

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week I could not mention our Victorian School Day as it was still happening! This is a yearly event for Year 6, who experience some of the sorts of things that would have happened during a day at school in the days of Queen Victoria. The children did have 'drill' on the playground, which would have been as close to PE as would have happened. In classes, the way that information was taught was a bit like classrooms of days gone by, except that the rooms were warm last Friday and paper was available instead of chalk boards. There is a page inside of some of the costumes worn. Thanks to people at home for helping with these, and thus for setting the tone for the day. As you can see, some Walkwood staff also looked the part.



It is worth remembering that the idea of schooling which did not have to be paid for came from within the Church of England. The national church supported the setting up of 'free schools' (the schools that bear the same name nowadays are different) and there are schools even now that are built on land that was donated by the church or a generous local person. Walkwood carries on much of that tradition of Church of England schooling, but doing so in a way that is appropriate for our current times.



This Wednesday saw Year 5 going to see The Wizard of Oz at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre. This trip was to build on the work that has been done in English lessons, where the book by L. Frank Baum has been studied. Because it was at the Rep, the standard of production was superb, as was the conduct of our pupils. For some of the children, this was the first time they had experienced live theatre, and the comments we have received were really positive.

Next week brings the Deep Days on Wednesday and Thursday when pupils work within their tutor groups, with Christmas lunches on those days (check for when which College goes when). Wednesday evening of the week ahead sees our Christmas Concert, beginning at 7.30pm. You are most welcome to come along, for there is no need to purchase tickets. Do come along if you would like!

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people. *Matthew 2:5-6*

Rev C Leach

Ps: See inside for my comments about test results, as there has been some press reports that do not tell the true picture!

A Prayer for Advent—waiting

As we look upon this season, and wait upon the day in which we remember that you sent your Son, we remember how long people waited for the Messiah to come. We think of the amazement of those that were there and the joy they must have felt knowing the wait was over. We pray that our hearts can also wait on you. That we are not impatient, and that we know you will come when we ask. Let us wait in solitude for you.

This week's theme was: Advent - waiting

Joseph had a dream. God's angel spoke in the dream: "Joseph, son of David, don't hesitate to get married. Mary's pregnancy is Spirit-conceived. God's Holy Spirit has made her pregnant. She will bring a son to birth, and when she does, you, Joseph, will name him Jesus—'God saves' - because he will save his people from their sins."

Whole School Attendance – 95.24%

Whole School Target – 95.6%

03.12.18—07.12.18

Year 5 — 95.30%

Year 6 — 95.71%

Year 7 — 93.73%

Year 8 — 96.22%



For the week ahead



<p>The Fruit of Faith is:</p>	<p>Achievement</p>	<p>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. <i>Ecclesiastes 5:18</i></p>
<p>The tutor group virtue:</p>	<p>Patience</p>	<p>Patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady. <i>Romans 5:4</i></p>
<p>The assembly theme:</p>	<p>The Star</p>	<p>And the star the wise men had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were thrilled and excited to see the star. When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they knelt down and worshipped him. <i>Matthew 2:9-11</i></p>

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

<p>The weekend</p>	<p>New advances on keeping our world 'green'</p>	<p>Monday</p>	<p>The NHS doctors, nurses and support staff</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>Public services</p>	<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>Successful deep days at Walkwood</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>The Royal Army, Navy and Air Force</p>	<p>Friday</p>	<p>A great Christmas for staff and pupils.</p>



In February of this year we were inspected by Ofsted, and the report was placed on our website as soon after as we were permitted:

<http://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Inspections-and-Awards>

Walkwood was judged to be 'good' across all four areas. Where the inspectors suggested areas to work on, these were the same as on our school development plan - we know our school and what we are working on so we are better still!



There is much that can be said about league tables (I won't do so here), and simple numbers do not tell the whole story. For those who do like to check on such things, have a look here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-46541454>. Unlike some schools whose results are in the league tables, we do not teach the narrow curriculum for Years 5 and 6: we do not give pupils a timetable that is almost all English and Maths. Walkwood pupils have a broad curriculum - they do a variety of subjects, and we feel that is so important.

What you will not see in league tables is that, as a middle school where Year 6 is a 'half way marker', is the progress pupils make from entry at Year 5 to when they leave in Year 8. **This is the real test for us, and Ofsted recognise that.** By the end of the four years here, about three quarters of Walkwood pupils make progress above that which is expected. The precise figure changes over the years depending on the year group who leave us, and we continue to publish a range of information to view: <http://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Performance-Data>

And in case anyone would forget, in February 2017 Walkwood was judged to be 'outstanding' at our inspection by the Church Of England. That looked at much more than RE, considering all that is done for the pupils and how it is done. The full report is here: <http://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Inspections-and-Awards>



Walkwood is a good school where pupils make really good progress. They have a whole range of subjects to study. The values we uphold and the ethos we have is judged as 'outstanding'. The care we give is superb. Extra-curricular provision is excellent (and free!). Our staff are hard-working and have the child at the heart of all they do. Looking at more than the league tables shows the quality of what Walkwood Church of England Middle School offers the community it serves.

Rev Leach

Charity News and Festive Jumpers

Christmas Jumper day is on the last day of term Friday 21st December (not the 14th December as proposed by the charity itself). Pupils and staff are invited to wear school uniform but replace their school jumper for a Christmas jumper.



£1 donation to Save the Children.

This is not compulsory! There will be pupils and adults who will be in their usual attire.



Save the Children.



PE News



Just to inform you that there will be no PE clubs running from the 17th- 21st December 2018.



KS2 Maths Workshop

Thanks to all parents and carers who attended the KS2 Maths workshops on Monday 26th November. We hope you found the evening useful and we were able to answer any queries or questions you had about the arithmetic curriculum.

If you were unable to attend, you can find all presentations and handouts on the school website:

<http://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/> - Parents and Carers- KS2 Maths workshop

We look forward to see many of you at our KS2 English workshops on Monday 21st January.

Mrs L Cull



Science

News

There is no Science club on Tuesday 18th December 2018.



Ski Trip 2020

Thank you to all who have been keeping up with the payment schedule for the Ski Trip 2020.



Just to remind you that the following payments should now have been made:

£150 deposit

The second payment of £140 was required by Friday 14th December

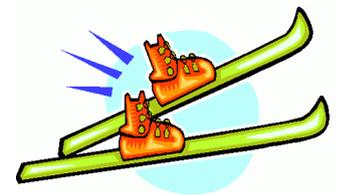
The deadline for the remaining instalments are as stated in your offer of a place letter.

Strict adherence to the above payment dates are essential to enable the school to meet the tour operator conditions. You can pay in larger or smaller instalments if you wish, as long as the payment amounts stated in your letter are met. The preferred method of payment is by Parentpay. A link to this is available via the Walkwood School website.

In the event of you withdrawing your child from the trip, payments you have already made will only be refunded to you if I am able to replace your child on the trip. Please can you inform me by letter, email or phone if your child no longer wishes to take up their place on the trip.

I am still awaiting news on the additional 15 pupil places that I have requested.

Mrs L Cull
(Trip Organiser)



Year 5 Brecon Beacons Trip

Thank you to all who have been keeping up with the payment schedule for the Year 5 Brecon Beacons trip.

Just to remind you that the following payments should now have been made:

£50 deposit by Friday 26th October.

The second payment of £60 is required by Friday 18th January.



Smaller more frequent payments can be made as long as the totals above are paid by the dates stated.

We ask that all payments be made using Parentpay, our payment system for which you should already have received a personalised letter stating your log in details.

Please note that once money has been paid to the travel company they will not refund us therefore it cannot be refunded to parents/carers.

If you have any further queries regarding the trip, then please do not hesitate to contact either of us at school. Nearer the time, we will be holding an information evening where you will be given a kit list and all other necessary information.

Please can you inform us by letter or phone if your child no longer wishes to take up their place on the trip.

Mrs L Cull and Mr R Macdonald

Victorian
School Day



Christmas Lunch 2018

Christmas lunches this year will be held on Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th December 2018. If your child wishes to have a Christmas lunch, the cost will be £3.00, to be paid via Parentpay.

Abberley and Bredon Colleges will have their Christmas lunches on Wednesday 19th December, while Cleeve 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.

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 17th December 2018. If you are unable to pay by Parentpay, please put £3 in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name and tutor group and put it in the drop box. Please ensure that your child does not put their £3 in the cashloader as this method is only to be used for everyday school meals.

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

Christmas Lunch 2018

Menu

Roast Turkey

Stuffing

Pigs in Blankets

Roast Potatoes

Sprouts, Carrots and Peas

Gravy

Quorn Fillet (Vegetarian Option)

Christmas Tree Ice Cream





Clubs and Activities

Autumn Term 2 2018



	Before School 8.00am – 8:45am	Lunchtime 12.35pm – 1.20pm	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Monday	Homework Club Library 8.00-8.45am Orchestra Music Room - 8.45-9.30am (CGR)	KS3 Art Club starting 18 th September (ECO) Choir (all year groups) 12.50-1.20pm Music Room (CGR) Monday lunchtime DT block Movie Club all years (AMI) starting Monday 17 th September	Homework Club DT Hub 3.30–4.30pm Kurling and Boccia Club (invite/sign up only) (NFO) 3.30–4.45pm
Tuesday	Homework Club Library 8.00-8.45am	Signing Club (All year groups) Textiles Room (JHA)	Homework Club DT Hub 3.30–4.30pm Cheerleading starting 13th (team selection after try outs) November 3.30-4.45pm LMO/KRE KS2 Science Club Lab 2 3.30-4.30pm
Wednesday	Homework Club Library 8.00-8.45am	All years Silent Reading Club Rm 19 (LBA)	Homework Club DT Hub 3.30–4.30pm Cooking Club 3.30–4.45pm (DSL) Fitness (all years) 3.30-4.45pm RMA/CHU/NFO/KRE Year 7/8 Rugby until end of November PJE
Thursday	Homework Club Library 8.00-8.45am	Choir (all year groups) Music Room - 12.50-1.20pm (CGR) Eco Schools Club Week 1 in Room 21 (Lab 3) (MBI) First meeting Thursday 20 th September 2018.	Homework Club DT Hub 3.30–4.30pm KS2 Dance 3.30-4.45pm LMO/KRE Multi-Sports (all years) 3.30-4.45pm Hall CHU
Friday	Homework Club Library 8.00-8.45am		Homework Club DT Hub 3.30–4.30pm

Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

judicious

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 13th November 2018 — 13th December 2018

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

Enya Hussain (Year 8 BCLO) - who has read an incredible 597,239 words

Top Boy

Caiden McEntee (Year 6 CMBI) - who has read a fantastic 992,951 words

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU





Trips and Visits

2018 - 2019



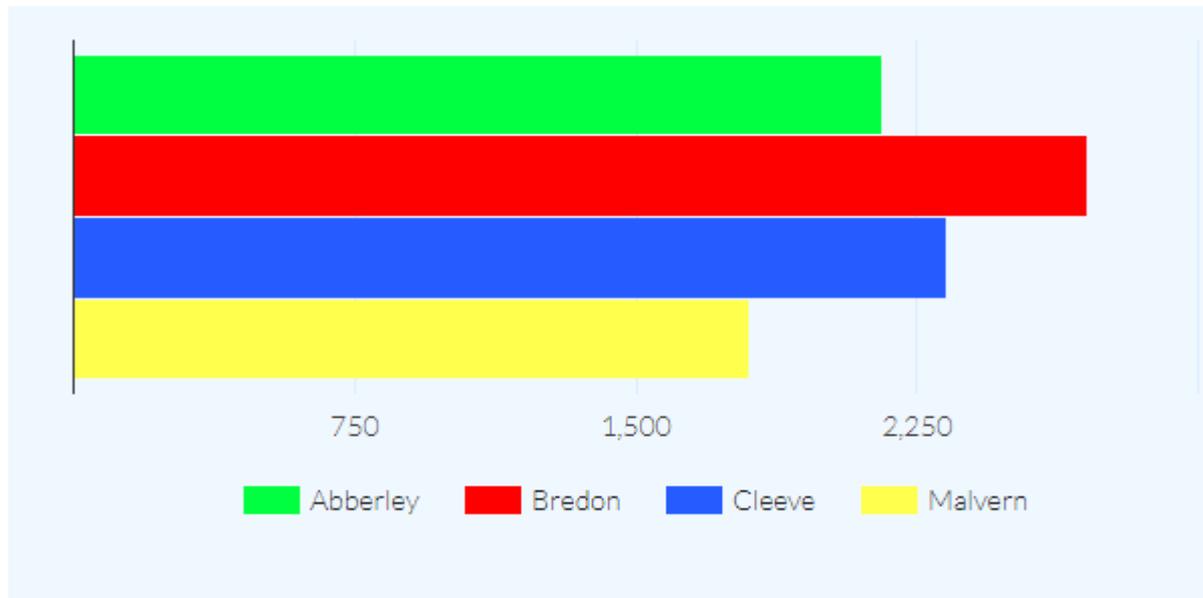
DATE	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	OPEN TO	COST	LEADER
May					
Fri 17—Mon 20	Outward Bound	Yorkshire	Y6	£ 300	Rev Leach
June					
Thurs 20— Sat 22	Arts and Theatres	London	Y8	£ 300	Rev Leach
Fri 21—Mon 24	Outward Bound	Isle of Wight	Y7 & 8	£ 315	Mr West
Fri 21— Mon 24	Outward Bound	Brecon Beacons	Y5	£ 170	Mr Macdonald / Mrs Cull



Epraise Update



Points This Week: By College



Top Ten Points Scorers

1. 🍌 Lexie Coleman (BJHD) (31)
2. 🍌 Daisy Moyse (BJHD) (30)
3. 🍌 Niamh Campbell (CLBK) (28)
3. 🍌 Queenie Butler (CLBK) (28)
5. 🍌 James Hodgkins (ARMA) (27)
5. 🍌 Tyler Kandekore (BJHD) (27)
7. 🍌 Allisia Coles (BRCO) (25)
8. 🍌 Ethan Beech (MPJE) (24)
9. 🍌 Megan Nearn (BHMA) (23)
9. 🍌 Katie Crouch (BJHD) (23)



Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2018	Wednesday 19 December	Christmas Concert 7.30 pm
	Friday 21 December	End of Term

2019	Monday 7 January	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 8 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Monday 21 January	Parent English KS2 Workshop 6.30-7.30 pm
	Thursday 31 January	Y6,Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00-7.00 pm
	Wednesday 6 February	Y6,Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00-7.00 pm
	Monday 18 to Friday 22 February	Half Term
	Friday 12 April	End of Term
	Monday 29 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Wednesday 8 May	Y5 Brecon Beacons Information Evening 6.30 pm
	Monday 27 to Friday 31 May	Half Term
	Thursday 6 June	Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening 4.00-7.00 pm
	Wednesday 12 June	Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening 4.00-7.00 pm
	Friday 19 July	End of Term