



Walkwood
Church of England Middle School

The Insider

9th September 2022
Issue 455



HM Queen Elizabeth II

21st April 1926 - 8th September 2022

Thank you Ma'am

May you rest in peace & rise in glory



HM The Queen

This afternoon we have held a special assembly.

Pictures of the life of Queen Elizabeth II were shown as we recalled her *happy and glorious* years. The process of succession and proclamation were explained to the children.

We prayed for The King and members of the Royal Family. We listened to the National Anthem while reading the new words.



God save the King

In school this week

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a smooth return to school for the pupils and I have been heartened by the positive responses from you about how new pupils have settled in. Older pupils have been looking after the new Year 5 pupils and the atmosphere has been wonderfully positive. We have re-organised the timings within the school day to make registrations happen more easily. Also, we have 'lesson 6' before the end of each day which the pupils will have with their tutor and this is when some College activities can take place.

Welcome
to the new school year!



We have a number of new staff, whose names are within The Insider. Like the Year 5s, they have settled quickly into our Walkwood family and are getting to know the pupils well. We hope they enjoy the days and terms ahead.

A reminder: the front gates and the Scott Road gate are open at 8.30am. This is when there are staff on playground to supervise the children. Pupils begin lining up a little after 8.40am and will start going into school gently, ready for the first registration bell at 8.50am.



As an early date for your diary which you can share with friends who may ask—Walkwood's Open Evening will be **Thursday 13th October** from 6.45pm.



The school photographers were in school yesterday and you should have had some information about how to buy a photograph, if you want it. Lots of pupils have been smiling around the school this week, so encouraging them to do that in the photograph was not too difficult. I shall be styling my hair for my own picture—when I said that to a few Year 8s this week they all replied with, "That won't take you long then"! I'm so glad we're back at school . . . same old jokes!

Rev. C. Leach, Principal

Welcome

"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the One who sent me."

Mark 9:37

Father God, Thank you for the break that we have had these last few weeks. We pray that both students and teachers will return to Walkwood feeling refreshed and renewed ready for the year ahead. We pray especially for the new Year 5's as they join in this community, that they feel welcomed and loved as they make new friends and meet their new teachers. We also pray for the new members of staff, that they too, are blessed by the time they spend here at Walkwood. In your name, Amen.

Attendance

Every School Day Counts

Perfection!	0 days off school
Excellent	2 days off school each year
Good	5 days off school each year
Concern	10 days off school each year
Very concerned	20 days off school each year
Extreme concern	30 days off school each year



SCHOOL
MEMBER



ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England





For the week ahead

The Fruit of Faith is:	Forgiveness	Love forgets mistakes; nagging about them parts the best of friends. Proverbs 17:9
The assembly theme will be:	New Beginnings	God makes everything happen at the right time. Yet none of us can ever fully understand all he has done, and he puts questions in our minds about the past and the future. Ecclesiastes 3:11
We ask your thoughts and prayers in the week ahead for:		
His Majesty The King and the Queen Consort Members of the Royal Family The people of the United Kingdom and the nations of the Commonwealth		

Picture of the Week

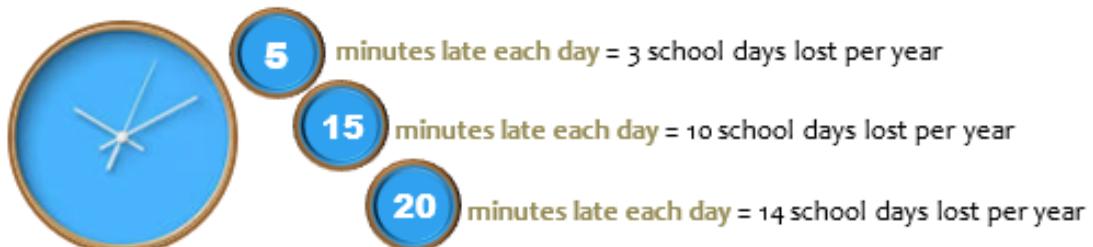


Every school day counts

From Monday 12th September, we will be launching a mission to tackle lateness to school. We would like parents to join us in our mission to ensure that 100% of pupils are on time each day. Being on time to school every day is important to settle your child into a good routine, establish life skills needed for high school and beyond and encourage the development of social skills with their friends on the playground in the morning.

Pupils who are late without good reason will make up those minutes missed at break time with our pastoral team. We understand that in exceptional circumstances lateness is unavoidable, in these circumstances we ask you to contact school to ensure that we know the reason for lateness.

As a reminder, pupils can access the playgrounds at 8:30am with an expectation that pupils be in school by





Teaching groups and sets for 2022-23

Pupils attend the majority of their lessons in teaching groups. Teaching groups are mixed ability.

Sets for Maths, English and Science are organised according to teacher recommendations and analysis of pupils' performance during the last academic year. Pupils are placed in sets with others currently working at a similar ability stage to them. There may be movement between sets over the course of the year.

Teaching groups

These have been arranged as follows:

Year 5 will be taught in six teaching groups. These groups are created based on information passed to us during our transition meetings with first schools.

Year 6, 7 and 8 will be taught in six teaching groups. As they have been taught in six teaching groups in the previous year, there has been no need for us to change the groups completely, although slight adjustments may have been made.

English and maths groups

English and maths groups have been arranged as follows:

Year 5 will be taught in their six mixed ability teaching groups until October half term. We will then use teacher assessment and GL data to organise them into seven ability sets, with the whole year group having maths and English at the same time.

Year 6 will be in seven ability sets, with the whole year group having maths and English at the same time.

In both years 7 and 8 pupils will be split into two halves (c and e) and each side of the year will be taught in three ability groups, sets 1 to 3.

Science groups

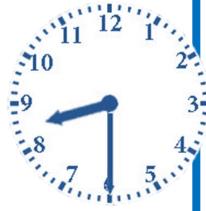
Science groups have been arranged as follows:

Year 5 and 6 will be taught science in their mixed ability teaching groups.

Year 7 and 8 will be split into two halves (c and e) and each side of the year will be taught in ability sets 1-3.

Morning arrivals

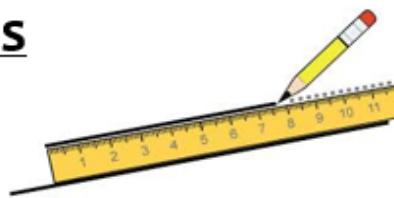
Morning arrivals: the earliest that pupils can be at school is **8.30am**. This is because Walkwood staff begin playground supervision at this time. Thank you for your understanding.



Equipment for lessons

Compulsory items:

- Pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Pencil sharpener
- Colouring pencils
- A notebook
- Scientific calculator (Year 7 and 8 only)
- A pair of compasses (Year 7 and 8 only)



The following items are not compulsory but are useful:

- Whiteboard pen
- Glue stick
- Pink highlighter
- Green highlighter
- Protractor





Welcome to Walkwood!



Ms Wait who will be teaching Science, and Ms Watts will be in the English department. Our Head of Music, Mrs Laishley.

We welcome Ms Villalobos who is again teaching English, and also a renewed 'hello' to Mr Birrell.

Some of the advice from Oxford Owl is summarised here:

1. Keep reading to your child as long as possible

At this age, it is tempting to leave your child to get on with reading on their own. But hearing a story read to them is still very important for developing their comprehension. Here are a few reasons why:

- Hearing a story read out loud means that your child can have access to books that may as yet be too challenging to read alone. These challenging texts will help to develop their comprehension skills.
- Left to their own devices, your child might tend to pick lots of similar texts to read (for example, books from a favourite author or magazine). Reading aloud to your child gives you the opportunity to introduce them to books that they might not choose to pick up themselves, exposing them to a wider range of stories and types of text.
- Listening to an adult read gives a model for fluent reading. It allows your child to hear how a skilled reader uses expression, bringing the words on the page to life.
- Reading together gives your child time to discuss ideas and share opinions about what you're reading. This is great, as it helps children to think deeply about a text and practise explaining their opinions.

2. Listen to your child read

Even though your child is likely to be an independent reader by Year 5, it's still helpful to listen to them read. It means you can help them with unfamiliar words and talk together to make sure that they understand the book.

3. Read a wide variety of books

Encourage your child to choose texts with a variety of formats and layouts. Lots of children have favourite authors and genres, but it can be helpful to expand into new types of books every so often – and be sure not to neglect non-fiction texts, such as magazine articles, brochures, adverts, newspaper columns, signs, and notices.

Showing your child lots of kinds of texts will give them experience reading in a real-world context and will also prepare them for national assessments where they are expected to engage with a wide variety of text types. Make sure you talk together about how the texts are presented – the writing will look different depending on what type of text it is from.





Parking

Parents or carers who are bringing or collecting their children to and from school by car at the beginning and end of the school day are asked to park **on one of the public roads**. Please keep the front entrance by the school clear. However, it is preferable to use Morton Stanley Park. Pupils can walk from Walkwood to the parking area there using footpaths and the underpasses. The road crossing outside school is under the direction of one of the senior staff, and going across at the bottom of Feckenham Road has a crossing patrol.



Our
school
day

08.50 – 09.00	Tutor time
09.00 – 09.55	Lesson 1
10.00 – 10.20	Break
10.20 – 11.15	Lesson 2
11.15 – 12.15	Lesson 3
12.15 – 13.00	Lunch
13.05 – 14.00	Lesson 4
14.00 – 14.55	Lesson 5
14.55 – 15.30	Lesson 6

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about INSTAGRAM

AGE RATING

13+

follow
WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Instagram is one of the most popular social media platforms in the world, with over 1 billion users worldwide. The platform allows users to upload images and videos to their feed, create interactive 'stories', share live videos, exchange private messages or search, explore and follow other accounts they like – whilst at the same time continuously updating and adding new features to meet the needs of its users.

ADDICTION

Many social media platforms are designed in a way to keep us engaged on them for as long as possible. There's a desire to scroll often/more in case we've missed something important or a fear of missing out. Instagram is no different and young people can easily lose track of time by aimlessly scrolling and watching videos posted by friends, acquaintances, influencers or even strangers.

PRODUCT TAGGING

Product tags allow users (particularly influencers who are sponsored to advertise products) to tag a product or business in their post. This tag takes viewers, regardless of age, directly to the product detail page on the shop where the item can be purchased and where children may be encouraged by influencers to purchase products they don't necessarily need.

EXCLUSION AND OSTRACISM

Young people are highly sensitive to ostracism. Feeling excluded can come in many forms such as: not receiving many 'likes', not being tagged, being unfriended, having a photo untagged, or not receiving a comment or reply to a message. Being excluded online hurts just as much as being excluded offline – with children potentially suffering lower moods, lower self-esteem, feeling as if they don't belong or undervalued.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Product tagging on Instagram only works on public accounts. If your child wants to share their clothing style, make-up etc and tag items in a post then they may be tempted to change their settings to public, which can leave their profile visible to strangers.

Buy Milk

HAVE OPEN DIALOGUE

Talk to your child about live videos and the risks involved and how they can do it safely with family and friends. Talk to them about ensuring they have safety settings on so only followers can view them live, and maybe help them prepare what they would say when they do go live.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Instagram is one social media app which has its safety features available to parents in a user-friendly manner. The document provides examples of conversation starters, managing privacy, managing comments, blocking and restricting and can be found on the Instagram website > community > parents.

MANAGE LIKE COUNTS

Due to the impact on mental wellbeing, Instagram has allowed users to change the focus of their experiences online away from how many likes a post has by hiding the like counts. Users can hide like counts on all the posts in their feed as well as hiding the like counts on their own posts. This means others can't see how many likes you get. This can be done by going into settings > notifications > posts > likes > off



Advice for Parents & Carers

REMOVE PAYMENT METHODS

If you're happy for your child to have a card associated with their Instagram account, we suggest adding a PIN which needs to be entered before making a payment. This can be added in the payment settings tab and will also help prevent unauthorised purchases.

FOLLOW INFLUENCERS

Following influencers will allow you to monitor what they're sharing as well as being able to discuss anything which you deem inappropriate. Talk to your child about who they follow and help them develop critical thinking skills about what the influencer is trying to do. For example, are they trying to sell a product by promoting it?

USE MODERATORS

Instagram has launched 'live moderators' on Instagram live where creators can assign a moderator and give them the power to report comments, remove viewers and turn off comments for a viewer. It's recommended to keep devices in common spaces so that you are aware if they do go live or watch live streaming.

BE VIGILANT AND REASSURE

Talk to your child about the use of filters. While they can be fun to use they don't represent the real them. If you find your child continuously using a filter, ask them why and reassure them that they are beautiful without it to build up their feelings of self-worth. Discuss the fact that many images online are filtered and not everyone looks 'picture perfect' in real life, which can also lend itself to discuss what is real and not real online.

BALANCE YOUR TIME

Instagram now has an in-built activity dashboard that allows users to monitor and control how much time they spend on the app. Users can add a 'daily reminder' to set a limit on how much time they want to spend on Instagram, prompting them to consider if it's been too long with a 'take a break' message. There's also the option to mute notifications for a period of time. These features can help you have a conversation with your child about how much time they are spending on the app and to set healthy time limits.

Meet Our Expert

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



National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday



Lunch menu from September 2022



= main meal vegetarian option

Main meal		Menu A	Menu B	Menu C
Monday		Chicken Nuggets (100% chicken baked in a crispy coated batter) Potato Wedges Baked Beans or Peas Vegetarian Nuggets	Monday Brunch including Sausage, Bacon, Hash Brown, Baked Beans and Scrambled Egg Vegetarian Monday Brunch	Beef Burger in a Bap (100% beef) Crispy Diced Potatoes Baked Beans or Corn on the Cob Rainbow Coleslaw Vegetarian Burger in a Bap
Tuesday		Pork Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Pasta & Garlic Bread Macaroni Cheese	Beef Pasta Bake in a Tomato & Basil Sauce with Garlic Bread Vegetarian Pasta Bake	Chicken Fajita (build your own) with Mexican Rice and Salsa Falafel
Wednesday		Roast Ham Roast Potatoes Choice of Vegetables Gravy Broccoli / Cauliflower Cheese Bake	Home Made Chicken Pie Creamy Mash Potato Vegetable Selection Gravy Vegetarian Pie	Roast Pork Sausages Yorkshire Pudding Roast Potatoes Selection of vegetables Gravy Vegetarian Sausages
Thursday		Chinese Chicken Curry Stir Fry Vegetables Chinese Vegetarian Curry	Chicken Tikka Rice Naan Bread Vegetarian Tikka	Chicken Korma Rice Naan Bread Vegetarian Curry
Friday		Cod in Breadcrumbs and French Fries Baked Beans or Mushy Peas Vegetarian Dippers	Cod in Batter and Chips Baked Beans or Mushy Peas Vegetable Fingers	Fish Nuggets in Breadcrumbs with Chips Baked Beans or Mushy Peas Vegetarian Tart

All the above £1.80 per meal



Choice of puddings, cheese & biscuits, yogurt, jelly pot or fruit 45p each

Selection of juice cartons 50p each Tropical juice cartons 60p each

Sachet (vinegar, tomato ketchup, mayonnaise etc.) 10p

Differing daily selection of:

pizzas, paninis, toasties, sausage rolls, soft filled baguettes, fresh sandwiches

£1.25 each



Choice of the salad bar 65p

Choice of puddings, cheese & biscuits, yogurt, jelly pot or fruit 45p each

Selection of juice cartons 50p each Tropical juice cartons 60p each

Fillings of cheese, tuna, beans (or combination)

£1.60

Self-select

Jacket Potato

Choice of puddings, cheese & biscuits, yogurt, jelly pot or fruit 45p each

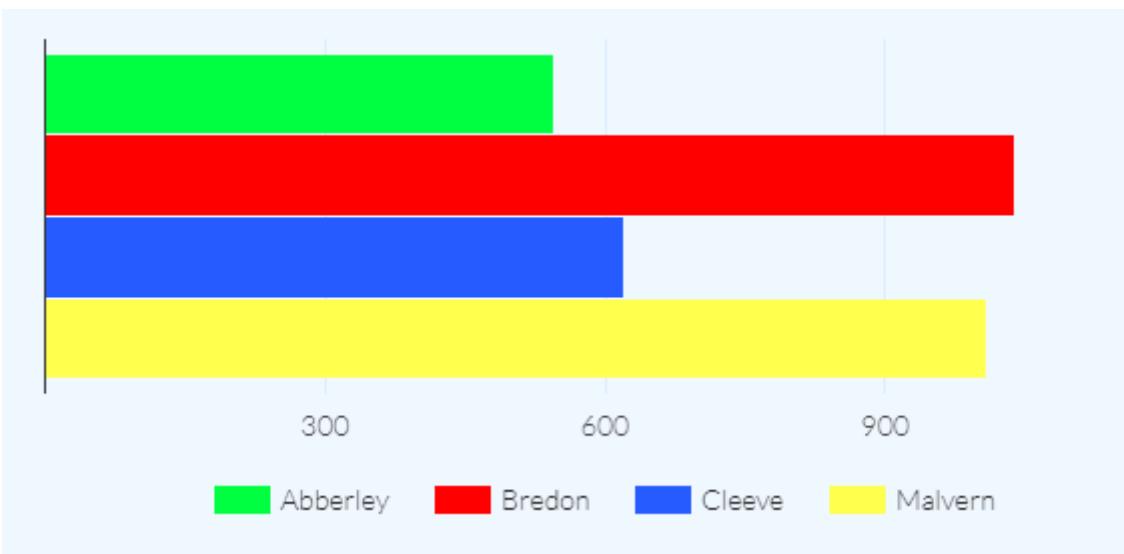
Selection of juice cartons 50p each Tropical juice cartons 60p each





epraise

this week



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>



Clubs and Activities



There will be no clubs next week. Details of future clubs will be to follow.



Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2022/23	Monday 26 September	SATs information evening
	Thursday 13 October	Open Evening
	Thursday 20 October	Year 5 Parents Evening
	Monday 24 - Friday 28 October	Half Term
	Monday 14 November	Parents Maths KS2 Workshop
	Friday 16 December	End of Term
	Tuesday 3 January	Staff Development Day
	Wednesday 4 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Monday 9 January	Parents English KS2 Workshop
	Thursday 19 January	Y6, Y8 Parents Evening
	Wednesday 25 January	Y6, Y8 Parents Evening
	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
	Thursday 8 June	Y5, Y7 Parents Evening
	Wednesday 14 June	Y5, Y7 Parents Evening
	Friday 21 July	End of Term