

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the pupils, staff and school community for the wonderfully warm welcome that I have received this week. It is truly a privilege to take on the role of Interim Acting Headteacher at Walkwood Middle School, a role to which I am wholly dedicated. I very much look forward to working alongside the Governors, staff and the whole school community to build on the strengths of the school and so ensuring the best possible outcomes for all of the pupils in our care.

In my first week, I am delighted to congratulate the Year 8 football team for their spectacular 5-0 win at the Redditch Schools Cup Final. The children played incredibly well as a team, and we are really proud of their amazing achievement. Well done to you all! Thank you to staff, parents and carers for their encouragement and support at this event!

On Thursday, the year 5 children enjoyed a trip to the Repertory Theatre to watch *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. This was a fantastic experience for the children and the performance was of the usual fantastic quality provided by the Rep Theatre. Thank you to all the pupils who behaved very well, representing our school terrifically on the trip.

Mrs C Lowe

Success is not how high you have climbed, but how you make a positive difference to the world - RALPH WALDO EMERSON



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, RSV

*Lord Jesus,
you showed us that temptation can be overcome. You have taught us that you alone can help us to stand up against it and strengthen our lives and character as we face the enemy. Let your spirit fill our hearts and minds with your will and power to overcome temptation just as you did. Help us to understand the consequences of temptation so that we can have a heart to stand up to it. Amen.*

Whole school Attendance

94.43%

Whole School Target

95.6%

27.11.2023 to 01.12.2023

Year 5 94.58 %
Year 6 96.08%
Year 7 92.68%
Year 8 90.79%



For the week ahead

<p>The Fruit of Faith is:</p>	<p>Aspiration</p>	<p>Oh listen, dear child- become wise; point your life in the right direction.</p> <p><i>Proverbs 23: 19</i></p>
<p>The assembly theme will be:</p>	<p>Hope for the World</p>	<p>Jesus treated us much better than we deserve. He made us acceptable to God and gave us the hope of eternal life.</p> <p><i>Titus 3: 7, CEV</i></p>

Picture of the Week



The Wave rock formation in Arizona, USA



Festive Jumpers

On the last day of this term, Thursday 21st 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.**



Unwelcome Visitors!!

It has come to our attention that there have been a couple of instances of head lice here at Walkwood and would like to inform you what the procedure is in case you find these unwelcome visitors in your child's hair - they will need to be treated straight away and for there to be no live lice left in their hair before they return to school.

Let us show them they are not welcome here!



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISNEY+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The Walt Disney Company's streaming service, Disney+ combines entertainment from the famous animation studio itself with Pixar, Star and National Geographic, plus the Marvel and Star Wars franchises. With access to the latest releases, Disney classics and original series, there's plenty of content to explore. While parents may have noted that adverts have now been introduced on some versions of the service, the platform is – unsurprisingly for a Disney product – designed to be appropriate for the whole family.

LESS SUITABLE CONTENT

While Disney+ is predominantly family friendly, there are some movies and shows in its library which are aimed at an older audience: these may scare younger ones or contain themes or language that you'd rather your child wasn't exposed to. You could avoid such situations by enabling Junior Mode (see 'Adjust content settings', below) or specifying a content age rating for your child's profile.



BINGE WATCHING

With the option to view content on any internet-enabled device and a growing catalogue of movies, cartoons and documentaries, Disney+ can make managing screen time difficult. This could result in children binge watching content, distracting them from activities like homework or socialising. Too much screen time has also been shown to negatively impact mood, sleep patterns and weight.



PHISHING EMAILS

Be especially cautious if you receive emails or text messages purporting to be from Disney+. There have been numerous reports of online scammers impersonating Disney+ staff in an attempt to gain access to subscribers' personal information. Disney+ states it will never email or call customers asking for their payment details, their private information or their password.



ENCROACHING ADVERTS

Disney+ has introduced a new subscription package – Disney+ Standard with Ads – which plays commercials before movies and during shows (like many TV channels). There are no adverts in Junior Mode, but profiles with a content rating of 6+ years will see ads appropriate for that age category. Adults who give consent will see personalised adverts based on their location and viewing history.



ACCESSING ADULTS' PROFILES

If adults don't set a PIN for their profile, children could access it and encounter content which isn't age appropriate. In the settings, Junior Mode has a toggle titled 'Kid-Proof Exit' which requires the user to read four words (numbers, spelled out) and enter them to switch profiles. For older children who can read, though, this isn't secure enough – so using a PIN for adult profiles is recommended.



Advice for Parents & Carers

ADJUST CONTENT SETTINGS

When setting up an account, there's an option to create profiles in what's called Junior Mode. This generally covers material that's suitable for children up to age 6 and is therefore fairly limited. You can give older children a wider choice of viewing by building a standard profile, then going into the settings and choosing a content rating from one of the pre-set alternatives: 6+, 9+, 12+ or 14+.



ADD PIN PROTECTION

Disney+ enables you to effectively lock profiles behind a four-digit PIN. In particular, some of the shows on the platform's Star content hub are far more oriented to adults (including several hard-hitting dramas from US networks), so protecting parents' or older siblings' profiles with a PIN will help to prevent younger children stumbling across material which isn't intended for them.



TURN OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a cartoon, show or movie finishes, Disney+ uses algorithms to identify content with similar themes, which it thinks your child will also enjoy. This suggestion will then automatically begin to play by default. There's an option to turn off this auto-play function in the profile settings, which will encourage your child to take a break from the screen and move on to a different activity.



ENJOY AS A FAMILY

When your child watches a movie or show on Disney+ for the first time, you may want to sit with them to ensure it's suitable. You could do the same when introducing them to older films that you haven't seen for years: your perception of what's appropriate has very probably changed, and some of the language and attitudes in movies from your own childhood may seem quite shocking today.



Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

Source: https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?d=csp_article_content&sys_kb_id=1f98dd33b6f0498503e0c0202731010a | https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?d=csp_article_content&sys_kb_id=1935ebaf1dbd44103af1e2ac39819181 | https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?d=csp_article_content&sys_kb_id=95824c3db10ac50056c0ad9198191717430a | <https://help.disneyplus.com/en-GB/articles/disneyplus-privacy-com-prevention#text=848220wary%20of%20F&%20not%20as%20password%20or%20email%20details>



Christmas Lunch 2023

Christmas lunches this year will be held on Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th December 2023. If your child wishes to have a Christmas lunch, the cost will be £4.00, to be paid via Parentpay.

Abberley and **Cleeve** Colleges will have their Christmas lunches on Tuesday 19th December, while **Bredon** and **Malvern** College lunches will be on the following day. **There will be no other catering available on these days**, so pupils who do not wish to have a Christmas lunch will need to bring in a packed meal from home; equally the children in the colleges not having Christmas lunch will need to bring in a packed lunch as no other meals will be available. Those who take free school lunches will be provided with their meal (a Christmas meal on their allocated College day and a packed lunch on the other day).

Please note that when paying by Parentpay, the Christmas lunch option will be listed as a separate item so that we can identify the number of meals required. Please select the Christmas lunch item (log in to Parentpay, then go into ‘pay for other items’) and ensure that you make your payment by 15th December 2023.

Please note, **no tuck** will be available on Tuesday 19th & Wednesday 20th December.



Christmas Lunch 2023

Menu

Roast Turkey

Sage and Onion Stuffing

Pigs in Blankets

Roast Potatoes

Sprouts, Carrots and Peas

Gravy

Roast Quorn (Vegetarian Option)

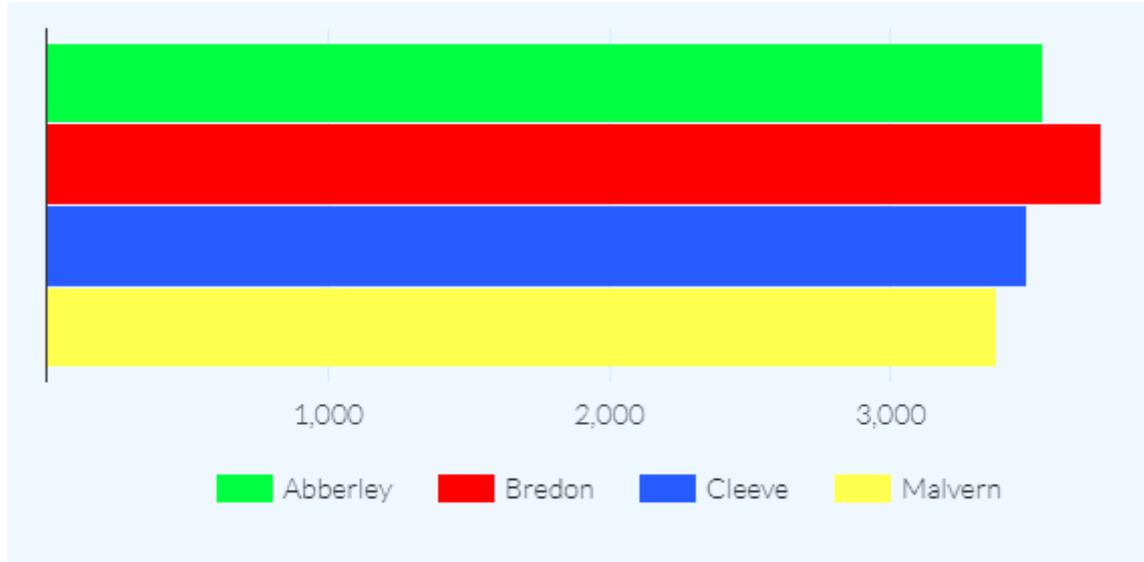
Ice Cream

Flavoured Drink





epraise this week





Walkwood

Church of England  Middle School

For information about our school:

www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk

A summary of how our school works can be found in:

[handbook for parents and carers](#)

Keeping children safe

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

[Early help](#)

[E-safety](#)

[Prevent](#)

[Anti-bullying](#)

[Attendance](#)

[Safeguarding summary](#)

[Safeguarding policy](#)

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](#)



Reading matters

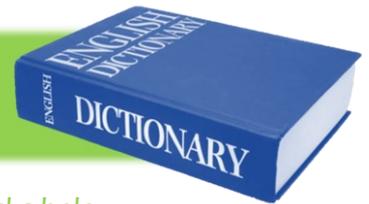


Did you know that research has found that the strongest factor affecting pupils' science scores is reading comprehension (EEF, 2017)?

Please remember our expectation for our students to read daily for between 20 and 30 minutes. Some of that reading will need to be done outside of school. Pupils will benefit from reading aloud daily to an adult (even if for a short time), right the way up to year 8 and is not just an exercise useful to younger children.



Word of the Week



Each week, there is a word displayed here. If the pupils have a go at the tasks below linked to the weekly word, they will earn a point from their tutor. Once per fortnight the tutor will go through the previous two weeks' words and pupils will work collaboratively exploring their meanings, features and usage.

subsequent

1. What word class is this word? Could it belong to more than one word class?
2. How many syllables does it have?
3. Write the dictionary definition(s) of this word, using your own words.
4. What are the synonyms for the word?
5. What are the antonyms for the word?
6. Write four sentences, each containing the word.

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 *exhilarated*:

Statement: *Sam is feeling exhilarated this morning.*



Sport round-up



Walkwood winners

In a thrilling football final that took place between Walkwood and St Bede's, Walkwood emerged victorious with a resounding 5-0 triumph. The match showcased the exceptional skills and teamwork of Walkwood, highlighting the values expected by Walkwood pupils.

From the first whistle, Walkwood demonstrated their prowess on the field, maintaining control of the game and creating numerous scoring opportunities. The crowd was treated to a display of sportsmanship, discipline, and determination by the Walkwood players, who exemplified the school's core values throughout the match.

The goal scorers for Walkwood were Lucas, Luke, Max, Ollie, and Yeuhennii, each contributing to the team's impressive 5-goal tally. However, it was Ollie who stole the show with a standout moment – a breathtaking free-kick from a remarkable distance of 45 yards. The ball soared gracefully into the top corner of the net, leaving spectators in awe of Ollie's skill and precision.

The Walkwood PE staff expressed their gratitude to the enthusiastic crowd, acknowledging the fantastic support the team received throughout the final. The cheering and encouragement from the spectators undoubtedly played a role in boosting the players' morale and contributing to their stellar performance.

As the final whistle blew, Walkwood celebrated their well-deserved victory, not only as champions of the football final but also as ambassadors of the values instilled by the Walkwood school community. The team's exceptional display of skill, sportsmanship, and teamwork was a testament to the dedication and hard work put in by both the players and coaching staff.

The football final will undoubtedly be remembered as a shining moment in Walkwood's sports history, showcasing not only the talent of individual players but also the strength of unity and the embodiment of the school's values on the field.





Clubs and Activities



Autumn Term 2

	Lunchtime 12.15 – 1.00pm	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Monday	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI	KS2 fitness club (PMC/RDJ) Start Monday 13 th November – Monday 11 th December. Sign up only limited numbers.
Tuesday	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI	School Production Rehearsals for whole cast (GLA/DDE/PAL/LHA) Tuesday 21 st November – Tuesday 12 th December (3.45pm-4.45pm) Homework club (3.30 – 4.45) DT hub Sign up only.
Wednesday	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI	KS3 Boogie bounce (KRE) start Wednesday 15 th November – Wednesday 13 th December. Sign up only limited numbers. Homework club (3.30 – 4.45) DT hub Sign up only.
Thursday	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI Choir will take place during 2nd sitting. 12.35 - 1pm All members will need to collect a lunch pass from Mrs Laishley.	KS3 fitness (CHU/RMA/LWO/PMI/RDJ/PMC) start Thursday 16 th November – Thursday 14 th December. Sign up. KS2 Boogie bounce (KRE) start Thursday 16 th November – Thursday 14 th December. Sign up only. School Production Rehearsals for whole cast (GLA/DDE/PAL/LHA) Thursday 23 rd November – Thursday 14 th December (3.30pm-4.45pm) Homework club (3.30 – 4.45) DT hub Sign up only.
Friday	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/LTI	



Trips and Visits



Date	Activity	Location	Open To	Cost	Leader
June 2024					
Fri 28 – Mon 1	Outward Bound	Osmington Bay, Weymouth	Y7	£ 330	Mr West
July 2024					
Wed 3 – Fri 5	Outward Bound	Brecon Beacons	Y5	£ 320	Mr Wootton
February 2025					
Sat 1 – Sat 8	Ski Trip	Obertauern, Aus- tria	Y5-Y7	£ 1659	Mrs Cull



Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2 0 2 3	Thursday 21 December	End of Term
	Monday 8 January	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 9 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Thursday 25 January	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Wednesday 31 January	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Monday 12 – Friday 16 February	Half Term
	Friday 22 March	End of Term
	Monday 8 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 9 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Thursday 11 April	Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
4	Wednesday 17 April	Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Monday 27 – Friday 31 May	Half Term
	Friday 19 July	End of Term