

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the last few days, we have been welcoming back more pupils to school. Staff have worked hard in order to make it a positive experience for all concerned. So far, for most, it has been a smooth transition back into school life, with specific matters being attended to when they have arisen. As our school routine embeds itself once again, there may be bumps along the way, but the outworking of our Fruits of Faith by pupils and staff will be the basis to solving matters that arise.

We know that there remain many challenges and I think one of the biggest this week is ensuring that everyone remembers the importance of being corona-conscious. While there is certainly a growing sense of optimism that we are hopefully on the road to a brighter future, we also know that we cannot relax too soon. In that spirit, thank you for social distancing at drop-off and pick-up times as this remains as important as ever.

The Insider will return to being our primary means of keeping parents and carers aware of what is happening at our school. If other messages are necessary, then email is the primary route, so please ensure that office@walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk is set as a 'safe sender' so our messages go into your inbox rather than spam.

Let your word be in our mouth, O Lord, your truth in our heart and your will in our mind. Let us think only what is good and discern your presence in all that we do. Let us at all times be alive to the promptings of your Holy Spirit; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jakob Böhme (1575-1624)

Rev. C. Leach
Principal

A prayer for The Incarnation

The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen

This week's theme was: The Incarnation

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1:1-5



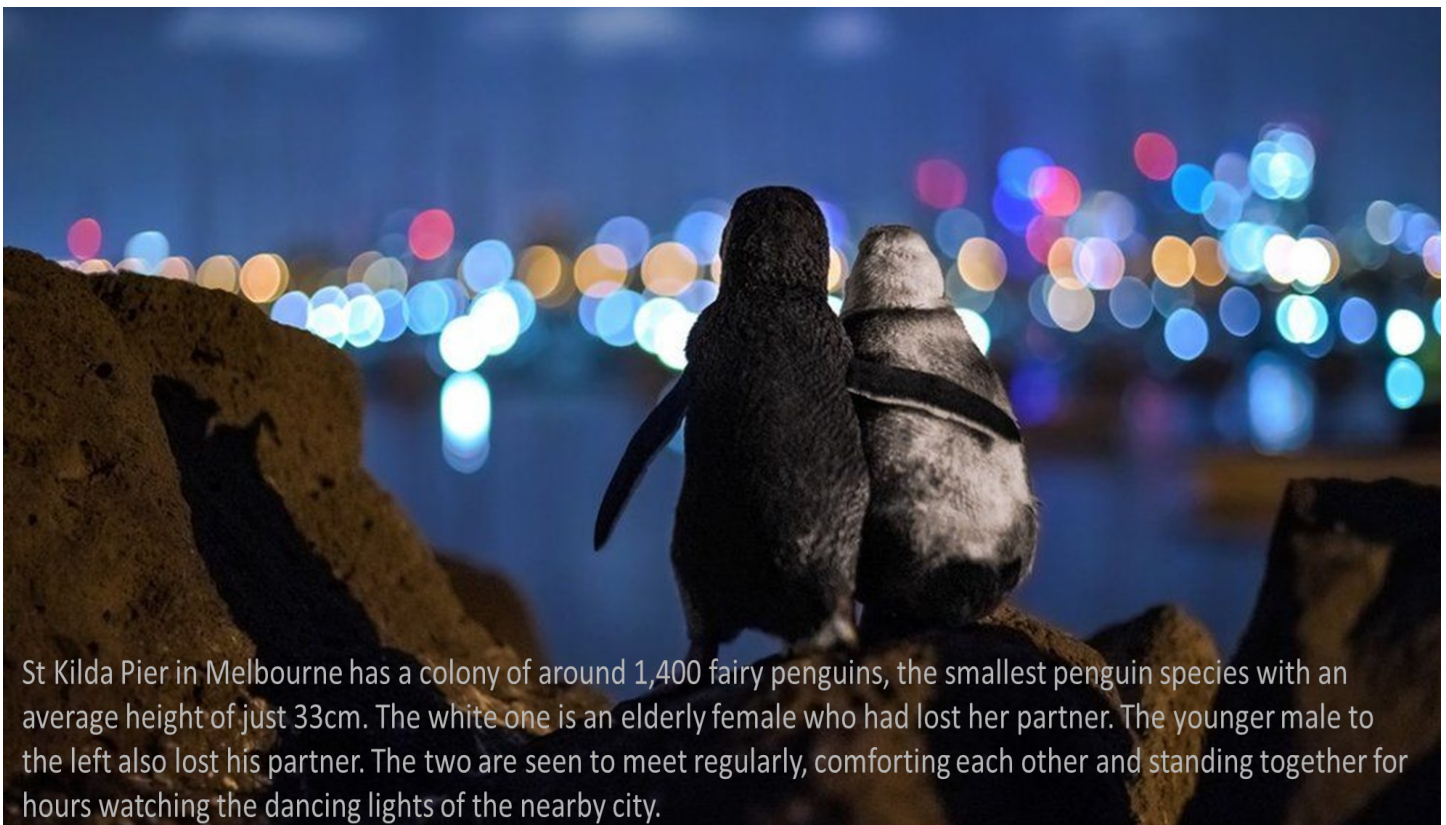
For the week ahead

The Fruit of Faith is:	Thankfulness	You are my God, and I will give thanks to you. <i>Psalm 118:28</i>
The assembly theme:	Mary Magdalene	Mary Magdalene then went and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord. She also told them what he had said to her. <i>John 20:18</i>

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

The weekend	Local charities that support the community of Redditch	Monday	The teachers and support staff at Walkwood
Tuesday	The lives of those recovering from Covid-19	Wednesday	Public services
Thursday	Those in unemployment, looking for work	Friday	UK Parliament and the choices they make for the country

Picture of the Week



St Kilda Pier in Melbourne has a colony of around 1,400 fairy penguins, the smallest penguin species with an average height of just 33cm. The white one is an elderly female who had lost her partner. The younger male to the left also lost his partner. The two are seen to meet regularly, comforting each other and standing together for hours watching the dancing lights of the nearby city.

Top Readers for 10th February 2021 - 10th March 2021



Congratulations to:

Top Girl

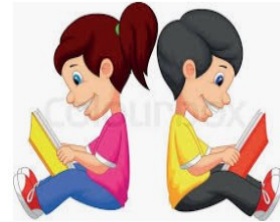
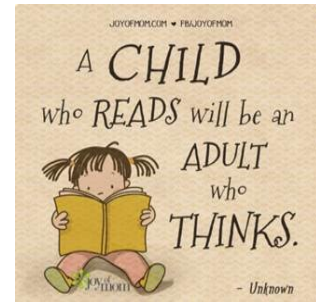
Caiden McEntee (Year 8 C2) - who has read 732,918 words

Top Boy

Lauren Carrington (Year 8E1) - who has read 578,406 words

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

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU



Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

perambulate

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>



[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.



Public Health
England

[Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)

[Guidance for households with grandparents, parents and children living together where someone is at increased risk or has possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)

What Parents & Carers Need to Know About

WHATSAPP

16+
in UK & EU;
12+ rest of
world.

WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, and making voice and video calls. The app offers end-to-end encryption, meaning messages can only be read by the sender and the recipient(s). Not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 reportedly caused millions of users to leave the app. But the new policy was widely misinterpreted: it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.

'Prize' Scams

WhatsApp users occasionally receive messages from unauthorised third parties or fraudsters pretending to offer prizes – encouraging recipients to click a link to win. A common scam involves a warning that someone's WhatsApp subscription has run out: aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details. Other scams include instructions to forward a message to earn a gift or reward.

Enabling Fake News

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India, some outbreaks of mob violence were reported to have been sparked by false allegations shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Connections with Strangers

To start a WhatsApp chat, you need the mobile number of the person you want to message (they also need to have the app). WhatsApp can also access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts use WhatsApp. If your child has given their mobile number to somebody they don't know, that person could then use it to get in touch via WhatsApp.

Ephemeral Messaging

By enabling the 'disappearing messages' option in a chat, users can send messages that will vanish from WhatsApp after seven days. Parents may want to take note of this new feature, which makes monitoring what children are talking about on the app problematic. Equally, if someone sends your child an inappropriate message, once it has disappeared there is no way to prove any wrongdoing.

'Only Admins' and Cyberbullying

Group chats and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

Live Location Sharing

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." Indeed, it is a useful method for a child to let loved ones know they are safe. But if your child is in a chat with people they don't know, it means they will be exposing their location to them, too.

Advice for Parents & Carers

Report Potential Scams

Advise your child not to engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they will be given the option to report that number as spam. They can also report a contact or a group as spam by tapping on the contact or group name to open their profile and scrolling down to 'report spam'.

Create a Safe Profile

Even though someone would need your child's phone number to add them as a contact, as an extra precaution it's worth altering your young one's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are 'everyone', 'my contacts' and 'nobody.' Choosing one of the latter two ensures their profile is protected.

Use Location Features Sparingly

If your child needs to use 'live location' to show you or their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives 'live location' options of 15 minutes, one hour or eight hours. However, your child can manually choose to stop sharing their position at any time.

Fact-Check Messages

You can now fact-check messages that have been forwarded at least five times in WhatsApp, by double-tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your child can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was accurate or not. It's a good way to encourage young people to question things they see online.

Explain about Blocking

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list – they would also need to be deleted from the device's address book. The option to block someone is on their contact info screen.

Leave a Group

If your child is part of a group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they no longer want to be part of, show them how to use the group's settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once; if they leave a second time, it is permanent.

Delete Accidental Messages

If your child has posted a message in the wrong chat or sent a message that they immediately regret, they can delete it. Tap and hold on the message, choose 'delete' and then 'delete for everyone.' WhatsApp allows seven minutes to delete a message after it's sent – but it's important to remember that recipients may have seen (and taken a screenshot of) a message before it was deleted.

Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

SOURCES: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/260831/number-of-monthly-active-whatsapp-users/>, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/267431/most-popular-global-mobile-messaging-apps/>, https://www.whatsapp.com/help/en/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_WhatsApp_versions, <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/whatsapp-update-latest-india-how-to-forward-messages-app-down-as-68100.html>, <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-5344932>



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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 10.03.2021



19th March 2021

Friday March 19th is Red Nose Day.

During the week of 15th March to 19th March the pupils will be taking part in Comic Relief activities, as well as on the day itself.

We have a ParentPay link so that parents can make a donation if they wish.

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=2797>

In addition to this we will be asking pupils to bring in their loose change to put in a collection box in their classrooms.

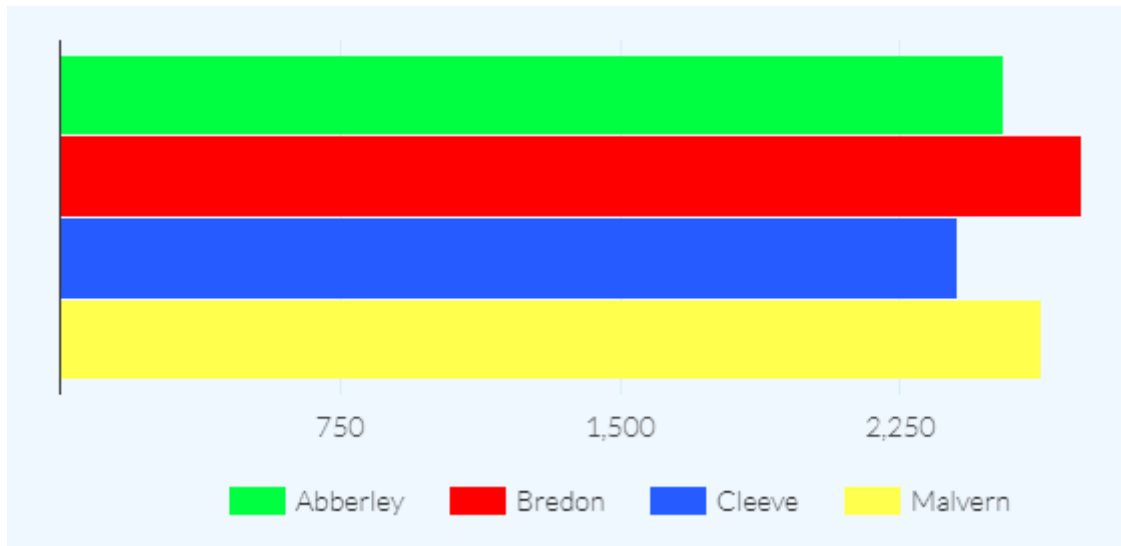




Epraise Update



Points This Week: By College



Thinking ahead for Parents' Evenings if you have any issues with Microsoft Teams please remember that our IT provider will be able to help. They are open until 5 pm.

Lourdes IT - Proactive, friendly, helpful IT Support for Education.

Help Desk: 01527 359 999



Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2 0 2 1	Wednesday 17 March	Virtual Parents' Evening (all year groups) 4—7 pm
	Thursday 25 March	Virtual Parents' Evening (all year groups) 4—7 pm
	Thursday 1 April	End of Term
	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 31 May to Friday 4 June	Half Term
	Wednesday 21 July	End of Term