



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



NEWSLETTER 4th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term seems to be flashing past before our eyes. I cannot believe it is only three weeks until the half term break – which means it is only another three weeks until my wedding! I am sure you will appreciate how much there is to get done in such a short space of time!

I mention that as it fits with this week's newsletter theme of partnership. On Monday and Tuesday next week after school we are holding the first of our series of Parents' Consultations for the year. This is an opportunity for you to come into school, see some of your child's learning and spend some time talking with their teacher. School works most effectively when there is a three-way partnership between staff, parents and children. Working together is not only easier, it is the only way of enabling your child to make the progress we would all wish for. If one side of that triangle is not as committed, it makes the whole journey virtually impossible. I therefore hope you have been able to find the time to book an appointment for next week.

The children themselves are a key part of the learning partnership that exists in school, and earlier this week we announced the responsibilities for our Year 6 pupils for the year ahead. The Year 6 group act as role models and ambassadors for the school and all roles are important in developing their leadership and recognising the contribution they have made to the growth of West Malling during their time here so far. One important change this year is that we have made all roles non-gender specific. Where a role has two positions, we have simply selected two children rather than a boy and a girl. Congratulations, therefore, to all our Year 6 leaders:

Head pupils: Leah & Scarlett

Castle Captains: Bodiam – Tom & Bobby ; Dover – Tommy C & Mason; Hever – Charlie & Lily; Leeds – Finley & Aleesha

Prefects: Boaz, Leo, Giorgio & Sophie

School Council Leaders: Sophie & Edward

Leaders of Young Worship Group: Megan & Giorgio

Librarians: Harry, Phoebe, Edward & Ava

Digital Leaders: Toby & Joshua

Hall Monitors: Henry, Joshua, Brooke & Sienna

Sports Crew: Brooke & Sienna

Playground Friends: Megan, Sienna, Mason, Aleesha, Pippa, Ben, Tommy M, Millie

Lunch Monitors: Dolly & Nevaeh

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 7th October

Year 5 swimming

Parents' Consultation Evening, 3.20pm to 6pm. School Hall.

Hockey Club will NOT be running today

Tuesday 8th October

Parents' Consultation Evening, 3.20pm to 6pm. School Hall.

Seasonal Craft, Netball and Homework Clubs will NOT be running today

Wednesday 9th October

Harvest Festival service, 9.15am at St Mary's Church, parents are welcome to join us

Thursday 10th October

Hello Yellow – World Mental Health Day. Please see letter sent home on 30th September. Donate here: [Joanne White - WMCEP is fundraising for Young Minds Trust \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/WMCEP-is-fundraising-for-Young-Minds-Trust)

Friday 11th October

Year 6 fundraiser 'Are You Smarter Than a 10 Year Old?', 6pm-8pm. See message sent home on the 23rd September for further details

Monday 14th October

Year 5 swimming

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

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>

Monday 21st October

Year 5 swimming

Of course, the School Council and Young Worship Leaders groups contain children from across the school. Congratulations to those children who will be representing their classes this year, and I look forward to seeing you help the school continue to develop.

School Council: Sophie, Edward; James & Alissa; Dari & Olivia; Jacob & Teddy; Rafferty & Pippa; Rowenna & Benjamin; Millie & Seb
Young Worship Leaders: Megan, Giorgio, Bobby, Luke, Lacey, Emma, Harry, Finley, Isla H, Alex & Aurora

Very best wishes for the weekend, and I look forward to seeing many of you either during the Parents' Consultations or at our Harvest Festival in church next Wednesday.

Mr Rye

Achievers of the Week...

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Freddie	For trying really hard this week
Year 1	Octavia	For her good maths work
Year 2	Austin	For persevering with his writing
	Hettie	For being a supportive friend
Year 3	Edwin	For his thoughtful contributions during RE discussions
Year 4	Emma	For being a fantastic role model
Year 5	Samuel	For exceptional effort
Year 6	Dolly	For her mature and responsible attitude

Food Bank

If you have any non perishable items (pasta, soup, beans, pasta sauce, tea, coffee etc) or personal hygiene items (soap, shower gel etc) you are in a position to be able to donate to our Food bank, they will be very gratefully received. Thank you for your support as always.

Sibling and Individual Portraits – Advanced Warning!

Van Cols Photographers will be in school on Thursday 24th October.

Return Walking Bus

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

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	88.4%
Year 1	92.3%
Year 2	96.4%
Year 3	97.5%
Year 4	96.5%
Year 5	96.1%
Year 6	97%

Whole School Attendance

95.3%

Yearly attendance to date:

95.3%

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	97.3%
Year 2	98.8%
Year 3	98.3%
Year 4	98.5%
Year 5	96.4%
Year 6	98.7%

Well done Year R – 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.

Young children need to develop crucial communication skills needed to share their voice and talk about any worries. The National Literacy Trust recognises the impact of a child's home environment on their communication and language development, so, they have developed a variety of resources which focus on supporting parents and raising awareness of the importance of providing a language-rich environment.

[Chat, play, read booklets | National Literacy Trust](#)

[Dual language booklist | National Literacy Trust](#)

[Walk and talk trail for 0-5 year olds | National Literacy Trust](#)

[Five top tips for supporting communication in under twos | National Literacy Trust](#)