



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week contained the eleventh day of the eleventh month, and so at 11am our school fell silent for the Act of Remembrance. And I mean silent. The honour that pupils showed for this national commemoration was exceptional. We know it is difficult for children to know what they should be doing or thinking during the time of silence, so we explain the former and settle them beforehand. To aid their thinking, we show images that prompt them to remember that our country has a history that is shared.



This year, as it is 75 years since the end of World War II, we thought about the home front. What was it like to be in Britain during that conflict, and what was the effect of the bombing raids. We know what happened not far away in Coventry when much of the city centre was hit. As you will see from the Picture of the Week on the next page, we thought about the roles that women played in a variety of different jobs, both in military and civilian life. Within the slide presentation during the silence, a picture of Princess Elizabeth, now our Queen, who worked as a mechanic in the Women's' Auxiliary Services.

In a virtual assembly, I was also able to let pupils know that this is 100 years since the internment of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey. I explained briefly how this came about, and Her Majesty paid her respects last weekend at the tomb as her age prevented her from attending the formal service on Wednesday, where she was represented by H.R.H The Prince of Wales.



Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified. *Isaiah 43:26*

Yesterday was our brief Parents' Evening: brief because there was a handful of minutes to make contact with your child's tutor for this year. There were a small number of issues with user devices - we rectified the couple of issues at this end. Such evenings later in the year will be devised after a full consideration of how matters unfolded yesterday—whether they are virtual or face-to-face is uncertain at this stage.

Rev. C. Leach, *Principal*

A prayer for Making peace
Loving God, please grant me peace of mind and calm my troubled heart. ... Give me the strength and clarity of mind to find my purpose and walk the path you've laid out for me. I trust your Love God, and know that you will heal this stress. Just as the sun rises each day against the dark of night.
Amen

This week's theme was:
Making peace
'Let's keep on pursuing those things that bring peace and that lead to building up one another.
Romans 14: 19

Whole School Attendance
96.71%
Whole School Target
95.6%
Congratulations to the following tutor groups 99%+ for the week commencing 2.11.20
5E3
6C1 and 6E1 -100%!



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:	Resilience	Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. 1 Corinthians 13:6-8

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

The weekend	those who have lived and died during war and conflict.	Monday	our County Councilors
Tuesday	our cleaning staff	Wednesday	the cessation of harsh words between nations of the world.
Thursday	the Regional Schools Commissioner, Andrew Warren, and his team.	Friday	forgiveness when children use harsh words to each other.

Picture of the Week

There are 17 individual sets of clothing and uniforms around the sides, symbolising the hundreds of different jobs women undertook in World War II. The memorial was unveiled on 9 July 2005, by Queen Elizabeth II as part of the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.



Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

disenchanted

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 11th October 2020 - 11th November 2020

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

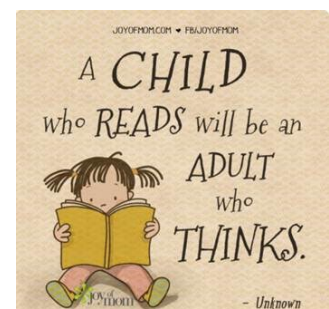
Poppy Harvey (8C2 Malvern) - who has read 600,768 words

Top Boy

Aston Slater (7E3 Cleeve) - who has read 588,396 words

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

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU



Why use Microsoft Teams?



When conducting conversations with parents and carers, we want to ensure we know who we are talking to. Using a telephone number that you have given us is one way, but as we have less than a handful of telephone lines, there is a limited number of calls that can be made at once. This is not so with MS Teams. Besides, there may be more than one parent or carer who wishes to be part of the conversation, and this is much easier to arrange through Teams. It also retains the face to face benefits of a meeting, albeit via screens! In addition some staff were unable to be in school, and so using MS Teams enabled them to meet with parents, wherever they are.

Our staff and pupils utilise Microsoft Office 365 within school and for homeworking, which MS Teams is an integral part of. Therefore we can ensure that all users are safe and secure by using a single platform (as is our duty to safeguard pupils and staff) – as well as making it easier for staff and pupils to learn a new platform since Covid began. Teams also has a wealth of other benefits, particularly for our pupils which we hope to take further advantage of if the needs arise. For parent's we know that by using our existing ePraise platform, and integrating teams, it makes a smooth transition from our normal parents events to the 'new normal' digital version in a safe and secure way for all.

There will be issues when the program is first used, of course. We have smoothed out many of those in school through practice using Teams between staff who are sat in different classrooms. However, as we know about most areas of life, technology can 'have a wobble' just like humans!

It is worth noting, that for the events to be a success, we needed a platform that as many parents as possible can use. Teams allows parents to join their meetings on pretty much any device by clicking a link. Of course, the speed of parents broadband or mobile data and their device itself all contribute to the success of these events and we are analysing information to provide a best practice guide for parents on how they can ensure that technology at their side can help them join successfully.



The public consultation on the proposed admission arrangements for the 2022/23 academic year for Worcestershire schools is now open:

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20632/school_admissions_policies_and_appeals/2292/admissions_policies_2022_to_2023_consultation

Walkwood Church of England Middle School is proposing that we name specific schools within our admissions policy, which is available from [here](#) or [here](#). If you would like to provide feedback on the proposal, please use the form provided on the Worcestershire Children First [website](#) or by [email](#).





Walkwood

Church of England  Middle School

Love to Learn;
Learn to Live;
Live to Love.



Admissions

In the current circumstances,
we have a virtual tour and full
information is available

September 2021



Take a look at our website:

www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk

for the Virtual Open Evening and Prospectus



Our Church of England inspection said:
Outstanding

- ✓ The inclusive vision of the school ensures that all children are supported in their personal well-being and academic achievement.
- ✓ Key to the school's vision is that every individual is created in the image of God, and from this belief springs the school's outstanding attention to individual needs, both academic and pastoral.

Applying for middle school

For children who are currently in Year 4 and intend to be in a middle school for Year 5, it is time to apply for a place. This needs to be completed using the online system:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Walkwood Church of England Middle School is part of the Worcestershire County Council's coordinated scheme, which is administered by Worcestershire Children First.

The closing date for both first and middle school places is 15th January 2021.

Select for Walkwood's [Admissions](#)

[Prospectus](#)

[Virtual Open Evening](#)



What parents & carers need to know about... XBOX SERIES X|S



The Xbox Series X and Series S are the next-generation video game consoles from Microsoft. They offer improved graphics, sounds and much quicker loading times. Parents should note that the two versions available are quite different.

Safely Setting up Your Xbox Series X / S

Xbox Series X

Xbox Series X is a larger device, with a disc drive, twice as much storage and higher performance chips. It can play the new Xbox games at the highest resolution and with the best visuals. It enables you to run games from disc or digitally.



Apply Family Settings

Both Xbox models offer important family controls that should be set-up before your family starts using the system. Although this can take a little time, it ensures that children have their own accounts and sets limits on spending, interactions and age ratings. If done correctly, children cannot circumvent these controls that require the parent's password to alter.

Managing Spending

You can set a limit on spending via the family settings. This means that any additional purchase requires your password. Another alternative is not to put credit card details into your account and instead add credit as they need it using the book-token-like cards in-store or online.

Setting Limits on Play-Time

You can specify the time of day and how long the console can be used to play without needing a password. Talk to your children and agree how long is appropriate, then set this together so it's something they understand and accept. On the Xbox Series X|S you can also limit time on a particular game, which is a good way to encourage children to play a wide range of experiences.

Game Subscriptions

In addition to buying individual games digitally or in-store, you can also subscribe to services that offer access to 100's of games for a monthly fee. Xbox Game Pass is often bundled with the Xbox Gold subscription you need for playing online. Most of the bigger Xbox games are provided as part of the service, as well as a wide range of independent games that often offer educational and wellbeing based experiences.

Xbox Series S

Xbox Series S is a smaller, disc-less version of the console which plays all the new games but with reduced visuals or possibly frame-rates. Because it doesn't support discs you can't play old games from discs and must purchase new games digitally. It also has smaller storage, offering 500GB which is about half that of the Xbox Series X.

Setting Age-Ratings

You can set a limit that stops any older rated games being played without a password being entered. This is not only a good way to ensure children are playing appropriate content but is a good chance to talk about the games they are playing.



Managing Online Interactions

Another important area of the Family Settings is specifying how and who your child can interact with online. Modern consoles enable players to share text, voice, images and video with each other. You can set whether they can do this, and also apply a password before they can add new friends.

Creating Guest Account Password

An important step on the Xbox Series X|S set-up is specifying a passcode for your own account and a password to access the Guest account. This ensures that all users need to access the system with their own account and related limits and settings.



Types of Accounts

Set-Up Parent Accounts

Setting up a parents account is important so you can manage the console for your family. After downloading the Xbox app to aid set-up, connect to the internet and while the console updates, use the app to start specifying settings. Once updated, create a parent user account with an email address you regularly check and password specified.



Set-Up Child Accounts

Setting up child accounts are important to be able to limit play-time, spending and apply age ratings automatically. Separate accounts for each child user can be set-up. It's a good idea to specify a password for the guest account so children cannot access this also. You can also download the Xbox Family Settings app to help you adjust these settings in the future without having to access the console directly.

Meet our expert

Freelance family technology expert for the BBC. Andy runs the Family Gamer TV YouTube channel and contributes to a range of national media on the topic of video-games and family.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

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.



Public Health
England

[Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)

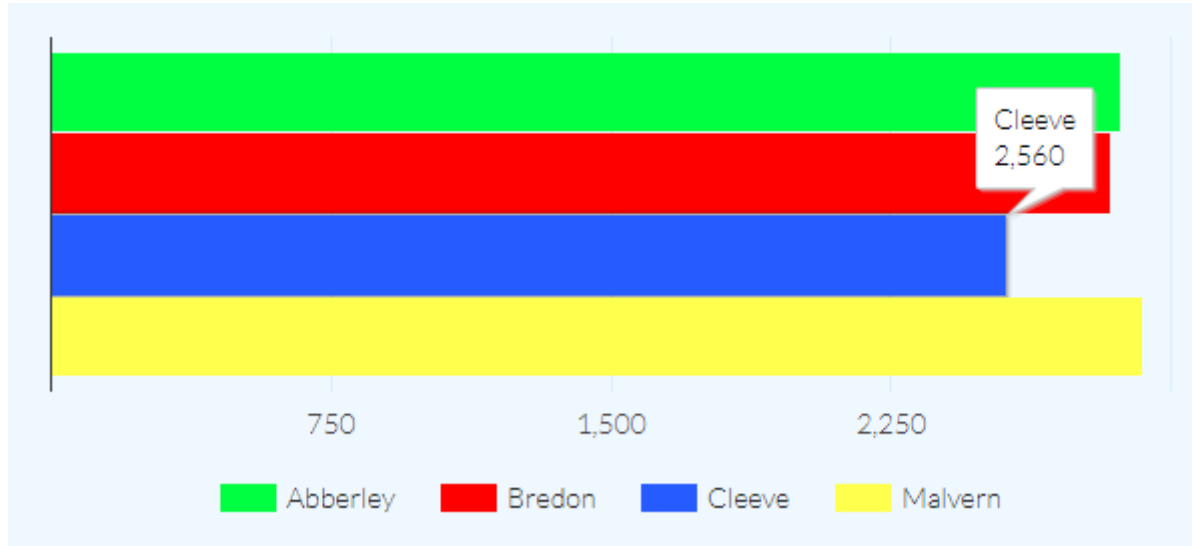
[Guidance for households with grandparents, parents and children living together where someone is at increased risk or has possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)



Epraise Update



Points This Week: By College





Looking ahead



	Date	Event
	Friday 18 December	End of Term
2021	Monday 4 January	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 5 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Monday 15 to Friday 19 February	Half Term
	Thursday 1 April	End of Term
	Monday 19 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 20 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June	Half Term
	Wednesday 21 July	End of Term