

Dear Parents and Carers,

When our pupils returned to school in March, we wanted to resettle them into the routines and values of the school, and re-establish the skills and behaviours for learning. This has happened very well, for our expectations have remained high and consistent. Where there have been matters needing support, we have done so. The longer-term recovery will be slower but we intend it to be steady.

Today has been a Deep Day. Pupils have worked in their classes, the scripture centring around Jesus' visit to the Temple. In one of those daily visits, he became frustrated with the money changers and others who were misusing the place of worship and learning. This may see Jesus in a very different way to his usual portrayal, and also allows pupils to have the 'space' to consider how annoyance can be dealt with.



Summer term 2021



The summer term will start on **Tuesday 20th April**. We shall continue with the staggered start and end times for this term. Although there has been some updating of information for schools by the Department for Education, additional guidance may be published during the holidays. We shall send a link to our summer term guide in the second week of our Easter break in which we shall capture the latest information that schools will have been sent.

Last week I shared that Ms Tomes is leaving us to join the senior leadership team of another school; we congratulate her and wish her well. Another staff member who leaves us is our Science technician, Mrs Matthews. She has been at Walkwood for over 23 years, preparing practical work for pupils and cleaning up thereafter! We wish her a very happy retirement.

Rev. C. Leach, *Principal*

The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples.'

Matthew 28: 5-7

Happy Easter



A prayer for Holy Week—death & resurrection

Lord God,
You loved this world so much, that you gave your one and only Son, that we might be called your children too. Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter Sunday, everyday. Let us have hearts of thankfulness for your sacrifice. Let us have eyes that look upon your grace and rejoice in our salvation. Help us to walk in that mighty grace and tell your good news to the world. All for your glory do we pray, Lord,

Amen

This week's theme was: Holy Week—death & resurrection

These are the proverbs of King Solomon, David's son:
He wrote them to teach his people how to live—how to act in every circumstance, for he wanted them to be understanding, just, and fair in everything they did.

Proverbs 1:1-3

Whole School Attendance

96.02%

Whole School Target

95.6%

Congratulations to the following tutor groups 99%+ for the week commencing 22.03.21:

5C2

MAB



For the week ahead

The Fruit of Faith is:	Honour	Be devoted to one another with mutual love, showing eagerness in honouring one another. Romans 12:10
The assembly theme:	St George	Jesus said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it." Luke 9 23:24

A prayer for the weeks ahead:

In the darkness of the night, may we catch a glimpse of the distant light.
In the cacophony and clamour of life, may we hear the whisper of God's voice.
In the conversations and convolutions that weigh upon us, may the Word of God lighten our load.
In the loneliness and aloneness of a busy world, may we know the presence of our creator God.
For the earth is the Lord's and so are we.
Amen.

Picture of the Week



Beside the River Tamar in Calstock, Cornwall

Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

rapscallion

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 28th February 2021 - 31st March 2021

Congratulations to:

Top Boy

Marshall Glen (7C2 Bredon) - who has read 861,931 words

Top Girl

Madeleine Priston (5C3 Bredon) - who has read 521,768 words

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

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU





Department
for Education

Years 7 and 8 pupils:

Testing at home throughout the Easter holidays for schools and colleges

Following the success of the asymptomatic testing programme on the return to school and college, it is vital to keep testing at home throughout the Easter holidays and into the summer term. Please:

- test twice a week at home from now on (all those who are able to)
- report results [online](#) as positive, negative or void. This information is critical in helping us to understand the prevalence of the virus across the country
- continue to test twice weekly over the Easter holidays
- test before returning to school or college for the summer term, either the night before, or morning of, the first day back, to find and isolate any positive cases

Further home testing kits will be given to pupils towards the end of next week.

Reporting a test result to Walkwood Church of England Middle School [here](#).

Families and households can also access [home test kits for adults](#). **These are available for families who have children in any school year group.**

Reporting a positive Covid-19 test during the holidays

A letter to young people from Gavin Williamson MP, Secretary of State for Education



I wanted to let you all know how grateful I am for the way you have responded to the huge challenges you have all faced throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

Whether this is your first year at school or your final year of college, I know the disruption you have all faced to your education since the pandemic began has been incredibly challenging and has meant completely changing the way you learn - either learning remotely at home or continuing at school or college with fewer of your friends around you and lots of safety measures in place.

Whether you were at home or at school, the disruption last term and throughout last year asked a lot of you and your families. I am filled with admiration for the incredible way you all responded and the resilience you have shown. Not being in school or college with your teachers and friends was a huge sacrifice. Everything you did, with the help of your families and your schools and colleges, and everything you missed out on – time in school, taking exams, seeing friends, playing sport and much more - made such a huge difference to helping us stop the spread of the virus. I want to say a huge thank you to all of you.

Getting all young people back into school and college safely has been my priority throughout the pandemic. I know how vital it is not just for your education but also to spend time with your friends and to feel happy and secure. All our lives have changed a lot in the past year but the challenges that young people have faced have been some of the hardest. I will continue doing everything in my power to make sure that all of you are supported to boost any areas of work you've had less time at school to study, get the qualifications you deserve and have the opportunities you need to succeed.

Continuing to follow all the safety measures your schools and colleges have worked hard to put in place, as well as taking a test twice a week, is so important and helps us to stop the virus spreading. The testing that thousands of you have been taking part in at school and college is a vital part of this. I am so grateful to you and all the staff who have supported you to do this. I know your schools and colleges have worked incredibly hard to prepare you to test yourself at home.

As most of you at secondary school and college move to testing yourself regularly at home, it's vital that you continue to test and report online twice a week through the Easter holidays and after you return to school. Home testing twice a week for you and everyone you live with makes a huge difference and means you are playing a really important role in helping us move back to a more normal way of life. Your school or college will continue to support you and make sure you have tests. You and your family can also find out more about home testing [here](#).

I was delighted to see the enthusiasm with which so many of you returned to school at the beginning of March and I am sure you have had a wonderful few weeks catching up with your friends and teachers. It was fantastic to meet pupils delighted to return to school on my visits to schools like Arden Academy and Bedford Free School and to see so many more of your reunions on social media. I hope that the new term will be just as enjoyable and successful for all of you.

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP, Secretary of State for Education



This year for Comic Relief tutor groups were asked to design and make a donation box for their classrooms. Pupils brought in money to fill their donation boxes which went towards this fabulous charity.

A grand total of £489.26 was collected.

Prizes were awarded to the tutor groups who produced the funniest and most creative class boxes.



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>



[Check if you or your child has coronavirus symptoms](#)

[Track and trace](#)

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.



[Self-isolation guide](#)

[Self isolation for families](#)



Parent Governor

The Governing Body has vacancies for parents of current Walkwood pupils to serve as school Governors.

The Full Board meets once a term, and each Governor also serves on one of the three sub-committees which also meet once in each term.

As Walkwood is an academy school, there are legal duties to ensure its smooth running and financial stability, along with supporting and holding to account the school's leaders. Governors put aside the needs of their own child and look to support the school in delivering to all pupils.

For an initial conversation, please contact the PA's Office at school, or email office@walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk. Please register your interest by Wednesday 21 April.



As we progress into Summer term, there may be bouts of warm weather. We encourage pupils to make use of our water dispensers by filling up their water bottles (best to name them in case they get lost—and all too many do!) Avoid guzzling water is something that pupils gradually learn, in time, and we ask that water bottles are placed under the pupils' tables in our classrooms to avoid 'over-watering' which then results in numerous requests for visits to the toilet.





Epraise Update

Points This Week: By College





Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2021	Monday 19 April	Staff Development Day
	Monday 19 April	Virtual Parents' Day (all year groups) 12.45 - 6.45 pm
	Tuesday 20 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Monday 3rd May	May Day Bank Holiday
	Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June	Half Term
	Wednesday 21 July	End of Term
	Thursday 2 September	Staff Development Day
	Friday 3 September	Staff Development Day
	Monday 6 September	First day of the Autumn Term
	Friday 22 October	Staff Development Day
	Monday 25 to Friday 29 October	Half Term
	Friday 17 December	End of Term
2022	Tuesday 4 January	Staff Development Day
	Wednesday 5 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Monday 21 to Friday 25 February	Half Term
	Friday 8 April	End of Term
	Monday 25 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 26 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June	Half Term
	Friday 22 July	End of Term