



Dear Parents and Carers,



As we come to the end of this calendar year, we shall note that it has once again brought challenges because of the pandemic. 2021 began with schools once again in lockdown and limited on-site provision, before returning to some sort of normality in early March. The 'proper' school routine returned in September as the pupils were once again able to move around the site from subject to subject.

I will not hide that this half-term has presented huge operational difficulties due to staff absence, but also when the servers decided not to talk to each other or 'the cloud'. In the main, we have coped as best we can, maintaining a fully open school for all but three days when the older pupils had home learning. That said, as we look across the country, not all schools have fared as well with some not being open this week due to logistical challenges.

We have had our Deep Days on Wednesday and Thursday, as the Christmas story is explored in more detail. Each of the four years that pupils are with us, they consider different characters from the nativity. For example, Malvern College looked at 'The Lowly and the Royal', considering the difference in gifts of the shepherds and the kings (or wise men, depending who you ask), while Bredon looked at the journey that Mary and Joseph would have had to take.

Staff leaving us at the end of term are Mrs Haldane and Mrs Porter, who we thank for their service and wish them very happiness in their next steps. There will be a small number of changes to the timetable for the new term, and these will be shown on ePraise from the beginning of the Spring term.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!

Luke 2:14

On behalf of the staff and Governors, I wish you and yours a happy festive period, and every blessing for 2022.

Rev. C. Leach, Principal

Merry Christmas

A prayer for Global Christmas
Father, I pray that you will turn our hearts toward you as Christmas approaches. Let us not get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season this year and miss the chance to celebrate the gifts of hope, peace, joy, love, that you sent to us on that first Christmas.

Amen

This week's theme was: Global Christmas

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:1-5

Whole School Target

Whole School Attendance



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. <i>Ecclesiastes 5:18</i>
The assembly theme:	New Year's Resolutions	Broken promises are worse than rain clouds that don't bring rain. <i>Proverbs 25:14</i>

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

The weekend	the people who are part of the emergency services	Monday	enjoyment for our pupils
Tuesday	The Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Rev, Justin Welby.	Wednesday	peace for the world
Thursday	recuperation time for Walkwood staff	Friday	The Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Picture of the Week

A snowy day two weeks ago in Lichfield, Staffordshire.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

New term starts

2024

Wednesday 5th January at 8.50am



We say “farewell” to Mrs Haldane who leaves us to teach at another school. The new Head of Science will start after Easter, and Ms Khan will look after B-JHd until then.

We wish Mrs Porter, one of the staff in the front office, a long and happy retirement.

There will be a small number of staff changes in the timetable from January to take account of the absence of teachers. These will be reflected on ePraise from the start of the new term.

Homework club and other after-school activities begin week of

10th January 2022

PE kit expectations during enhanced Covid-measures

Due to the increased number of Covid cases, and as a way of reducing the risk of transmission, PE lessons will now take place outside (unless there is wet weather). Pupils are allowed to come into school in their PE kit and due to the colder weather pupils will be able to wear the following:

- Walkwood PE polo shirt
- Walkwood PE jumper or school jumper
- Navy/ black tracksuit bottoms
- Coat

Base layers under the shorts and PE polo shirt are acceptable.

Hoodies and alternative jumpers will not be allowed.



Deep Days

Abberley - The Star

The Bethlehem star is a prominent feature in the nativity story. It acts a guide for the Magi (wise men) that would lead them to the baby Jesus. Nobody is absolutely sure what the star was, but there are various different theories.

One thing we do know though is that it was something very unusual.

Bredon - The Journey

Mary and Joseph were required to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem (the home town of Joseph & Mary) because of a census decreed by Caesar Augustus. It would have been a long and arduous journey, of more than 70 miles through mountainous terrain, made more difficult by the fact that Mary was heavily pregnant at the time. It is traditionally thought that they travelled by donkey.

Cleeve – The Inn

The Inn is traditionally thought to be the place where Jesus was born. After the long journey to Bethlehem, because of the census, Mary and Joseph found that there was nowhere to stay. An innkeeper allowed them to stay in a stable usually used to hold animals. We get this idea because the Bible states that Jesus was born in a 'manger' which is a feeding trough for animals. However, it does not state that it is a stable and ancient tradition held that it is more likely that Jesus was born in a cave, used as a shelter for animals. In the traditional nativity story there is an innkeeper; however, there is no such character in the Bible.

Malvern – The Lowly and the Royal

The Lowly refers to the shepherds that visited the baby Jesus and the Royal refers to the three wise men/Kings/Magi that visited the baby Jesus. Traditionally, both sets of people brought gifts to the baby Jesus – the shepherds brought a lamb and the Magi brought gold, frankincense and myrrh, all of which have a symbolic meaning. The visit of the shepherds represents the humility of Jesus and that He came to earth for the poor and lowly people. The visit of the Magi represents the royalty of Jesus .



School Uniform

Uniform is an integral aspect of Walkwood school life that unites all pupils, promoting the concept of equality and equity. Our uniform is an extension of our values which promotes inclusiveness and honour. It also ensures the focus within school is about learning instead of appearance. Please check the uniform policy to avoid clothing and other items being selected which are not permitted, specifically footwear and jewellery (piercings). If you are unsure, please contact your College Pastoral Manager. We have a small supply of spare uniform and this will be loaned to pupils if they are wearing it incorrectly.

If your child is entitled to Pupil Premium funding, please contact us if there are any issues with purchasing uniform and we can support you.

Our uniform is available from the following outfitters:

Orchard Clothing, Redditch Branch—Tel: 01527 545555

School Days, Bromsgrove Branch—Tel: 01527 757439

Acceptable footwear

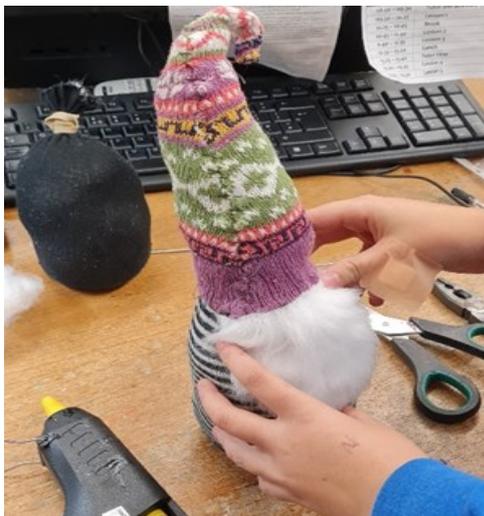


We ask that pupils do not wear the following shoes, which specifically include those with sports logos:



Year 6 and a few helpers from Year 7 spent this half term making hand sewn Christmas Gonks during Art Club. Each pupil designed their Gonk from the length of their beard to pairs of glasses and bow ties, to then creating little elf shoes and stripey tights. Year 6 and 7 did really well and some of the Gonks were given as Christmas gifts. Well done Art Club pupils!

Year 6 Art Club Christmas Gonks



When parents and carers finally have the chance to spend some quality time with their child over Christmas, many face a familiar struggle to prise their young one's attention away from their phone, console, tablet or computer. Fun family bonding over the festive period, however, doesn't have to exclude devices. There are sackfuls of Christmas activities and ideas online which grown-ups and children can enjoy together. We've compiled our own 'nice list' of seasonal suggestions for how to ...

MAKE THE MOST OF THE ONLINE WORLD THIS CHRISTMAS

1 EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY

Budding bakers will relish helping out in the kitchen with some tasty festive treats. Spend some time together researching child-friendly Christmas recipes online (the BBC Good Food site is an excellent place to start), and then you and your little elves can rustle up gingerbread santas, marshmallow snowmen or reindeer shortbread. The only thing that's more fun is eating your creations afterwards!

WHEN THE SNOWMAN BRINGS THE SNOW...

2 THE OLD SONGS ARE THE BEST?

We've all had that Christmas compilation CD that was almost perfect, if it wasn't inexplicably missing one of your best-loved tracks. In this era of music streaming, however, your little helpers can assist you in compiling a definitive playlist of all your favourite seasonal songs - no more pining for The Pretenders or wishing for Wizzard.

3 DECK THE HALLS

There's no such thing as 'too many' Christmas trimmings! Let your child channel their excitement into some creative crafting, and you'll make memories as well as your own DIY decorations. There are loads of step-by-step guides online (including video walkthroughs on YouTube) for seasonal showpieces like paper plate angels, handprint wreaths and cupcake wrapper Christmas trees.

4 A WINTER'S TALE

Everyone enjoys a story at this time of year: after all, the whole celebration is based on an engrossing yarn. Sites such as Audible are an excellent way of entertaining excited young ones, with classics like Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and seasonal short stories by Enid Blyton alongside more contemporary Christmas tales by the likes of Tom Fletcher, JK Rowling and Ben Miller.

5 BROUGHT ME SOME CORN FOR POPPIN'

Snuggling up against the winter weather with the family (and a generous helping of chocolates) to enjoy a well-loved movie is a delightful Christmas tradition. The usual streaming services have some classic candidates on offer: *Home Alone* and *The Santa Clause* are on Disney+, while Amazon Prime has *Elf* and *The Grinch*, and Netflix goes with *The Princess Switch* and *The Christmas Chronicles*.

6 GUESS WHAT I FORGOT?

Friends and family pitting their wits against each other on Zoom, Teams or Skype really took off during lockdown, so why not revive the tradition over the holidays? Your questions could be on the biggest news, sport and showbiz stories of 2021, or be Christmas themed, or you could stick to classic general knowledge. Ideal for those days between Christmas and New Year.

7 A WORLD OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW

From turkey on the beach in Australia to roller-skating to church in Venezuela, Christmas is celebrated in a variety of ways worldwide - curious youngsters might enjoy discovering other nations' festive traditions online. Google's Santa Tracker is a brilliant (and free) starting point, with games, activities and animations to help children enjoy learning as they count down to the big day!

8 THE NEAR AND THE DEAR ONES

Between time constraints, distance, the weather and Covid precautions (or a combination of all four) for many families it just won't be possible to physically spend time with everyone they'd ideally like to this Christmas. Video calling technology, of course, takes some of the sting out of the disappointment by virtually transporting loved ones into your living room.

9 KIDS FROM ONE TO 92

If Santa's brought your young ones a console this year (or they already had one), it's a perfect excuse for some quality time while they gleefully trounce you at FIFA or Mario Kart. Digital versions of traditional board games like Monopoly and Cluedo are available on most platforms, too; get the whole household together for a modern take on some old-school family fun.

10 CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THOSE FACES

People used to express their gratitude for a thoughtful Christmas gift with a thank you card or a dutiful phone call. Not in the digital age: now your relations can see first-hand on video calls how delighted the children are with their presents - and even how they look in that slightly questionable hand-knitted pullover.

NOS
National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

EARLY HELP IN WORCESTERSHIRE

Help and support for Children, Young People and their families or carers.



FOR MORE INFORMATION,
VISIT THE FAMILY HUB:
WORCESTERSHIRE.GOV.UK/FAMILYHUB



WORCESTERSHIRE
CHILDREN FIRST



Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

complex

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 16th November 2021 — 16th December 2021

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

Katie Hodgkins (Year 7 ASBK) - who has read 867,676 words

Top Boy

Joe Craig (Year 7 CLDW) - who has read 533,242 words

Fantastic effort - well done - merits will be awarded to you both.

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU



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>

From the Children's Commissioner

The Children's Commissioner is Dame Rachel de Souza. She has launched [a guide for parents and carers on online sexual harassment and how they can support children to stay safe online](#).

“The things I wish my parents had known” draws together advice from 16 to 21 year olds on how parents should manage tricky conversations around sexual harassment and access to inappropriate content, including pornography.



A surprising but overriding message from young people is that parents should start these challenging conversations early. They suggest broaching topics before a child is given a phone or a social media account, which is often around the age of 9 or 10 .

She hopes that her guide will serve as a useful starting point to raise awareness and understanding of online harassment

Music News

Due to the cancellation of the Christmas Concert, the Choir and Orchestra recorded some of their Christmas music. This can be found in the Pupil Shared Area - MUSIC.

JOSEPH REHEARSALS

Rehearsals start on Thursday 6th January until 4.45pm. Everyone is needed for this rehearsal.



Trips and Visits 2021 - 23



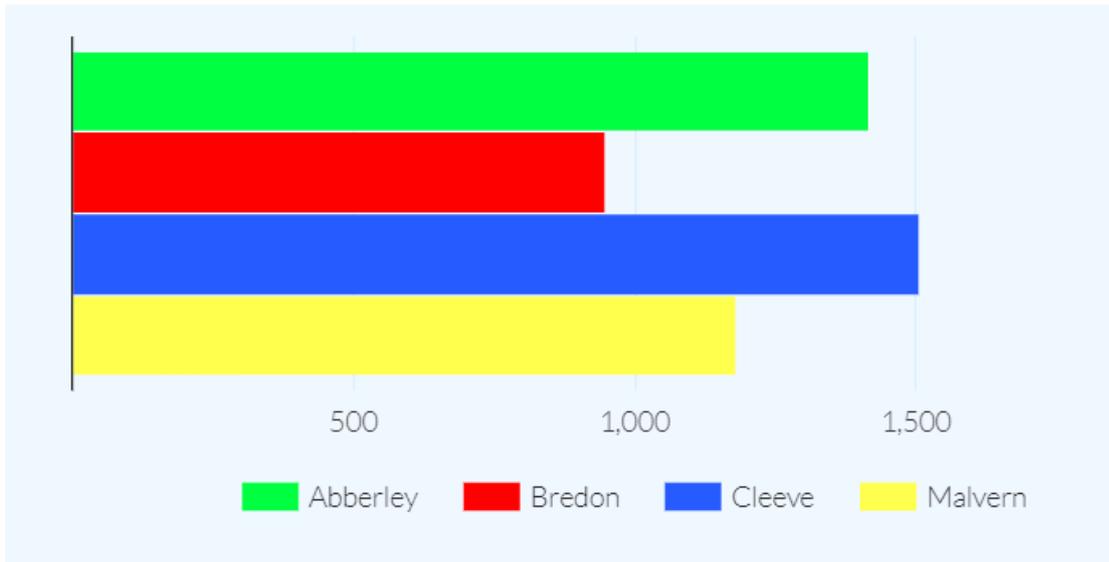
Date	Activity	Location	Open To	Cost	Leader
May 2022					
Fri 13 – Mon 16	Outward Bound	Yorkshire	Y6	£ 324	Rev Leach
June 2022					
Wed 22 – Fri 24	Arts and Theatres	London	Y8	£ 300	Rev Leach
Fri 24 – Mon 27	Outward Bound	Yorkshire	Y7	£ 324	Rev Leach
Fri 24 - Mon 27	Outward Bound	Brecon Beacons	Y5	£ 220	Mr Macdonald / Mrs Cull
February 2023					
Sat 4 – Sat 11	Ski Trip	Obertauern, Austria	Y5-Y7	£ 1360	Mrs Cull



Epraise Update



Points This Week: By College





Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2 0 2 2	Tuesday 4 January	Staff Development Day
	Wednesday 5 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Thursday 27 January	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00—7.00 pm
	Wednesday 2 February	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00—7.00 pm
	Monday 21 to Friday 25 February	Half Term
	Wednesday 30 March	Y6 Yorkshire information evening 6.30 pm
	Friday 8 April	End of Term
	Monday 25 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 26 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Wednesday 18 May	Y5 residential information evening 6.30 pm
	Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June	Half Term
	Thursday 9 June	Y5 Y7 Parent's evening 4.00 —7.00 pm
	Wednesday 15 June	Y5 Y7 Parent's evening 4.00 —7.00 pm
	Thursday 21 July	End of Term