

Dear Parents and Carers,

B is for . . . books. In assemblies this week, Mrs Johnson has told of our school successes with reading. She was able to explain how reading will increase the life chances of children, and is a necessary task when carrying out different jobs. Our aspiration is for reading to be an empowering experience, in that there is power in the understanding of words and written constructions, be they facts or stories. There is plenty of research that supports our desire to empower pupils through highly effective reading, and books are a major component of that. We shall have a reading competition, with rewards for the highest reader as well as the most improved reader in each English class.



There is also a creative writing competition this half term, with prizes for key stage 2 pupils (Years 5 and 6) as well as for children in key stage 3 (Years 7 and 8). The genre can be whatever the writer finds the most appropriate, including a story, letter, online post, or even a diary entry. We cannot all be writers of the calibre of Shakespeare, but we can give the task of composing our own piece of writing a good try.

B is for . . . batteries. Pupil Parliament has chosen to give us a challenge to collect batteries for recycling. Each tutor group has a box for used batteries, so pupils can bring any 'spent' batteries and we shall count up which tutor group does the best. Therefore, if you have any such batteries at home, please offer them to our pupils so we can meet our target number for recycling.



Let your work be manifest to your servants and your glorious power to their children. *Psalm 90:16*

There are a small number of motorists who are using the white zigzag lines at the front of school as an appropriate place to drop off pupils. There have been messages within The Insider about this being a traffic offence, and the yellow leaflet on page 3 inside reminds. However, I have been assured that when traffic enforcement officers visit Feckenham Road, there will not be any warnings but that fines are very likely to be imposed.

Rev. C. Leach, *Principal*

A prayer for Pentecost

Father, We thank you for Pentecost when you sent your spirit down to be with us. We praise your name that we can be supported and lifted up by the spirit, and guided onto your path for us. Thank you Lord that we are blessed by your spirit and that He is with us wherever we go. Thank you that He helps us to speak to you. In your name.

Amen.

This week's theme was: Pentecost

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a noise like a strong, blowing wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw something like flames of fire that were separated and stood over each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak different languages by the power the Holy Spirit was giving them.

Acts 2:1-4

**Whole School
Attendance Target
95.6%**



For the week ahead



<p>The Fruit of Faith is:</p>	<p>Honour</p>	<p>I have honoured my followers in the same way that you honoured me, in order that they may be one with each other, just as we are one.</p> <p>John 17:22</p>
<p>The assembly theme:</p>	<p>The Ten Commandments</p>	<p>He proclaimed the laws you must obey—the Ten Commandments—and wrote them on two stone tablets.</p> <p>Deuteronomy 4:13</p>

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

<p>The weekend</p>	<p>fairness and truth in our national politics.</p>	<p>Monday</p>	<p>Ukraine</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>our local Police staff</p>	<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>our sports teams as they compete</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>Walkwood's Governing Body</p>	<p>Friday</p>	<p>preparations for the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham</p>

Picture of the Week

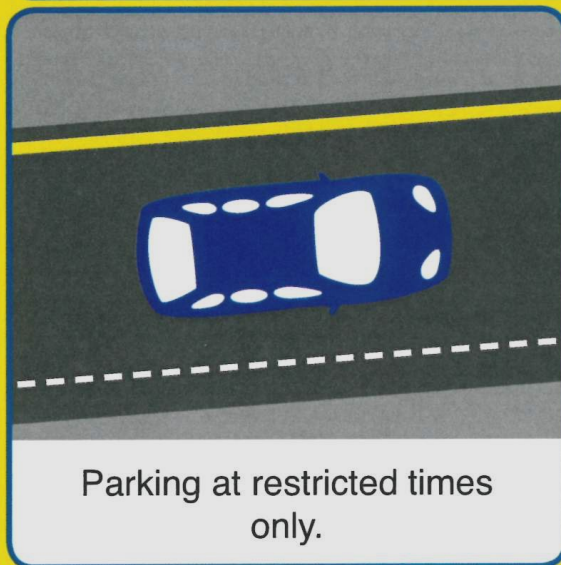
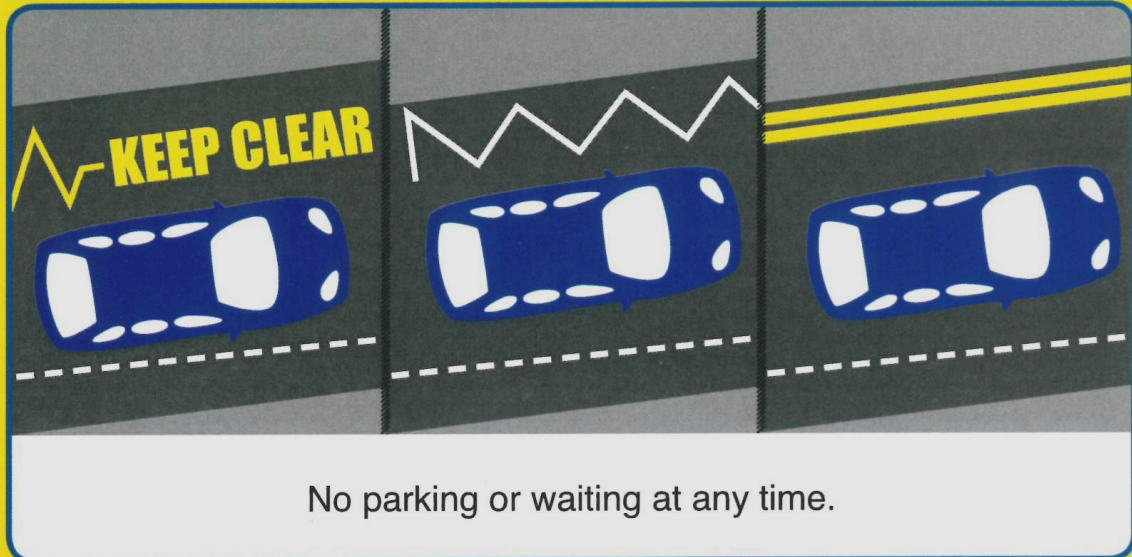


PA Media

A rare large gold coin from the reign of Charles I has fetched £44,000 at auction last year. It depicts the King holding a sword and an olive branch, possibly signifying his desire for peace. The coin, known as the Triple Unite, was minted in Oxford during the English Civil War and had the value of 60 shillings, or three pounds

Think before you park!

Illegal and irresponsible parking can put lives in danger.
Remember the following:



If you choose to ignore this advice you may be prosecuted.
The safety of pedestrians is far more important than finding a close spot to leave your car. Always think before you park.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about VIRTUAL REALITY

Virtual reality (VR for short) has existed for decades, but it's only in the last 10 years that the technology has really become publicly available. With VR's rapid rise as a gaming and educational medium, there are plenty of unknowns regarding its use – for adults and children alike. Is it safe? How long should someone use VR for? How expensive is it? What's clear is that VR is becoming ever more ubiquitous in everyday life: from companies using it for training to at-home fitness. Knowing what the technology is capable of is more useful than ever.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PREMATURE EXPOSURE

13+

While VR has already found its way into schools worldwide – allowing teachers to take their class on digital field trips – most manufacturers advise an age restriction of 13. This safeguard is based on the idea that children's brains, eyes and bodies are still developing. With the technology still in its infancy, not enough research has been conducted as to how VR affects children in the longer term.

EYE STRAIN

One of the main worries about VR is that essentially having TV screens so close to your eyes could harm them with prolonged use. Lenses inside each headset have been specifically designed to trick the human eye into focusing to infinity (just as they would in the real world) to mitigate possible eye strain. Even so, longer VR sessions should be limited to adults only.

PHYSICAL ACCIDENTS

When used correctly, VR isn't dangerous as there are safety features built in. A common concern is that a child wearing a headset could bump into real-world objects while playing – so creating a clear, tidy gaming space is essential. Headsets also come with 'Guardian' or digital barrier systems that can be set up beforehand, indicating where walls and furniture are located so nobody trips over and hurts themselves.

SOCIAL VR

VR is more immersive than normal gaming and makes players feel very present in the moment. There are additional online safety fears, therefore, relating to trolling and abusive comments as players engage with each other in social VR spaces. Personal information shouldn't be given out and privacy and safety controls (who can see your real name, for example) need to be activated where possible.

MOTION SICKNESS

Children who are prone to travel sickness might encounter what's known as 'simulator sickness'. This is nausea caused by the eyes seeing images which tell the brain that the person is moving, while the rest of the body knows it is stationary. Most apps have features to reduce this discomfort, while some games simply don't feature locomotion to make for a more comfortable experience.

VIOLENT CONTENT

Among the growing range of VR games and apps, not all of them are appropriate for young players. Violent content can be far more visceral and disturbing in VR, so it's important to consider the age and maturity of your child before giving them access to this type of gameplay. As the majority of VR content is digital, online store access is easy – so careful curation is advised.

Advice for Parents & Carers

START OFF SLOWLY

Just like regular video games, if your child wants to try VR the best way to reduce risks is moderation. Keep their VR sessions to short stints – and for young adults new to the technology, build up their usage time gradually to let them get acquainted with it. If they feel any discomfort, remove the headset and try again at a later point.

ANTI-NAUSEA OPTIONS

It's wise to get used to VR while comfortably seated and progress to standing or 'room-scale' VR (where players physically walk around an area) later. Look at the in-app options first: switching between seated and standing adjusts the player's height, while a vignette or 'tunnel' darkens the peripheral vision to reduce nausea. Teleportation Mode and Snap Turning are also important options for enhancing comfort.

NO SURPRISES

It's easy to get lost in the moment in VR – and possibly forget where you might be standing in the real world. A minimum 2m x 2m play area is recommended, with no plant pots or other delicate objects within reach of flailing arms. Take pets into account, too: don't let the cat or dog walk into the room, for example, because a VR player won't see them and could certainly trip. A child is far more likely to get over-enthusiastic in VR, posing a risk to themselves and anything in their path.

RESEARCH CONTENT

There will be information online about most games and apps, explaining what type of experience they provide. They'll list age ratings indicating how violent the gameplay might be; comfort, so you'll know the intensity of the experience; and how much access the game requires to personal information or features like the built-in microphone.

KEEP A WATCHING BRIEF

It may seem that a VR player is in their own world, but all VR headsets allow external viewing via a linked monitor or mobile phone. This is the best way to ensure whatever a child is playing is appropriate. More VR supervision tools are on the way, such as securing specific apps behind unlock patterns or sending an approval notification to the parent if their child wants to purchase a game.

Meet Our Expert

Peter Graham is the editor at XR (extended reality) and Web3 specialist site gmw3.com and has been writing about VR, augmented reality and the Immersive tech industry for more than seven years. He's served as a panel speaker and a judge at awards events and game hackathons.



Source: gmw3.com | en.org

NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

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, or for how the pastoral system operates, please select:

[Curriculum Rationale](#)

[Pastoral Strategy](#)



Walkwood

Church of England  Middle School

For information about our school:

www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk

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:

discern

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 8th May 2022 — 8th June 2022

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

Amna Hussain (BAFA) - who has read 646,129 words

Top Boy

Rowan Campbell (CPJE) - who has read 422,974 words

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

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU

HAPPINESS IS:
a quiet house
& a good book!



TOP BOX PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

The Addams Family



young@part

BOOK BY MARSHALL BRICKMAN AND RICK ELICE

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY ANDREW LIPPA

BASED ON CHARACTERS CREATED BY CHARLES ADDAMS

STAGED BY VOCALIZE PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY

SATURDAY 2ND JULY 2022

2PM & 7PM



**BOOK
TICKETS
NOW!**



**TUDOR THEATRE
WOODROW DRIVE
REDDITCH
B98 7UH**



WWW.TOPBOXSTUDIOS.COM

Originally produced on Broadway by Stuart Oken, Roy Furman, Michael Leavitt, Five Corn Productions, Stephen Schuler, Decca Theatricals, Scott M. Delson, Stuart Ditsky, Terry Allen Kramer, Stephanie P. McClelland, James L. Nederlander, Eva Pines, Jan Theatricals/Mary LuRaffe, Pittsburgh CLO/Guthrie-Swinky, Veeck Theatre/Gary Kaplan, The Reinstein Company/Clerence, LLC, Adam Zotosich/Tribe Theatricals

By Special Arrangement with
Elephant Eye Theatrical

Young@Part Edition adapted by Maxie Taminelli and original workshop at Broadway Workshop in NYC

"THE ADDAMS FAMILY Young@Part" is presented through special arrangement with and all
authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW), 123-124 Regent Street, 5th floor, London W1B 5SA, www.theatricalrights.co.uk



Vale Wildlife Hospital & Rehabilitation Centre

Station Road, Beckford, Tewkesbury, GL20 7AN

Tel: 01386 882288 Email: info@valewildlife.org.uk

Website: www.valewildlife.org.uk Charity No: 702888

Thank you to the staff & students of

Walkwood CofE Middle School

for raising & donating to Vale Wildlife Hospital,

a fantastic:

£128.26

Helping Us to Help Britain's Wildlife

May 2022



Caroline Gould

Charity Founder

Vale Wildlife Hospital & Rehabilitation Centre

New 'Pupil Leadership Team' for 2022-2023

This Friday, 10th June, we will be launching the new 'Pupil Leadership Team' for 2022-2023. Current year 7 pupils will have the opportunity to apply for a role, ready for the new academic year in September. The aim of the 'PLT' is to empower pupils to become ambassadors for the school, take on leadership roles and to be involved in our school community.

This will be launched during an assembly and pupils will be advised on the job descriptions for each available role, which include Head Boy and Head Girl, College Captains and Vice Captains and a team of Prefects. Students are now encouraged to write their letters of application, stating their skills/qualities and why they feel they would be good in the role.

The closing date for applications is Friday 1st July.

All applications need to be handed into Miss Reeves and once we have received applications, shortlisting will take place between 4th-6th July. By the 8th of July pupils will be aware of their success and will be invited to take part in the 'Hustings' part of the process. It is important that the newly elected 'Pupil Leadership Team' represent the pupils in our school and so the 'Hustings' is their chance to have their say. Those shortlisted for roles will give a speech before their peers stating why they should be elected.

Tuesday 6th/ Wednesday 7th September will see the first of the Hustings for College Captains.

Friday 9th September will see the Hustings for Head Boy and Girl.

I am sure you will join me in wishing all the pupil's good luck in the application process. The 'Pupil Leadership Team' will then be announced during a whole school assembly on 16th September.

Miss Reeves
PLT Coordinator



The work undertaken by the 'PLT' has been invaluable and a great success. Here are some of the views from the team:

"This year, the pupil leadership team has really affected Walkwood and how we are as a school. The process has given so many opportunities to everyone and I am glad that I was given the opportunity to take part. We have learnt and applied skills that will help us in the future such as writing application letters and writing speeches. It took a lot of hard work but it is an amazing experience in the end."

"The pupil leadership team has been a great experience and has given everyone involved many more opportunities to share their thoughts and ideas for the school."

Being on the pupil leadership team has been fun and we have been able to help out at parents evenings and other school

I love being on the pupil leadership team. It has made me a lot more confident as I get to participate more in jobs and activities around the school. I love doing my duty on my set day and get to show parents around. It has been an unforgettable experience.

"I enjoy being in the Pupil Leadership team because it gives me a sense of responsibility so that it is not as big a shock in later life."

The pupil leadership team has been an amazing experience. It has built up my confidence and has helped me to progress in my learning.



Trips and Visits 2021 - 23



Date	Activity	Location	Open To	Cost	Leader
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



Clubs and Activities

Summer term 2 2022

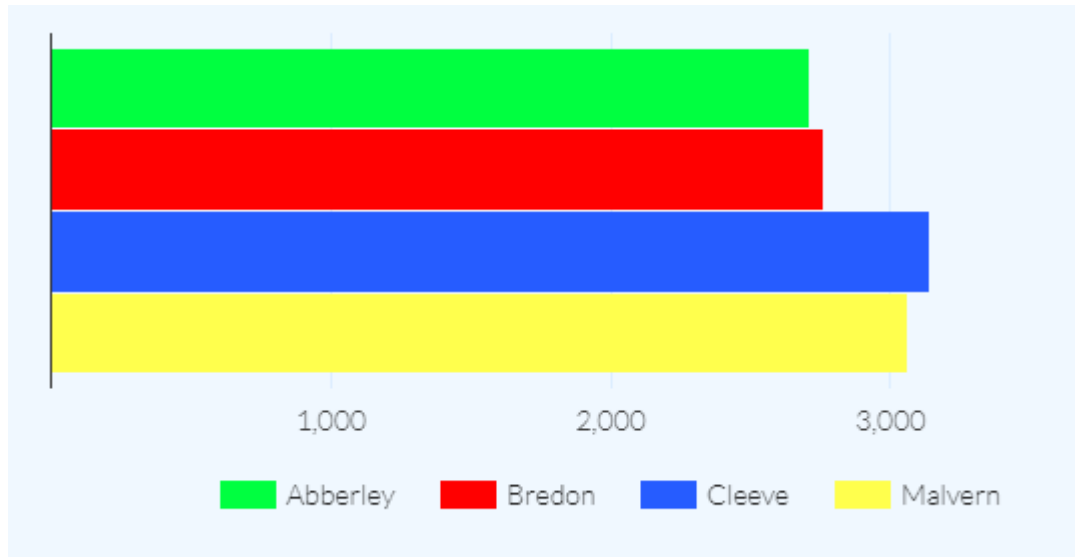
	Before School 7:45am – 8:45am	Lunchtime 12.35 – 1.20PM	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Monday		Lexia LMO in ITA	<p>Homework Club</p> <p>PMC/RDJ- KS2 tennis - start Monday 13th June (sign up only. Meet in the changing rooms with all your belongings)</p>
Tuesday	<p>Orchestra CGR 8.45am - 9.25am Music Room</p>	Lexia ZBi in ITA	<p>Homework Club</p> <p>PMI/ PMC- KS2 boy's cricket- start Tuesday 14th June (<u>sign</u> up only. Meet in the changing rooms with all your belongings)</p> <p>KRE- KS3 rounders - start Tuesday 14th June (<u>sign</u> up only. Meet in the changing rooms with all your belongings)</p>
Wednesday			<p>Homework Club</p> <p>Year 7 and 8 Cricket 3.35-4.45pm [PJE/LWO]</p> <p>KRE/ RMA- KS2 rounders – start Wednesday 22nd June (due to parents evening)</p>
Thursday		<p>Choir CGR 12.55pm - 1.20pm Music Room All Year Groups</p>	<p>Homework Club</p> <p>CHU/ RDJ – all girl's cricket – Start Thursday 16th June</p>
Friday			



Epraise Update



Points This Week: By College





Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2 0 2 2 2 0 2 3	Wednesday 15 June	Y5 Y7 Parent's evening 4.00 —7.00 pm
	Tuesday 12 July	Summer Concert
	Thursday 21 July	End of Term
	Monday 5 September	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 6 September	First Day of the Autumn Term
	Monday 24 - Friday 28 October	Half Term
	Friday 16 December	End of Term
	Tuesday 3 January	Staff Development Day
	Wednesday 4 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Monday 20– Friday 24 February	Half Term
	Friday 31 March	End of Term
	Monday 17 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 18 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Monday 29 May - 2 June	Half Term
Friday 21 July	End of Term	