



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



NEWSLETTER 22nd November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic Christmas Fayre we had last Saturday! It was wonderful to see so many of you and there was a great atmosphere in the hall all day. Thank you to everyone from the PTFA for their help, particularly to Miss Walker for her organisation and drive, and to all of you for your support for the event and for coming along on the day. I do not have a final total from the Fayre, but I know that a considerable amount will have been raised.

On a similarly festive theme, we have a KS2 Carol Concert taking place in St Mary's Church next Wednesday 4th December from 1:45-2:45. This is something new this year, and separate from our Christmas Service. The Carol Concert is a chance for the KS2 classes and school choir to showcase some of the incredible work they have been doing with Miss Gibson. I am not usually in our weekly hymn practice, but I happened to be teaching Ash Class this Wednesday morning and so was in the hall with them and the children will tell you I actually shed a tear at the quality of the singing and harmonies they were producing. I would urge as many KS2 parents as possible to come along to the church on Wednesday afternoon as it really is an opportunity not to be missed.

Last Friday our Girls' Football Team took part in a tournament at Aylesford Football Club. Despite the freezing temperatures, the girls played really well together, qualifying out of their group for the quarter-finals. Unfortunately, they lost that knock-out game 5-4, meaning they finished a creditable 5th out of 12 teams. They should be very proud of their efforts and for playing with a smile on their faces, and they came back with a special award to celebrate equal opportunities in sport. Thanks to Miss Williment and Mrs Hook for being with the team during the day.

Your children may have told you that they participated in a Road Safety Workshop earlier this week. All classes had a dedicated workshop in the hall on either Monday or Tuesday this week to talk about all aspects of road safety. This is such a valuable topic for all children to know about and I am very grateful to Kent County Council for being able to support us in delivering the message. We also received some wonderful feedback from Ian, the man who led all the sessions, to say that the children were the most receptive and well-behaved that he has worked with for a very long time. Well done everyone!

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the KS2 Carol Concert in church on Wednesday.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

w/c 2nd December

LAST WEEK FOR SCHOOL CLUBS

Monday 2nd December

Year 5 swimming

Tuesday 3rd December

Year 4 assembly at 9am - parents are invited to come along and share in the children's learning

Wednesday 4th December

KS2 Carol Concert at St Mary's Church, 1.45pm, tickets £2 in advance or £3 on the door

Thursday 5th December

Year R and 6 NCMP (height & weight)

Friday 6th December

KS1 Christmas Party, 3pm-4.30pm. For tickets, please see poster sent with this newsletter

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)

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Finn O'S	For excellent singing and listening
Year 1	Sidney	For his perseverance with his maths learning
Year 2	Grace	For her incredible acting
Year 3	Shivansh	For his contributions during our History lessons
Year 4	Johnny	For his resilience and perseverance and just being him!
Year 5	Robert (Bobby)	For living out our school values, especially perseverance
Year 6	Mason	For working really hard this week and persevering

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.

Resurfacing of Tesco's Car Park

We have been advised that resurfacing of the main section of the car park to the rear of Tesco is to begin on Tuesday 3rd December and will take approximately 3 days.

Children who use the Walking Bus should meet slightly further away from the ticket machine, near the disabled parking spaces, during the works.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	93.5%
Year 1	96.4%
Year 2	96.3%
Year 3	93.6%
Year 4	96.4%
Year 5	92.1%
Year 6	92.3%

Whole School Attendance

94.3%

Yearly attendance to date:

94.91%

The children in Years 1 & 4 have the been in school the most this week.



Well done Years 1 & 4!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	95.6%
Year 1	97.3%
Year 2	94.4%
Year 3	98.4%
Year 4	97.6%
Year 5	97.1%
Year 6	99.4%

Well done Year 6 – you were the most punctual **again** 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>