



West Malling Church of England Primary School and The McGinty SRP



NEWSLETTER 8th May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Having mentioned the Tenax Schools Trust parent survey in last week's newsletter, you should have received a separate communication regarding this earlier today. Please could I encourage as many parents and carers as possible to complete this survey, which should take no longer than 10 minutes, before the closing date of Tuesday 12th May? The link for the survey is <https://survey.tenaxschoolstrust.co.uk/> Thank you as always for your help and support.

We were treated yesterday to a wonderful class assembly by Chestnut Class, showcasing their most recent learning. It was lovely to see how much their confidence has grown across their reception year, with everyone standing up in front of a full hall and being able to speak and sing with a smile on their face. The children demonstrated excellent knowledge about dinosaurs, using high level vocabulary which they all clearly understood well – and I loved the variety of paper plate dinosaurs on display! Well done everyone and thank you to the Chestnut Class team for putting everything together.

Next week sees our Year 6 children tackle their end of Key Stage 2 assessments, commonly known as SATs. They will be undertaking assessments in English grammar, punctuation and spelling, English reading and maths. There are no tests for English writing or science at the end of KS2 as these subjects are reported as a teacher assessment judgement. The children have all worked incredibly hard, not just during Year 6, but throughout their time at West Malling, and I know they will all give their best.

Sitting tests causes the calmest of us to worry, so here are Mr Rye's top tips for parents to help the children over this weekend and during next week!

- Let them relax.
- Try and get outside and be active.
- Be supportive.
- Do not add to any pressure they are feeling – all any of us can do is our best.
- Try to get a good night's sleep and...
- Enjoy a good breakfast!

Of course, we can help with the last one as every year we run a special Year 6 SATs week breakfast club. It really does help get each day off to a positive and relaxed start and my thanks go out in advance to those staff who are coming in early to help facilitate this.

Best wishes for the weekend.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 11th – Thursday 14th May

Year 6 SATs week

Monday 11th May

Year 3 swimming

Monday 18th May

Year 3 swimming

Wednesday 20th May

Cherry Class trip to Pizza Express

Pentecost service at St Mary's Church, 9.15am (approx.) start. Parents and carers welcome to join us

Thursday 21st May

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

Chestnut Class trip to Maidstone Museum

Friday 22nd May

Last day of Term 5

Monday 1st June

Term 6 begins – children return to school

Year 3 swimming

Wednesday 3rd June

Year 3 and Year 5 trip to Hemsley Conservation Centre

Monday 8th June

Year 3 swimming

Advanced Warning... for those of you needing to agree time off work...!

This year's **Sports Day** is due to take place on Tuesday 23rd June, back up date is 30th June in case of inclement weather

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Whole class	For their amazing assembly
Year 1	Finn D	For his contributions in English
Year 2	Luke	For his amazing writing
Year 3	Freya	For her excellent attitude to her learning
Year 4	Aiden	For his excellent poetry writing
Year 5	Kimaya	For living out our school values
Year 6	George	For his mature attitude to his learning

Caterlink – Lunch Accounts (for parents who pay for their child's meals)

We continue to remind an increasing number of parents to top-up the balance on their child's lunch account. Please ensure that accounts are always in credit. Caterlink operate a 'no debt' policy; if you do not have any credit please send your child in with a packed lunch.

West Kent Mind

One of our Year 6 pupils and his family are raising money for West Kent Mind during Mental Health Week - West Kent Mind do amazing work for those facing challenges with their mental health. In January alone, West Kent Mind received almost 30 referrals of young people needing support. Early support can change a child's life, help them feel heard, understood and supported before difficulties become overwhelming.

Your support for Move For Mental Health week will make a huge difference. Thank you for any thing you're able to donate.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/scott-burns-1776331077516>

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	87.5%
Year 1	94.3%
Year 2	97.6%
Year 3	92%
Year 4	91.4%
Year 5	95.7%
Year 6	96%

Whole School Attendance

93.5%

Yearly attendance to date:

94.8%

The children in Year 2 have the highest attendance this week



Well done Year 2!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	94.3%
Year 1	95.5%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	94.5%
Year 4	92.7%
Year 5	96.9%
Year 6	97.6%

Well done Year 2 – you arrived 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.

With KS2 SATs taking place next week and GCSEs in full swing in secondary schools, it is worth keeping an eye out for any children who seem particularly stressed. The YoungMinds website has support and advice for children and young people coping with the stress of exams. More information is available at:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/exam-stress/>