

Dear Parents and Carers,



Our thoughts remain with all those impacted and affected by the conflict in Ukraine. We delivered a full minibus load of emergency provision to the drop-off site near Redditch. That is over three dozen decent-sized boxes. Our thanks to you all for the enormous level of support that you have offered to those who we may never meet.

Our colleagues in Worcestershire County Council have set up a webpage to provide information for residents including some helpful information and resources to use when talking to children about war and the conflict in the Ukraine. Visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/ukrainesupport for more information.



The by-line of Red Nose Day is 'do something funny for money' and we are interpreting that in a different way this year. Instead of doing something on the day itself, we are supporting World Down Syndrome Day on 21st March. On Monday, pupils are invited to wear their craziest socks or possibly deliberately wear odd socks, along with their school uniform. There will be a monster sock box in the Reception area into which donations will be gladly received towards the work of the Down Syndrome charity and/or pupils can bring in some money for the (bought-in) cake stall which will be open that day. The awareness of Down Syndrome will be shared within tutor time on that day as we further recognise the diversity of God's creation.



For from the creation of the world the invisible things of Him are clearly seen, being understood through the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.

Romans 1:20

Sporting fixtures and other events have been continuing, both during school time and after school. Thank you to those of you who act as taxis when the children return from their competition - we appreciate you supporting Walkwood as your children represent our school.

Rev. C. Leach, *Principal*

A prayer for St. Patrick

Dear God, I arise today, through God's strength to pilot me, God's might to uphold me, God's wisdom to guide me, God's eye to look before me, God's ear to hear me, God's word to speak for me, God's hand to guard me, God's shield to protect me, God's host to save me from snares of devils, from temptation and from everyone who shall wish me ill, afar and near.

Amen.

This week's theme was:

St. Patrick

If I have any worth, it is to live my life for God so as to teach these peoples; even though some of them still look down on me.

St. Patrick

Whole School Target

95.6%

Whole School Attendance



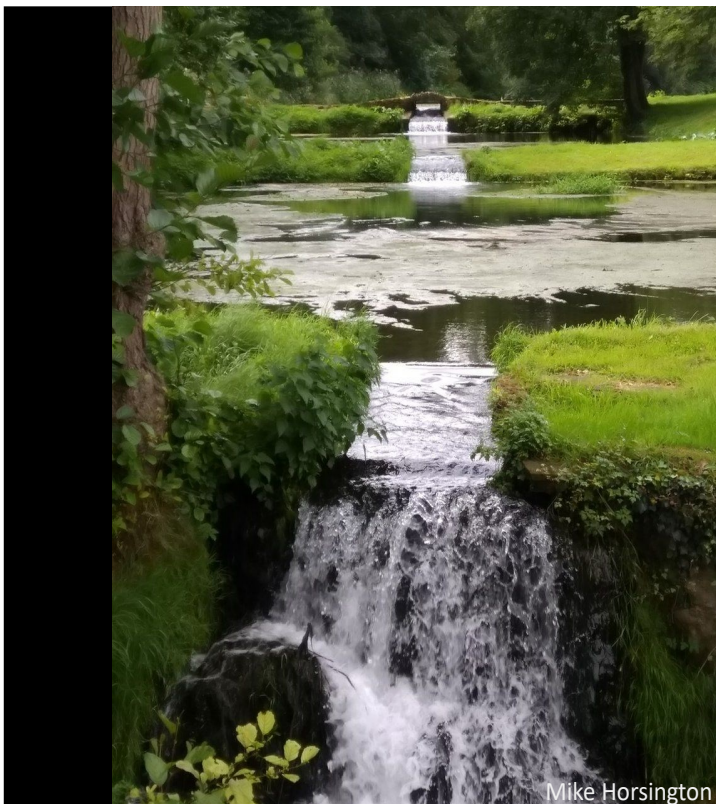
For the week ahead

<p>The Fruit of Faith is:</p>	<p>Thankfulness</p>	<p>You are my God, and I will give thanks to you. Psalm 118:28</p>
<p>The assembly theme:</p>	<p>Free Speech</p>	<p>Do not take to hear all the things that people say, lest you hear your servant cursing you. Your heart knows that many times you yourself have cursed others. Ecclesiastes 7:21-22</p>

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

<p>The weekend</p>	<p>Those affected by the war in Ukraine</p>	<p>Monday</p>	<p>Our MP, Rachel Maclean</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>Public services</p>	<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>The local churches and community centres</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>Volunteers who are transporting supplies to refugees</p>	<p>Friday</p>	<p>The teachers and support staff of Vaynor First School</p>

Picture of the Week



A stream that flows through the village of Bishop's Lydeard, Somerset

Mike Horsington

Where Next? Flowers

For nearly 30 years, Where Next? have come into school on the Friday before Mothers' Day to sell flowers to pupils (and staff too). This will happen on **25th March** this year.



Mothers' Day Price List 2022 Where Next

All plants/flowers subject to availability

Primroses	£1
Osteospermum	£2
Potted Baskets	From £3
Roses-Potted	£10
Hydrangea	From £8
Jasmine	£10
Calla	£10
Azela	£5
Orchids	£15
Other Gifts	£5-£15

Where Next is a charity working with adults with learning difficulties nurturing their potential. We are very grateful for your support.

www.where-next.org.uk



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about



YUBO

AGE LIMIT

13+

Under-13s must have parental permission to create an account

Yubo is a social networking platform where users can chat and livestream with up to 10 friends at once. People can connect with others based on location, with a Tinder-style 'swiping' mechanism to accept or reject someone based on their profile pictures. The app has approximately 50 million users worldwide – but despite its popularity, Yubo has not been free from controversy. While the app claims to monitor inappropriate content, a newspaper investigation in early 2022 found young users being exposed to sexual harassment, racism, bullying and conversations with adult themes.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

FLIMSY AGE GATES

Yubo states it is only for over 13s, but there is no credible age-gate to prevent an even younger child joining the platform. An undercover journalist investigating dangerous content reported spending 10 days posing as a 15-year-old on the app without any age verification. This flaw, and the fact that it's impossible to verify a user's true identity on Yubo, raises serious concerns over potential grooming.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Yubo has experienced problems with inappropriate content being displayed to children and teens. Although the app's developers claim to monitor profiles and messages for adult-themed or unsuitable material, a *Sunday Times* investigation found young users being exposed to sexual harassment, racism and bullying, with many chats referencing self-harm, suicide and drug use.

LIVESTREAM RISKS

Due to Yubo's lax age verification, children are able to launch live video streams which strangers can then view and interact with via real-time text chat. Not only is the thought of strangers watching children's livestreams extremely worrying (they could also use these as a means to establish the child's location) but text chats might result in a young person disclosing personal information.



ON AIR

BULLYING POTENTIAL

Yubo users 'swipe' to accept or decline the chance to talk with each other. These decisions are entirely based on someone's profile picture, raising the potential for children to be left with low self-esteem if declined repeatedly. Negative feedback about their appearance can seriously damage a child's emotional wellbeing, causing a loss of confidence in how they look or how interesting they are.

EXTENSIVE ACCESS

Users of Yubo, no matter what their age, are required to grant access to their device's microphone and GPS. This means they are potentially revealing highly sensitive information, including their exact location. In addition, new users of the app are asked to provide personal details such as their name, date of birth and phone number, which – in the case of young people – represents a clear risk.

'GATEWAY' EFFECT

Yubo's swiping system (right for 'yes'; left for 'no') works much like Tinder and various other dating apps. This could lead to children exploring similarly designed apps that aren't intended for a young audience. Users can also link their Yubo account to social media such as Snapchat and Instagram, making it easier for a stranger to track them down on various platforms.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCOURAGE USE

We don't often advise totally avoiding an app, but due to the concerns that Yubo has generated of late (the February 2022 *Sunday Times* exposé and a recent abduction case in which the alleged perpetrator met a teenage girl through the app) and the fact that inappropriate content has been proved to be circulating on the platform, you may decide that the safest option is to dissuade your child from downloading it altogether.

STAY AWARE

It's important to stay attuned to how your child is using social media. If they only access Yubo in private, for example, you might reasonably question what they're potentially using it for. It's also important to watch for warning signs that they may be over-using the app: prioritising it over everyday routines like meals and homework, for instance, or showing signs of irritability and a lack of concentration.

DISCUSS IN ADVANCE

If your child is absolutely determined to join Yubo (perhaps their friends all use the platform, for instance), then it's essential to talk to them about the dangers of this type of app before they install it. It's vital they understand not to disclose personal information to people they don't know, for example, and that they're warned about the type of mature content they may be exposed to on the app.

ALTER THE SETTINGS

After the recent high-profile controversies surrounding the app, Yubo's developers have increased its security controls. Users can now choose to block profiles, screen out nudity in live streams and keep their location private. There's also an option to report inappropriate content, so make sure your child knows that they can now flag up anything they find disturbing via the app's Safety Centre.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



LOCATIONS



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Fake news and disinformation online

FAKE
NEWS

What's the problem?

Fake news is false or misleading information presented as genuine news.

Your child might have seen fake news online about the Russian invasion of Ukraine. There have been examples of old footage being shared as if it's new, or images being manipulated to present a misleading picture about what's happening. There's been lots of misinformation on TikTok in particular.

Fake news and disinformation have also been linked to radicalisation by extremists and attempts to skew people's world views.

Reading such information can upset or worry your child unnecessarily. Fake news also helps create a culture of fear and uncertainty, with children trusting reputable news outlets less as a result of fake news.

How can I help my child spot fake news online?

Tell them to ask themselves:

What's the source? Is it a reputable news source, and are mainstream news outlets reporting it too?

When was it published? Check the date an article was published, as sometimes old stories are shared on social media. This could be an accident, or it might be to make it look like something happened recently

Have you seen anything similar elsewhere? What happens if you search for it on Google or check it using a fact-checking website like Full Fact?

Do the pictures look real? Images might have been edited. They might also be unrelated images that have been used with the story

Why might this have been created? Could someone be trying to provoke a specific reaction, change your beliefs, or get you to click a link?

Encourage them to **read beyond the headline** too. Many people share stories having just read the headline, then discover the actual story is quite different.



Netball news

On Thursday 10th March, the year 7 girls went to Woodrush High School to participate in the Redditch School Games netball tournament. During the first game we were very nervous and unfortunately lost but brought it back by winning the rest of the games. At the end of the day, we came second out of 5 schools, winning silver medals. We all played really well and had lots of fun!

Mary & Katie



A new online Free School Meals System

This message is for you if your child or children are currently eligible, or may be eligible, for free school meals under the benefit criteria.

Worcestershire Children First are inviting you to use a new self-service process to manage free school meals applications and keep you up to date with any changes.

For anyone who is currently eligible and receives free school meals, there will be no changes or loss of eligibility until at least July 2023 even if your personal circumstances have changed.

What do you need to do?

The system uses the same portal you used to apply for your child's school place. You should use your admission application login details on the Citizen Portal to apply for Free School Meals. You can access the portal using this link:

https://emsi.worcestershire.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en?ReturnURL=%2FCitizenPortal_LIVE%2F

If you do not currently have a Citizen Portal account, please follow the on-screen instructions to register an account.

We need your permission to communicate with you in this way, so we need you to use the portal, enter your details and make an application. This will mean reapplying for Free School Meals for your child(ren) but please do not be concerned that this will affect current arrangements - all eligible families are protected until at least July 2023. Using the portal will not change this, it's just so that we can communicate with you.

Once you have applied using the new system, you will receive a confirmation message that your application has been received and is being processed. You will then receive further notifications via the Citizens Portal as your application progresses.

Why have we developed a new system?

A key part of the new system is the ability for parents to receive updates on their application and ongoing status without delay via email and portal messages.

What about Universal Free School Meals?

Universal Infant Free School meals for pupils in Reception, Y1 and Y2 will continue to be managed by the school and are not managed via the Portal.

Any questions or concerns?

If you have any questions or comments about this new process, please contact the Free School Meal team via freeschoolmeals@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

Thank you, and we look forward to receiving your application

The Free School Meals Team, Worcestershire Children First

Information for parents and carers on COVID-19 vaccination for at risk 5 to 11 year olds

Children aged 5 to 11 years who are in a clinical risk group or who live with someone who is immunosuppressed can get the COVID-19 vaccine, in line with advice set out by the [Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation \(JCVI\)](#). Eligible children include those with diabetes, immunosuppression, learning disabilities, and other conditions as outlined by the [UK Health Security Agency \(UKHSA\) in the Green Book](#).

Vaccinations help to increase protection against COVID-19, which is particularly important for those with underlying health conditions.

Further information is available in the [guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11 years](#) published by UKHSA. We have published some [frequently asked questions](#) on the vaccination programme including information on eligibility, accessibility and advice for parents of children at high risk from COVID-19. Fol-



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>

Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

collaborate

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 17th Feb 2022 — 17th March 2022

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

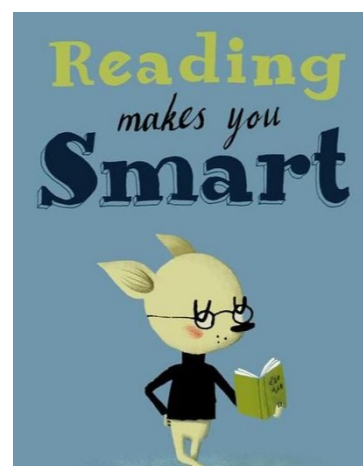
Imogen Mann (6C3) - who has read 615,938 words

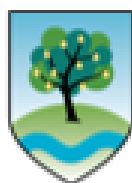
Top Boy

Joe Craig (5C3) - who has read 439,219 words

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

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU





Clubs and Activities

Spring term 2 2022

	Before School 7:45am – 8:45am	Lunchtime 12.35 – 1.20PM	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Monday		Lexia – invited pupils – in ITA	Homework Club Year 5/6 boys and girls multi-sports club 3.30-4.45pm (Sign up - starting 7 th March)
Tuesday	Orchestra CGR 8.45am – 9.25am Music Room	Lexia – invited pupils – in ITA	Homework Club Year 6 girls netball club 3.30-4.45pm (Sign up – 1 st March) Year 7 mindfulness club 3.30-4.45pm (Invite only – starting 8 th March) Year 5 and 6 football team practice. 3.30-4.45pm (Invite only- starts 8 th March)
Wednesday			Homework Club Cooking club (3.30-4.45) DSL Pupils should have signed up and on a rotation.
Thursday		Choir CGR 12.55 – 1.20 Music Room All Year Groups	Homework Club Year 7/8 netball team practice only (Invite only – 3 rd March) Year 7/8 boys' rugby (Sign up – start 10 th March) Year 5/6 boys and girls tag rugby (Sign up – start 10 th March)
Friday			



Knowing our curriculum

For information about the curriculum for each year group, please select:

[Year 5](#)

[Year 6](#)

[Year 7](#)

[Year 8](#)

For information about specific curriculum subjects, you will find the calendars here:

Art and Technology



Computing



Drama

English



French



Mathematics

Music



Physical Education

Science

Spiritual & Social Education



Additionally, for [Careers](#)

For the overall rationale for the way we have put the curriculum together, please select this:

[Curriculum Rationale](#)

If you wish to understand how our pastoral system operates, kindly select:

[Pastoral Strategy](#)



Trips and Visits 2021 - 23



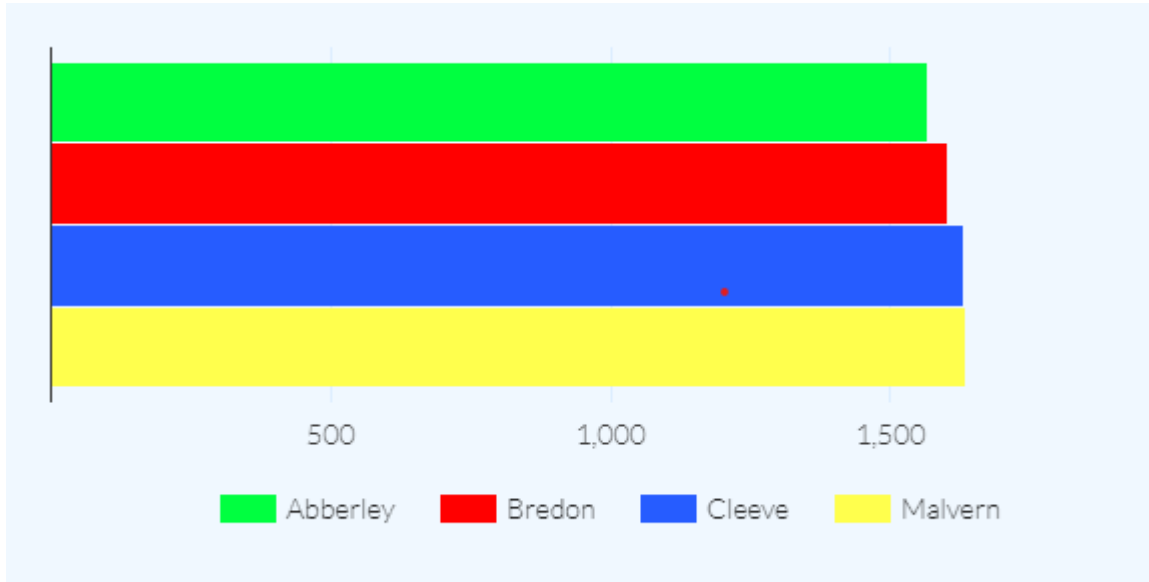
Date	Activity	Location	Open To	Cost	Leader
May 2022					
Fri 13 – Mon 16	Outward Bound	Yorkshire	Y6	£ 324	Rev Leach
June 2022					
Wed 22 – Fri 24	Arts and Theatres	London	Y8	£ 300	Rev Leach
Fri 24 – Mon 27	Outward Bound	Yorkshire	Y7	£ 324	Rev Leach
Fri 24 - Mon 27	Outward Bound	Brecon Beacons	Y5	£ 220	Mr Macdonald / Mrs Cull
February 2023					
Sat 4 – Sat 11	Ski Trip	Obertauern, Austria	Y5-Y7	£ 1360	Mrs Cull



Epraise Update



Points This Week: By College





Looking ahead



	Date	Event
	Wednesday 30 March	Y6 Yorkshire information evening 6.30 pm
	Tuesday 5 to Thursday 7 April	School production
	Friday 8 April	End of Term
	Monday 25 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 26 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Wednesday 18 May	Y5 residential information evening 6.30 pm
	Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June	Half Term
2	Thursday 9 June	Y5 Y7 Parent's evening 4.00 —7.00 pm
0	Wednesday 15 June	Y5 Y7 Parent's evening 4.00 —7.00 pm
2	Thursday 21 July	End of Term
	Monday 5 September	Staff Development Day
2	Tuesday 6 September	First Day of the Autumn Term
	Monday 24 - Friday 28 October	Half Term
	Friday 16 December	End of Term
2	Tuesday 3 January	Staff Development Day
	Wednesday 4 January	First day of the Spring Term
0	Monday 20– Friday 24 February	Half Term
2	Friday 31 March	End of Term
	Monday 17 April	Staff Development Day
3	Tuesday 18 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Monday 29 May - 2 June	Half Term
	Friday 21 July	End of Term