

Dear Parents and Carers,



One of the reasons that we have not previously asked pupils to come to school in PE kit during the winter months was all-too-obvious on Monday when the temperature barely got above freezing. However, many of those who had PE that day came prepared very sensibly. Not that the whole lesson was outside, as would have been preferable, for that would have had somewhat frozen children. Therefore, with small numbers of pupils in the well-ventilated movement area and hall, they rotated with others who took about half an hour outside.

That was a small challenge this week compared with our staffing situation. Thank you for the supportive and understanding messages, especially when hoping for the recovery of poorly staff. The on-going levels of the coronavirus, which brought the enhanced measures last week and which shall continue until the end of term, have meant we had to consider a range of options. We then spoke with colleagues at public health for recommendation, and it was agreed that there was only one option. Hence, we had to close for Years 7 and 8 for the three final days of this week. The week ahead is going to be challenging again, and I am in contact with key external personnel whose counsel I value. If circumstances develop, we shall certainly update you.

I am aware of the national picture for schools, and there are differences between different parts of England, as well as across different towns. Hence the announcements from the Prime Minister last Saturday about some particular measures, and the change in information from the Department for Education. The hymn "We shall overcome" says:

The world is one great battlefield, with forces all arrayed; if in my heart I do not yield, I'll overcome some day.

Reverend Charles Albert Tindley, 1901

And let us not be weary in doing good, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. Galatians 6: 9



As the temperature has dropped, so the need for coats has become more sensible. We do not specify any suggestions for these. Pupils are able to wear them during break and lunch times, of course. However, I am well aware that a pupil can sometimes end up carrying, rather than wearing, the coat - a struggle you may be all too aware of.



Rev. C. Leach, Principal

A prayer against Temptation

Lord, please give me the wisdom to walk away when I am tempted, and the clarity to see the way out that you will provide. Thank you, Lord, that you are a faithful deliverer and that I can count on your help in my time of need. Thank you for being here for me.

Amen

This week's theme was: Temptation

Every test that you have experienced is the kind that normally comes to people. But God keeps his promise, and he will not allow you to be tested beyond your power to remain firm; at the time you are put to the test, he will give you the strength to endure it, and so provide you with a way out.

1 Corinthians 10:13

Whole School Target

95.6%

Whole School Attendance

92.09%



For the week ahead

The Fruit of Faith is:	Achievement	At last I have seen what is good and beautiful: It is to eat and drink and to enjoy the good in all our hard work under the sun during the brief lives God gives us. That is our lot in life. Ecclesiastes 5:18
The assembly theme:	Hope for the world	Jesus treated us much better than we deserve. He made us acceptable to God and gave us the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:7

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

The weekend	healthcare professionals involved in the vaccine roll-out	Monday	parents and carers who are preparing for the festive season.
Tuesday	transport workers for supermarkets	Wednesday	staff in Worcestershire's Social Care teams.
Thursday	Walkwood's teaching assistants	Friday	our catering staff

Picture of the Week



Alamy

Children hold leaves to protect themselves during a rain shower on Sunday in Guinea

Dear Parents/Carers,

Unfortunately due to the current circumstances in school and restrictions related to Covid, we need to postpone our KS2 English workshop, which was originally planned for Monday 10/01/22 at 6.30pm. I will update you with a new date in due course.

Apologies,

Mrs M Johnson
Assistant Principal/Head of English



Homework Club

Please note that Homework Club is not on for the final week of term and for the first week back after the Christmas holidays and will re-commence Monday 10 January 2022.



Festive Jumpers

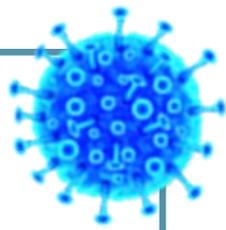
On the last day of this term, Friday 17th December, pupils and staff are invited to replace their usual jumpers with a Christmas version. The rest of the Walkwood uniform is to be worn, please, as it is not a non-uniform day.

This is not compulsory! There will be pupils and adults who will be in their usual attire. School will finish at the usual time: ho, ho, ho!

We ask for a donation of £ 1 which will go to
Children in Need.



From the Local Outbreak Response Team



Accepting that the greatest source of transmission is within the wide community, the following measures will be operational until the end of this term:

- Parents must not meet with staff face-to-face: conversations are to be virtual (we use Teams) or by telephone.
- Parents must not come to Reception if dropping a child off or collecting - office staff will ensure the pupil gets to Reception or walks to the gate, using our CCTV.
- There will be no sport with other schools, so all fixtures are cancelled.
- If pupils have PE on a particular day, then they are to come in PE kit for that day (see below).
- If pupils are in an extra-curricular sport club, they can come in PE kit for that day (see below).
- There will be no assemblies for the remainder of this term.
- Pupils will continue to sanitize as they enter and leave a classroom, as well as when they enter the canteen or dining hall.
- Desks will continue to be cleaned at the end of each lesson.
- Pupils are NOT recommended to wear face coverings.

The Local Outbreak Response Team are suggesting to parents and carers that pupils to be advised to complete 7 consecutive days of lateral flow tests. This includes all pupils not just limited to Year 7 and Year 8. If the 7th day is on a weekend it is recommended that they retest before school on Monday. Lateral flow tests to be completed on the morning before school.

PE kit expectations during enhance Covid-measures

Due to the increased number of Covid cases, and as a way of reducing the risk of transmission, PE lessons will now take place outside (unless there is wet weather). Pupils are allowed to come into school in their PE kit and due to the colder weather pupils will be able to wear the following:

- Walkwood PE polo shirt
- Walkwood PE jumper or school jumper
- Navy/ black tracksuit bottoms
- Coat



School Uniform

Uniform is an integral aspect of Walkwood school life that unites all pupils, promoting the concept of equality and equity. Our uniform is an extension of our values which promotes inclusiveness and honour. It also ensures the focus within school is about learning instead of appearance. Please check the uniform policy to avoid clothing and other items being selected which are not permitted, specifically footwear and jewellery (piercings). If you are unsure, please contact your College Pastoral Manager. We have a small supply of spare uniform and this will be loaned to pupils if they are wearing it incorrectly.

If your child is entitled to Pupil Premium funding, please contact us if there are any issues with purchasing uniform and we can support you.

Our uniform is available from the following outfitters:

Orchard Clothing, Redditch Branch—Tel: 01527 545555

School Days, Bromsgrove Branch—Tel: 01527 757439

Acceptable footwear



X We ask that pupils do not wear the following shoes, which specifically include those with sports logos:



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

"Inappropriate" means different things to different people. What's acceptable for one age group, for example, may be unsuitable for a slightly younger audience. Online, young people can chance upon inappropriate content in various ways – from pop-up ads to TikTok videos. The increasingly young age at which children become active in the digital world heightens the risk of them innocently running into something that they find upsetting or frightening. Trusted adults need to be able to help children be aware of what to do if they're exposed to age-inappropriate content.

WHERE IS IT FOUND?

SOCIAL MEDIA

Age-inappropriate content is easily accessible through many social media platforms. TikTok, for instance, is hugely popular with young people but is arguably best known for clips featuring sexualised dancing or profanity. Some social media users also express hate speech or promote eating disorders and self-harm, which could cause lasting damage to a child's emotional and mental health.

GAMING

Gaming is an enjoyable source of entertainment, but many popular titles can expose children to inappropriate material such as violence, horror, gambling or sexually explicit content. Playing games unsuitable for their age risks normalising to children what they are seeing. Some games also include in-game chat, where other (usually older) online players often use language that you probably wouldn't want your child to hear or repeat.

STREAMING

The range of video streaming services available online means that users can find almost anything they want to watch on demand. Children are therefore at risk of viewing TV shows and movies which contain nudity, drug and alcohol abuse, explicit language and extreme violence. Unfortunately, these streaming platforms can't always determine that it's not an adult who's watching.

ADVERTS

Online adverts frequently include age-inappropriate content: usually gambling and nudity or partial nudity, although adverts for alcohol or e-cigarettes are also common. Some search engines also feature adverts that are responsive to your search history; so if you've recently looked up a new horror movie, shopped for lingerie or ordered alcohol online, then the ads appearing on screen could reflect this the next time your child borrows your device.

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Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK IT THROUGH

Embarrassment or fear of getting into trouble can make it difficult for children to talk openly about age-inappropriate content they've watched. Remind your child they can always come to you if they're troubled by something they've seen online, without worrying about consequences. Before offering advice, discuss what they saw, how they felt and how they came to find the content in question.

CAN WE HAVE A CHAT?

CONNECT, DON'T CORRECT

If your child's been particularly distressed by exposure to content that wasn't suitable for their age, it's important to offer guidance to prevent them from repeating the same mistake – but it's equally vital to help them deal with the emotions that the situation has raised. You could tell them about any similar experiences you might have had at their age, and how you dealt with it.

BLOCK, REPORT, CONTROL

After discussing the problem, you and your child can take action together. This could include blocking any inappropriate sites and reporting any content which violates a platform's rules. To further safeguard your child online, set up parental controls on internet-enabled devices that they use. This will significantly reduce the chances of your child being exposed to age-inappropriate content in future.

Don't

GET SPECIALIST HELP

Age-inappropriate content can potentially have a negative impact on a child's mental health, which is sometimes displayed through changes in their behaviour. If the problem becomes more severe, you might consider reaching out to a mental health professional or an expert in this field who can provide you and your child with the proper support.

STAY CALM

Even though it is obviously difficult to stay rational in a situation where your child has been put at risk, it's essential to think before you react. Your child may well have hesitated to open up to you about watching inappropriate content for fear of the consequences, so being calm and supportive will reinforce the notion that it would be easy to talk to you about similar issues in the future.

Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is a Registered Counsellor with The Health Professions Council of South Africa, and she runs a private practice offering counselling to children, teenagers and families. Her main focus is creating awareness and educating the community on the mental health pressures of today's world, as well as resources and techniques to understand and cope better.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

emerge

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.



Trips and Visits 2021 - 23



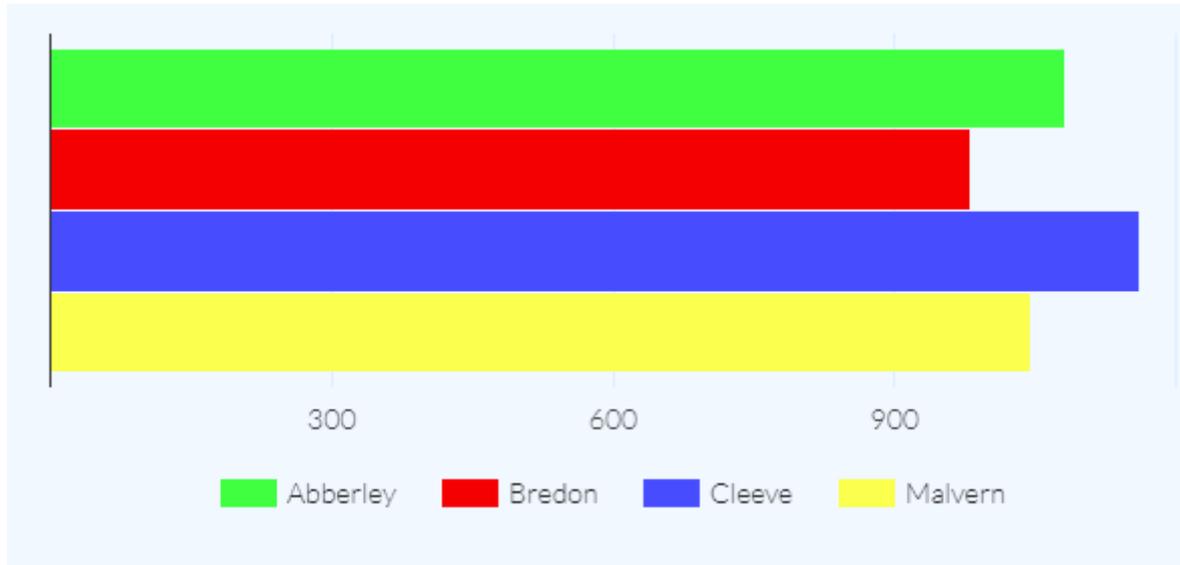
Date	Activity	Location	Open To	Cost	Leader
May 2022					
Fri 13 – Mon 16	Outward Bound	Yorkshire	Y6	£ 324	Rev Leach
June 2022					
Wed 22 – Fri 24	Arts and Theatres	London	Y8	£ 300	Rev Leach
Fri 24 – Mon 27	Outward Bound	Yorkshire	Y7	£ 324	Rev Leach
Fri 24 - Mon 27	Outward Bound	Brecon Beacons	Y5	£ 220	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
2 0 2 1 2 0 2 2	Friday 17 December	End of Term
	Tuesday 4 January	Staff Development Day
	Wednesday 5 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Thursday 27 January	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00—7.00 pm
	Wednesday 2 February	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00—7.00 pm
	Monday 21 to Friday 25 February	Half Term
	Wednesday 30 March	Y6 Yorkshire information evening 6.30 pm
	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
	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
	Thursday 21 July	End of Term