

Dear Parents and Carers,

I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

Jeremiah 29:11



We have had our pupils back in school, and the pattern of our routine has been quickly re-established. Older pupils have been looking after the new Year 5s, and the other pupils have joined us in other years. In fact, we anticipated that our Year 5 would need a bit of additional time at lunch to decide what food they would wish from the dining hall, and yet they have tended to arrive with decisions already to the fore!

We welcome Mrs Dumitru to our staff, who will be teaching French, and Mr Miles has joined us to teach PE and Maths (not usually at the same time!). Mr Bounous has returned for some more time in Maths. Like the Year 5s, our new staff have settled quickly into our Walkwood family and are getting to know the pupils quickly. We hope they enjoy the days and terms ahead.

Mrs Hughes has been appointed Head of French, and Miss Reeves will also now be the College Leader for Malvern. It is some time since we have been in tutor groups made up of pupils in different year groups, but this is such an important part of our pastoral system; it is a significant part of 'getting back to normal'.



With only Year 5 in school on Monday, they were able to be eased into our school which many of them had not be into before. The return of the other year groups on Tuesday also coincided with the annual visit of the photographers, so pupils will have returned home with the proof picture and details of how you would be able to purchase a full version. The Pastoral Managers did a superb job at marshalling pupils throughout the morning.

We're getting back to normal, aware that it may take a bit of time to get used to it all. . . .

Rev. C. Leach, Principal

A prayer for New Beginnings

God of light, by whose Spirit all things are made new, we praise you for the gift of life, for the blessing of a new season and school term, for the mercy that makes each day a fresh start.

Grant us the strength to walk in your light, the grace to experience your presence with us, and the hope that comes from being made new in Christ. In His name we pray,

Amen

This week's theme was: New Beginnings

Lord, You bring new and exciting things into our lives. You give us adventures and take us on journeys that we cannot imagine. We pray that this year is a new journey for us, that can be full of exciting times. A time where we can come to fully rely on you and your Spirit to take us where you want us to go. Let your Spirit guide us as we start this new year.

Amen

Whole School Target

95.6%

We'll update the attendance weekly, starting from next week.

If a pupil is absent, we shall contact you, or you can [email in](#) or leave a telephone message.



For the week ahead

The Fruit of Faith is:	Friendliness	<p>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.</p> <p>Romans 12:15-17</p>
The assembly theme:	Trust	<p>We are saved by trusting. And trusting means looking forward to getting something we don't yet have.</p> <p>Romans 8:24</p>

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

The weekend	for peace between nations, allowing the needs of people to overcome rhetoric.	Monday	New pupils at Walkwood, as they get used to our routines.
Tuesday	Our MP, Rachel Maclean.	Wednesday	Our former pupils who are in Year 9 across the high schools.
Thursday	Year 8 pupils and parents, who begin the process of high school preferences.	Friday	Rest for our pupils who have completed their first full week.

Picture of the Week



Chad Powell

'Krindlekrax' by Philip Ridley

As part of our continual focus upon the importance of reading for pleasure, this autumn we have launched a new initiative in school: we are giving every year 5 pupil the gift of a book – a novel for them to keep. We have chosen the modern classic 'Krindlekrax,' by Philip Ridley.

This has been carefully selected as a book to appeal to both boys and girls and is expected to be accessible by year 5 pupils. We very much hope that your child will enjoy the storyline and will recognise how much we value reading here at Walkwood.

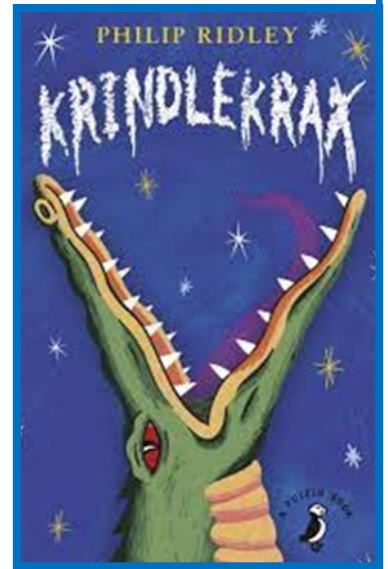
If your pupil appears to struggle with the level of Krindlekrax, please find some helpful hints and tips on the next page for how you can support your child at home with reading (taken from <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-age-9-10-year-5/> - visit this website for more help and advice).

We anticipate that each year 5 pupil will read Krindlekrax at home in their own time, as part of their reading for pleasure; they will then be able to quiz on this book during one of their library lessons this autumn term. English and library teachers will explain more to year 5 pupils about how our library and Renaissance reading system works. I will also deliver an assembly about Renaissance and reading in the next few weeks.

Happy reading!

Mrs Johnson

Head of English



Year 5: Getting to school

New pupils and parents will have noticed how busy the pathways outside school can be. However, we know that as the weeks go on, fewer parents and carers meet their children at the school gates.

There are footpaths to our school from Morton Stanley Park. A crossing patrol operates at the lower end of Feckenham Road, while our Principal escorts children on the pedestrian crossing in front of school.

When pupils are ready for a bit of independence, consider letting them walk to your car at Morton Stanley Park.



Some of the advice from Oxford Owl is summarised here:



1. Keep reading to your child as long as possible

At this age, it is tempting to leave your child to get on with reading on their own. But hearing a story read to them is still very important for developing their comprehension.

Here are a few reasons why:

- Hearing a story read out loud means that your child can have access to books that may as yet be too challenging to read alone. These challenging texts will help to develop their comprehension skills.
- Left to their own devices, your child might tend to pick lots of similar texts to read (for example, books from a favourite author or magazine). Reading aloud to your child gives you the opportunity to introduce them to books that they might not choose to pick up themselves, exposing them to a wider range of stories and types of text.
- Listening to an adult read gives a model for fluent reading. It allows your child to hear how a skilled reader uses expression, bringing the words on the page to life.
- Reading together gives your child time to discuss ideas and share opinions about what you're reading. This is great, as it helps children to think deeply about a text and practise explaining their opinions.

2. Listen to your child read

Even though your child is likely to be an independent reader by Year 5, it's still helpful to listen to them read. It means you can help them with unfamiliar words and talk together to make sure that they understand the book.

3. Read a wide variety of books

Encourage your child to choose texts with a variety of formats and layouts. Lots of children have favourite authors and genres, but it can be helpful to expand into new types of books every so often – and be sure not to neglect non-fiction texts, such as magazine articles, brochures, adverts, newspaper columns, signs, and notices.

Showing your child lots of kinds of texts will give them experience reading in a real-world context and will also prepare them for national assessments where they are expected to engage with a wide variety of text types. Make sure you talk together about how the texts are presented – the writing will look different depending on what type of text it is from.



Parking

We appreciate the additional road safety when the zig-zag lines are kept clear of parked cars at all times of the day. This is for the safety of our children as they cross the road, and for other car users



as they enter and exit the school site. Thank you for your consideration in this.

Can I please ask parents to park courteously and not to block driveways of our neighbours, nor to park on both sides of the road in the Scott Road cul-de-sac.

Thank you.

Morning arrivals

Morning arrivals: the earliest that pupils can be at school is 8.30am, unless they are in Funzone. This is because Walkwood staff begin playground supervision at this time. Thank you for your understanding.



Equipment for lessons



Compulsory items:

- Pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Pencil sharpener
- Colouring pencils
- A notebook
- Scientific calculator (Year 7 and 8 only)
- A pair of compasses (Year 7 and 8 only)



The following items are not compulsory but are useful:

- Whiteboard pen
- Glue stick
- Pink highlighter
- Green highlighter
- Protractor



MUSIC NEWS



CHOIR rehearsals will start on Thursday lunchtime next week (16th September) in the Music Room at 12.55pm. We welcome pupils from all year groups. Pupils will need to go into first lunch sitting - anyone needing a lunch pass should see Mrs Griffiths in the Music Room.

ORCHESTRA will start on Tuesday next week (14th September) in the Music Room from 8.45am until 9.30am.

INSTRUMENTAL TUITION will start next week. Timetables are up on the Music Room notice board. We will ensure that year 5 pupils are collected for their first lesson. Please ensure that all musical instruments and music books are clearly labelled.

The days for instrumental lessons are listed below:

Monday - Flute, Clarinet, Cello

Tuesday - Drums

Wednesday - Guitar, Keyboard

Thursday - Singing

Friday - Violin

Mrs C Griffiths

Head of Music

BACK TO SCHOOL

Online Safety Tips for Children

Wow, it's September already! The month when autumn officially starts and ... oh yeah, the beginning of a new school year. Every cloud has a silver lining though! Another term means new friends to make, different stuff to learn, fresh online trends to jump on and exciting new games to play on your phone, computer or console. We've compiled a list of our top tips to ensure that - whether you're going online to chat, research things or just have fun - you can do it safely.

Be cautious with your profile

Be careful not to give out too much info on your social media or gaming profiles. Details like your full name, address or school's name could all help strangers to actually find you offline. A trusted adult can help you make your profiles private - so only your family and actual friends can contact you.

Lock your devices

Taking your phone or tablet to school? Turn password protection on. It keeps your private info safe and stops anyone accessing your device without permission. Passwords should be memorable to you - but difficult for anyone else to guess. Get a trusted adult to write it down in case you forget it!

Be smart with screen time

Too much screen time, especially just before bed, can affect your quality of sleep. Losing sleep, or not sleeping well enough, messes with your concentration and energy levels. Try muting notifications so you don't get pinged late at night: you'll feel fresher and more focused the next day.

Know how to deal with bullies

Sadly there are people online who enjoy picking on other users. If you ever feel like you're being bullied online - by anyone, not just someone from school - talk to a trusted adult about it. Together, you can discuss possible steps, such as blocking or reporting the person who's targeting you.

Manage online relationships wisely

Most people in a relationship chat to their partner online. Just be mindful that once you send a pic or message (even if it's private), you no longer control who else might see it. Messaging someone you've never actually met - and who might not be who they say - is definitely best avoided.

React well to inappropriate content

When you're researching something online, there's always a chance of finding content that makes you feel uncomfortable or upset. If this happens, you can report it as inappropriate and (hopefully) get it taken down. Tell a trusted adult what happened: they'll help you decide what to do next.

Report offensive in-game chat

If you game online with your mates, you'll know things can get competitive and heated on the in-game chat. Playing against people you don't know (especially if they're older) raises the risk of offensive comments and even threats. Our advice? Find out how to block or mute those bad losers.

Learn to spot fake news

If you're looking into a topic for homework or a project, be careful not to get taken in by fake news: content that's deliberately created to mislead people. Check the story with credible sources, like the BBC or Sky News. Trust your instincts, too - if it seems too unbelievable to be true, it's probably fake.

Keep it 'real' with online friends

Everyone enjoys adding friends and followers on social media. It's important, though, that the people you interact with online really are your friends. If they're just random people you've connected with to increase your contacts, you don't know if they could be trolls or bullies (or worse).



Walkwood

Church of England  Middle School

Lunch menu from September 2021



 = main meal vegetarian option

	Menu A	Menu B	Menu C 	
Main meal	Monday	Chicken Nuggets (100% chicken backed in a crispy coated batter) Potato Wedges Baked Beans or Peas  Vegetarian Nuggets	Monday Brunch including Sausage, Bacon, Hash Brown, Baked Beans and Scrambled Egg  Vegetarian Monday Brunch	Beef Burger in a Bap (100% beef) Crispy Diced Potatoes Baked Beans or Corn on the Cob Rainbow Coleslaw  Vegetarian Burger in a Bap
	Tuesday	Pork Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Pasta & Garlic Bread  Macaroni Cheese	Beef Pasta Bake in a Tomato & Basil Sauce with Garlic Bread  Vegetarian Pasta Bake	Chicken Fajita (build your own) with Mexican Rice and Salsa Garlic Bread  Falafel
	Wednesday	Roast Ham Roast Potatoes Choice of Vegetables Gravy  Broccoli/Cauliflower Cheese Bake	Home Made Chicken Pie Creamy Mashed Potato Vegetable Selection Gravy  Vegetarian Pie	Roast Pork Sausages Yorkshire Pudding Roast Potatoes Selection of Vegetables Gravy  Vegetarian Sausages
	Thursday	Chinese Chicken Curry Stir Fry Vegetables  Chinese Vegetarian Curry	Chicken Tikka Rice Naan Bread  Vegetarian Tikka	Chicken Korma Rice Naan Bread  Vegetarian Curry
	Friday	Cod in Breadcrumbs and French Fries Baked Beans or Mushy Peas  Vegetarian Dippers	Cod in Batter and Chips Baked Beans or Mushy Peas  Vegetable Fingers	Fish Nuggets in Breadcrumbs with Chips Baked Beans or Mushy Peas  Vegetarian Tart
		All the above £1.60 per meal		
	Choice of puddings, cheese & biscuits, yogurt, jelly pot or fruit 40p each			
	Selection of juice cartons 50p			
	Sachet (vinegar, tomato ketchup, mayonnaise etc.) 5p			
Self-select	Differing daily selection of:			
	 pizzas, paninis, toasties, sausage rolls, soft filled baguettes, fresh sandwiches £1.10 each			
	Choice of the salad bar 50p			
	Choice of puddings, cheese & biscuits, yoghurt, jelly pot or fruit 40p each			
	Selection of juice cartons 50p each			
Jacket Potato	Fillings of cheese, tuna, beans (or combination) £1.40			
	Choice of puddings, cheese & biscuits, yoghurt, jelly pot or fruit 40p each Selection of juice cartons 50p each			



Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

examine

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!



Keeping children safe



The following information concerns how we continue to ensure that pupils are cared for within our school:

Early help: <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Content/files/19c6-Early%20Help%20Offer.pdf>

E-safety: <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/E-Safety>

Anti-bullying: <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Content/files/f2c9-Anti-bullying%20Policy.pdf>

Attendance: <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Content/files/53d7-Attendance%202018.pdf>

Prevent: <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Content/files/25a5-Prevent%20Policy%202019.pdf>

Safeguarding: <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Safeguarding-and-Child-Protection>

<https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Content/files/a297-Safeguarding%20Policy%202019.pdf>

Relationships and Sex Education: <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Content/files/9ca0-Relationships%20and%20Sex%20Education%20Policy%202019.pdf>



New household account feature for parents reporting test results

NHS Test and Trace are continuing to develop and improve the process for self-test reporting. Currently, if a parent is submitting results through their account on behalf of a child, they have to enter the child's details every time they report a result.

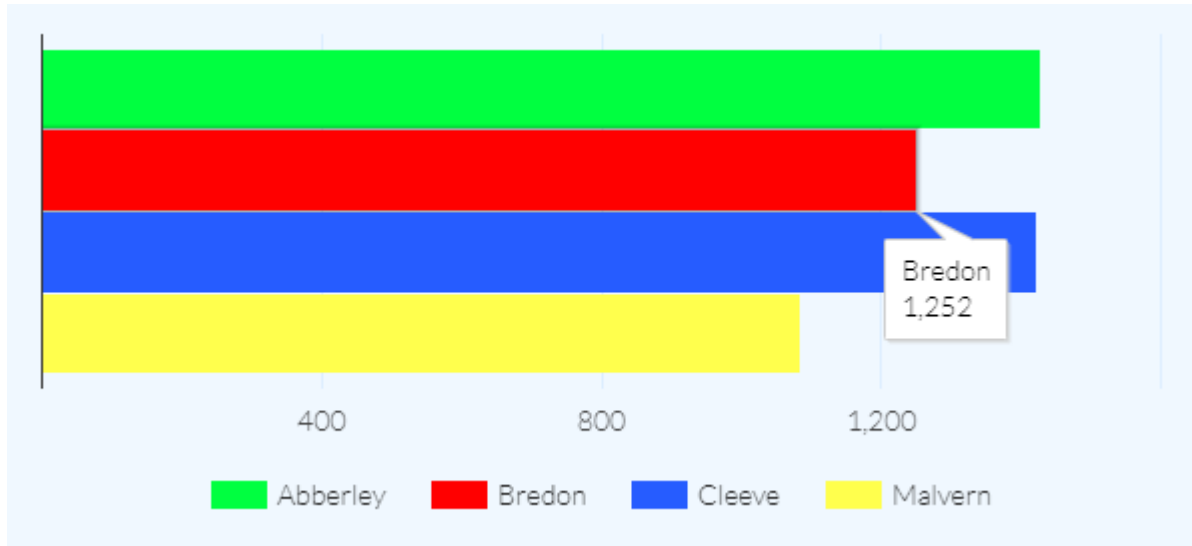
As a result of feedback from parents, NHS Test and Trace have introduced household accounts. This allows parents to save their children's details to their own user accounts so parents can report results for multiple members in the household more quickly and easily.

When reporting self-test results parents will now be offered the opportunity to create a household account, which should take no more than 2 minutes. Parents can then add all household members to their account, enabling them to save time when reporting all future self-test results.



Epraise Update

Points This Week: By College





Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2021	Wednesday 23 September	Y6 SATs information evening
	Thursday 21 October	Y5 Parents' Evening 4.00—7.00 pm
2021	Friday 22 October	Staff Development Day
	Monday 25 to Friday 29 October	Half Term
2021	Monday 22 November	Parents' KS2 Workshop 6.30—7.30 pm
	Friday 17 December	End of Term
2022	Tuesday 4 January	Staff Development Day
	Wednesday 5 January	First day of the Spring Term
2022	Monday 10 January	Parent English KS2 Workshop 6.30—7.30 pm
	Thursday 27 January	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00—7.00 pm
2022	Wednesday 2 February	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00—7.00 pm
	Monday 21 to Friday 25 February	Half Term
2022	Wednesday 30 March	Y6 Yorkshire information evening 6.30 pm
	Friday 8 April	End of Term
2022	Monday 25 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 26 April	First day of the Summer Term
2022	Wednesday 18 May	Y5 residential information evening 6.30 pm
	Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June	Half Term
2022	Thursday 9 June	Y5 Y7 Parent's evening 4.00 —7.00 pm
	Wednesday 15 June	Y5 Y7 Parent's evening 4.00 —7.00 pm
2022	Thursday 21 July	End of Term