

Dear Parents and Carers,

Earlier in the year, as part of our pandemic risk assessment, we had measures in place for ventilation. This week has been very similar, but for very different reasons. I am grateful to our site manager, Mr Sharpe, who was opening windows and doors as he unlocked the school. This meant that the buildings have, for the most part, been cooler than the outside temperatures. There have been additional water stations across the school from which pupils can refill water bottles at break and lunch times—plenty of opportunity to keep hydrated. Staff thoughtfully adapted work for Monday and Tuesday, aware that concentration is more challenging in the hot conditions.



On Wednesday, with Year 5 to 7 in PE kit, the school spent the afternoon playing together on the field. As has become tradition, they were also treated to an ice cream or ice lolly. (The advantage of the PE shirt is that drips from a bubblegum lolly are much less visible!) It was joyous to note that there were so many ‘please’ and ‘thank you’ comments from the pupils as they went to the ice cream vans, demonstrating that Walkwood expectations continue beyond the classroom.



Many of Year 8 were at Drayton Manor as part of their leavers’ tradition, and they seem to have enjoyed their time with Walkwood friends, particularly as our Year 8s go into a number of high schools next term. Today they have had a leavers’ service, the Year 8s Got Talent, and they will spend the time on the field for a final time. Naturally, we wish them well for all their years ahead.

*if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another. 1 Peter 1: 7*



Also leaving us are a number of staff, and these are noted inside. We have said ‘farewell’ to our colleagues while also welcoming back others this week. For those who depart today, we thank them for their years of service, and commend them for many blessings in the next chapter of their lives.

Rev. C. Leach, *Principal*

**New term starts: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September**

A prayer for Coming and going Lord, as we come to the end of the academic year we pray for those who are leaving, that you bless them and encourage them as they go forward into high school and beyond. We pray for those who will be joining us in September; that they are not worrying or anxious but that they know that this will be a home to them and a place of comfort. We thank you for those who are staying, that they will be encouraged and loved by Walkwood, knowing that your presence will forever be here with them. Thank you for your love and blessings upon Walkwood this year, may it continue onto next year. Amen.

This week’s theme was: Coming and going

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

Psalm 32:8

**Whole School Target**  
**95.6%**



## From this week



<p><b>The Fruit of Faith is:</b></p>	<p><b>Honour</b></p>	<p>I have honoured my followers in the same way that you honoured me, in order that they may be one with each other, just as we are one.</p> <p><b>John 17:22</b></p>
<p><b>The assembly theme:</b></p>	<p><b>Coming and going</b></p>	<p>The Lord's word is tried and true. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him .</p> <p><b>Psalm 18: 30</b></p>

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

our pupils, families staff and governors, that they have a restful and enjoyable summer

## Picture of the Week



Deborah Anderson

Polzeath beach in Cornwall

## Commonwealth games quiz

Birmingham host the Commonwealth Games in the coming weeks. This will be the 22nd Games, with Victoria, Australia, set for 2026. There are 20 sports with 72 teams, the most since Manchester in 2002.

The Commonwealth Games is often referred to as the Friendly Games. The event was first held in 1930, and, with the exception of 1942 and 1946, has taken place every four years since then. Athletes with a disability are included as full members of their national teams, making the Commonwealth Games the first fully inclusive international multi-sport event.

How much else do you know? Have a go at our [8 question quiz](#)! We'll let you know if you are right for each answer. We are using this as a way of engaging pupil, parents and carers as part of our work within the Sports Mark.



ParentPay

From the start of next term, all payments will need to be using ParentPay. This includes for food and drinks at lunch and break times as we shall no longer have the cashloader.

Please ensure that there are sufficient funds allocated to a child's account at the start of the new school year.



### We say farewell to the following staff:

Mrs Griffiths

Mr Porter

Mrs Phelan

Mrs Hadley

Ms Mayers-Young

Mrs Brégent-Kight

Mrs Monfardini

### We welcome back to our school:

Miss Baker and Mrs Manzur



### In September, we shall say 'hello' to:

Mrs Laishley, Head of Music

Ms Watts, English teacher

Mr McAndrew, English teacher

Ms Villalobos, English teacher (again)



# New term starts

## Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September,

### Registration: 8.50am



#### 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 this year, there has been no need for us to change the groups completely, although slight changes 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.

## In response, and countering disinformation

Funzone has received **significant** discounts on its lettings rate in recent years. The school cannot continue to subsidise a commercial enterprise, and doing so would be taking away finance that is intended for our pupils' education. A classroom can be hired for £13 an hour, but Funzone are currently paying £2.30.

We are pained that we must increase our charges for lettings but have no alternative. We communicated this matter to Funzone in early June. The Education and Skills Funding Agency notes that academy schools should recover full costs for chargeable services. Funzone is a profit-making enterprise. The money the school is given needs to be fully spent on Walkwood's pupils.

Recent unilateral actions by Funzone have irrevocably damaged the relationship with Walkwood. Such conduct has saddened colleagues within the school and Walkwood's many supportive families and friends in the community. The school shall not be renewing its arrangements with Funzone for the coming school year.

## Advice for staying safe around water



- Never swim in open water when there are no life-guards present
- Stop and think – spot the dangers. Don't jump or dive into open water; submerged objects such as rocks may not be visible and can cause serious injuries
- Stay together
- Be aware that there may be strong currents, even where the water surface appears calm
- Weirs, locks, pipes and sluices are especially dangerous
- Take note of warning signs, safety information or flags near the water's edge
- Water can be very cold even in summer, causing cramp and breathing difficulties – these can affect even the strongest swimmer
- Get out of the water as soon as you start to feel cold
- Keep away from the river's edge and closely supervise young children at all times
- Wear the recommended safety equipment for your activity, e.g. life jackets/helmets
- Alcohol may impair your ability and judgment; never go swimming under the influence of alcohol
- In an emergency, float
- Call 999 or 112 in an emergency.

**[Website: Water safety code on ROSPA](#)**

## Summer Reading Challenge 2022



Presented by The Reading Agency.  
Delivered in partnership with libraries.

The national curriculum for English aims to ensure that pupils develop the habit of reading widely and often for both pleasure and information.

Organised by charity The Reading Agency ([www.readingagency.org.uk](http://www.readingagency.org.uk)) and the UK public library network since 1999, the **Summer Reading Challenge** is the UK's biggest annual reading promotion for children aged 4 to 11.

The Summer Reading Challenge combines **FREE** access to books with fun, creative activities during the summer holidays. Throughout the Challenge, library staff and young volunteers support the children, helping them to discover new authors and illustrators and to explore a wide range of different types of books and ways of reading. This year, the theme is Gadgets. The Reading Agency is partnering with the Science Museum Group to inspire children across the country to feed their imagination over the summer holiday, with a reading challenge focused on science and innovation.

### How the Challenge works

- Children sign up through their local library and receive a Gadgets collector poster.
- Children set a reading goal and borrow and read library books of their own choice during the summer, collecting special stickers to complete their poster and extra incentives along the way.
- Library staff and volunteers are on hand to advise and run family-friendly activities.
- Children who complete the Summer Reading Challenge are presented with a certificate and a medal.
- The official Challenge website hosts digital rewards, author videos, games and more for children to enjoy all summer: [www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](http://www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk)

The Summer Reading Challenge launches in Worcestershire libraries on 9th July 2022

It's FUN! It's FREE! It's LOCAL!

Alex Collins

Team Leader for Redditch, Woodrow, Alvechurch and Wythall Libraries



# Sport round-up



As we come to the end of another academic year, we would like to acknowledge all our amazing pupils that have represented Walkwood Church of England Middle at various sporting events, including our Friday afternoons. With these events not being able to run over the past two years, it has been wonderful to see so many pupils making the most of the sporting opportunities available to them. It has been an extremely successful year, pupils working together, supporting each other and most of all having fun. What a credit to Walkwood Middle they have all been.

Here is a list of the Friday events we have been involved in and some of our successes.

## **District events**

Year 8 handball – 1<sup>st</sup>

KS2 boccia – 1<sup>st</sup>

KS3 boccia – 2<sup>nd</sup>

KS2 hockey – 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>

KS2 swimming - 2<sup>nd</sup>

Year 7 girls rowing – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Year 8 boys rowing – 2<sup>nd</sup>

KS3 orienteering – 1<sup>st</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>

KS2 orienteering – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Year 5 cricket – 1<sup>st</sup>

KS2 tennis skills – 1<sup>st</sup>

Worcestershire School Games KS2 tennis – 1<sup>st</sup>

Worcestershire School Games KS3 boccia – 2<sup>nd</sup>

## **District festivals**

Year 5 & 7 extended football

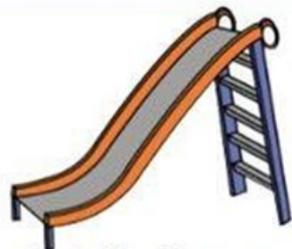
KS2 and KS3 cross country

KS3 girls' badminton

KS2 and KS3 sports hall athletics

Year 8 ENGAGE event

# Tips for Preventing the Summer Slide



Studies show that children who do not read or have access to books during the summer lose up to 2 months of reading performance. Those losses accumulate during the elementary school years so that by the time a child enters middle school he/she may be 2 1/2 years behind! All children, whether from low, middle or upper income families, may fall victim to the "summer slide" if not provided with summer reading opportunities. So how do we prevent the summer slide-or even accelerate reading growth? Here are a few ideas:

- 1** Visit your local library! Help your child find "right fit" books. Right fit books are books that are of high interest to your child and are not beyond their reading level. You can use the five finger test to determine if the book is too difficult for your child. Open the book to a page with many words. Have your child begin reading the text. Hold up a finger for each word he/she does not know. If you have 4 or 5 fingers up, the text may be too difficult for your child to read independently. Feel free to still check out the book! It just may be a book you want to read with your child.
- 2** Be sure your child reads at least 20 minutes a day. According to research, a child who reads only 1 minute a day outside of school will learn 8,000 words by the end of sixth grade where a student who reads 20 minutes outside of school will learn 1,800,000 words! That's huge! If reading isn't one of your child's top priorities, you may need to set up an incentive program.
- 3** Set a good example. When your child sees you reading and enjoying a book or a newspaper article, you are sending a message that reading is important and valuable.
- 4** Read to your child. When you read to your child, he/she hears the rhythm of language. Be sure to read with expression! Changing your voice for different characters and increasing your volume during exciting parts are only a few ways to keep children engaged.
- 5** Read with your child –explore different types of reading such as poetry. For our little ones, poetry is a great way to improve phonemic awareness skills as poetry often incorporates rhyme. For our older children, poetry is a means of improving fluency.
- 6** Read for different purposes. Reading directions for a recipe or directions for assembling a toy are fun ways of incorporating reading into everyday activities.
- 7** Play games with words. Commercial games such as Apples to Apples improves vocabulary. You can easily turn a game of hopscotch or 4 square into a game that incorporates learning letters or sight words. Be sure to check out the "8 Super Summer Sight Word Activities" on the Make, Take & Teach blog.
- 8** If you have access to an iPad, there are tons of interactive books and apps that address phonics and early reading skills. There are also many websites that offer free reading related games.

Have a happy and healthy summer! Be sure to read, read and read some more! Not only can we prevent the summer slide, we can accelerate reading growth.



For more teaching ideas and activities be sure to visit our blog! [www.blog.maketaketeach.com](http://www.blog.maketaketeach.com)

# Children experiencing domestic abuse shouldn't have to suffer in silence

Operation  
Encompass

Supporting children through key adults



This is an Operation Encompass school - working with partner agencies to support children and young people experiencing domestic abuse.

# Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

# Scan

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!

# 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](http://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>



# Trips and Visits 2021-23



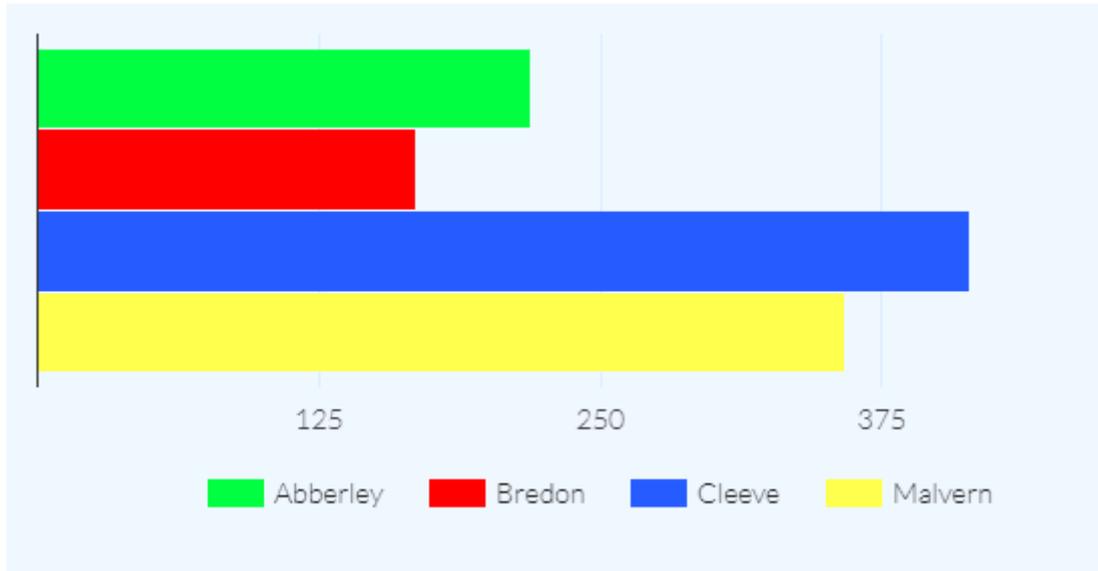
Date	Activity	Location	Open To	Cost	Leader
<b>February 2023</b>					
Sat 4 – Sat 11	Ski Trip	Obertauern, Austria	Y5-Y7	£ 1360	Mrs Cull



# Epraise Update



## Points This Week: By College





# Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2022	Monday 5 September	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 6 September	First Day of the Autumn Term
	Monday 24 - Friday 28 October	<b>Half Term</b>
	Friday 16 December	<b>End of Term</b>
	Tuesday 3 January	Staff Development Day
	Wednesday 4 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Monday 20– Friday 24 February	<b>Half Term</b>
	Friday 31 March	<b>End of Term</b>
	Monday 17 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 18 April	First day of the Summer Term
3	Monday 29 May - 2 June	<b>Half Term</b>
	Friday 21 July	<b>End of Term</b>