

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Sunday, 6th February 2022, it will be 70 years since Princess Elizabeth became Queen Elizabeth II. This is the first time ever that a British monarch has celebrated a Platinum Jubilee. It is also the day her father, who was King George VI, died. Therefore, it is not a day she celebrates. This year will be the first time that her husband will not be with The Queen on her accession day.



I will sing aloud of your steadfast love each day. For you have been a fortress for me and a refuge on the day of my distress.

Psalm 59: 16

The nation will celebrate the Platinum Jubilee in June because the weather is likely to be better than now! One way is to plant a tree for the jubilee. This was started by Prince Charles last year. Walkwood has joined in – one tree for each decade of The Queen's reign. Her Majesty will be one of our weekly themes in the run-up to the jubilee celebrations in June.

Given the Covid situation nationally in schools where there are younger children, we have maintained our control measures at a high level. This means that children are continuing to use sanitiser during the day as they move from lesson to lesson, as well as lunchtime. One area that has been challenging is the provision of physical education lessons. PE teachers always need a Plan A and Plan B for each lesson depending on the weather. However, the usual curriculum has been amended, and this may well continue. Quidditch is now being played as part of PE (we do not use broomsticks for this version) and pupils are being inducted to use the outdoor fitness machines.



Thank you to the many, many parents and carers who took part in the meetings with teachers over the last two weeks. I hope you found the information helpful and the format was convenient.

Rev. C. Leach, *Principal*

A prayer for Careers

Lord, I just want to lay my life and my future career at Your feet and ask that Your grace and favour would rest upon me, as I earnestly seek Your guidance, praying that You would establish the work of my hand and lead me in the direction that You would have me to go.

Amen

This week's theme was: Careers

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.

Colossians 3:23

Whole School Target

95.6%

Whole School Attendance



For the week ahead

The Fruit of Faith is:	Inclusiveness	He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. <i>Matthew 5:45</i>
The assembly theme:	Book of Proverbs	These are the proverbs of King Solomon, David's son: He wrote them to teach his people how to live, how to act in every circumstance, for he wanted them to be understanding, just, and fair in everything they did. <i>Proverbs1:1-3</i>

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

The weekend	Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II	Monday	our teachers of PE
Tuesday	Team GB at the Winter Olympics	Wednesday	delivery drivers in different industries
Thursday	our vacancies and the people who choose to apply	Friday	staff at the Family Front Door of Worcestershire Children First

Picture of the Week



There are 11 medieval monolithic cave churches in Lalibela, Ethiopia, carved out of rock that date from the 12th and 13th Centuries. They were built as a substitute for pilgrimages to the Holy Land, which was unreachable at the time.

The churches were designated a Unesco world heritage site in 1978.

They are tended to by priests of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church.

Chinese New Year 2022

This term our MAB and room 9 pupils have been learning about China, Chinese culture, its history, myths and legends.

Each pupil has created a project page for our 'Great Book of China'. Researching up to date and historical facts. Learning to write their names in Mandarin and speak salutation.

The project has included drumming, origami, paper folding, lantern making and our own exciting table tennis tournament.

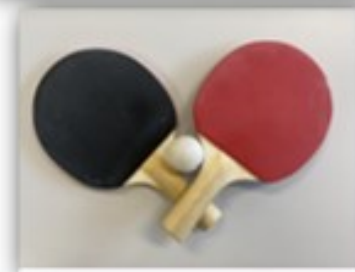


Tuesday, 1st February was Chinese New Year. It was the first time in over 2 years, that we were able to celebrate our learning.

The pupils all had the opportunity to smell different Chinese spices and sauces, many strange faces were pulled.



新年快樂
Happy New Year!
xīn nián kuài lè



World Book Day 2022

Thursday 3rd March

To celebrate World Book Day this year, we will be holding two competitions.

Competition 1 - the Readathon

From 1st February until 1st March, we will be having a READATHON competition.

During this period, our highest reading pupils in each year group will win the following prizes for the most words read:

1st place - £20 Book Token

2nd place - £15 Book Token

3rd place - £10 Book Token

Also the winning teaching group (with the most words read recorded on Renaissance) will win an afternoon of pizza in school and a lesson 'off' of lessons! This means that our pupils need to pull together as a TEAM and read, read, read! Every quiz will count. Additionally, anyone who has reached Millionaire status since the start of September (meaning they have read one million words or more) will also be awarded £15 Book Token!

Competition 2 - Story Pebbles

Remember in the lockdowns, there were lots of pebbles around towns, which were painted with messages of hope and positivity? You would often see these on paths around Redditch, such as around Arrow Valley Lake. We would like our pupils to ALL to decorate a pebble to celebrate how much Walkwood loves reading.

It is simple:

- 1) Choose a medium/large sized pebble – smooth and flat is best
- 2) Decorate to show either a **book cover** or a **character** from a favourite book. Using paints or chalk pens works well
- 3) Try to include the name of the book or character on the pebble
- 4) Write your name and class underneath the pebble



The best designs will then be displayed along our main path leading to reception. They will be sprayed with varnish to make the design permanent and weather-proof, before being permanently affixed along the pathway. This will make a beautifully visual display to our visitors to show how much we read! Staff will be participating too. How creative can you be?

These positivity pebbles were on display locally in Alcester during lockdown. You can spot some book characters here, too! Do you notice how intricate some of these designs are?



Please send all Story Pebbles to Mrs Johnson's office by World Book Day (3/3/22).

Finally, pupils will enjoy reading poetry across their lessons during the week of World Book Day.

Pupils will not be dressing up for World Book Day.

Please let me know of any questions via email. Happy reading!

Mrs Johnson

Assistant Principal/Head of English

10 Top Tips for Respect Online: INSPIRING CHILDREN TO BUILD A BETTER DIGITAL WORLD

Our ability to communicate with anyone in the world, at any time, via the internet has grown at breakneck speed. For teachers and parents, it can feel impossible to keep up. Worrying about our young people is understandable, and not unjustified: in 2020, for example, one in five 10- to 15-year-olds experienced bullying online. Our tips highlight ways that adults can support young people's positive online behaviours: by adopting and following 'netiquette', we can show them how to avoid getting into difficulty as they learn to negotiate the continually evolving digital landscape.

WHAT IS NETIQUETTE?

Just like etiquette is a set of rules which guides and governs our interactions with others in everyday life, netiquette – etiquette on the net – is the framework which helps inform how we communicate with people online. The rules of engagement often aren't the same as a face-to-face meeting, so it's important that we can accurately 'read' situations in the digital world and know how to act appropriately.

1 ACCEPT DIFFERENT RULES

A lot of our interaction with others is helped by non-verbal signals like body language and facial expressions. Online, of course, many of these clues are missing. Talk to your child about why this makes misunderstandings more likely to occur in the digital world and why keeping in mind that online communication is a very different process can help to prevent difficulties from arising.

2 PRESS 'PAUSE'

It's so easy to do things quickly online that most people (adults included) habitually send or respond to messages without considering the consequences. Pushing 'the pause button' buys a young person some time while they ponder the golden rule: "Would I still say this if the other person was right front of me?" You could practise this with your child on some made-up tricky situations.

3 THE INTERNET IS ADDICTIVE

Apps and sites use sophisticated algorithms and clever marketing to keep us engaged, while notifications to our devices are designed to draw us back in. It's no wonder that people continually return to the digital world, sometimes spending long periods of time there. You and your child could trial turning off notifications on certain apps and instead agree a time to check for updates manually.

4 BEWARE THE DARK SIDE

Getting a hurtful or unhelpful comment on social media or in a group chat can make the recipient feel publicly shamed. That's painful for anyone – but especially for a young person whose status in a group is integral to their sense of identity. Encourage your child to think about the best and safest way to send a message: for example, doing it as a private message rather than a public post.

5 HARMFUL INTERACTIONS

Unfortunately, it's very easy to send a hurtful message or to spread gossip and rumours online. We all know this happens regularly. Not having to deal with actually seeing the other person's distress usually doesn't help people to make a positive decision in the moment. It's important that trusted adults help children to visualise the potential consequences and have empathy for others.

6 APPRECIATE DIFFERENCES

We're all built differently; some people are simply more emotionally sensitive than others. Young people can be particularly affected by negative online communication, such as group shaming. Even a single message (which might seem trivial at face value) can cause deep anguish. Trusted adults should be prepared to be patient and listen to any difficulties their child might have had online.

7 ACCENTUATED ANXIETY

Young people's online lives create a lot of anxiety. Messages go into a 'black hole' until someone responds, there are more reasons to compare ourselves negatively, and social media can make us feel like we're missing out. Encourage activities such as sports and hobbies to balance this out, and remember that merely blocking out thoughts (by gaming, for instance) isn't the same as relaxation.

8 PRO-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

A huge positive for the internet is how it helps people to feel connected and makes being kind and helpful easy to spread. When young people get involved in pro-social behaviours online, it creates a positive feedback loop which makes them feel good. Show your child examples of when you've done or said something positive online, and praise and encourage them when they do the same.

9 BE A GOOD ROLE MODEL

One of the best things we can do as trusted adults is to role model positive online behaviour. Just letting your child see that you know when it's time to put your phone away and do something more productive can set a strong example. Some families set aside particular times of the week (such as mealtimes or a family walk) where digital devices aren't allowed and conversation takes precedence.

10 SHOW COMPASSION

Mistakes can feel much bigger online, because they're so public. If a young person does or says something regrettable on the internet, it's important to support them to forgive themselves, learn any lessons and move forward positively. Even as adults, we can often stumble when learning how things work in the fast-moving digital world, so it's important to have compassion for ourselves, too.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Carole Francis-Smith is an experienced counselling psychologist who, through her research, specialises in promoting safe and ethical online communications. She consults with businesses and organisations to support positive and effective communication online, often by considering some of the more hidden aspects of the mediums.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday



Walkwood

Church of England  Middle School

Current Vacancies

We have a number of vacancies that have arisen over recent months that we are now offering to recruit for. We would welcome applications from individuals looking to explore flexible working hours. This includes situations where full-time or part-time working may be considered—if the needs of candidates and the needs of the school can be blended, then that works for both sides.



Please click below for more details:

Administrative Assistant	Advertisement	Applicant pack
Caretaker	Advertisement	Applicant pack
Cleaner - end of day	Advertisement	Applicant pack
Cleaner - during the day	Advertisement	Applicant pack
Design Technician	Advertisement	Applicant pack
Science Technician	Advertisement	Applicant pack
Teaching Assistant	Advertisement	Applicant pack

Walkwood Church of England Middle School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Successful applicants will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS check.

Application forms are available from the school website: [Application form for support staff](#)
Also reference the [Guidance notes](#) and the [Privacy Statement](#). The school recruitment policy is also viewable at [Recruitment—Walkwood Church of England Middle School](#)





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) <u>DSL</u> 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:

determine

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 2nd January 2022 — 2nd February 2022

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

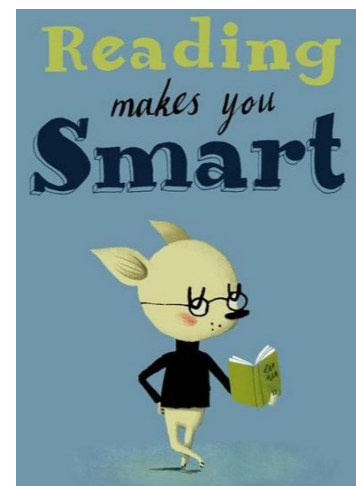
Amna Hussain (5E2) - who has read 599,982 words

Top Boy

Joe Craig (5C3) - who has read 982,053 words

Well done - 3 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>

NHS New household account feature for parents reporting test results

NHS Test and Trace are continuing to develop and improve the process for self-test reporting. Currently, if a parent is submitting results through their account on behalf of a child, they have to enter the child's details every time they report a result.

As a result of feedback from parents, NHS Test and Trace have introduced household accounts. This allows parents to save their children's details to their own user accounts so parents can report results for multiple members in the household more quickly and easily.

When reporting self-test results parents will now be offered the opportunity to create a household account, which should take no more than 2 minutes. Parents can then add all household members to their account, enabling them to save time when reporting all future self-test results.



Trips and Visits 2021 - 23



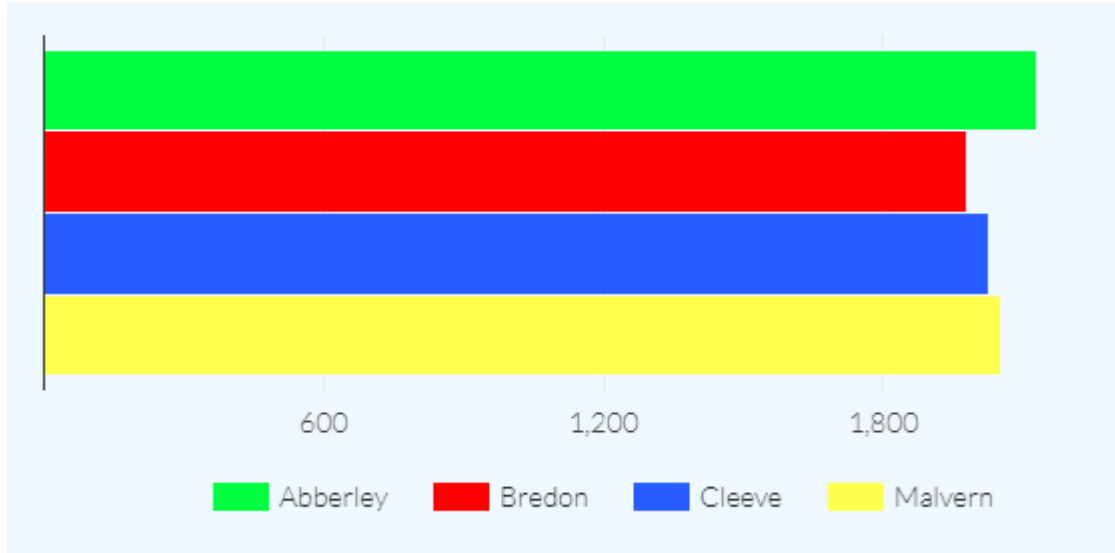
Date	Activity	Location	Open To	Cost	Leader
May 2022					
Fri 13 – Mon 16	Outward Bound	Yorkshire	Y6	£ 324	Rev Leach
June 2022					
Wed 22 – Fri 24	Arts and Theatres	London	Y8	£ 300	Rev Leach
Fri 24 – Mon 27	Outward Bound	Yorkshire	Y7	£ 324	Rev Leach
Fri 24 - Mon 27	Outward Bound	Brecon Beacons	Y5	£ 220	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	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