

The Insider

20th October 2017 Issue 266

Love to Learn; Learn to Live; Live to Love.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Friday evening saw our choir take part in the annual Primrose Concert, along with the Alcester Victoria Silver Band and the Primrose Choir. A good amount of money was raised through the event, which goes to support the work of the Primrose Hospice.

Reminder

Half term begins at the end
of school on Thursday 19th
October, pupils returning on
Monday 30th October.

College matches have combined with PE lessons to bring some close finishes, and all the points are shared within these pages. Winning is not everything, although the honour stands for those who come to the finishing line early on, as was the case in cross country. Taking part is most welcome, even if the winners seem a long way off in a race! The matches between colleges were warmly played, and many took part even if their talent is not within the game. The outcomes are within these pages.

We welcomed local first schools this week to our Maths and Science event. My thanks to the staff who brought the teams of five, and I know everyone enjoyed the day, including the afternoon where rockets shot into the air.

We have had some parents of Year 4 pupils visit the school this week to see it in action. Like many of our guests, the tours of the school are done by our pupils, who were able to explain how Walkwood works and answer the parents' questions. Well done to the pupils, who were highly complimented by the adults who came to see our school.

Year 6 would have been to The Bridge Church for our annual Harvest Service, except that the weather defeated us! This year, we shall be combining our harvest donations with Children in Need—more details after half term.

I look forward to seeing our Year 5 parents for the Settling In Evening on Wednesday 1st November, when there is the opportunity to touch base with tutors and, in occasional other instances, core subject teachers.

Rev C Leach Principal

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:4

Dear Lord,

We thank you for all you've given us. We thank you for the food that grows on the trees and in the ground. We are blessed to live in a place where we can choose between so many different foods to eat. We thank you for the hard work people have to do in order for us to have such foods. May you bless us as we remember your creation and bless the hands that look after it. Amen

This week's theme was: Harvest

For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

Deuteronomy 8: 7&10

Whole school Attendance—96.23%

Whole School Target – 95.6%

09.10.17—13.10.17

Year 5 — 98.74 %

Year 6 — 96.06 %

Year 7 — 94.8 %

Year 8 — 94.93%













For the week ahead



The Fruit of Faith is:	Friendliness	When others are happy, be happy with them, and when they are sad, be sad. Be friendly with everyone. Don't be proud and feel that you are smarter than others. Make friends with ordinary people. Don't mistreat someone who has mistreated you. But try to earn the respect of others. Romans 12:15-17
The tutor group virtue:	Happiness	Trust the Lord and live right! The land will be yours, and you will be safe. Do what the Lord wants, and he will give you your heart's desire. Let the Lord lead you and trust him to help. Then it will be as clear as the noonday sun that you were right. Psalm 37:3-6
The assembly theme:	The Lord's Prayer	Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread Matthew 6: 9-13

We ask your thoughts and prayers in the week ahead for:

The weekend	People facing storms and bad weather	Monday	Safety of the pupils throughout this week	
Tuesday	The Commonwealth of Nations	Wednesday	Work of the local foodbank	
Thursday	Police and road traffic services	Friday	Families and friends who are visiting each other this weekend	



Ability Sets in Year 5 English



So far this term, Year 5 pupils have been taught in mixed ability sets. Now that they have completed their first half -term with us, we are in a position to organise them into ability sets, to help maximise their progress in English lessons. Therefore, from Monday 6th October, the year group will be split into two halves and organised into two parallel set 1s; two parallel set 2s; two parallel set 3s and one set 4. Set 1 will accommodate the highest achieving pupils, and so on.

If you have any pressing issues related to English and have, therefore, booked an appointment to see an English teacher on the Open Evening (Wednesday 1st November), you will of course be booked in to see the teacher who has taught your child since the start of September. He/she will pass on to the new English teacher any information arising from the parents' meeting appointment.

Mrs M Johnson Head of English



Readathon 2017

This year the Readathon will run from Monday 6th November – Friday 10th November. It will be a celebration of reading for pleasure, with pupils striving to read and quiz on their library books with particular gusto during this week. The top reader in each college (measured by the number of words read) will win a prize of a £10 book voucher.



In addition, the Readathon will also be a celebration of reading poetry for pleasure; every child in the school will be given the task of learning a poem off by heart, to perform in an English lesson during the week of the Readathon. This is a light-hearted, fun celebration of poetry – both classic and contemporary, and is a celebration which we know the pupils will love to be a part of.

To support the pupils with choosing their poem, we have collated two collections of poetry - one of KS2 appropriate poetry and one of KS3 poetry - a mix of contemporary, classic, sad, humorous, lengthy and brief, with inclusion of a wide variety of poetry, from sonnets to haikus. There is a poem in there which each pupil in the school, regardless of ability, will be able to access and enjoy!

These collections of poetry will be uploaded to Epraise by your pupil's English teacher in the near future and pupils will be given two English homeworks to help them with the task of learning their poem by heart. Your child could simply choose a Haiku if they wanted, or if he/she wanted more of a challenge, they might opt for a Shakespearian sonnet; indeed your child is welcome to choose any appropriate poem of their choice outside of the suggested Poetry Packs, if they so desire.

English teachers will then choose an English lesson during the week of the Readathon for the poetry sharing. This might be organised as a poetry 'slam' type lesson, others might share sitting as a circle; others might organise pupils to work together to deliver a choral presentation of their poem.

Year 5 – please note that year 5 pupils will be organised into ability sets after half term, and so their launch of the poetry task will wait until then. They will be given longer to learn their poem and so they may not perform them during the actual week of the Readathon.

We know that our pupils will embrace the Readathon with enthusiasm. Should you have any questions, please contact your child's English teacher.

Many thanks

Mrs M Johnson Head of English

The Primrose Proms Concert 2017

On Friday 14th October, we enjoyed an evening of singing and live, loud music. The Primrose Choir and the Alcester Victoria Silver Band joined Walkwood Choir in the hall for the Primrose Proms Concert 2017. Both choirs and the band all performed enthusiastically, keeping the audience entertained throughout the night. All money raised from the concert will go towards supporting the fantastic work of the Primrose Hospice. I was delighted to have taken part in this and look forward to next year's concert.



By Evie West, Year 6.







Primrose Proms Concert 2017



Wow! What a fantastic evening it was! Last Friday evening saw Walkwood Choir perform for the first time this year, at the very popular Primrose Proms Concert. The Primrose Choir organise this concert, which is their biggest fundraising event of the year and we were delighted to have been asked to perform with them again. Joining both choirs, as last year, was local brass band, the Alcester Victoria Silver Band.

This concert occurs very early in the school year, so we had to start practising from the start of term in order to be ready and word-perfect......and we were! The children have been amazing, not only with how confidently they sang, but also with how committed they have been and I am very proud of them all. They were, quite rightly, the stars of the show on Friday! They are also rather good at waving flags, very excitedly, which is traditional towards the end of a proms concert.

Thank you to all those people who helped to support the concert in any way – families who bought tickets to watch, the team of people who served the refreshments, all those who helped set up the hall and hang flags and bunting, the clearing-up team and of course, the MC and all the performers. The evening raised just under £2000 for the Primrose Hospice, which will continue to help the valuable work it does in our local community.

Mrs C Griffiths Head of Music

Maths take-off

On Wednesday 18th October, Year 4 pupils from Feckenham, Webheath and Crabbs Cross First schools joined us at Walkwood for a Maths and Science more able day. The pupils were ably assisted by 6 of our own students throughout the day; Year 7s: Amaya Ewing-Boulton, Isla Neale, Leo Shimmon and Year 8s: Abigayle Court, Cole Wakefield and Daniel Moulder. The year 4 children took part in a range of Science and Maths activities.

The day started with some problem solving activities with students challenged to see how many they could complete in the time. This was followed by a Lava Lamp making session in our Science Lab, using oil and food colouring amongst other ingredients to achieve the effect. Pupils could then be found racing around the school grounds in a bid to find and solve maths clues in order to lead them to the treasure in our orienteering session.

Having used up so much energy and brain power it was time to refuel with lunch and the chance to play with our Year 5 children, many catching up with friends that had been to their First school. After lunch we finished the day with a rocket building activity. Here the children had to design and make a rocket, given a certain budget to buy their materials. This then culminated in the big launch, with all rockets blasting off with great success. Here are some quotes from some of the year 4 children who took part:

"My favourite activity was making and setting off the rockets."

"This is the best day ever. I loved the lava lamps!"

"My favourite part of the day was making lava lamps."

"It was an amazing day. My favourite part was making a lava lamp with Mr Birrell."

"A very enjoyable day. All the children really enjoyed testing maths skills and experimenting with making lava lamps and rockets."

Great fun was had by all and we look forward to continuing to welcome First schools to this event in the future!

Mrs Cull, Ms Tomes and Miss Baker







Book Fair

We are hosting a children's Book Fair from Scholastics.

The Book Fair will be open in the School Library from Monday 6th November until Friday 10th November.

A timetable has been created to allow all pupils time to view and buy books.

Leaflets with a small selection of the titles available have been sent home.

There are hundreds of titles to choose from so please browse the full selection, on www.scholastic.co.uk .

Great Christmas presents or Birthday gift ideas too!





Points Boosters



This week we have launched a brand new initiative called 'Points Boosters'. It is designed to reward all pupils who have 100% attendance and those pupils who consistently uphold and adhere to the Walkwood Values.

How does it work?

Attendance Points Boosters

A 5-point booster will be awarded for every time your child has 100% Attendance for the period of the 2-week timetable- Week 1 & Week 2.

These points are automatically given out on the Friday of Week 2

Each time your child receives an Attendance Booster their name will be entered in to the Attendance College Prize Draw. See Below:

Autumn Attendance College Prize Draw



Exciting!! There is one of these to be won for each College.

Zero Demerit Points Boosters

We feel that we need to reward all pupils who continue to demonstrate excellent focus and behaviour in and out of lessons and complete all of their homework on time.

We are awarding a 5-point booster for every time your child has Zero Demerits during the period of the 2-week timetable- Week 1 & Week 2.

Again, these booster points are automatically given out on the Friday of Week 2.

As a school, we continue to evolve and adapt our systems as we search to motivate our pupils to want attend school and give their best whilst they are here. As always, your support is greatly appreciated.

Top Readers for 4th September 2017 - 19th October 2017



Congratulations to:

Top Girl

(Baillie Carr CAMI Year 8) - who has read an outstanding 990,549 words

Top Boy

(Oliver Hands MNSA Year 7) - who has read a fabulous 1,107,050 words

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU



Clarification on hair styles

Thank you to all those parents/carers who get in touch with support or suggestions. These help us to improve both the academic and life experiences that your child receives while they are at our school. You can be assured we are constantly reviewing all aspects of our school to ensure your child receives the best possible education.

In support of this, the school has a number of policies which set out the levels and standards we expect for attendance, uniform, behaviour and homework. Copies of these are available on our website, www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/. In depth uniform guidance is also outlined in the pupil planners as well as on the website.

The majority of our pupils respect and follow these policies. However, in recent weeks we have noticed that a small number of pupils are attending school with hairstyles which we do not consider appropriate

within the policy, which makes us mention that we do not allow extremes of hairstyles in school. To avoid any confusion, all hairstyles need to adhere to the following guidelines:

- No parting lines, patterns or tramlines should be shaved into the hair or eyebrows.
- Hair should not be shaved shorter than a grade 2.
- No undercuts.
- Colouring is only allowed if it appears natural.
- Hair bands must be plain and only blue, black or grey in colour (no other hair accessories should be worn).
- Hair extensions are not permitted.

Please note that should a Walkwood pupil be found not to be adhering to the above, it may be that they are withdrawn from their normal timetable

whilst parents are contacted and the issue rectified. In some cases it may be necessary to send a pupil home to make the necessary adjustments, before returning to their learning. The school's decision in all matters is final.

The half term break will at least allow these 'fashion' haircuts to grow out before we return to school. As ever, we would welcome your support in this matter.



Year 5 Settling In Evening



We would like to take this opportunity to remind you about the upcoming parents' evening that you received a letter about at the start of October. This evening is on Wednesday 1st November from 4.00-7.00pm and is primarily an opportunity to meet with your child's tutor. This will provide you with the chance to see how your child has generally settled into Walkwood during the first half-term.

On the same evening, if you have a pressing concern which you would like to discuss with English, Maths or Science teachers, these subject teachers will be available if required. Please, however, bear in mind that some staff members have two Year 5 groups and a tutor group, and so they will not be able to meet with all parents of the pupils they teach. Therefore, please book in with your child's tutor teacher as a priority and then the core subject teachers only if you have any immediate concerns. This is not our formal parents' evening; this will come later on during the academic year. You will also receive a full school report in February.

To book your appointments, please login to Insight at https://insight.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk, and select the General tab > Parents Evening. On the right hand side, press the time under the teacher you wish to see, and the appointment will be booked.

Insight usernames and passwords have been sent home, by letter, earlier in the term but if for some reason you do not know your login details - please complete this form: http://stbsupport.co.uk/insight-password-reset/. Please ensure you select Walkwood Church of England Middle School in the drop down choices at the top of the form. Responses to username requests can take up to 48 working hours. If you have forgotten your password, please follow the forgotten password link on the Insight login page to reset your password. Responses to password re-sets are instant.

If you do not have internet access you can phone reception who will be able to book appointments on your behalf.

We hope to see you all on the evening of Wednesday 1st November.

Mrs Louise Cull Assistant Principal



https://www.theparliamentaryreview.co.uk/editions/secondary-education/west-midlands



Sports News

What a fantastic term for football at here at Walkwood! It started with the Year 6 boys defending their district title at Woodfield. With Walkwood being the team to beat, the boys started slowly and had to battle their way through the group stages with some excellent performances. As the tournament went on, the team grew in confidence and faced St Bede's in the semi final. Walkwood had the better of the game but needed extra time to overcome a battling Bede's performance. They went on to win 3-1 after extra time. The lads took this result into the final and swept aside Ridgeway 3-0 in a domineering performance. The lads went on to win and claim their second district title!

Then came the Year 7 boys team who were also going for back-to-back district wins! Again, Walkwood started slowly in the group stages, but battled through as group winners and faced Woodfield in the semi-finals. The lads started this game in impressive style and went 2-0 up inside the first 3 minutes. They stepped off slightly and gave away a sloppy penalty. The resulting penalty was saved by Matty Hitchens in impressive style and the lads went on to win the game 3-0. Onto the final and it was St Bede's that stood in the way. Again Walkwood had the better of the chances throughout the game, but St Bede's continued to hold out. Extra time flew by and penalties loomed. Each team scored their first three penalties meaning sudden death had to decide it. Walkwood scored and Bede's missed meaning that Walkwood took the title for a second year running!

It was then the turn of the Year 5s at their district tournament last Thursday. The team were buzzing with enthusiasm and this was evident with their first performances. Walkwood started very well, beating Birchensale 2-0 and then Woodfield 3-0. In the final group game, Walkwood narrowly lost to Ipsley. However, they still progressed through to the semi final against Ridgeway. Walkwood dominated the game and took a 1-0 lead, but Ridgeway continued to battle hard and equalised, taking the game into extra time. Again Walkwood dictated the play and their pressure resulted in a second and winning goal setting up a final against Ipsley. The final was highly competitive with both teams giving it their all. Unfortunately for Walkwood, Ipsley won the game 2-0 with two excellent goals. Nevertheless, the team should be very proud of finishing runners up and producing such a high standard of football. No doubt our Year 5s will go on to enjoy lots of success on the football pitch over the coming years.

After amazing success in the boys' football, came the chance for the girls teams to impress. The Year 7s went to their districts and battled well but found the competition tough, and with injuries and bad luck on their side failed to make it through the group stages, but they can be proud of their battling performances. The Year 5s definitely put all of their excitement of representing Walkwood for the first time into this tournament. Their enthusiasm to play was infectious, and although some have not known each other for long they worked as a team throughout.

As each game went on, the team went from strength to strength, improving their style of play and scoring some great team goals. We had won all of our games, and our last game was against St Bede's. The girls were determined to not let the winning streak slip and they did not disappoint, beating them 4-0! Winning all of our games and not conceding a single goal, it's safe to say the girls did us proud! Well done girls! Fantastic first appearance for Walkwood!

After such amazing success the Year 6s went into their tournament feeling the pressure. They did not let this show. After winning every game in the group stages, they went through to the semi-finals as group winners. In the semi-final they faced Meadow Green, and although we didn't know much about this team they performed exceptionally and won the match in impressive style. Again we faced St Bede's in the final. The girls were excellent and really took the game from Bede's. Bede's were on the back foot throughout but managed to cling on, with Walkwood missing a huge number of chances and they really should have won the game in normal time. Extra time was tense and Walkwood found themselves 1-0 down with Bede's only real shot of the game. After a rallying team talk, the girls went into the second half looking to get themselves back into the game. They played so well and scored 3 goals to turn the game around and win the title! Another amazing success for Walkwood!

Out of the 7 district tournaments Walkwood have already won 4 and been runners up in 1. This is a truly fantastic achievement and everyone should be really proud! Excellent job by all!

Squad lists for each team

<u>Year 7 Boys:</u> Matty Hitchens, Jackson Preece, Owen Rae, Jamie Kelman, James Lev, Mitchel Brooks, Adam Beech, Jak Clarke, Ollie Hands, Rhys Thomas.

<u>Year 6 Boys:</u> Matty Hitchens, Jackson Preece, Owen Rae, Thomas Scott, Finlay Baker, Tyler Baker, Jake Harrison, Archie Floate, Sam Blackburn, Henry Gibson.

<u>Year 6 Girls:</u> Kaitlyn Hicks-Kenward, Charlotte Meekins, Angel Grace Ebanks, Paige Chambers, Amber Martin, Aimee Harris, Niamh Campbell, Leoni Winter, Daisy Moyse, Katie Heard.

<u>Year 5 Girls:</u> Summer-Ewing Boulton, Lexie Robins, Kaitlyn Hicks-Kenward, Amber Martin, Isobel Burton, Lilly Vann, Scarlett Harley, Holly Henrick, Tia-Louise Hollison.

<u>Year 7 Girls:</u> Freya Harley, Maisie West, Frankie Griffiths, Charli Pollard, Megan McHugh, Aimee Harris, Paige Chambers. Niamh Campbell.

<u>Year 5 Boys:</u> Josh Hull, Charlie Kidd, Finlay Baker, Graysen Mills, Connor Rose, Jacob Clews, Alfie Morris, Jaiden Winch, Harry Stocks.

Year 5 Girl Winners



Year 6 Girls Winners



Year 7 Boys Winners



Year 6 Boys Winners





Trips and Visits 2017 - 18



DATE	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	OPEN TO	COST	LEADER
May					
Fri 18—Mon 21	Outward Bound	Yorkshire	Y6	£ 270	Mr Sanders
June					
Wed 20—Fri 22	Arts and Theatres	London	Y8	£ 280	Rev Leach
Fri 22—Mon 25	Outward Bound	Wales	Y8	£ 270	Mr Jenkin
Fri 22— Mon 25	Outward Bound	Brecon Beacons	Y5	£ 155	Mr Macdonald / Mrs Cull



Clubs and Activities Autumn Term 1

Down	Defens Calcad	Lumahatina a	After Calcal
Day	Before School 7:45am—8:45 am	Lunchtime	After School
		12.35-1.20 p.m.	3.30 pm—4.45 pm
Monday	Homework Club (Library)	KS3 Art Club Starting 18th September	Homework Club
		(ECO)	(Library) 3.30–4.30pm
		(LCO)	Kurling and Boccia Club (invite/sign up
	Orchestra (Music Room)	Choir (all year groups)	only)
	8.45-9.30am (CGr)	12.50-1.20 pm	(NFO/DPA) 3.30-4.45pm
		Music Room (CGR)	(, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
		` ,	
		Monday lunchtime	
		DT block Movie club (all	
		years) (AMI)	
		Gardening Club	
		Textiles Room	
		At the start of lunch	
		(STA)	
		Maths Club for KS2 and	
		KS3	
		Room 6	
		(HBA and LTH)	
Tuesday	Homework Club	DT Club in DT block	Homework Club
•	(Library)	All years (AMI)	(Library) 3.30-4.30pm
	, ,,	, , ,	(
		KS2 Art Club	Year 5 & 6 Science Club
		Art Room (ECO)	3.30-4.30 pm
			LAB1 (JHD)
		Card Making club	Starts 12th September
		(invite only)	(not on 17th October, 31st October,
		Art Room	12th December and 19th December)
		(STA)	
			Year 5/6 Netball—(HTR/KRE)
			Years 5, 7 & 8 Football (RMA, CHU,
			SWA)
Wednesday	Homework Club	Signing Club	Homework Club
•	(Library)	(All year groups)	(Library) 3.30–4.30pm
		(Textiles Room) (JHa)	
			Cooking Club 3.30–4.45pm (DSL)
		Silent Reading Club	(rota of when you are cooking will be
		Room 19 (LBa)	confirmed)
			Girls Football 5/6—7/8
		Colouring and Drawing	(RMA/HTR/NFO)
		Club for Mindfulness and	(NIVIA/FITN/NFO)
		Relaxation (12.50—1.20)	KS2 Boys Hockey (DPA)
		Room 9	
		(MMG and PC)	Cross Country Club
		(limited places available)	Field (NRO)
	•		

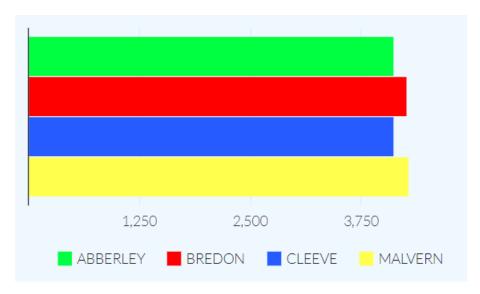


Clubs and Activities Autumn Term 1



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Thursday	Homework Club	Choir (All year groups)	Homework Club
	(Library)	Music Room—12.50-	(Library) 3.30–4.30pm
		1.20pm (CGR)	
			Year 7/8 Rugby—(PJE/SWA)
		Languages Club	Year 7/8 Netball—(HTR/KRE)
		1.00 pm in Room 15 (NHU)	
		To start after October half-	Year 6 Football—(NSA/DPA)
		term	
		Green Ambassadors Club	
		All years	
		Week 2 only	
		12.35 pm—if you need a	
		lunch pass collect from	
		MBI	
Friday	Homework Club		Homework Club
	(Library)		(Library) 3.30–4.30pm
			Rec Football - (SWA, NFO, CHU, DPA,
			RMA)
			Niviry

Epraise Update Points This Week: By College



Top Ten Points Scorers

- 1. Lauren Sole (AMLA) (55)
- 2. Eleanor Dicken (ALBA) (52)
- 3. Megan Nearn (BHLI) (46)
- 3. Emily Nattrass (ALBA) (46)
- 5. Eoin Clarke (AECO) (45)
- 6. Niamh Jones (CCMI) (43)
- 6. Norbert Cygan (BLBO) (43)
- 8. Evie Trueman (MKRE) (41)
- 9. Owen Rae (MHBA) (40)
- 10. Niamh Campbell (CHTR) (39)



Looking ahead



	Date	Event
	Friday 20 October	Staff Development Day
2	Monday 23 – Friday 27 October	Half-Term
0	Wednesday 1 November	Y5 Parents' Evening 4—7 pm
	Thursday 9 November	SATs Information Evening 7 pm
1	Monday 4 December	Parents' Maths KS2 Workshop 6.30—7.30 pm
	Tuesday 12 December	Christmas Concert 7.30 pm
7	Tuesday 19 December	End of Term
	Wednesday 3 January	Staff Development Day
	Thursday 4 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Monday 15 January	Parent English KS2 Workshop 6.30—7.30 pm
	Thursday 1 February	Y6 & Y8 Parents' Evening 4—7 pm
	Wednesday 7 February	Y6 & Y8 Parents' Evening 4—7 pm
	Thursday 15 February	Y5 & Y7 reports to Parents / Carers
2	Monday 19 – Friday 23 February	Half-Term
0	Friday 9 March	Parent Focus Group 2.00—3.00 pm
	Thursday 29 March	End of term
1	Monday 16 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Wednesday 16 May	Y5 Brecon Beacons information evening 6.30 pm
8	Monday 28 May—Friday 1 June	Half-Term
	Monday 4 June	Staff Development Day
	Thursday 7 June	Y5 & Y7 Parents' Evening 4—7 pm
	Wednesday 13 June	Y5 & Y7 Parents' Evening 4—7 pm
	Monday 9 July	Parent Focus group 6 pm
	Tuesday 24 July	End of Term