



Dear Parents and Carers,

The coming week will see a further return to normal as we bring together again the college tutor groups. These ‘vertical’ groups have pupils from each of the four years and the vast majority of pupils speak of the positive effect they have. Sadly, we had to avoid the mixing of year groups wherever possible while Covid-19 was still very much to the fore. As we end the term with two Deep Days, when the story of Easter is explored, we shall do so in the college tutor groups once more.

Ramadan begins this weekend, indeed, it is expected to begin on the evening of 2nd April and will likely end after dusk on Sunday 1st May. As Ramadan is based on the calendar of the moon, like other Muslim festivals, the dates for its start and end change each year. Ramadan is a month of intense prayer and regular reflection. There is dawn-to-dusk fasting, so food and water is taken early in the morning and as darkness arrives at a day’s end. The holy month teaches selflessness and generosity, while providing an opportunity to abstain from all kinds of bad habits. We wish all members of our community who will be holding Ramadan each day the blessings it can bring.

O you who have believed, decreed upon is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous” (2:183)



We have been disappointed to find that some matters that would ideally have been brought to our attention have been aired on social media. This does not sit well with our home-school communication protocol that has been thoughtfully framed and approved by Governors. Additionally, the use of social media does not allow us the chance to hear concern and for us to explain circumstances as we find them. Consequently, there are some guidelines that we expect people to use when addressing matters with, and about, our pupils and school — please see inside.

Finally we still have some tickets for our production of Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat, which plays next Tuesday through to Thursday at 7.30pm. Please note that doors will not open until just after 7pm and parking is available on the front playground.

[Rev. C. Leach, Principal](#)

A prayer for Desmond Tutu

Dear God, I thank You for the life and memory of Desmond Tutu. Desmond Tutu was used to put the glory of Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, on display so that hate can be overcome by the power of the blood and love of Jesus Christ,

Amen

This week's theme was:
Desmond Tutu

God's dream is that you and I and all of us will realise that we are family, that we are made for togetherness, for goodness , and for compassion.

Desmond Tutu

Whole School Target

95.6%



For the week ahead



The Fruit of Faith is:	Thankfulness	You are my God, and I will give thanks to you. Psalm 118:28	
The assembly theme:	Holy week-salvation	The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him. Exodus 15:2	
We ask for your thoughts and prayers in the week ahead for:			
The weekend	all Muslims who begin Ramadan	Monday	candidates of the local elections on 5th May
Tuesday	Her Majesty, The Queen, and her heirs apparent	Wednesday	the Police and their support staff who work in Redditch
Thursday	those we know who are unwell	Friday	the moves to peace for Ukraine

Picture of the Week



Getty Images



Changes to measures and guidance from Friday 1 April

On Tuesday 29 March, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Sajid Javid, set out the [next steps for living with COVID-19](#) in England from Friday 1 April.

Free COVID-19 tests will continue to be available for specific groups, including eligible patients and NHS staff, once the universal testing offer ends on Friday 1 April.

Updated guidance advises:

- adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature
- children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend
- adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days

The population now has much stronger protection against COVID-19 than at any other point in the pandemic. This means we can begin to manage the virus like other respiratory infections, thanks to the success of the vaccination programme and access to antivirals, alongside natural immunity and increased scientific and public understanding about how to manage risk.

REMINDER

At present we are seeing an ever-increasing number of children turning up to lessons with absolutely no equipment. Please could we ask that you check your child has all the necessary equipment needed for lessons. Thank you in advance for your support with this. Here is a reminder of our equipment list:

Compulsory items:

- Pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Pencil sharpener
- Colouring pencils
- A notebook
- Scientific calculator (Year 7 and 8 only)
- A pair of compasses (Year 7 and 8 only)



The following items are not compulsory but are useful:

- Whiteboard pen
- Glue stick
- Pink highlighter
- Green highlighter
- Protractor



Year 5 Parents and Carers

We are aware that for many of you there has not been an opportunity to see us at an Open Evening. Nor was there the chance to be taken around the school by your child after the transition days (because these did not happen due to Covid).

However, if you would like to visit us on one of our Deep Days, then we would very much like to see you!

The two days are **Thursday 7th** and **Friday 8th April**. The sessions we are able to open up are **11am** until about 12.15pm Thursday and Friday, and **2pm** to approximately 3.15pm on Thursday only.

If you would like to take up the offer, please email

support@walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk and let us know:

- ✓ **Thursday 7th at 11am**
- or ✓ **Thursday 7th at 2pm**
- or ✓ **Friday 8th at 11 am**



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FACEBOOK

AGE RATING
13+

With 2.9 billion users, Facebook, owned by the recently rebranded Meta, is the world's most popular social media platform. It encourages interaction with other people by (among other things) adding them as friends, reacting to or commenting on their content, sharing images and videos, posting status updates, joining groups and playing games. Facebook is free, and anyone over 13 can join – but with no age verification, younger children can easily create an account: it's likely your child is already familiar with the platform, even if they don't yet use it themselves.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Facebook's quick reward cycle of likes and comments on shared posts can be hugely addictive. It encourages users to keep returning to post things and increases FOMO (the Fear Of Missing Out), which leads to people checking the app even more frequently and finding themselves endlessly scrolling through content.

CYBERBULLYING

A 2021 Ofcom report found that around one in four UK 12–15-year-olds had been cyberbullied or trolled (intentionally antagonised online). On Facebook, this can happen through private messages (on Facebook Messenger); hurtful comments on their profiles and posts; pages or groups set up purposely to torment a victim; or exclusion from pages or groups.

FUTURE IMPACT

Like most social media platforms, anything posted on Facebook leaves a permanent 'digital footprint'. This can have future consequences for young people: many universities and employers, for example, now review someone's Facebook timeline during the application process.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Just like in the offline world, there are people on Facebook with malicious intentions. Ofcom reports, for instance, that 30% of 12–15-year-olds have received a friend request from a stranger. This, sadly, can include individuals seeking to take advantage of impressionable youngsters.

OVERSHARING

Facebook encourages you to post "what's on your mind", but children should be wary of revealing too much about themselves online. Users can give away their location by checking in or using Facebook Live, for example, while some photos can also be traced using file data.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Facebook monitors and removes material like hate speech or extreme political views, while adverts on the platform are now forbidden from targeting under-18s based on their interests. Offensive content isn't always taken down instantly, however, so there's still a risk of children encountering it.

18
CENSORED

VIDEOS AND STREAMING

Facebook Live lets users stream video live to their friends or watch others' broadcasts. Viewers can comment in real time, which is problematic to moderate. Short, user-created clips called Reels can now also be displayed on profiles and feeds. These video features could contain unsuitable material or allow children to be cajoled into doing something on camera that they wouldn't normally do.

LIVE

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

In the settings area, you can choose whether a Facebook profile is public or private. By far the safest option is to switch your child's to private, so they can only interact with people who they are friends with on the platform. Facebook's settings can also prevent your child's personal information (such as contact details, school name or date of birth) from appearing publicly.



ENCOURAGE SAFE FRIENDING

Facebook can help your child to stay connected with the people and the things that they care about. However, it's important for them to understand that they should only accept friend requests from people who they know. The key questions to consider are "has your child met them in person?" and "do they know and trust them enough to feel comfortable accepting them as a Facebook friend?"

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your child watch you using Facebook – this will demonstrate how it can be used safely and appropriately, reducing the risk of them encountering harmful content themselves. Teach them the habit of thinking before sharing anything online and try to follow the same rules that you set for them – so if you agree time limits on your child's Facebook use, then you should stick to them, too.

SAVVY SHARING



Make sure your child realises that what they share online with friends can end up being shared again by others. It's important that they think about what they share online and who they share it with. Facebook's 'Audience Selector' gives users the option to filter who sees what they are sharing, whenever a status is updated, photos are uploaded or anything is posted.

RESPECT BOUNDARIES

Once you've talked about Facebook safety with your child, give them some space and trust them to make smart choices. Make it clear, however, that you're always open to discussing social media if they need to. In the early stages, you could occasionally review your child's social media activity with them to put your mind at rest – but take care not to become reliant on checking it every night.

BLOCK AND REPORT

On Facebook, you're able to report harmful content and block particular people or groups so they can't contact your child or view their profile. Before they start spending serious time on the platform, show your child how these features work and explain why they might need to be used. Facebook's Bullying Prevention Hub offers advice on dealing with harassment on the platform.



Meet Our Expert

Alex Wright is a former Facebook employee and social media expert with more than 15 years' experience in digital media. He has worked with some of the biggest organisations on the planet and has a vast understanding of how social media platforms work and how they engage their audience.



National
Online
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Communicating with school: guidance to parents and carers

We recognise that there exists for each of the year groups a Facebook group. Our school is not a member of these groups, although we are able to communicate with the moderators. As such, we are aware that there have been posts that have:

- ✗ complained about individual members of staff;
- ✗ complained about the school;
- ✗ made inappropriate comments about members of staff, other parents or pupils;
- ✗ drawn attention to behaviour incidents or alleged conduct of pupils.



Our home-school communications protocol sets clear expectations for staff and parents about how we can communicate directly.

It is our sincere hope that parents and carers are able to abide by these guidelines so that you can help us model safe, responsible and appropriate social media use for our pupils. This includes voicing opinions about the school in a way that respects the hard work, dedication and professionalism of our staff, and speaking to or about other parents and children in a way that is respectful and appropriate.

In summary, and in light of recent troubling posts which have not always compared well with what is happening within school, the following is offered in the spirit of mutual cooperative working.

Complaints and concerns

There may be times where, as a parent or carer, you do not agree with something the school is doing, or where you may have specific concerns. We welcome your feedback, and the opportunity to address any concerns you may have.



The most appropriate way to [raise concerns](#) is [directly with our school](#). Airing complaints or negative opinions on social media does not help us to address the issue in the most constructive way. You can telephone and speak to a member of staff, or book an appointment to speak with the a member of the pastoral team face-to-face.

Posting about other parents and pupils

We know that social media is an important way for many in our community to share their day-to-day lives and special events with others. However, we ask that parents and carers think carefully before posting things on social media that contain the names or images of other parents and children.

The school has a responsibility to keep pupils safe online, and posting information about children other than your own (including pictures or videos), without the consent of their parents, can present a safeguarding concern.

Behaviour incidents

We also ask that, if you become aware of a behaviour incident, or have any concerns about the behaviour of groups of pupils or specific pupils, you please [raise these with us directly](#). Posting about incidents or behaviour concerns on social media limits the school's ability to conduct a full and fair investigation.

We appreciate your help in providing a supportive, respectful environment for all of our pupils, parents and staff.



Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

facilitate

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 28th February 2022 — 31st March 2022

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

Ashlee Vong (7C2) - who has read 479,072 words

Top Boy

Joe Craig (5C3) - who has read 678,482 words

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

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU



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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

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
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



Clubs

Homework Club

Please note that Homework Club is not on for the final week of term and for the first week back after the Easter holidays . It will re-commence Tuesday 3rd May 2022.

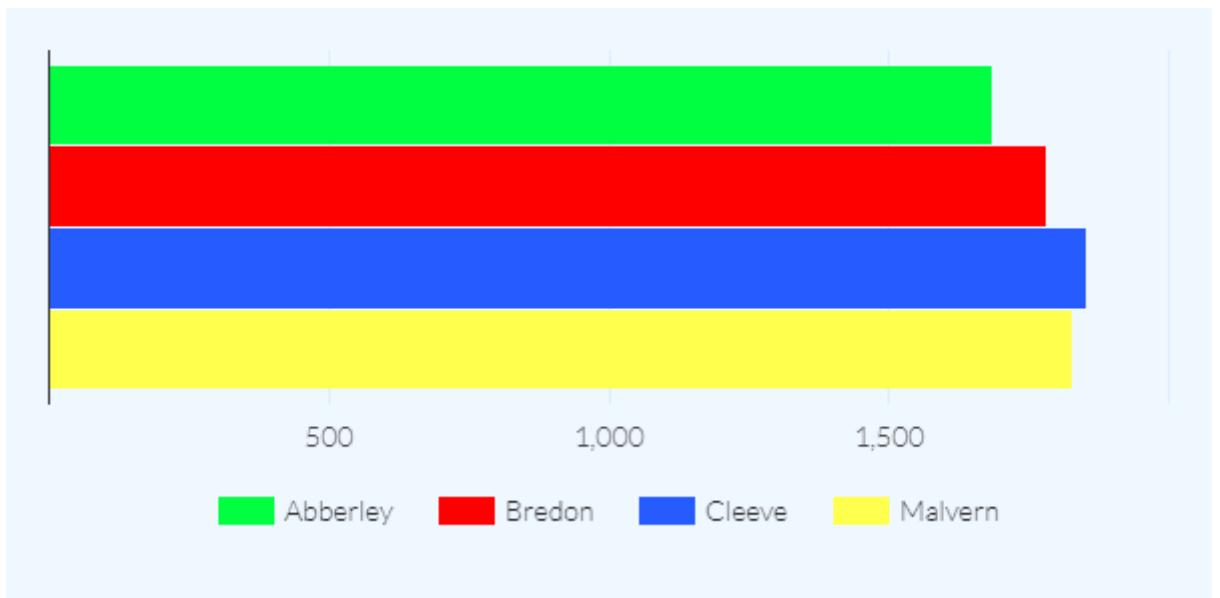
Sport Clubs

All clubs will be cancelled in the last week of term except year 6 netball club .



Epraise Update

Points This Week: By College





Looking ahead



Date	Event
2 0 2 2 2 0 2 3	Tuesday 5 to Thursday 7 April
	Friday 8 April
	Monday 25 April
	Tuesday 26 April
	Wednesday 18 May
	Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June
	Thursday 9 June
	Wednesday 15 June
	Thursday 21 July
	Monday 5 September
	Tuesday 6 September
	Monday 24 - Friday 28 October
	Friday 16 December
	Tuesday 3 January
	Wednesday 4 January
	Monday 20 - Friday 24 February
	Friday 31 March
	Monday 17 April
	Tuesday 18 April
	Monday 29 May - 2 June
	Friday 21 July