

## The Insider

28th November 2025; issue 581

#### **Our Vision**

In our inclusive community,
Each valued individual is taught self-belief
We are resilient and optimistic,
Caring for ourselves and our peers.
We are Children of God, with hope,
Awe and wonder in our hearts.

Our Bible verse: Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

Our Values: Respect Friendship Honesty Kindness

Our motto: Respect. Believe. Succeed

#### Dear Parents and Carers,

Our children continue to work incredibly hard, earning many EPraise points; this week in particular has seen an especially high number of SLT points awarded for outstanding pieces of work. Well done to our students! We are very proud of their achievements.

We also enjoyed a wonderfully successful Christmas Fayre, attended by many parents and children, filled with fun and generous donations which helped raise valuable funds for our school. It was truly lovely to see the whole community come together.

On the final Monday of term, we look forward to our whole-school Christmas service, followed by a morning in which children will learn about and reflect on Advent as we approach Christmas. A reminder that our Christmas Carol Service will take place on Wednesday 17th December at 6pm at The Bridge Church and all are warmly welcome.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Mrs Lowe

#### **Key Information for Parents**

For information about our school: <a href="https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk">www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk</a>











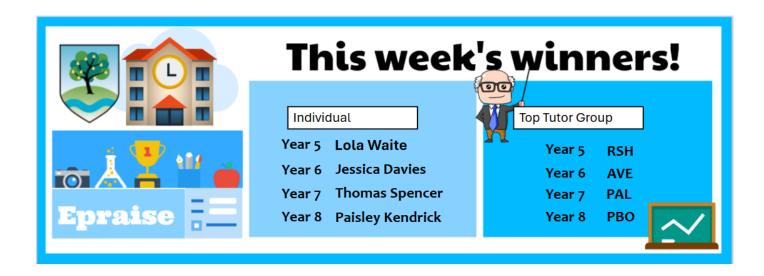
## Keeping children safe

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

<u>Early help</u> <u>E-safety</u> <u>Prevent</u>

Child Protection Attendance

<u>Safeguarding summary</u> <u>Safeguarding policy</u>





#### **British Values and news**

In our Collective Worship this week, we took time to reflect on and discuss a current news story, considering its relevance to one of our key British Values: Individual Liberty.

We encourage you to take a moment to speak with your child about what was discussed and see if they can identify other examples of Individual Liberty in action in our everyday lives—both within school and beyond. It's a wonderful way to continue these important conversations at home and help deepen their understanding of the world around them.







## **Every School Day Counts**



95% Our overall attendance this academic year



### <u>Weekly Attendance</u>

Year 5	94%
Year 6	92%
Year 7	92%
Year 8	96%
Whole School	94%







<u>Year to date Attendance</u>					
Year 5	96%				
Year 6	94%				
Year 7	94%				
Year 8	95%				
Whole School	95%				

Welcome back and congratulations to 8PBO, who had an attendance rate of 99.15% for the week. As always, well done to all of you who have attended every day for the whole of the Autumn Term so far. As you know, every school day counts!



## **Celebrating attendance**

Because attendance matters...





Is your child finding it difficult to separate from you, sleep in their own bed, or manage worries? The WEST Team (NHS) are offering a 6-week virtual course designed to help parents support children struggling with anxiety. See poster on next page.

What's included?

- ✓ Understanding anxiety & goal setting
- ✓ Supporting thoughts and rewards
- ✓ Step-by-step strategies for worries
- ✓ Problem-solving skills
- ♣ Phone-call support sessions included
- Key Session Dates:

Session 1: 29 January 2026 — 12:30–1:30pm

Session 2: 5 February 2026 — 12:30–1:30pm

Session 3: 12 February 2026 — 12:30–1:30pm

Session 5: 26 February 2026 — 12:30–1:30pm

(Sessions 4 & 6 by phone — dates TBC)

How to register

If you are interested, please contact your child's Pastoral Manager before the beginning of December to secure a place.

☑ Worksheets will be emailed ahead of each session.

Help your child feel more confident and supported — we hope you can join us! ♥





Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care





www.camhs.hacw.nhs.uk/west



Provided by Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust



#### Appointment of a Class Teacher, primarily the teaching of English

(Teachers' Main Scale or Upper Scale)

#### Ofsted stated (2023):

"The school's ethos and values are central to every aspect of school life at Walkwood Church of England Middle School.

Relationships between pupils and teachers are strong. Pupils enjoy their learning. Pupils achieve well, including those with special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND)"

#### SIAMS stated (2024):

Led by the vision, leaders are resolute in driving forward the work of the school. This ensures positive outcomes for pupils and adults.

Pastoral care is exceptional and extends from the school into the local community. As a result of this feeling of being treasured, lives are transformed.

There is a strong culture of togetherness, respect and trust between all members of the school community.

#### We are looking for a teacher who is:

- An outstanding classroom practitioner.
- Able to establish and maintain high expectations, challenge and support for all pupils through a fully inclusive approach.
  - Able to share the vision for and deliver a curriculum that links content, skills and values, building on prior knowledge.
  - Responsive and proactive to enable sustained high standards of learning and teaching for their pupils.
  - Able to provide effective pastoral care and understanding of all pupils.
  - Flexible and works effectively as part of a team
  - Excellent communication skills with pupils and all stakeholders.
  - A reflective practitioner.
  - Committed to their own professional development.
  - Committed to promoting our Christian Ethos and values.

The post holder will be responsible for planning, delivering and assessing high quality lessons which engage and inspire all learners across KS2 and KS3. The successful candidate will demonstrate consistently high standards of teaching and excellent classroom management.

#### We can offer:

- A committed and supportive leadership team
- Wonderful, motivated children
- A commitment to your future professional development
- Support from the whole community of our church school
- Support from The Spire Academy Trust (currently transitioning)

The post is available from 1 January 2026 or as soon as the candidate is available after that date.

Closing date for applications is **9.00am** on **Monday 1 December 2025**. Short-listed candidates will be contacted soon after this date. Interviews will take place shortly afterwards.

Walkwood Church of England Middle School is committed to the protection and safety of children and young people. An enhanced DBS check and full references will be expected from the successful candidate.



#### Appointment of a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant Grade 4

Walkwood Church of England Middle School are looking to recruit a Grade 4 Higher Level Teaching Assistant.

Remuneration: Scale 4 from £ 31,537 - £ 33,699 pro rata

8.30 am to 3.35 pm

35 hours 25 minutes per week, term time only plus 5 Inset days

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Walkwood Church of England Middle School are looking to recruit a HLTA Grade 4 Teaching Assistant.

We are looking for a teaching assistant who:

- Demonstrates the ability to provide efficient and effective support to pupils and staff through a fully inclusive approach
- Assesses and reports on pupils' development, progress and attainment
- Is able to provide effective pastoral care and understanding of all pupils
- Is proactive, flexible and works effectively as part of a team
- Has excellent communication skills with pupils and all stakeholders
- Has experience teaching whole class in the absence of a teacher.
- Is a reflective practitioner
- Is committed to their own professional development
- Is committed to promoting our Christian ethos and values
- Has GCSE passes in Maths and English (4+)

#### We can offer you:

• A committed and supportive leadership team

- Wonderful, motivated children
- A commitment to your future professional development
- Support from the whole community of our church school

Walkwood Church of England Middle School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS check.

For full details of this position or a tour of the school prior and how to apply, please visit our website at <a href="https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk">www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk</a>. The application deadline is 11 December 2025 at 9 am. Interviews will take place Tuesday 16 December 2025.

# TOUCHSTONES LANTERN WALK

A lovely community event to remember those we love, who have died. Open to Everyone

MORTON STANLEY PARK - REDDITCH
Saturday 13th December 2025

Walk starts at 5:45pm

with lantern collection available, and cafe open from 5:15pm

A special family occasion open to everyone, to remember those we love and who we miss

A gentle 30 minute walk with lanterns, and a short time of memory and reflection in the lit grotto - followed by a visit from Father Christmas and his sleigh at 6:30pm. Suitable for all ages and buggies

Lanterns available to buy at £5.00 each, or just bring your own

Hot drinks and snacks available to buy from the wonderful Morton Stanley Cafe

Parking in main car park - off Windmill Drive

It is really helpful to know how many people are coming, and also if you need to purchase lanterns - so please; text or ring Rob on 07491 968 695, or email rob@touchstones-support.org.uk

One the day, for any poor weather updates, keep checking out Touchstones Support on Facebook

Special thanks to the wonderful Redditch Round Table, Redditch Borough Council, the Morton Stanley Cafe and Banbury Litho



#### **Lion King Rehearsal Schedule**

#### The Lion King Jr - Rehearsal Schedule - Autumn Term 2

Remember, a musical is a living, breathing entity. Where it is necessary to make changes to the rehearsal schedule, we will notify you in advance. Please make sure you know your child's character or which ensemble group they are a part of.

Tuesday	Thursday
3.30pm-4.45pm	3.30pm-4.45pm
GLA, PAL, LHO	GLA, PAL, LTI
4 <sup>th</sup> November	6 <sup>th</sup> November
Circle of Life: Rafiki, Zazu, Mufasa, Sarabi, Pridelands	Circle of Life: Rafiki, Zazu, Mufasa, Sarabi, Pridelands Tribe, Lion
Tribe, Lion Pride	Pride
Blocking pg. 16-17: Mufasa, Scar, Zazu, Hyena Clan	and the second s
11 <sup>th</sup> November	13 <sup>th</sup> November
Grasslands Chant: Pridelands Tribe, Lion Pride, Hyena Clan	Lioness Hunt pg. 26-27: Lion Pride
Blocking pg. 22-24: Mufasa, Young Simba, Zazu	<b>Blocking pg. 24-25, 28-30:</b> Scar, Young Simba, Young Nala, Sarabi, Sarafina, Zazu, Rafiki
18 <sup>th</sup> November	20 <sup>th</sup> November
Blocking pg. 38-44: Young Simba, Young Nala, Zazu, Mufasa, Scar, Banzai, Shenzi, Ed	Be Prepared: Scar, Shenzi, Banzai, Ed, Hyena Clan
Blocking pg. 52-53: Mufasa, Zazu, Young Nala, Young Simba	
25 <sup>th</sup> November	27 <sup>th</sup> November
They Live in You: Mufasa, Lion Pride	The Stampede and Shadowland: Nala, Pridelands Tribe, Lion Pride
Blocking pg. 59-60: Young Simba, Scar, Banzai, Shenzi,	Blocking pg. 64-66: Mufasa, Scar, Young Simba
Ed	
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	4 <sup>th</sup> December
The Mourning: Sarabi, Nala, Rafiki, Scar, Lion Pride, Hyena Clan.	I Just Can't Wait to be King: Young Simba, Pridelands Tribe
Blocking pg. 70-73, 84-87: Timon, Pumbaa, Young Simba, Zazu, Scar, Banzai, Shenzi, Ed, Nala.	
9 <sup>th</sup> December	11th December
Circle of Life, Grasslands Chant, Lioness Hunt, Be	Hakuna Matata and Can You Feel the Love Tonight: Timon,
Prepared: Rafiki, Zazu, Mufasa, Sarabi, Pridelands Tribe,	Pumbaa, Simba, Nala.
Lion Pride, Hyena Clan, Scar, Shenzi, Banzai, Ed.	Small ensemble to be selected.
Placking of 92 97: Timon Pumber Simba Note	
Blocking pg. 92-97: Timon, Pumbaa, Simba, Nala 16 <sup>th</sup> December	18th December
TO December	TO DECERIBE
Blocking pg. 115-116: Nala, Timon, Pumbaa, Rafiki, Banzai, Shenzi, Ed	This rehearsal will be used as a "catch up". Students required for this rehearsal will be informed in advance.
Blocking pg. 118-123: Scar, Sarabi, Simba, Nala, Shenzi, Banzai, Ed, Timon, Pumbaa, Zazu, Rafiki, Hyena Clan, Lion Pride	
Cioni noo	

Characters with solo songs, or those involving small numbers of students, may be called for lunchtime rehearsals. Information about these will be given on our daily notices for students.

**Show Dates:** Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026, Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

# Clubs and Activities



## **Autumn Term 2**

	Before school	Breaktime 10.20-	Lunchtime	After School
	8.30-8.45	10.35	12.55-13.15	3:30pm – 4:45pm
Monday	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Basketball- KS2 AU sports in the hall. Sign up required. PMc  Dance- All year groups AU sports in the movement area. Sign up required. PMc
Tuesday	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Choir Year 5 and 7 12.55-1.15 (during playground time) Music Room Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Homework club- DT hub- all year groups- LCU. Sign up required.  The Lion King Junior Rehearsals Students to attend according to rehearsal plan.  Debating Club KS2 MJo Rm20- Sign up required.
Wednesday	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Basketball- KS3 AU sports in the hall. Sign up required. KGr  Boogie bounce-KS2 movement area. Sign up required. KGr
Thursday	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	The Lion King Junior Rehearsals Students to attend according to rehearsal plan.
Friday	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open - read, quiz or exchange books	Choir Year 6 and 8 1.15-1.35 (during playground time) Music Room Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Multi-sports-KS2 AU sports in the hall. Sign up required. LWo



# Looking ahead



2025			
Friday 19 December	End of Term		
2026			
Monday 5 January	First Day of Spring Term		
Wednesday 4 February	Yr6 & Yr8 Parents' Evening 4:00 – 7:00 pm		
Thursday 12 February	Yr6 & yr8 Parents' Evening 4:00 – 7:00pm		
Monday 16 – Friday 20 February	Half Term		
Wednesday 11 March	Yr5 & Yr7 Parents' Evening 4:00 – 7:00pm		
Thursday 19 March	Yr5 & Yr7 Parents' Evening 4:00 – 7:00pm		
Friday 27 March	End of Term		
Monday 13 April	First Day of Summer Term		
Monday 4 May	Bank Holiday		
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Yr7 Trip - The Ultimate Adventure Centre		
Monday 25 – Friday 29 May	Half Term		
Monday 1 June	Staff Development Day		
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> June – Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Yr5 Devon residential Trip		
Friday 17 July	End of Term		