



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



NEWSLETTER 25th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have finally reached the end of a very long term! For our Chestnut children, they can now take a break having completed their first term of school. They have all settled so well, and as I have mentioned previously, it was lovely seeing them performing in church at our Harvest Festival.

We were back in church this Wednesday for our End of Term Service. This term's service is always a slightly different one, due to its proximity to Harvest. As such, individual classes did not participate, but Reverend Helen completed our series of worships linked to the various names given to God in the Bible and we celebrated our Learners of the Term in each class – huge congratulations to them all for letting their lights shine brightly.

I would also like to thank the PTFA and the whole school community for their fundraising efforts over the last couple of years. The PTFA have donated the enormous sum of £15,000 for us to use towards the furnishing of the new library space in school. I know lots of you were amazed at the result of the recent building work when you came into school for Parents' Consultations. The design and furnishing of this space need to be carefully planned to ensure that nothing is rushed and mistakes made – but it is a very exciting project!

The PTFA do a wonderful job in school and your help is required on two further fronts. Volunteers are needed to help out at both the West Malling Christmas light switch-on (Sunday 17th November) and school Christmas Fayre (Saturday 23rd November). If you are able to help, please email the PTFA on wmpriamarypta@gmail.com with your name and telephone number, indicating which event you are able to support at.

Finally this week, I would like to congratulate all the Year 6 children who have been working with Miss Hopkins in their Monday PE sessions, undertaking Play Leader training. When we return to school after half term they will be putting their training to good use leading lunchtime games and activities.

I wish you all a good week and look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday 4th November.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 4th November

Term 2 begins – children return to school

Year 5 swimming

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 2024
Reception class admissions. Places available to book via the school office

Saturday 23rd November

PTFA Christmas Fayre, 11.30am to 2.30pm

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

Achievers of the Term

YEAR	NAME
Year R	Owen
Year 1	Alfie
Year 2	Olivia Aiden
Year 3	Fleur
Year 4	Elicia
Year 5	Teddy Alessio
Year 6	Sophie

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.

Data Collection Sheets

Polite reminder – please return your signed Data Collection Sheet as soon as possible.

Caterlink Congratulations!

A big 'well done' to Kelly and Kellsie who prepare and serve the children's lunches. They recently passed an audit with flying colours and received a certificate of excellence.

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>

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	91.1%
Year 1	89.1%
Year 2	96.1%
Year 3	97.9%
Year 4	96.2%
Year 5	94.2%
Year 6	95.3%

Whole School Attendance

94.5%

Yearly attendance to date:

95%

The children in Year 3 have the highest attendance this week.



Well done Year 3!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	98.9%
Year 1	95.5%
Year 2	97%
Year 3	99.2%
Year 4	97.7%
Year 5	98.8%
Year 6	97.3%

Well done Year 3 – 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.

For parents of older children, who may be getting their first phone or a new device, the NSPCC have teamed up with Vodafone to produce their Trust: Phone Safety Toolkit. By exploring the different sections of the acronym T.R.U.S.T, it aims to empower parents and carers to have meaningful conversations with their child and develop trust together, through a variety of activities and conversation starters.

<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/help-and-information/nsppc-phone-safety-toolkit?ac=162425>