



MPS Head's Newsletter

Reflecting the Kingdom of God by Enriching and Transforming Lives

December	
8th	Christmas Baking Week – named container needed Alice in Wonderland Week
9th	Key Stage 2 Christmas Concert Rehearsal in church 10.45am Key Stage 1 Dress Rehearsal – costumes needed
10th	Key Stage 2 Christmas Concert in church 9.15am Nursery and Reception Christmas Nativity 2.30pm
11th	Christmas Jumper Day - £1 donation for Save the Children
12th	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Show 9am – Year 1 parents Year 1 and 2 Christmas Show 2pm - Year 2 parents
15th	10am Rocksteady Concert in school hall Year 4, 5 and 6 to Rose Theatre – Cinderella – pick up from Rose Theatre at 4pm or from Malden Parochial at 5.15pm
16th	Alice in Wonderland performance (in-school) – children will make Alice in Wonderland dress up in school
17th	Christmas Lunch – please order via the Google Form
18th	Christmas Parties
19th	End of Autumn Term children leave at 2pm - No Night Owls

A huge thank you to everyone who attended the Church Christmas Fair on 29th November.

A special mention and well done to all the children who participated! They delighted our community with beautiful Christmas carols, accompanied by Mrs McMullan. Their performance was a wonderful highlight of the day.



Educational Excellence and Malden Parochial

What is happening in schools these days?

Questioning - No more hands up

Times have changed since we all went to school. In this section of the newsletter, we will be showcasing new initiatives in teaching and learning and why we are embracing these at Malden Parochial.



The traditional "hands up" method is no longer seen as best practice because it limits participation to confident pupils, discourages quieter children and privileges the few, while newer questioning strategies empower the many. By shifting to inclusive methods, teachers foster engagement, equity and a more accurate picture of learning

Why "Hands Up" Has Fallen Out of Favour

1. Unequal Participation

The same voices dominate, so confident or high-achieving pupils tend to answer most questions, while quieter or less confident children remain silent. Hidden disengagement: Those not chosen may switch off, distract others, or disengage entirely.

2. Misleading Assessment

Teachers may assume the class understands because a few pupils answer correctly. In reality, many children may be struggling but remain unnoticed. This creates a false sense of security about learning progress.

3. Pressure and Anxiety

Some pupils feel anxious about being put on the spot or embarrassed if they get it wrong. Hands up can reinforce a competitive atmosphere, rather than a collaborative one.

4. Equity and Inclusion

A "no hands up" approach ensures every child has the chance to contribute, not just the most vocal and aligns with modern teaching values of inclusion, dignity, and equal opportunity.

Alternatives to "Hands Up"

Cold Calling no hands up and the teacher selects pupils to answer, regardless of raised hands this ensures all voices are heard and keeps pupils attentive, as they know they may have to answer

Think-Pair-Share/Woosh Pupils think individually, discuss with a partner, then share which builds confidence before speaking which encourages collaboration

Mini Whiteboards Children write answers and hold them up so the teacher sees everyone's understanding at once

Choral Response Whole class answers together which builds energy, reduces spotlight pressure

Multiple Choice Using coloured pages in our planners to show a colour to match an answer

Why This Matters in our Classrooms

Encourages all learners: Children at this age are forming attitudes toward learning and inclusive questioning helps them feel valued.

Supports formative assessment: Teachers gain a clearer picture of class-wide understanding.

Builds confidence: Pupils learn that mistakes are part of learning, not something to hide.

Are there young carers in our school?

A Young Carer is a child or young person under 18 who helps to look after a family member or friend who is ill, disabled, has a mental health condition, or has an addiction. These children take on extra responsibilities at home that are usually done by an adult. [Young Carers](#)

What might a Young Carer do?

Their caring role can involve many different jobs, such as:

Practical Help: Cooking, cleaning, shopping, and doing laundry.

Personal Care: Helping someone get dressed, wash, or take their medicine.

Emotional Support: Listening, giving comfort, and cheering up the person they care for.

Looking After Others: Taking care of younger brothers or sisters. Who have additional

Why do young carers need our support?

Additional responsibilities can sometimes make it difficult for them to:

- Get enough sleep
- Concentrate fully in class
- Join after-school clubs or spend time with friends
- Manage stress or worry about what's happening at home

Young carers are often incredibly caring and responsible, but they need to know their school community understands and supports them

Let us know how we can help

If you think your child might qualify for being a young carer, please let the school office know so that we can offer support. Thank you.



Malden Parochial Church of England Primary School
Chair of Governing Body: Mrs P Brown

Vacancy for the role of Parent Governor on our Governing Body.

The role of the Governing Body

The school's governing body is responsible for providing confident and strategic leadership, and creating robust accountability, oversight and assurance for the school's educational and financial performance.

The Governors are passionate about education and committed to continuous school improvement to ensure the best possible outcomes for our pupils.

The role of a Parent Governor

As a parent governor, you'll work with the board to make sure it effectively carries out the duties referred to above. You'll also play a vital role in bringing a **parental perspective** to the governing body, but you're not there to speak 'on behalf' of the parent body.

To be a parent governor you should have:

- A strong commitment to the role and to improving outcomes for children
- Good interpersonal skills, curiosity, and a willingness to learn and develop new skills
- The specific skills required to make sure the governing board delivers effective governance

The governing board is keen for candidates to have skills in the following:

- Education
- Project management

However, enthusiasm and a willingness to be involved as part of the team, are the most important.

The term of office for a Parent Governor is 4 years

How to apply

If you're interested in applying for the role, please complete the candidate form (from Clerk to Governors, Office or on website, and return to the Clerk to the Governors - clerk@maldenparochial.school by **Friday 12th December 2025**.

If we receive more applications than there are vacancies, a secret ballot will be carried out. We will inform you closer to the time if we have to do this.

If you have any queries about this process or would like to find out more about the role, please contact the Clerk to the Governors, with contact details, and we will get back to you.

Expectations of governors

• Attendance at meetings:

There are 4 Governing Body meetings each year. Governors are also expected to be a member of at least one of the committees, these committees have one or two meetings each term. Our committees are designated as –

- Curriculum, which includes learning and standards
- Resources, our finances, budgeting, personnel and safety
- Faith and Spirituality, which ensures our ethos reflects our Church of England status
- Admissions

• Maintaining confidentiality

All matters discussed in any governor meeting are confidential, Governors are expected to follow this requirement and commit to the standards required of governors.

• Knowledge and skills

Everyone has skills and experience that they can bring to the Governing Body, in addition training is provided and Governors are supported by a Mentor.

• Visiting the school

Part of the role includes visiting the school for monitoring purposes, a DBS check will be required.



Building Bridges at the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Peace Symposium

Social Cohesion in a Time of Division

As head teacher at Malden Parochial, I was privileged to attend the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's Peace Symposium, "Social Cohesion in a Time of Division." The afternoon was marked by fellowship, reflection, and a shared commitment to unity.

A Meeting of Minds and Hearts

The Mayor of Kingston, Paul Kohler MP for Wimbledon and leaders from across faiths spoke with conviction about dialogue and respect as antidotes to division. The symposium embodied how communities can transcend differences to embrace shared values of compassion, justice, and peace.

The Role of Education

As school leaders, the message was clear: education must nurture empathy and understanding alongside academic achievement. Witnessing leaders model these values reinforced the vital role schools play in building bridges.

Fellowship and Hospitality

The warmth of hospitality was evident in the generous meal, where sharing food created space for connection and informal dialogue, reminding us that peace is often forged in acts of fellowship.

Looking Ahead

In times of division, unity can be cultivated daily through dialogue, education, and shared humanity. I left with renewed hope that when communities come together sincerely, peace is inevitable.

Celebration Station

Congratulations to this week's Class Stars! (Y6) Mikel (Y5) Alice (Y4) Maryam (Y3) Penelope (Y2) Anaya (Y1) Rhys (R) Elise (N) Emilia.

We also had children receive **Values** and **Bee A Blessing** certificates. **Leo, Sophia, Joshua, Leo, Zaynab, Alissiana, Heaven, Erica, Charlie.**

Anjenan and Arya also received their pen licenses this week!

Well done everyone!



Good Work Bags given out this week

Year 2

- Teddy
- Hana
- Nathan
- Livvy
- Maia
- Theo
- Samuel
- Sophie
- Otto
- Lyon

Year 3

- Delilah
- Nicole

Year 4

- Mieke
- Naomi
- Natty
- Lennon

25 and 50 Reads Completed!

Mieke (4)	Erin (4)	Eden (5)
Olly (4)	Reggie (5)	Henry (5)
Matt (3)	Jacob (5)	Reuben (5)
Aydin (R)	Owen (4)	Erin (4)
Kendra (R)	Heidi (4)	Lyon (2)
Alex (R)	Rosie (5)	Gayeong (3)
Mabli (R)	Finn (4)	
Olivia (R)	Darcey (4)	
Alba (R)	Samuel (5)	
Elise (R)	Hajoon (5)	
Clara (R)	Sharanya (4)	
Owen (R)	Natty (4)	
Verity (R)	Kate (5)	
Ivy (R)	Yielle (5)	
	Gabi (5)	

Special Mention

On Saturday 22nd November, Ethan participate in a chess tournament and won 3 out of 5 matches! Chris (our after-school chess club teacher) presented him the medal he had been awarded for such a great achievement. Well done!

Christmas Door Competition

In a display of festive fun, each class decorated their door for the competition. The School Council judged the entries, and an award was presented to each class. Don't they look great!



Nursery – Most Creative



Reception – Most Realistic



Year 1 – Most Religious



Year 2 – Most Glittery



Year 3 – Most Colourful



Year 4 – Most Delicious Looking



Year 5 – Most Festive



Year 6 – Most Baubles

MPS Feedback Form – [click here](#) if you would like to give any feedback or comments to share with Mrs McMullan.



Christmas Own Clothes Day was a great success! Thank you for all your sweets and toys contributions.

HENRY Newsletter for Parents

December 2025



Update from Kingston's HENRY Coordinator

A festive welcome from the Kingston HENRY Growing Up Team!

As we approach the Christmas season, the Kingston HENRY Growing Up Team are excited to meet and support parents throughout the year ahead. We're delighted to be offering FREE group programmes and workshops for parents, helping families begin the year feeling confident and supported. We still have spaces available on our January programmes and our April workshop. Please see details below.

What is HENRY all about?

We know that everyone wants the best for their children, but it can be hard to ensure a healthy lifestyle for the whole family.

The HENRY Growing Up team offer an 8-week programme and one-off workshop for parents and carers of children aged between 5-12. HENRY is for everyone, and topics covered in the 8-week programme include understanding children's behaviour, setting boundaries, parent wellbeing, healthy lifestyles, supporting children eating a wide range of foods, screen time, being active, family routines, sleep, self-esteem, and much more.

The HENRY Looking After Ourselves workshop is an interactive online session that focuses on the benefits of parents taking time to recharge—supporting emotional wellbeing, physical health, and a deeper understanding of stress, its impact on the body, and practical strategies to cope and unwind.

The programme and workshops are FREE to attend for parents/carers of children attending Kingston Schools. You can self-refer by scanning the QR code or to find out more please feel free to email us on henry@yourhealthcare.org



Upcoming HENRY Programmes and workshops

Healthy families

Healthy Families Growing up programme (for parents of children aged 5-12)

Venue: Online

Day/Time:
Friday: 12 – 1.15pm
OR
Wednesday: 10-11:15am

Dates:
16th January -13th March (Fri)
28th January - 25th March (Wed)
2026

Break over February half term

Looking After Ourselves (for parents of children aged 5-12)

Venue: Online

Day/Time: Wednesday
10 – 11.30am

Date:
22nd April 2026

- **What do parents say who have already accessed HENRY?**
- "What I enjoyed most about the programme was the opportunity to share experiences with other parents and hear different perspectives. It was reassuring to know that others face similar challenges, and I found it helpful to learn from their experiences"
- "This programme has helped me realise that small changes can make a big difference."



THE CHOIR OF ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL, WINDSOR CASTLE



Girls and Boys

in Y2-3 are invited to apply to attend one of our

Chorister for a Day

events to be held on

Sunday 18 January & Sunday 25 January 2026

from 12.30pm to 6.30pm at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, Windsor SL4 1NJ

Advance booking is essential, with priority given to children in Year 3.

Closing date for applications: Sunday 11 January 2026

Please contact Francesca Alden Email cfad@stgeorges-windsor.org

www.stgeorges-windsor.org/events/cfad2026

Chorister for a Day is a wonderful opportunity for girls and boys aged 6-8 (Yrs 2-3 at school) and their parents and carers to experience a day as a chorister in our world-famous choir of children and professional adult singers. New choristers typically join the choir at the start of Year 4 and this event is designed to help potential choristership applicants find out more about life as a chorister ahead of auditions in February. The programme of events will include various activities, ending with the Chorister for a Day participants taking part in Choral Evensong with the Choir of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.



Choristers at St George's rehearse every weekday morning and sing services on four weekdays and on a Sunday (Saturdays are mostly commitment free). This schedule develops not only their musical talents, but nurtures key skills such as leadership, team work, and time management. The Choristers are educated and board part-time at St George's School on generous scholarships, and limited means-tested bursaries may be available. The choristers all receive singing lessons from one of the UK's finest teachers of young voices, and receive instrumental and theory tuition. More information on all aspects of being a chorister will be available at *Chorister for a Day*.

The Choir was founded in 1348, and is now a choir of mixed girl and boy choristers and adult lay clerks (both male and female who provide the alto, tenor and bass parts). The choir sings regularly in the presence of His Majesty the King and other members of the Royal family, at annual events such as Garter Day and Easter Sunday Mattins, and at special events. In 2018, this included singing at both Royal Weddings in St George's Chapel: for The Duke and Duchess of Sussex in May, and for HRH Princess Eugenie and Mr Jack Brooksbank in October. In September 2022 the choir sang at the Committal Service for Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in St George's Chapel. The choir released a CD of Christmas music in 2019 on the Hyperion label which was met with critical acclaim, and a recording with the Band of the Household Cavalry was released in November 2022. The choir has also broadcast on radio, most recently in May 2024 with Choral Evensong (BBC Radio 3), and given concerts in the Windsor Festival and the Thaxted Festival.



It is important to note that we are not looking for musical stars at this stage – we are looking for children between the ages of six and eight who have the potential to develop their fledgling musical talent, who would like to consider the opportunity of applying for a choristership, and above all who would enjoy this sort of event.

www.stgeorges-windsor.org

www.stgwindsor.org