



West Malling Church of England Primary School and The McGinty SRP



NEWSLETTER 24th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a very short Term 5 – especially with another Bank Holiday appearing in a couple of weeks' time! I hope that everyone enjoyed a happy Easter break and managed to recharge the batteries ahead of the two summer terms. These are always very busy with lots going on as the weather improves, so keep a look out in the newsletters and on Parent Mail for information about everything taking place.

The warmer and sunnier weather has definitely put everyone in a good mood. The shorts and summer dresses are now out in force, and it is so nice for everyone to be on the field together at lunchtimes. Several parents have commented to me in the playground about how lovely it is that the whole school can be together at lunchtimes, and the care and compassion that Year 6 display when interacting and spending time with their Year R buddies. Long may the sunshine last to enable the positivity to continue.

Lime Class have been out and about this week as they have begun their new geography unit considering human and physical features in the local area. The children headed over to Macey's Meadow on Thursday morning to identify what they could see. There was lots of chat about what was visible and why the land looks as it does, with some excellent discussion about the role orchards play in the food production chain and why there are so many of them in the southeast of England. The children will be using the information they have gathered to eventually compare West Malling with a region in China.

This afternoon Cherry Class are heading out in the sun to litter pick on both the school field and the cricket pitch opposite school. As I write this newsletter there are some very excited children preparing to head out and enhance the local environment. They are arming themselves with gloves, sacks and litter pickers and a firm sense of knowing that what they are doing is contributing to improving the look and appearance of the local area.

Speaking of the cricket pitch, we are at the point in the year when the good weather often enables children and adults to spend time on the field after the end of the school day. It always has a lovely feel, but please could I make a number of requests? We are all aware of the difficulties of parking at the end of the day, so if you are planning on spending time on the field, please ensure that your vehicle is left safely and sensibly and not causing difficulties for other road users or pedestrians. We enjoy excellent relations with Town Malling Cricket Club, so please ensure that children do not climb on the sight screen frames or pass beyond the rope fencing and encroach onto the cricket square itself.

One final reminder this week to parents of children in Year 3 that we will start swimming on Monday afternoon, so do not forget to pack swimwear and a towel!

Best wishes for the weekend.

Mr Rye

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 27th April

Year 3 begin swimming lessons

Tuesday 28th April

Kent Fire & Rescue sessions for all years

Thursday 30th April

Re-scheduled Oak Class parents' consultations
(appointment times as before)

Monday 4th May

BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

Tuesday 5th May

School clubs begin

Thursday 7th May

Chestnut Class assembly at 9am - parents are invited to come along and share in the children's learning

Monday 11th – Thursday 14th May

Year 6 SATs week

Monday 11th May

Year 3 swimming

Monday 18th May

Year 3 swimming

Achievers of the Week

YEAR	NAME	Commended for
Year R	Isla	For trying really hard with her writing
Year 1	Jenson	For a wonderful start to Term 5
Year 2	Alfie	For his enthusiasm for learning
Year 3	Isla	For her great explanations in maths
Year 4	Daisy	For her perseverance
Year 5	Charlie	For coming back with a great attitude towards his learning
Year 6	Lacey	For his amazing knowledge on our Mudlarking trip

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

We are reminding 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.

School Clubs – Terms 5 & 6

Applications for club places close at 3pm today, 24th April. You will be notified next Friday, 1st May, if your child has been successful in gaining a place(s).

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

CLASS	Attendance
Year R	97.4%
Year 1	98.6%
Year 2	95.2%
Year 3	98.2%
Year 4	98.8%
Year 5	96.6%
Year 6	93.2%

Whole School Attendance

96.9%

Yearly attendance to date:

94.9%

The children in Year 4 have the highest attendance this week



Well done Years 4!



PUNCTUALITY PANDA

CLASS	% Arrived on time
Year R	96.5%
Year 1	98.2%
Year 2	98%
Year 3	94.5%
Year 4	91.3%
Year 5	98.1%
Year 6	97.5%

Well done Year 1 – 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.

Internet Matters have published conversation starters and activities to help parents talk to children about artificial intelligence, as well as useful tips to help make AI safer for children.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/by-activity/using-artificial-intelligence/how-to-use-ai-safely/>