



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



NEWSLETTER 8th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of Term 2 and what is always a very exciting and fun-packed term in school. I hope everyone enjoyed a good half term break and was able to refresh themselves in preparation for the busyness ahead. There is always lots happening in school in the summer, but I think this term sees more going on than at any other point in the school year.

If you cast your mind back to the end of last term, you may remember many children attended the Film Night organised by the PTFA. This event raised £417 for the school, which will be used to purchase a set of programmable robots for use in computing lessons in EYFS and KS1. As always, thank you to your support and to the PTFA for their organisation.

Children in Year 3 and Year 5 had an exciting start to the term earlier this week with the arrival of an inflatable astrodome in school. The mobile planetarium was set up in school and both classes spent time inside exploring the solar system. The children experienced a wonderful tour of constellations and the planets, learning about their composition, with some stunning visuals inside the dome. There were lots of interesting facts about the series of Apollo missions that culminated in the moon landing. A fragment of an asteroid was passed around for all children to see and the sessions concluded with the opportunity to ask lots of questions. Did you know that you can get a mobile phone signal on the International Space Station, but not on the moon?!

Our worships in school this week have been themed around remembrance. Many of you may be attending Remembrance Services on Sunday, and our Head Pupils and Castle Team Captains in Year 6 will be leading our own Remembrance Service on Monday 11th November. This will be held at 11:00am, enabling all children to participate in the two-minute silence and take note of this important annual event. Unfortunately, the school has not been supplied with poppies and other remembrance items by the Royal British Legion this year and we have therefore been unable to sell these to the children.

While I hesitate to mention Christmas this early in the term, Sunday 17th November sees the turning on of the West Malling Christmas lights. Those of you who have lived in West Malling for a number of years will know that this is a large community event, with stalls all along the High Street. The PTFA run a tombola and would welcome additional support from parents. You do not have to help out on the stall for the entire day, but if you were able to stay for even an hour it would assist greatly.

WHAT'S ON?

w/c Monday 11th November

Anti-Bullying Week

Monday 11th November

Remembrance Service in school (children only)

Year 5 swimming

Thursday 14th November

Year 5 assembly at 9am - parents are invited to come along and share in the children's learning

Friday 15th November

Children in Need – details of our fundraising are overleaf
<http://www.justgiving.com/page/joanne-white-wmcep-1729504541304>

Sunday 17th November

West Malling's Christmas Lights switch-on

Monday 18th November

Year 5 swimming

Tuesday 19th & Thursday 21st November

Open Mornings, 9.30am to 11am, for September 20245
Reception class admissions. Places available to book via the school office

Saturday 23rd November

PTFA Christmas Fayre, 11.30am to 2.30pm

Monday 25th November

Year 5 swimming

Monday 2nd December

Year 5 swimming

Thursday 5th December

Year R and 6 NCMP (height & weight)

Monday 9th December

Flu immunisation in school

Last swimming session for Year 5

If you are able to spare a bit of time, then please let the PTFA know.
Best wishes for the weekend.

Mr Rye

Achievers of the Week...

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Aaliyah	For trying really hard this week
Year 1	Arthur	For his focus, effort and determination
Year 2	Sienna	For her engagement in lessons
Year 3	Jelani	For his excellent attitude towards his learning
Year 4	Darcey	For showing resilience and always being ready to learn
Year 5	Bobby (Willow)	For his focus and effort
Year 6	Lily	For her writing in English

Packed Lunches – A Reminder

A quick reminder that if you provide your child with grapes to eat at school they must be cut in half, lengthwise, to minimise the risk of choking. Children should also have a drink in addition to their water bottle as they do not take these into the hall at lunchtime. Please note that packed lunches should **not** contain fizzy drinks or bars of chocolate. Thank you for your support.

Children in Need – Friday 15th November

As a school we would like to wear our own clothes, spotty if you can with crazy hair styles. We will hold a small competition for the Best Look!! (small KS1& KS2 prize) - all to raise valuable money for BBC Children in Need. Suggested donation of £2 please.

Also during lunchtime on that Friday, our school council reps will run activities in the new Library space - offering games, iPad games, Pudsey colouring and bracelet making. Please add a little extra to your donation for these activities. As always many thanks for your support.

<http://www.justgiving.com/page/joanne-white-wmcep-1729504541304>

Nativity Dates

The performance dates for the Foundation & Key Stage 1 Nativity “Simply The Nativity” are:

Reception & Year 1 parents – Tuesday 10th December, 2pm

Year 2 parents – Wednesday 11th December, 2pm

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK’S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	87.6%
Year 1	91.4%
Year 2	97.5%
Year 3	95.8%
Year 4	96.1%
Year 5	95.8%
Year 6	97%

Whole School Attendance

95.1%

Yearly attendance to date:

95.1%

The children in Year 2 have the highest attendance this week.



Well done Year 2!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	97.8%
Year 1	94.5%
Year 2	97.5%
Year 3	93.3%
Year 4	97.9%
Year 5	98.2%
Year 6	99.3%

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.

Snapchat have announced new safety features, designed to protect users from online harms and unwanted communications from people they do not know. Their new suite of tools has all been designed to help ensure that Snapchat users can only be messaged by individuals they have added as friends or have added to their phone contacts.

<https://values.snap.com/news/new-features-to-help-protect-our-community>

For more information on using Snapchat safely, see the Snapchat Privacy Guide from Internet Matters.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/snapchat/>