



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



NEWSLETTER 22nd November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems appropriate that as the temperature plummets and we all root around at home for our hats, scarves and gloves, the school Christmas Fayre takes place tomorrow. From 11:30 until 2:30 there will be lots of fun to be had in the school hall, including performances from the school choir, Zumba club and the Show of Hands signing choir. I have heard there might even be an early opportunity to meet Santa himself, although it is the sound of the festive food stall that has me most excited! Many thanks to Miss Walker and all those staff and members of the PTFA who have been involved in organising the Fayre and who will be manning stalls on Saturday.

Thanks also need to go to Nicky Brown and the team of volunteers from the PTFA for organising and manning the tombola at the West Malling Christmas light switch on last Sunday. An unbelievable amount of £1118 was raised for the school, for which we are very grateful.

Fundraising seems to be the theme in this week's newsletter. Last Friday saw everyone wearing spots (or their own clothes) and involved in lots of activities at lunchtime in support of Children in Need. Our target was £500, and thanks to a final anonymous donation we managed to hit this total, which is a fantastic achievement. Thank you to Mrs White and the School Council for all their organisation.

Similarly, Macey (our decorated version of Shaun the Sheep) is now back in school following the Shaun in the Heart of Kent trail around Maidstone this summer. I know that many children and families managed to locate Macey with her flock in Maidstone Museum. All the children contributed to her production last year, co-ordinated by Mrs Fuller, Mrs Harris and Mrs Denby, and alongside Elmer, they will be standout pieces in our new learning space. Alongside the trail was the fundraising effort in support of the Heart of Kent Hospice. The sponsored heptathlon carried out in the summer raised over £2000, a staggering total for which the Hospice are incredibly touched and grateful. Enormous thanks to everyone who contributed to this wonderful amount.

Reading this week's newsletter back makes me feel very proud to be part of such a supportive community. Thank you to each and every one of you.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Christmas Fayre tomorrow.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Saturday 23rd November

PTFA Christmas Fayre, 11.30am to 2.30pm

Monday 25th November

Year 5 swimming

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

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Ralph	For his excellent writing and phonics work
Year 1	Lillybelle	For her brilliant maths understanding & positive attitude towards her learning
Year 2	Jacob	For persevering with his writing
Year 3	Hugo	For his great contributions during reading lessons
Year 4	Aine	For wonderful presentation in her English
Year 5	Chloe	For consistent effort in her learning
Year 6	Giorgio	For being an all-round great learner

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.

Children in Need

Thank you all so very much for your kind donations towards our fundraising for this wonderful charity. We have raised an amazing **£501.85**.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	81.8%
Year 1	91.8%
Year 2	92.8%
Year 3	97.6%
Year 4	95.7%
Year 5	94.2%
Year 6	94.2%

Whole School Attendance

95.8%

Yearly attendance to date:

95.1%

The children in Year 3 have been in school the most this week.



Well done Year 3!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	97.8%
Year 1	95.5%
Year 2	96.9%
Year 3	95.2%
Year 4	96.4%
Year 5	95.2%
Year 6	98.1%

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.

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>