



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



## NEWSLETTER 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

My final wish when I wrote the newsletter on Friday 13th September was for a better week of weather while Year 6 took part in their residential journey to Kingswood, and someone must have been listening as we were incredibly lucky – especially considering the torrential downpours we have been experiencing this week.

Many schools take their Year 6s on a residential school journey for the week, but the majority undertake these in the summer term as a final farewell before the children depart for secondary school and the next stage of their educational journey. We do things slightly differently here and see real value in heading away for the week at the start of the school year in September. The Year 6 children have a real opportunity to bond together and shape themselves as a collective unit and the impact can then be seen across the rest of the year.

The group this year were an absolute credit to the school, their families and themselves. Every single child pushed themselves out of their comfort zone in one way or another. For some, this was in the activities themselves, climbing higher than they thought possible, or leaping/swinging down from height. For others, it was staying away from home and family for four nights, potentially for the first time. Whether in archery, problem solving activities, raft building, on the zip line, climbing, abseiling, the leap of faith, or one of the many other activities we took part in, the resilience, perseverance and support for each other was tangible.

On Thursday night, we gathered round a campfire together. We sang some silly songs, toasted marshmallows and ate s'mores, but then spent some time reflecting together on the achievements and experiences of the week. Rather than identify something they were proud of achieving themselves, every child and adult gave the name of someone else in the group they felt had shone and let their light shine. The range of names and moments mentioned made it a very special evening and the pride the children had in each other was wonderful to see and feel.

Enormous thanks go out to Miss Walker, Mrs Harris, Mrs Ray, Mrs Reeves, Mrs White, Mr White, Mrs Donne, Miss Field and Mrs Lansdown for all their help and support during the week.

Experiences such as this simply could not happen without the dedication of such committed staff. I know everyone, children and adults, slept well last weekend, but I will freely admit that I have missed the daily cooked breakfast this week now that I am back in my normal routine!

Cont/over

### WHAT'S ON?

#### Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September

Year 5 swimming

Meeting for Ash class parents/ carers, 6pm in Ash classroom re applications for secondary school places

#### Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

Change to the published menu – please see flyer sent with this newsletter

#### Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October

Year 5 swimming

Parents' Consultation Evening, 3.20pm to 6pm. School Hall. Please book your appointment via Arbor.

**Hockey Club will NOT be running today**

#### Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October

Parents' Consultation Evening, 3.20pm to 6pm. School Hall. Please book your appointment via Arbor

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

#### Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October

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

#### Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October

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

#### Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October

Year 5 swimming

#### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> September

#### Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October

Year 5 swimming

Finally this week, a look ahead to our Harvest Festival. The whole school will gather in St. Mary's Church on Wednesday 9th October for a service beginning at 9:15am. All classes will participate in the service and children are invited to bring into school donations of non-perishable food items on the Monday and Tuesday of that week. The distribution of the collection will be co-ordinated by Reverend Helen at the church and will support two local charities: the Kenward Trust Addiction Rehabilitation Centre in Yalding and the Pilsdon Community for the homeless in West Malling.

Very best wishes for the weekend.

Mr Rye

### Achievers of the Week...

| YEAR   | NAME        | Commended for                             |
|--------|-------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Year R | Whole class | For settling so well                      |
| Year 1 | Luke        | For trying really hard and good listening |
| Year 2 | Alex        | For his incredible writing                |
| Year 3 | Maya        | For her lovely English work               |
| Year 4 | Thomas      | For his amazing knowledge about ports     |
| Year 5 | Lucia       | For participation and effort              |
| Year 6 | Nevaeh      | For her perseverance in maths             |

### Break-time Snacks

Children are encouraged to bring a healthy snack to school for morning break-time. This snack **must** be either fruit or vegetables and should be pre-cut at home if it something that requires it. Please can you ensure that grapes are cut in half length ways. Yoghurt drinks, cereal bars, fruit juices etc are not permitted at break time, but are welcome as part of a healthy lunchbox.

### 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 24<sup>th</sup> October.

## ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

### THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

| CLASS  | Attendance |
|--------|------------|
| Year R | 87.9%      |
| Year 1 | 94.5%      |
| Year 2 | 96.4%      |
| Year 3 | 100%       |
| Year 4 | 95%        |
| Year 5 | 93.6%      |
| Year 6 | 91%        |

Whole School Target

**96.4%**

**Whole School Attendance**

**94.2%**

**Yearly attendance to date:**

**95.3%**

The children in Year 3 have been in school every day this week.



Well done Year 3!



### PUNCTUALITY PANDA

| CLASS  | % Arrived on time |
|--------|-------------------|
| Year R | 95.8%             |
| Year 1 | 95.5%             |
| Year 2 | 96.4%             |
| Year 3 | 94.2%             |
| Year 4 | 96.8%             |
| Year 5 | 97%               |
| Year 6 | 96.7%             |

Well done Year 5 – 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.

As part of their commitment to supporting local families and parents in the early stages of their child's development, Kent Family Hubs has commissioned the EasyPeasy App, which has now been launched to support parents and carers of babies and children aged zero to five-year-olds across the area and transform everyday parenting moments into playful learning activities. Parents can access thousands of simple, fun, and educational parenting tips and activities, tailored to their child's age and development stage, designed to use everyday materials that families already have access to at home.

<https://join.easypeasyapp.com/signup/3933b1be5070e545c7dc06e02foedb30>