you. The harmonies during the two pieces sung by the whole of KS2 were wonderful and it created a very special atmosphere in the church. Miss Gibson has done an incredible job of further enhancing the music in school and everyone is very grateful for her enthusiasm and dedication. Miss Walker also deserves huge thanks for her 'behind the scenes' organisation that enabled the concert to take place and be such a success. All the funds raised will go towards the choir's participation in the Young Voices concert at the O2 Arena in January, significantly reducing the financial burden on families – so thank you.

On Tuesday morning we were treated to a celebration of the learning that has taken place in Year 4 during their class assembly. Although the main theme was historical with the Romans, the children managed to weave in learning from many other subject areas as well. Class assemblies are always lovely opportunities to share what happens in school with parents and it was fantastic that so many of you were able to join us. Well done to Mrs Hanes, Mrs Fuller and all the children for doing such a good job.

Christmas continues apace next week with KS1 performing their Nativity to Year R and 1 parents on Tuesday afternoon and to Year 2 parents on Wednesday afternoon. Both performances will start at 2:00pm and I know that all the children are very excited to be able to perform to an audience. Tonight sees the KS1 Christmas party and disco after school, with the KS2 event next Friday after school. I know that everyone will have a great time, and, as always, thanks to the PTFA for providing these opportunities for all of our children.

Let's see whether I can finally get the decorations up this weekend!

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

w/c 9th December

NO CLUBS RUNNING THIS WEEK

Monday 9th December

Flu immunisation in school

Last swimming session for Year 5

Tuesday 10th December

Nativity performance to parents of children in Chestnut & Lime classes at 2pm – **see over**

Wednesday 11th December

Nativity performance to parents of children in Cherry & Poppy (Year 2) classes at 2pm – **see over**

Friday 13th December

KS2 Christmas Party, 3pm-4.30pm. For tickets, please see poster sent with this newsletter

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

Monday 6th January

Term 3 begins

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Tommy	For his engagement with his learning
Year 1	Sire	For his good imagination and explanations
Year 2	Seb	For his brilliant handwriting and acting
Year 3	Finley	For fantastic effort in all lessons this week
Year 4	Clinton	For always displaying our school values
Year 5	Henry-James	For his amazing English
Year 6	Megan	For her hard work and confidence this week

Christmas Jumpers

Do you have any unwanted, good quality children's Christmas jumpers at home? If you do, would you consider donating them to our PTFA? The PTFA are hoping to be able to sell them during the week commencing 9th December - in time for Christmas jumper day on Wednesday 18th December (also Christmas lunch day). Donations should be handed in to the school office. Many thanks in anticipation of your support!

Nativity Performances

We are limiting the number of "tickets" **per family** to 2. There will be **NO** exceptions made to this so we would appreciate your support in not approaching staff to ask for additional family members to attend.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	90.3%
Year 1	91.8%
Year 2	93.3%
Year 3	94%
Year 4	97.5%
Year 5	92.7%
Year 6	92.8%

Whole School Attendance

93.4%

Yearly attendance to date:

94.8%

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	96.7%
Year 1	97.3%
Year 2	95.8%
Year 3	94.4%
Year 4	95%
Year 5	94.5%
Year 6	95.9%

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.

Everyday Digital is a new programme from ParentZone, designed to empower parents to keep themselves and their families safer in the online world by improving their critical media literacy in five main areas:

Content: all the information and media we see or create ourselves **Data:** the personal information we leave behind (or share) when online

Environment: knowing how to use and understand online spaces and platforms

Consequences: understanding the possible impact our online behaviours might have, including in the offline world

Positivity: knowing how to make online interactions and environments safer and more rewarding

<https://parentzone.org.uk/about-everydaydigital>