



West Malling Church of England Primary School and The McGinty SRP



NEWSLETTER 11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Despite it being very early in the school year, 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, displaying our school value of 'perseverance' in abundance.

Next week sees Year 6 head down to the PGL 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.

That teamwork and leadership have already been on display at the start of this year, as Year 6 have begun to think about their fundraising efforts. Each year, Year 6 undertake a number of fundraising activities to raise money both for their own end-of-year activity day and also for a charity of their choosing, which they will decide in the next few weeks. The first activity was the cookie and doughnut sale which took place after school yesterday. This proved very popular indeed, to the extent that at one point I was worried I would miss out by patiently waiting for my turn until the end! Thank you all for your generosity in helping Year 6 raise £168 from this first event of the year.

We try to make the most of the outdoor environment here at school; in particular children in Chestnut and the McGinty SRP will be having regular 'Outdoors Explorers' sessions in the Forest School area. To assist us in this area of school we would very much welcome any donations of the following items that are no longer needed at home:

- Metal or wooden cutlery or 'cooking' utensils
- Garden tools
- Tarpaulins
- Scaffold boards or planks of wood
- Metal 'camping' cups or plastic cups
- Plastic or melamine bowls and plates

Please could any donations of items be brought to the Daisy Class outside door on the KS2 playground at the start or end of the day? Thank you.

In a similar vein, we are always on the lookout for potential support from local employers. Many businesses have 'charity arms' that are always looking to support local community groups and projects. If any parents work for a company that would be willing to discuss supporting us, either financially or in other ways, then either I or Mrs Petrucci would be very pleased to meet with them.

With best wishes for the weekend,

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

w/c Monday 14th September

Year 6 trip to Grosvenor Hall

Monday 14th September

Year 5 first swimming session

Friday 18th September

Places at school clubs to be communicated to parents p.m

Monday 21st September

Year 5 swimming

Clubs begin

Tuesday 22nd September

Parent meeting at 2pm (at Leybourne St Peter & St Paul Primary School) regarding the Trust – see messages sent home on 4th September

Thursday 24th September

Macmillan cake sale after school

Friday 25th September

INSET day – school closed to children

Monday 28th September

Year 5 swimming

Monday 5th, Tuesday 6th & Wednesday 7th (if required) October

Individual and sibling (those who attend the school) portraits

Monday 12th October

Year 5 swimming

Wednesday 14th October

Harvest Festival service at St Mary's Church at 9.15am. all welcome to join us

Thursday 15th October

PTA Film Night – details to follow

Friday 16th October

Last day of Term 1

Monday 19th – Friday 30th October

Half term holidays

Monday 2nd November

First day of Term 2 – children return to school

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year 1	George	For his brilliant contributions
Year 2	Primrose B	For enthusiasm for learning
Year 3	Grace	For her mature attitude to all her learning
Year 4	Paddy-Rae	For an excellent science lesson
Year 5	Hugo	For participating well in class
Year 6	Dari	For his leadership in our PE lesson

Kent Fire & Rescue

Kent Fire and Rescue Service has launched a brand new YouTube Kids mini-series, 'Be Safe with Us'.

We know children love watching their favourite programmes and videos, so we've created something that's both fun and educational! Our short videos are designed to help teach children important safety skills including understanding fire engines, what to do in an emergency, and the importance of smoke alarms.

They're a great way for the family to learn together about staying safe at home. We hope you enjoy them!

You can watch the videos here: <https://www.kent.fire-uk.org/besafewithus>

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	98.5%
Year 1	96.1%
Year 2	97.6%
Year 3	99.5%
Year 4	96.9%
Year 5	98.2%
Year 6	99.1%

Whole School Attendance

97.9%

Yearly attendance to date:

96.5%

The children in Year 3 have the highest attendance this week



Well done Year 3!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	100%
Year 1	97.8%
Year 2	96.7%
Year 3	97.1%
Year 4	93.1%
Year 5	94.3%
Year 6	93.7%

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.