

Dear Parents and Carers,



And remember that I am always with you until the end of time.

Matthew 28:20

We have been back for a week and a half and it feels as if we have not been away - and that is a good thing! The arrangements in school have been a temporary alternation on our normal operations, due to applying an abundance of care and caution in the current challenging Covid circumstances. Media reports this week have demonstrated the issues that many sectors are facing with staff absence being at high levels. Indeed, the number of teachers absent has been 1 in 12 for schools nationally. Walkwood faced that issue last term, and we have not been so harshly affected so far in 2022.

It would have been my whole school assembly about 'God's creatures' this morning, but the registration teachers were able to share a presentation that I had prepared instead. PE has also seen amendments to its scheme of work so that we do not have lots of pupils inside and being energetic. Thankfully, the weather has helped in this regard. Even though registration times are currently in teaching groups while the country is in "Plan B" arrangements, the usual level of pastoral support has continued.



The rehearsals for the school production later this term have started. Most of them, although not all, are for the whole cast to become accustomed to singing together. Other parts of the show, such as scenery, costumes and backdrop painting are beginning their work soon.

The prefects and their associates have changed their duty areas, as happens each term. They make a valuable contribution to supporting other pupils as well as staff, doing so at a variety of locations during lunch times.



Rev. C. Leach, Principal

A prayer for God's creatures

Dearest God, Heavenly Father maker of all living creatures, we ask you to bless our pets who bring so much joy into our lives. By the power of Your love, enable them to live according to your plan. May we always praise You for all Your beauty in creation who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.

Blessed are You, God in all Your creatures.

Amen

This week's theme was: God's creatures

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly about the earth across the firmament of the heavens." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." Genesis 1:20-22

Whole School Target

95.6%

Whole School Attendance



For the week ahead

<p>The Fruit of Faith is:</p>	<p>Inclusiveness</p>	<p>He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.</p> <p><i>Matthew 5:45</i></p>
<p>The assembly theme:</p>	<p>Talents</p>	<p>We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.</p> <p><i>Romans 12:6</i></p>

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

<p>The weekend</p>	<p>people needing access to NHS healthcare.</p>	<p>Monday</p>	<p>pupils and parents in their school preference submissions this year.</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>medical staff working at The Alex.</p>	<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>pupils and staff of St. Luke's Church of England First School.</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>Walkwood's Governors.</p>	<p>Friday</p>	<p>all people who attend worship today, in whatever form or faith.</p>

Picture of the Week



The Shambles, York.

David Oxtaby

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FORTNITE

CHAPTER
3

AGE RATING
PEGI
12

First released in 2017, Fortnite has become one of the most popular games in the world. It currently has around 350 million registered players. Developed by Epic Games, it began life exclusively as a 'battle royale' contest, where up to 100 online player characters would fight – with weaponry including rifles, handguns and rocket launchers – to be the last one standing. Today, it features multiple modes which each offer something different (although some modes, such as 'Save the World', are only available on certain platforms).

IN-APP PURCHASES

Not all of Fortnite is free. Save the World mode, for example, can become quite costly. An in-game currency called V-Bucks is used to buy items such as cosmetics, which are not a necessity to play the game. It can feel like buying them is essential, however – even for adult players. Making sure no payment methods are linked to the game's store is a good idea when children are playing Fortnite.

REPEAT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Fortnite now offers a monthly repeat subscription which costs £9.99 (or equivalent). This package offers different non-essential benefits every month – including fancy cosmetics, rare weapons, V-Bucks and special bonuses. Signing up, therefore, can be tempting for dedicated players. However, subscriptions cannot be paid for with V-Bucks earned in the game, only with real-world money.

COMPETITIVE COMMUNITY

Fortnite isn't purely a competitive experience (some modes prioritise cooperation) but the rivalry aspect remains central. Battle Royale is an especially ruthless mode, where the last player or squad left standing wins. Games can become heated, and players' desire to win can often cause excessively aggressive or "toxic" behaviour towards others – via the game's audio chat, for instance.

POSSIBILITY OF SCAMS

Popular games like Fortnite are often targeted by unscrupulous individuals trying to trick or exploit genuine fans. In Fortnite, scammers have been known to offer children free V-Bucks or vast amounts of V-Bucks in exchange for rare items – often asking the player to click a particular link. These scammers are seeking access to your child's account, personal information and payment details.

USER-CONTROLLED CONTENT

Some elements of online video games can't be rated for age appropriateness because the developer doesn't have control over them. In Fortnite, for instance, things like voice or text chat, usernames, trades and other player-generated content may not always be suitable for children. It also means that the makers aren't liable for anything a stranger might say to young Fortnite players online.

Advice for Parents & Carers

STAY AWARE OF SPENDING

Free-to-play games (that is, ones without up-front costs) can still be big financial drains. In Fortnite, for example, the Battle Pass – a set of rewards to improve players' experience in the game – can be either earned through playing or bought with real money (with additional incentives for the latter). With supervision however, this can be a great lesson in money management for children.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS

Gaming sessions can reach marathon lengths, especially when your child is on a winning streak and doesn't want to stop. Sitting in the same position for hours, of course, isn't healthy but it's an easy habit to form. Encouraging young ones to break regularly for drinks and so on will help them stay hydrated, rest their eyes and release some of the tension from competitive gameplay.

TALK ABOUT TALKING

Communication is key in the squad-based Fortnite modes, and children will quickly realise that talking with team-mates online helps to increase their win rate. It's a good idea, therefore, to chat with your child first about speaking to strangers online, trading, scammers and other potential risks. Remind them that they can always come to you for help if they run into problems online.

DISCUSS OTHER APPS

Games like Fortnite can lead on to third-party apps (Discord, for example) where players can join a voice, text or – in some cases – video chat about the game. Certain add-ons also let children talk with other players from their local area, which clearly presents a potential risk. When discussing Fortnite with your child, you might also want to ask them about other apps they use while playing.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



NOS
National
Online
Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Primary, First and Middle School applications for children starting September 2022

Time is running out for parents and carers to submit their applications for children starting school in September 2022. Applications close at midnight on the **15th of January 2022** and parents hoping to be offered a place for Primary, First, Infant, Junior and Middle school in September, should apply before the deadline.

Applying online is the easiest and most efficient way to apply by visiting the Council's dedicated School Admissions website at: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Parents and carers are able to log on to the website at any time during the day or night, meaning last minutes changes are possible up to 12 midnight on the closing day.

If additional assistance is required, parents and carers can contact the School Admissions team on 01905 822700



Rehearsals

We were all very excited to be able to start rehearsing last week for our forthcoming production of Joseph And The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. The whole cast are already sounding rather good and their enthusiasm is very encouraging.

Rehearsals for the whole cast are on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. Up until February half term we shall finish rehearsals at 4.45pm. After half term we shall need to finish at 5.00pm.

Other rehearsals take place at lunch times and the week's lunchtime schedule is displayed on the Joseph notice board in school for the children to check.

The Production Team.



Top Readers for 13.12.21 — 13.01.22

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

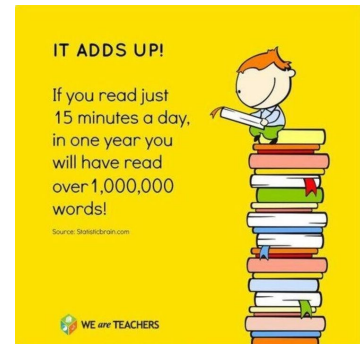
Lucy Potter (Year 8 CCGr) - who has read 341,982 words

Top Boy

Joe Craig (Year 5 CLDw) - who has read 385,760 words

Well done - merits will be awarded to you both.

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU



epraise

What to do if your child is having problems accessing ePraise from home please click on the link below:

[How to login to Epraise](#)

Music News



Learn To Play A Musical Instrument

We currently have spaces for Keyboard, Guitar and Singing tuition. If you would like further information, please contact Mrs C Griffiths for more details and an application form

Practice Earns Points

Instrumental and vocal lessons have resumed again this term. Here is a reminder for all pupils who have instrumental or vocal lessons: completing at least 10 minutes of music practice on 5 days of any week will earn you an Independent Learning point. Your practice diary will need to be signed by your parent or carer. Bring your practice diary to Mrs Griffiths in the Music Room to claim your points.

Choir

We are continuing our weekly rehearsals. These take place on Thursday lunchtimes at 12.55pm in the Music Room. New singers are always very welcome.

Mrs C Griffiths



Clubs and Activities

Spring term 1 2022

	Before School 7:45am – 8:45am	Lunchtime 12.35 – 1.20PM	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Monday			Homework Club KS2 Fitness Club Group 2 (3.30-4.45) RDJ/PMC
Tuesday	Orchestra CGR 8.45am – 9.25am Music Room		Homework Club KS3 Boogie Bounce (3.30-4.45) Sign up only KRE
Wednesday			Homework Club KS3 Fitness Club (3.30-4.45) Sign up only KRE/RMA/CHU Cooking club (3.30-4.45) DSL Pupils should have signed up and on a rotation.
Thursday		Choir CGR 12.55 – 1.20 Music Room All Year Groups	Homework Club KS2 Boogie Bounce Group 2 (3.30-4.45) Sign up only KRE
Friday			

Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

estimate

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 2021— 2021

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

() - who has read words

Top Boy

() - who has read words

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

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU



Family Learning Courses 2022

Parents and carers living in Worcestershire can attend any course below for **FREE** with the following eligibility:

- **FREE** if they are unemployed and on benefits or they earn less than £17,000 per year.
- **FREE** if their child receives a Free School Meal or is known to their school SENCo.
- **FREE** if any of these courses would improve their health and wellbeing.

All Family Learning courses can be found at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/courses and parents need to book their places online ASAP **before the end of January** in order to enrol with time to start each course.

Family Learning January 2022 Courses:

Cook with your Family for Parents and Children Sundays 3.30pm online via Teams

<https://rebrand.ly/CookWithFamily>

Maths in Early Years for Parents Wednesdays 1pm online via Teams

<https://rebrand.ly/MagnificentMaths>

Phonics in the Early Years for Parents Wednesdays 10am online via Teams

<https://rebrand.ly/PhonicsEarlyYears>

SEND – Managing Mindfulness Tuesdays 7pm online via Teams

<https://rebrand.ly/ManagingMindfulnessSEND>

SEND – Strategies for Positive Behaviour Tuesdays 6pm in **Fairfield Centre, Warndon Worcester**

<https://rebrand.ly/SEND-PositiveBehaviour>

Maths in Key Stage 2 & 3 for Parents Mondays 7pm online via Teams

<https://rebrand.ly/MathsSecondarySchool-FL>

English in Key Stage 2 & 3 for Parents Tuesdays 7pm online via Teams

<https://rebrand.ly/EnglishKeyStage2and3>

Family Wellness Course for parents and carers Mondays 10am online via Teams

<https://rebrand.ly/FamilyWellness>

Communicating with Deaf or Hearing-Impaired People Mondays 7pm online via Teams

<https://rebrand.ly/CommunicatingWithDeaforHearingImpaired>

Art for your Child – Ideas for Parents Thursdays 7pm online via Teams

<https://rebrand.ly/ArtForYourChild>

Art for Parents and Carers Thursdays 1pm online via Teams

<https://rebrand.ly/ArtforParentsandCarers>

Art in Key Stage 1 and 2 for Parents Thursdays 11am online via Teams

<https://rebrand.ly/ArtKs1and2forParents>

SEND – Understanding Dyslexia Mondays 7pm online via Teams

<https://rebrand.ly/UnderstandingDyslexia>

English & Maths in Key Stage 1 for Parents Wednesdays 1pm online via Teams

<https://rebrand.ly/FL-EnglishandMathsKeyStage1>

Cooking Creatively Tuesdays 10am online via Teams

<https://rebrand.ly/CookingCreatively>

Please Book your place online at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/courses or ring 01905-728537 for support in booking.



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

NHS

WALK-INS IN REDDITCH

Supplying 1st, 2nd and booster doses and will be open for 12+.

Saturday 15 January
10am-6pm
Sheltered market area
next to Kingfisher
Shopping Centre
Market Walk
Redditch
Worcestershire
B97 4HN

GET BOOSTED NOW

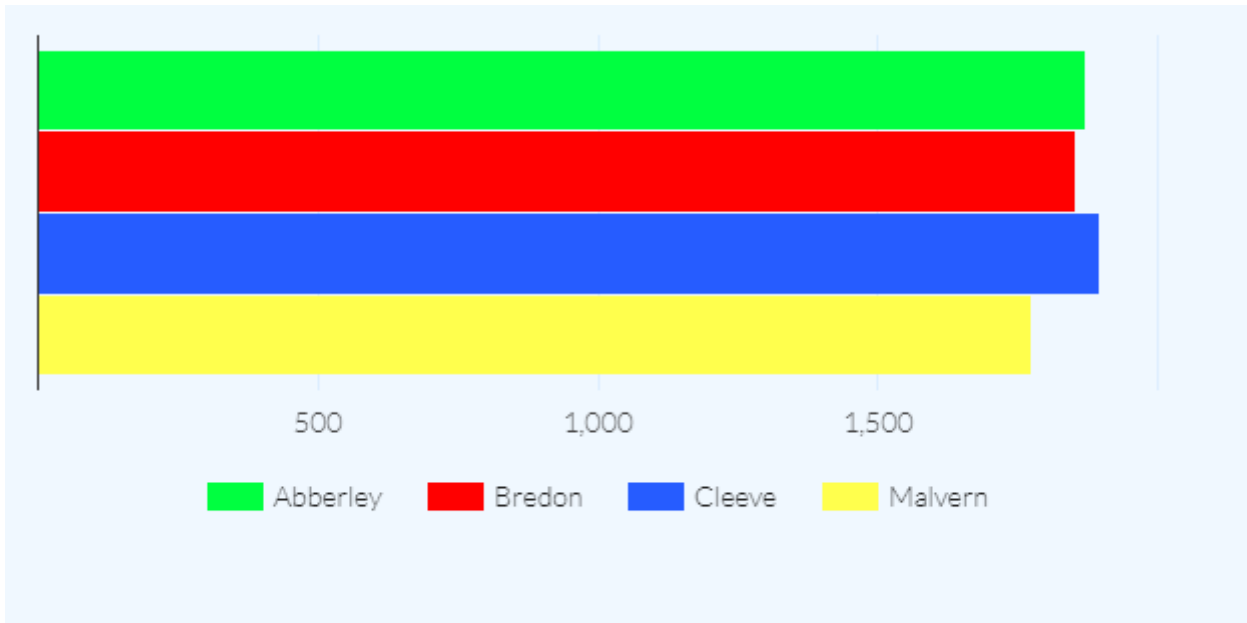
GET YOUR COVID-19 BOOSTER VACCINE
[NHS.UK/COVIDVACCINATION](https://www.nhs.uk/COVIDVACCINATION)



Epraise Update



Points This Week: By College





Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2 0 2 2	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