



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



NEWSLETTER 13th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week I would like to extend a very special welcome to our new Chestnut children and families. Following several days of individual meetings with Mrs Penfold, the children started their West Malling journey on Monday and have certainly seemed to enjoy spending the mornings getting to explore the classroom and are beginning to take the first steps in establishing new friendships. Starting school is such a big step for children (and parents!) and I know from personal experience what an emotional time it can be. My youngest daughter is shattered at the end of her first week in reception in her school!

Similarly, moving classes is an equally big step. The fact that it is within the same school does not matter, and change can be very unsettling for some children. Please remember that we are all here to offer support – after all, the children are the most important thing for all of us, parents and staff alike. If you have a question or a query, do try and catch the class teacher at the end of the day, or feel free to email through to the class email address. Each class has an email address of the form mulberryteacher@west-malling.kent.sch.uk with just the class name changing each time (e.g oakteacher, ashteacher, etc). I am also out on the gate most mornings and in the playground after school, so please come and have a chat if I can help with anything.

Despite it being only the first full week of school, a number of Year 6 children undertook their 11+ test yesterday and I would like to say how proud I was of their focus and concentration. All any of us can ever do in any situation is our very best, and every single child in the room certainly did that.

Next week sees Year 6 head down to the Kingswood Activity Centre at Grosvenor Hall, near Ashford, along with a number of members of staff. Lots of schools plan a residential visit for their Year 6 children, but very few do this in September at the start of the school year. We see the trip not as a reward for finishing school, but as an opportunity to develop valuable teamwork and leadership skills, that can then be brought back into school for the remainder of the year – a way to enhance the rest of the last year of primary school. Our aim is to update the school Facebook page regularly to allow you to get a flavour of what we are all up to.

My one wish this weekend is that as I am going to be spending the majority of next week outside with Year 6 the temperature might just creep back up again a little!

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

w/c 16th September

Year 6 residential trip to Kingswood Activity Centre

Year 5 swimming lessons begin

School clubs begin with the exception of Netball and Football which begin next week

Monday 16th & Tuesday 17th September

Chestnut children staying until 1pm

Wednesday 18th September

Chestnut children start full days

Monday 23rd September

Year 5 swimming

Zumba Club NOT running today

Tuesday 24th September

Netball Club starts today

Friday 27th September

Football Club starts today

After school cake sale for Macmillan Cancer Support

Monday 30th September

Year 5 swimming

Thursday 3rd October

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

Achievers of the Week...

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year 1	Elsie-Mae Ph	For her confidence & independence and settling well into Year 1
Year 2	Rafferty	For living out our school values
Year 3	Aiden	For his kindness and great maths work
Year 4	Jimmy	For working incredibly hard across all subjects but particularly English
Year 5	Luke	For his positive start to Year 5
Year 6	Edward	For his excellent contributions and thoughtful responses

Macmillan Cake Sale

We will be holding a cake sale on Friday 27th September in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. This will take place on the playground after school. All donations of cakes, whether home baked or bought, greatly appreciated – please drop any donations to the school office. Thank you.

West Malling Parish Council – Kent Police Drop-In Session

Thursday 18th September (mid-day) at 9 High Street, West Malling – an opportunity for West Malling residents to raise any concerns.

Macey's Meadow Applefest – 28th September

Please see the poster sent along with this newsletter for further details.

Walking Bus Hi-Vis Tabard Amnesty

We have a severe shortage of hi-vis tabards for the Walking Bus. If you have any extras at home could you please bring them into school as soon as possible. Thank you.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	96.8%
Year 1	93.2%
Year 2	98.8%
Year 3	99.2%
Year 4	93.1%
Year 5	99.1%
Year 6	97.3%

Whole School Target

96.4%

Whole School Attendance

97%

Yearly attendance to date:

96.2%

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



Well done Year 3!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	95.8%
Year 1	99.1%
Year 2	96.9%
Year 3	95%
Year 4	99.2%
Year 5	99.4%
Year 6	97.3%

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>