

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of the school year is next Wednesday. We shall say ‘farewell’ to the Year 8 pupils after specific events which they shall share in their tutor groups before an outdoor gathering in the late morning. For other pupils, the end times will be as they have been during this year of staggered start and finishes.



Tuesday of next week sees many of Year 8 going to Drayton Manor for a day together, for this has been a traditional end-of-year event for that year group. On the same day, and again because it has been our normal practice, the other year groups have an afternoon of supervised play on the field, interrupted only by the arrival of the ice cream vans! (Years 5,6 and 7 will need to be in PE kit on Tuesday, please.) The year groups will be kept apart. This is because we shall continue with our current control measures until the end of Wednesday 21st July as the Department for Education states: If your school is still open at Step 4, you may wish to continue with [current] measures until the end of your summer term.



We are very much hoping that September will allow us to return to a much more normal school day. This means that there will not be staggered times of the day, and pupils will move around the site. A summary of our plans for next term are [available here](#). These arrangements may be liable to change depending on Covid-circumstances as advised by the local outbreak response team.

We shall continue to keep an eye on any announcements or recommendation from the government concerning the new term. Otherwise, we are looking forward to a ‘reset’, the outline of which is shared on page 3. In the summer, for our children:



Rejoice, young person, while you are young, and let your heart be glad in the days of your youth.

Ecclesiastes 11:9a

Stay safe; be well,

Rev. C. Leach
Principal

Next edition: Friday 10th September

A prayer for Travelling and staying

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: preserve those who travel; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

This week's theme was:
Travelling and staying

You said to me, “I will point out the road that you should follow. I will be your teacher and watch over you.”

Psalms 32:8

Whole School Attendance

93.20%

Whole School Target

95.6%

Congratulations to the following tutor groups 99%+ for the week commencing 05.07.21:

5E2



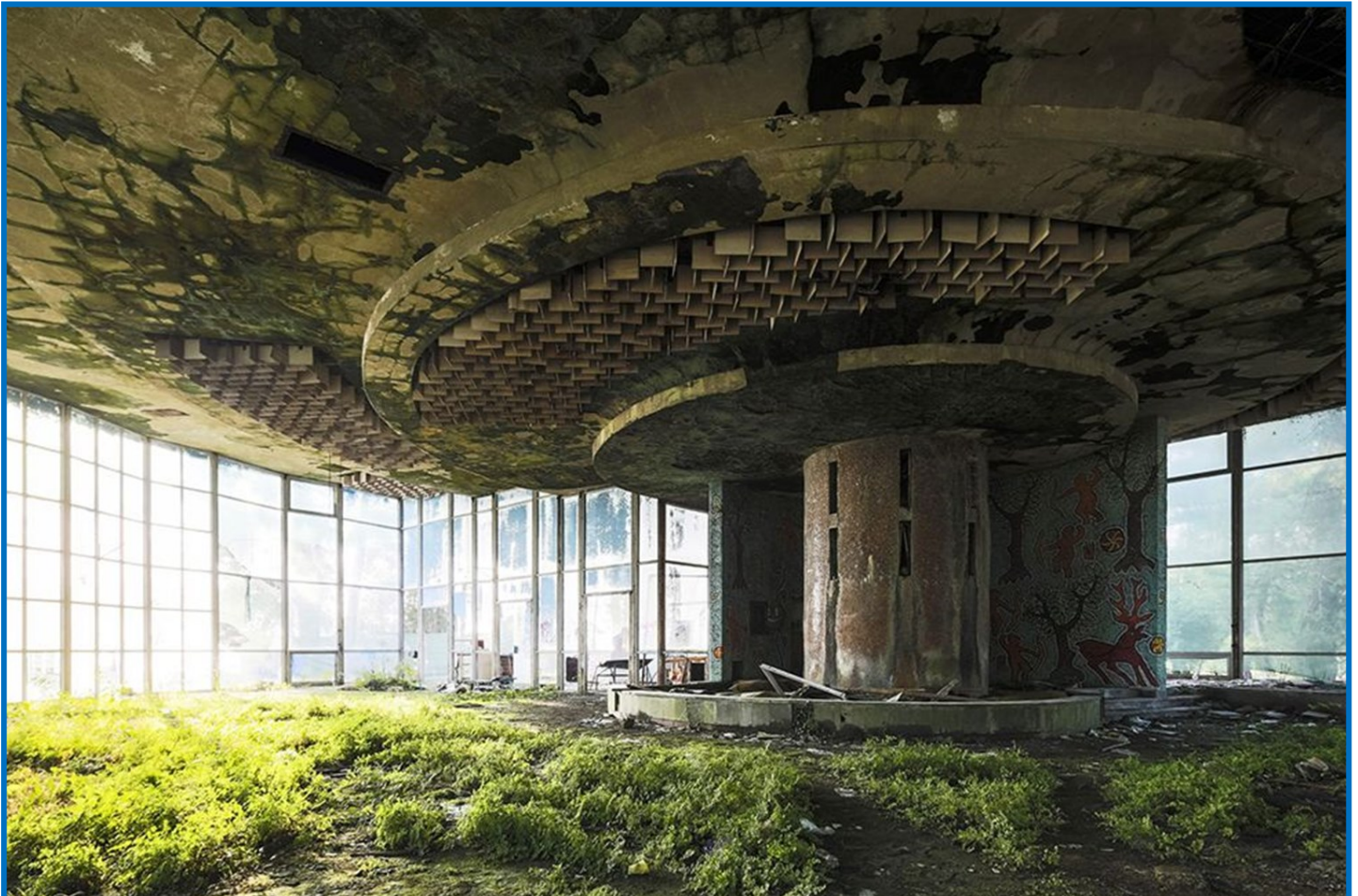
For the week ahead

The Fruit of Faith is:	Honour	Be devoted to one another with mutual love, showing eagerness in honouring one another. <i>Romans 12:10</i>
The assembly theme:	Celebration	I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its full-est. <i>John 10:10</i>

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

The weekend	those working in the healthcare professions	Monday	safety for children during the summer holidays
Tuesday	workers at food retail shops and their colleagues in distribution	Wednesday	parents, carers and relatives who look after children during the summer
Thursday	members of our national civil service and local council employees	Friday	children who will start new schools in September

Picture of the Week



New school year begins:

Year 5 – Monday 6th September

Years 6, 7, & 8 – Tuesday 7th September

School starts 8.45am

Gates open at 8.30am



Tutor groups 2021-22

We have pressed the 'reset' button for tutor groups this coming year. Pupils will stay in their College, but they are likely to be within a fresh tutor group because tutors are moving between colleges. This is to balance experience and numbers between each college team.

The new details will be shared with pupils in the forthcoming week, and shall be viewable on ePraise at the start of the new school year when the timetable is 'switched on'.



Teaching classes 2021-22

We have used the opportunity to make some changes to the classes that pupils will be in next year. Given that children have been in the same room with the same pupils all the time, we concluded that there is merit in redesigning each class.

As with tutor groups, the new details will be shared with pupils in the forthcoming week, and shall be viewable on ePraise at the start of the new school year when the timetable is 'switched on'.

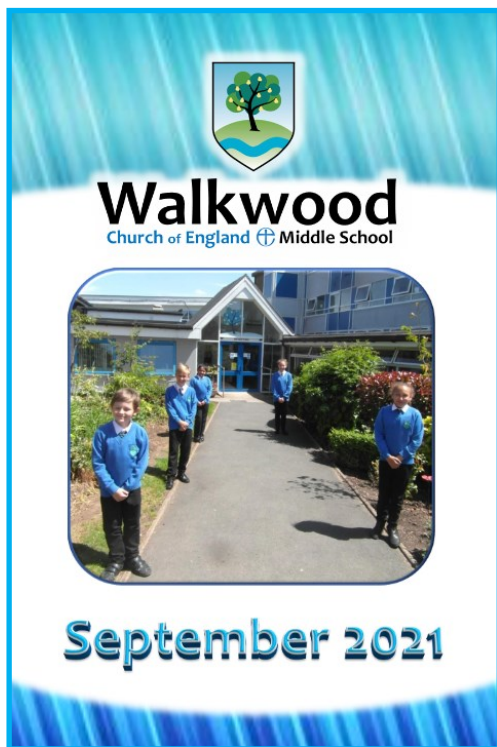


Uniform for 2021-22



During the past year or so we have been understanding of the fact that parents and carers have not had the opportunity to easily update clothing and shoes for pupils. However, from September we will require a return to our usual high standards.

What is noted as acceptable uniform is shown on our [website](#) or within the [school policy](#). This applies to both main uniform as well as the PE kit. Items such as trousers and shirts are generic so can be purchased from supermarkets or online. The guidance about what we consider appropriate as black trousers is clear, so you must refrain from buying lycra or skin-hugging items. Please note that we do not have shorts as part of main school uniform.



Our booklet which outlines our restart in September is [available here](#).

The foci over the new school year remains to **resettle –re-establish – recover**:

- resettle pupils into the routines and values of the school, which will increase well-being;
- re-establish the skills and behaviours for learning;
- begin the long-term recovery by focusing on pupils' capability to recall, reference, contextualise and apply knowledge.

There are some areas that we shall **reset**, to make some changes to how we work in light of the last couple of years.

Monday 6th September - Year 5 will have a day with their tutor; Years 6 to 8 will have a day's home learning uploaded to ePraise.

Tuesday 7th September - All years will spend the day as a tutor group, with the school photographer taking pictures in the morning.

Wednesday 8th September - Lessons begin for all year groups.

The government's Rediscover Summer campaign has launched to help inspire families to get out and about safely and make the most out of summer.

The campaign highlights a range of activities and opportunities for families, children and young people such as exploring a local museum or discovering a National Cycling Network Trail.

Families are encouraged to get back out and Rediscover Summer after a year of missed opportunities.

The government's Rediscover Summer campaign has launched to help inspire families to get out and about safely and make the most out of summer. Whether it's visiting the places that inspired your favourite books, trying out a new sport or even learning how to code, the campaign will show families that there are plenty of new activities to try wherever they live.

Throughout the duration of the campaign, each week of the summer holidays will promote a separate theme from sport and creativity to nature and heritage.

The government is encouraging families to Rediscover Summer and enjoy the range of leisure activities on offer after a year of missed opportunities.

A [gov.uk page features](#) a taste of the activities available over the summer to inspire parents and families and help young people get involved in their local communities. The activities suggested range from the Summer Reading Challenge to Chance to Shine cricket sessions and from trips to the Imperial War Museum to Mercury Theatre's Family sing-a-long. No matter where you live, the campaign will show there is something for everyone.





Lunch menu from September 2021

 = main meal vegetarian option



	Menu A	Menu B	Menu C 	
Main meal	Monday	Chicken Nuggets (100% chicken backed 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 Garlic Bread  Falafel
	Wednesday	Roast Ham Roast Potatoes Choice of Vegetables Gravy  Broccoli/Cauliflower Cheese Bake	Home Made Chicken Pie Creamy Mashed 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 £1.60 per meal				
Choice of puddings, cheese & biscuits, yogurt, jelly pot or fruit 40p each				
Selection of juice cartons 50p				
Sachet (vinegar, tomato ketchup, mayonnaise etc.) 5p				
Self-select	<i>Differing daily selection of:</i> pizzas, paninis, toasties, sausage rolls, soft filled baguettes, fresh sandwiches £1.10 each			
	Choice of the salad bar 50p			
	Choice of puddings, cheese & biscuits, yoghurt, jelly pot or fruit 40p each Selection of juice cartons 50p each			
Jacket Potato	Fillings of cheese, tuna, beans (or combination) £1.40			
	Choice of puddings, cheese & biscuits, yoghurt, jelly pot or fruit 40p each Selection of juice cartons 50p each			



Voices for a Green Future



Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing our planet and COP26 will be one of the largest and most significant gathering of world leaders on this issue. In fact, over 30,000 delegates, including politicians, diplomats, campaigners and experts, will debate how to make global progress on climate change, in Glasgow later this year. As a Principal Partner of COP26, National Grid is at the heart of efforts to get Great Britain to net zero. However, every voice matters in the battle against climate change and this competition forms a part of their efforts to inspire the young people of today to become the energy problem-solvers of tomorrow.

This competition invites pupils in primary and secondary schools across the UK to respond to the following question: “If you were in charge of the country, what would you do to help look after the planet?” If successful, four pupils—two primary school and two secondary school winners—will be offered the opportunity to create and film a speech based on their entry, which will be broadcast digitally at COP26. They will also win £150 worth of National Book Tokens and STEM-related science toys, as well as a £5,000 grant for their school to put towards STEM or climate change related educational resources, equipment or experiences. The six runners-up will also receive a £50 National Book Token for taking part.

About the competition:

1. Launched on Monday 21st June, National Grid have been encouraging pupils to submit no more than 200 words, via their website, detailing their green vision for the planet. The submission will be the basis for their final speech delivered digitally at COP26 if successful.
2. Once the competition has closed on Tuesday 17th August, the submissions will be judged, and ten entrants will be shortlisted from 1st September.
3. These ten entrants will then be filmed presenting their 200-word submission and the videos will be shared with an esteemed judging panel, including TV presenter Helen Skelton, who will then decide the final four winners. The finalists will be scored against criteria including originality of ideas, creativity and passion, and inspirational power.
4. The four winning pupils will be announced to the public on 20th October, with the opportunity to have their winning speech broadcast digitally at COP26.

Pupils aged 7-15 in school years 3-10 can enter the competition. The National Grid website provides further details about the entry requirements as well as tips, inspiration and [resources to help encourage entries as well as educational assets as a source of inspiration](#). This competition provides the opportunity for pupils to think about the environment and their future in a fun and accessible way.

Should any pupil wish to find out more about the competition, please visit:

www.nationalgrid.com/voicesforagreenfuture

Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

flummoxed

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 14th June 2021—14th July 2021

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

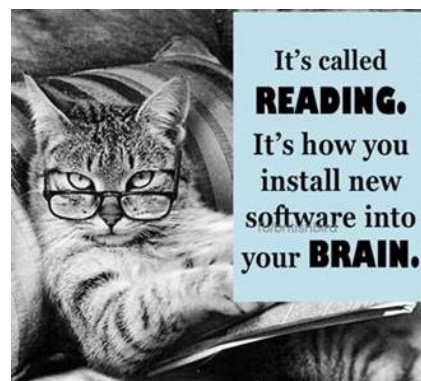
Phoebe Footitt-Green (8E1) - who has read 521,780 words

Top Boy

Harley Wilson (7E3) - who has read 665,779 words

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

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU





What Parents & Carers Need to Know about VALORANT



Valorant is one of the hottest first-person shooters on the market. Developed by Riot Games (makers of the hugely popular League of Legends) its gameplay is similar to titles like Overwatch and Counter-Strike: Global Offensive. Players choose a character and face off in teams of five against five opponents. Currently available only on PC through the Riot Games site, Valorant requires quick reflexes and dedication to progress. However, between dealing with other players, navigating the online store and avoiding possible addiction, there's plenty for parents and carers to consider before allowing children to play.

Violence & weapons

The violence in Valorant isn't gory, but players nevertheless use weapons like guns, knives and explosives to kill opponents and win a round. The selection of guns that can be bought and used ranges from fairly authentic looking to brightly coloured and cartoonish. The game's PEGI 16 rating should give parents and carers a useful indication of the intensity and realism of the combat.



Risk of addiction

Games with a high skill ceiling – which require dedication and repetition to master – can quickly become addictive. Developers design games like Valorant to hook players and keep them coming back every day; this practice has seen online shooters cultivate vast user-bases over the last decade. Children are particularly susceptible to these tactics, which can unfortunately lead to obsession and eventual addiction.



In-game purchases

Valorant is free to download, only requiring an account on the Riot Games site. There is, however, a built-in digital store where real money can be exchanged for points: Valorant's in-game currency, which can be spent on weapons. Bundles of points cost between £4.99 and £99.99 – so if a card or PayPal account is linked to the game, children could easily rack up a large bill without realising it.



Other Players

When millions of gamers from around the world discover a new title, it's sadly inevitable that some will harbour more sinister aims than winning games and having fun. In Valorant, teams audio chat via headsets – potentially exposing children to hazards such as name calling, harassment, inappropriate language and grooming. Players could also befriend each other online and then communicate outside the game via third-party apps like Discord or TeamSpeak.



Advice for Parents & Carers

Watch for signs of addiction

If you're concerned that a child is becoming addicted to a game, it's important to step in. Warning signs include irritability when not playing, hiding the extent of their game time, an inability to stop when asked and a lack of interest in other hobbies. Encourage a healthy mix of activities and perhaps agree a set amount of gaming time each day. Seek expert help if the symptoms worsen: it's better to have all safeguarding options on the table than let an addiction go too far.



Remove payment methods

The simplest way to prevent children accidentally (or deliberately) spending money on in-game purchases is to remove their ability to. If there is a bank card or PayPal account linked to any online games your child plays, the safest option is to disconnect them. Valorant supports prepaid gift cards, so you could consider purchasing these as an alternative which gives you more control.



Report problem players

If another player becomes a problem, your child could mute them or report them to the game's developers. From the 'Career' tab on the main menu, they can view previous matches and should select the match featuring the abusive player. Highlight that player, and the option to report is in the dropdown menu. To mute other players in a game, go to the scoreboard and either mute or drag the volume slider of that player all the way down.



Try it yourself

Games like Valorant can seem overwhelming to start with, but they are designed to be easy to pick up and play – with a level of depth for those who want it. If you have another computer, you could download a second copy of the game and play alongside your child. It's an enjoyable way to bond over something they're already interested in, while also keeping an eye on them online.



Give eSports a chance

As a popular eSports title, Valorant has many professional players who compete in tournaments for sizeable prize pots. Watching a high-octane competitive game with professional shoutcasters (commentators) on platforms like YouTube and Twitch can be exciting. You could find out when live games are being played and watch them with your child, just like you might with football or rugby.



Meet Our Expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for several years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world: UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGBible. Having started gaming at a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work – but, more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



SOURCES: <https://guides.gamespress.com/valorant/guide.aspx?ID=54605#...> <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/game-reviews/valorant/> <https://www.pcgames.com/uk/how-to-report-a-player-valorant/> <https://www.gaminggaming.com/game/valorant/>

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.

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

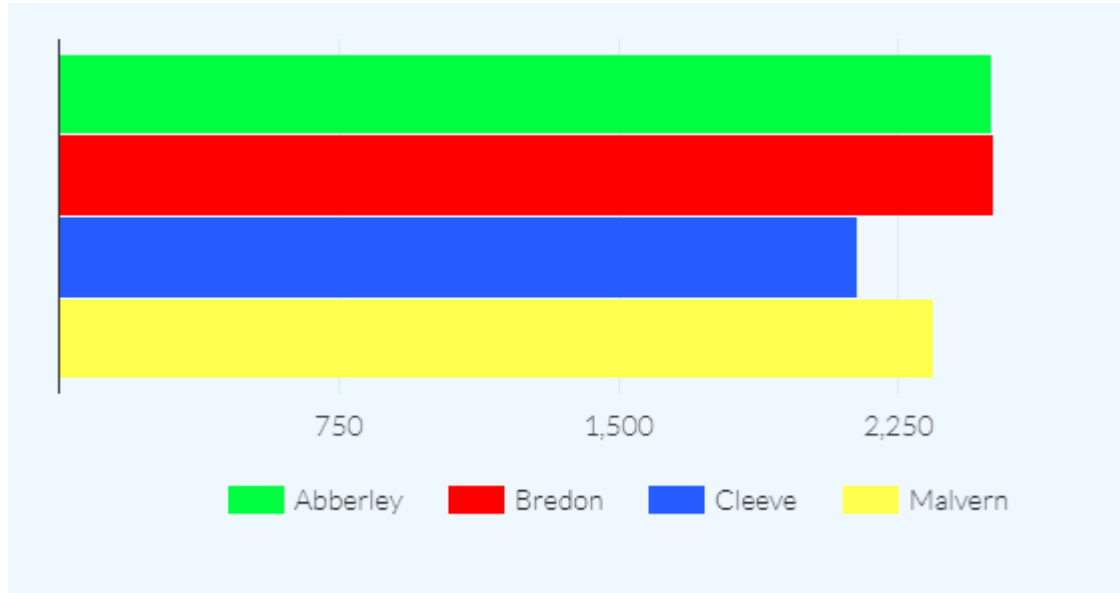
Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.



Epraise Update



Points This Week: By College





Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2 0 2 1	Wednesday 21 July	End of Term
	Thursday 2 September	Staff Development Day
	Friday 3 September	Staff Development Day
	Monday 6 September	First day of the Autumn Term for Year 5 only
	Tuesday 7 September	First day of the Autumn Term for Years 6, 7 & 8
	Tuesday 7 September	Individual photographs for all students
	Friday 22 October	Staff Development Day
	Monday 25 to Friday 29 October	Half Term
	Friday 17 December	End of Term
2 0 2 2	Tuesday 4 January	Staff Development Day
	Wednesday 5 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Monday 21 to Friday 25 February	Half Term
	Friday 8 April	End of Term
	Monday 25 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 26 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June	Half Term
	Thursday 21 July	End of Term