

Dear Parents and Carers,

Next Wednesday evening is our school's Christmas Concert, and so the choir and orchestra have been preparing. They will be taking additional time together in the coming week and I am looking forward to hearing the musical pieces from 7.30pm on Wednesday.

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people.  
*Matthew 2:5-6*



I know many of you have already ordered the Christmas lunch, for which I thank you as it assists in planning if we know the numbers of meals to prepare each day. There will be no other availability of food at lunch time, so please check the page inside which shows which day that a packed lunch will be needed.



The number of pupils who are presenting at first aid is still above our usual number but not as great as last week, so the sickness bug is still doing the rounds. It is best to stay at home for 48 hours after being physically sick.

Year 5 had their trip to the theatre earlier today. This event is surrounded by work in English lessons, both before and after the visit. This year's story was Peter Pan. The pupils I have spoken to were really impressed with the staging, as the Birmingham Repertory Theatre's performance was of exceptional quality. The atmosphere was energised through quality story telling. Arranging such events is never easy, so my thanks go to the English teachers who prepared the materials for classes and to the staff who went with them. Unlike some of the characters from the story, none of the pupils flew away at any point.



Finally, as the SATs results are published, do bear in mind my comments from a previous Insider: middle schools should be judged at their success over the four years and not the first five terms of Years 5 and 6 - <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Content/files/edc5-2019-11-29%20Insider.pdf>

Rev. C. Leach, Principal

Last day of term:  
**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December**  
3.30pm

A prayer for The Lord's Prayer  
Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

This week's theme was:  
**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

**Whole School Attendance**  
91.19%  
**Whole School Target**  
95.6%



# For the week ahead

|                               |                         |   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| <b>The Fruit of Faith is:</b> | <b>Aspiration</b>       | Oh listen, dear child—become wise; point your life in the right direction.<br><i>Proverbs 23:19</i>   |
| <b>The assembly theme:</b>    | <b>Global Christmas</b> | In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.<br><i>John 1:1-5</i> |

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

|                    |  |                  |  |
|--------------------|--|------------------|--|
| <b>The weekend</b> | tolerance as the repercussions of the General Election unfold. | <b>Monday</b>    | the telling of truth and not fabrications.           |
| <b>Tuesday</b>     | the rehearsals for our Christmas Concert.                      | <b>Wednesday</b> | our pupils who begin the first of our two Deep Days. |
| <b>Thursday</b>    | appropriate use of social media.                               | <b>Friday</b>    | a calm start to the school holidays.                 |

## Picture of the Week



Europe’s first eco-friendly mosque - Cambridge Central Mosque – opened last Wednesday. Its technology generates electricity from solar panels used in ventilation and converts the air temperature into energy. Natural light means the fuel costs are low.

## Cancelled Clubs

Please note that **Homework Club** is not on for the final week of this term and for the first week back after the Christmas holidays and will recommence Monday 13th January 2020.

There are **no PE Clubs** on the last week of term which is the 16th—20th December.

After Christmas, the only PE club we can run is the Cheerleading (squad only) which is on a Wednesday 3.30-4.45pm. This is due to rehearsals for the School Production. Once the light comes back and the weather starts to improve we will be able to offer more extra-curricular PE clubs.



Last day of term:  
**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December**  
3.30pm

First day of term:  
**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020**  
8.45am



## Festive Jumpers



On the last day of this term, Friday 20th December, pupils and staff are invited to replace their usual jumpers with a Christmas version. The rest of the Walkwood uniform is to be worn, please, as it is not a non-uniform day.

This is not compulsory! There will be pupils and adults who will be in their usual attire. School will finish at the usual time of 3.30pm—ho, ho, ho!







After the first round of auditions for our school production 'Bugsy Malone!', with a staggering **165 pupils** from across all four year groups, we then held some call back auditions for some of the lead roles. Thank you once again to everyone who auditioned. We were blown away by the number of people wanting to take part and the standard of the singing and acting talent. We have had a very difficult time choosing.

**Every single person who auditioned and wants to be in the show has got a place.**

We have now decided on those who will play some of the lead roles within the show and this was published to the pupils. However, please note that even if they were not awarded one of these roles, there are still a number of other solo, duet and group parts, which haven't been decided on yet. We will be doing this once we have started the rehearsals.

Congratulations and thank you once again to everyone who has auditioned to take part. We are very excited and cannot wait to start rehearsals. Rehearsals and the show are going to be a lot of fun!



**Afterschool rehearsals will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:30-4:45 in the Hall.**

**We will start on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January with a **WHOLE CAST rehearsal**. (absolutely everyone that wanted to take part).**

Other rehearsals will take place at lunchtimes.

**Look out on the Insider every Friday for details of the afterschool rehearsals for the following week and who is involved!!**

We will keep you updated through the Insider regarding future news, but we hope that we will see as many of you as possible at the performances in March.

**Production Team**

## Christmas Lunch 2019

Christmas lunches this year will be held on Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th December 2019. If your child wishes to have a Christmas lunch, the cost will be £3.50, to be paid via Parentpay.

Abberley and Malvern Colleges will have their Christmas lunches on Wednesday 18th December, while Bre-don and Cleeve College lunches will be on the following day. **There will be no other catering available on these days**, so pupils who do not wish to have a Christmas lunch will need to bring in a packed meal from home; equally the children in the colleges not having Christmas lunch will need to bring in a packed lunch as no other meals will be available. Those who take free school lunches will be provided with their meal (a Christmas meal on their allocated College day and a packed lunch on the other day).

Please note that when paying by Parentpay, the Christmas lunch option will be listed as a separate item so that we can identify the number of meals required. Please select the Christmas lunch item (log in to Parentpay, then go into 'pay for other items') and ensure that you make your payment by 15th December 2019. If you are unable to pay by Parentpay, please put £3.50 in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name and tutor group and put it in the drop box. Please ensure that your child does not put their £3.50 in the cashloader as this method is only to be used for everyday school meals.

Please note, **no tuck** will be available on Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th December.



### Christmas Lunch 2019

#### Menu

Roast Turkey

Sage and Onion Stuffing

Pigs in Blankets

Roast Potatoes

Sprouts, Carrots and Peas

Gravy

\*\*\*\*\*

Roast Quorn (Vegetarian Option)

\*\*\*\*\*

Christmas Tree Ice Cream

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Flavoured Drink





## Applying for middle school

For children who are currently in Year 4 and intend to be in a middle school for Year 5, it is time to apply for a place. This needs to be completed using the online system:

[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

If you do not have internet access, call the county admissions team on 01905 822700 for assistance.

Walkwood Church of England Middle School is part of the Worcestershire County Council's coordinated scheme, which is administered by Babcock Prime.

***The closing date for both first and middle school places is 15th January 2020***

# School Trips

Y6—Yorkshire Trip

Y7—Isle of Wight Trip

Y8—London Trip



Thank you to all who have been keeping up with the payment schedule for these trips. Can I please remind you that the second instalment should have been paid by 29 November. If this hasn't been done, please do so as soon as possible. We ask that all payments be made using ParentPay. Please can you inform us by email, letter or phone if your child no longer wishes to take up their place on the trip.



# Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

## truculent

What word class is this word? Could it belong to more than one word class?

How many syllables does it have?

Write the dictionary definition(s) of this word, using your own words.

Are there any synonyms for the word?

Are there any antonyms for the word?

Write four sentences, each containing the word.

Challenge: vary the type of sentence each time: write one as a statement; one as a question; one as a command and one as an exclamation sentence.

For example, if the *Word of the Week* were joyous:

*Statement: Xavier is feeling joyous this morning.*

*Question: Does that music sound joyous to you?*

*Command: Make yourself look a little more joyous.*

*Exclamation: What a joyous evening!*

Show your tutor your notes on Word of the Week and receive a merit for answering the questions above!



## Top Readers for 12th November 2019—12th December 2019

Congratulations to:

### Top Girl

Emilia Fletcher (Year 5 AAFA) - who has read an incredible 536,999 words

### Top Boy

Jo Bellizzi (Year 5 MHBA) - who has read a fantastic 1,033,370 words



Well done - 3 merits will be awarded to you both.

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU .....





# Understanding Your Child

Worcestershire parents, carers and grandparents can now access innovative ONLINE guides about children aged from 0-18 years. Worcestershire County Council have invested in a multi-user licence for 4 award winning, quality marked, evidence based online courses by the Solihull Approach (a national NHS organisation) and we are therefore delighted to offer you **FREE** access to the courses, normally £19-£39 per person.

Understanding Your Child was established 20 years ago by psychologists, health visitors and other health professionals. It looks at brain development, play, styles of parenting, sleep, temper tantrums, communication and more and is based on the nationally and internationally acclaimed face to face course offered by the Solihull Approach.

There are 9-11 modules each taking around 20 minutes (the main screens have optional audio voice-overs) as well as interactive activities, quizzes, video clips and practical hand-outs.

## 1 Understanding Pregnancy, Labour, Birth and Your Baby - Antenatal Online Guide

The guide covers:

- Relaxing & breathing
- Getting to know your baby in the womb
- You, your baby and the stages of labour
- Birth positions
- Feeding your baby
- Fathers and babies
- After your baby is born

## 2 Understanding Your Baby - Postnatal Online Guide

The guide covers:

- Understanding feelings: both yours and your baby's
- Understanding your baby's brain
- Understanding and responding to crying
- Your baby's rhythms, sleep patterns, & feeding
- Fathers and babies
- Babies development and play
- Thinking about childcare

## 3 Understanding Your Child (for parents of children aged 6 months - 18 years)

The guide covers:

- Responding to how your child is feeling
- How your child develops
- Different styles of parenting
- How your child communicates
- Understanding your child's behaviour
- Sleep, Self-regulation and anger

## 4 Understanding Your Teenager's Brain

The guide covers:

- Teenager's brain development
- Teenagers and reading faces
- Risk taking
- Risk taking and friends
- Sensitivity to rejection
- Teenagers and sleep

To access these online guides visit  
[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/parentguides](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/parentguides)







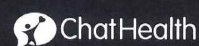
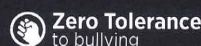
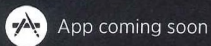
IF YOU'RE 11-19 YEARS OLD  
 TEXT YOUR SCHOOL NURSE  
 WE HELP STUDENTS WITH ALL KINDS OF THINGS LIKE ...

RELATIONSHIPS  
 MENTAL HEALTH BULLYING SELF HARM  
 ALCOHOL HARM  
 HEALTHY EATING  
 DRUGS SMOKING

*Text us for confidential advice & support*

We do not usually inform your parents, teachers or anyone else if you contact the school nurse. We might inform someone if we were concerned about your safety, but we would usually speak to you first. Your messages are stored and can be seen by other healthcare staff who follow the same confidentiality rules. We aim to reply to you within one working day and you should get an immediate bounce-back to confirm we've received your text. Texts will not be seen outside of normal working hours. If you need help before you hear back from us, contact a member of school staff or your doctor. Our text number does not receive voice calls or MMS picture messages. Prevent the school nurse from sending messages to you by texting STOP to our number. Please respect your school's mobile phone policy. Messages are charged at your usual rates.

NSR







# Trips and Visits

## 2019 - 2020



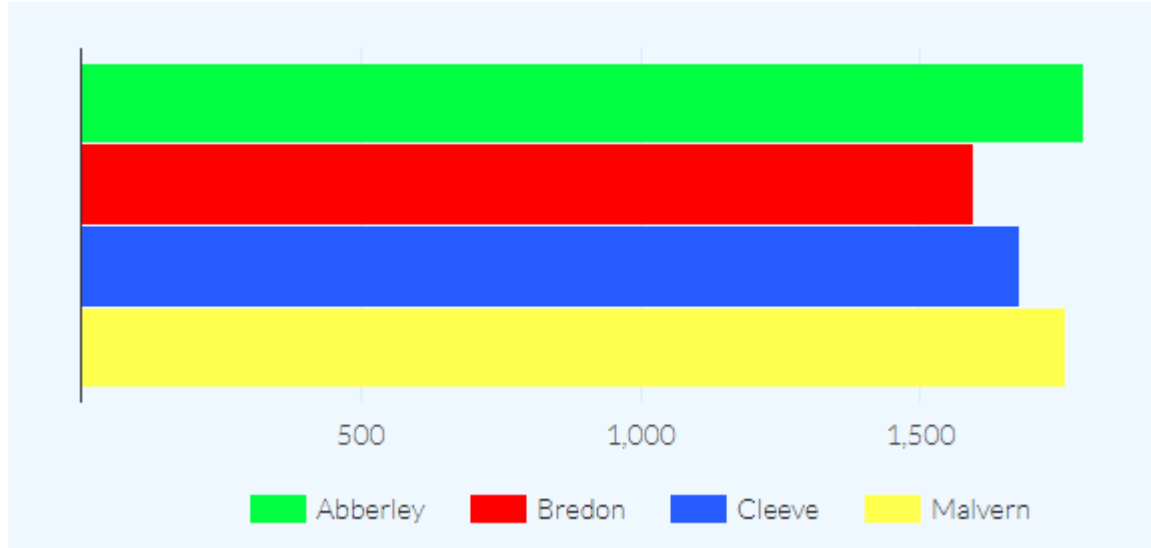
| DATE            | ACTIVITY          | LOCATION       | OPEN TO | COST  | LEADER                    |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|---------|-------|---------------------------|
| <b>May</b>      |                   |                |         |       |                           |
| Fri 15 - Mon 18 | Outward Bound     | Yorkshire      | Y6      | £ 300 | Rev Leach                 |
| <b>June</b>     |                   |                |         |       |                           |
| Wed 17 - Fri 19 | Arts and Theatres | London         | Y8      | £ 300 | Rev Leach                 |
| Fri 19 - Mon 22 | Outward Bound     | Isle of Wight  | Y7      | £ 320 | Mr West                   |
| Fri 19 - Mon 22 | Outward Bound     | Brecon Beacons | Y5      | £ 173 | Mr Macdonald/<br>Mrs Cull |



# Epraise Update



## Points This Week: By College



## Top Ten Points Scorers

1. 🍌 Zac Abdullah (AMLA) (31)
2. 🍌 Matthew Banks (AECO) (30)
2. 🍌 Alesia Moore (AECO) (30)
4. 🍌 Ollie Morgan (MHBA) (29)
4. 🍌 Mia Norris (BCLO) (29)
6. 🍌 William Allardice (AECO) (28)
6. 🍌 Ellie Gill (AECO) (28)
8. 🍌 Aisha Amin (BCJO) (27)
9. 🍌 Katie Hodgkins (AECO) (26)
9. 🍌 Caiden McEntee (CMBI) (26)





# Looking ahead



|                                 | Date                              | Event   |                              |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 2019                            | Wednesday 18 December             | <b>Christmas Carol Concert - 7.30 pm</b>      |                              |
|                                 | Friday 20 December                | <b>End of Term</b>                            |                              |
|                                 | Monday 6 January                  | <b>Staff Development Day</b>                  |                              |
|                                 | Tuesday 7 January                 | First day of the Spring Term                  |                              |
|                                 | Monday 13 January                 | Parents' English KS2 Workshop 6.30—7.30 pm    |                              |
|                                 | Thursday 30 January               | Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00—7.00 pm          |                              |
|                                 | Wednesday 5 February              | Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00—7.00 pm          |                              |
| 2020                            | Monday 17 to Friday 21 February   | <b>Half Term</b>                              |                              |
|                                 | Wednesday 18 March                | Y6 Yorkshire information evening 6.30 pm      |                              |
|                                 | Friday 3 April                    | <b>End of Term</b>                            |                              |
|                                 | Monday 20 April                   | First day of the Summer Term                  |                              |
|                                 | Wednesday 6 May                   | Y5 Brecon Beacons information evening 6.30 pm |                              |
|                                 | Friday 8 May                      | May Day bank holiday                          |                              |
|                                 | Monday 25 to Friday 29 May        | <b>Half Term</b>                              |                              |
|                                 | Thursday 4 June                   | Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening 4.00—7.00 pm          |                              |
|                                 | Wednesday 10 June                 | Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening 4.00—7.00 pm          |                              |
|                                 | Friday 17 July                    | <b>End of Term</b>                            |                              |
|                                 | Tuesday 1 & Wednesday 2 September | Staff Development Days                        |                              |
|                                 | Thursday 3 September              | First day of the Autumn Term                  |                              |
|                                 | Friday 23 October                 | Staff Development Day                         |                              |
|                                 | Monday 26 to Friday 30 October    | <b>Half term</b>                              |                              |
|                                 | Friday 18 December                | <b>End of Term</b>                            |                              |
|                                 | 2021                              | Monday 4 January                              | Staff Development Day        |
|                                 |                                   | Tuesday 5 January                             | First day of the Spring Term |
| Monday 15 to Friday 19 February |                                   | <b>Half Term</b>                              |                              |
| Thursday 1 April                |                                   | <b>End of Term</b>                            |                              |
| Monday 19 April                 |                                   | Staff Development Day                         |                              |
| Tuesday 20 April                |                                   | First day of the Summer Term                  |                              |
| Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June  |                                   | <b>Half Term</b>                              |                              |
| Wednesday 21 July               |                                   | <b>End of Term</b>                            |                              |