



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



NEWSLETTER 11th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic Harvest Festival we were able to share in church on Wednesday morning. Thank you to those parents who were able to join the celebration with us, and to everyone that donated Harvest gifts. These were all transported up to church after the service and, as previously mentioned, will be distributed between the Kenward Trust Addiction Rehabilitation Centre in Yalding and the Pilsdon Community for the homeless in West Malling.

Having only spent a few weeks in school, the children in Chestnut Class deserve particular mention for the way they stood and sang in front of a packed church. It was wonderful to see the creativity from all classes in response to Harvest, and we have spent time in school this week thinking about the 'dual meaning' of celebrating this time of year. Not only is it a time to say, "Thank you," to all those who contribute to food being on our tables, but it is also a time when we think about the concept of 'giving' without asking for anything in return. Harvest is a perfect opportunity to learn that sharing and giving freely provide us with the love and warmth that come from knowing we have helped those in more need than ourselves.

This theme was developed further in school yesterday, which was World Mental Health Day. The whole school tried to 'dress in yellow' as an acknowledgement of this important aspect of our lives. Many classes have spent some time thinking about mental health, what 'good' mental health is, and identifying things that can support us in looking after our wellbeing. At the time of writing this newsletter, the amount raised for the Young Minds charity stands at **£535.49** which is a wonderful achievement. I would like to give a special mention to Charlie, Aine and Olivia for planning and organising an after-school toy, book, craft and cake sale which raised £102.49 all by itself. Well done for truly letting your light shine and enormous thanks to everyone who contributed to the fundraising total.

I frequently mention the traffic situation and parking difficulties in my newsletters. Many of you saw the PCSO in attendance before school earlier in the week and he followed his observations with a meeting in school. Mrs White and I are trying to work with KCC, the Parish Council and various law enforcement agencies to try to make the situation easier for both parents and residents. In the next few months, the aim is for there to be an increased presence from the PCSO, police, fire brigade (to ensure emergency vehicle access to school at all times) and traffic wardens. These visits will be on random dates with no pattern.

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 14th October

Year 5 swimming

The return Walking Bus will **NOT** be walking today

Wednesday 16th October

Restart a Heart (Years 3 to 6) – children to bring in a teddy bear from home to practice on. Please see class pages on the school website for further details

Friday 18th October

Non uniform day – the children are invited to wear their own clothes in return for a donation to the PTA bottle tombola

PTA Film Night – details sent home on Monday 23rd September. Tickets still available to purchase from:
<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/westmallingsprimary>

KS1 Sports and Football Clubs will **NOT** be running today

Monday 21st October

Auriga Astronomy Workshops for Years 3 and 5

Year 5 swimming

Wednesday 23rd October

End of Term service, 9.15am at St Mary's Church. Parents are welcome to join us, however, this service is to celebrate our Achievers of the Term and children will not be taking part in class performances

Thursday 24th October

Sibling & individual portraits being taken

Friday 25th October

Last Day of Term 1

Monday 4th November

Term 2 begins – children return to school

Year 5 swimming

In addition, I am trying to persuade the relevant authorities to alter the parking restrictions in the Ryarsh Lane car park. I firmly believe that the traffic situation before and after school could be dramatically eased if parents were able to park in the Ryarsh Lane car park and walk along the footpath between the cricket pitch and the ballpark up to school. It is my intention to maintain this pressure, and I shall keep you up to date with any developments.

Best wishes for an enjoyable weekend.

Mr Rye

Achievers of the Week...

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Nevaeh	For settling well and engaging with her learning
Year 1	Dolcie	For her brilliant maths learning
Year 2	Paddy-Rae	For his engagement with his learning
Year 3	Isla G-M	For amazing effort in class
Year 4	Ella	For perseverance and working independently
Year 5	Lacey	For being an all-round superstar!
Year 6	Bobby	For his perseverance this week

Return Walking Bus

Please note that the return bus will **not** be walking on **Monday 14th October**

Macmillan Cake Sale

Thank you to everyone who donated or bought cakes. We raised a total of **£57.50** for this very worthy cause.

Help Needed!

Are you available to volunteer at the West Malling Christmas Light Switch On event on Sunday 17th November? We will have a tombola stall at the event and need volunteers to help run the stall. If you can spare any time on the day, no matter how little you can spare we would be really grateful if you could please join the group chat. Thank you for your support.

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/IKaQHf5uDqMGLgaN6oA6iN>

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	85.3%
Year 1	89.1%
Year 2	96.4%
Year 3	97%
Year 4	98.1%
Year 5	94.2%
Year 6	93.7%

Whole School Attendance

943%

Yearly attendance to date:

95.1%

The children in Year 4 have the highest attendance this week.



Well done Year 4!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	98.9%
Year 1	99.1%
Year 2	97%
Year 3	99.2%
Year 4	97.7%
Year 5	98.8%
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.

Techosaurus is a new character from the NSPCC which aims to help parents and carers have positive conversations about online safety with young children. The Techosaurus Activity Pack helps to make conversations with young children, about staying safe online, as easy as possible for parents and carers, with a colouring-in activity, dot-to-dot and maze game.

[Help keep children safe online with Techosaurus! | NSPCC](#)