

Dear Parents and Carers,



Inside you will find some amazing statistics about attendance. The number of days some children are missing over a school year is a cause for concern nationally. The Department for Education has raised this across the many different school settings, and there is some 'Covid-lag' in returning to excellent school attendance. However, Walkwood has bucked the national trend. We are among the top schools for the number of days that pupils are in school. There are some days when attendance is impacted, such as snow or strike days, and if there is a tummy bug, then the 48-hour rule applies. We want to thank you for being so careful about when to keep your child at home if they are ill.



The challenges of the rising cost of living affect different people in different ways. One significant aspect for us has been the cost of food, a matter which you will all be aware of. The range of choice at lunch time is important to our children who use the canteen, and we have been as busy as ever. In order to keep prices from rising significantly, we have made some efficiencies in the daily food offer and, having gathered the views of a sample of pupils, refined the menu. The updated version is available inside and [on the website](#).



We have collated the responses from our latest survey, which are shared here. Other such collections of views are also on [this page](#). Thank you to those who took the opportunity to complete the online questionnaire.

Finally, I know some of you have clicked through to our [safeguarding matters](#). Other aspects of this nature are detailed within this weekly newsletter. Our school's practice in regard of keeping children safe has been through an external review by an independent consultant and we were humbled by the positive comments that we received. Please do click on the link to have a read of our safeguarding matters.



*The older will serve the younger.*

*Romans 9: 12*

Rev. C. Leach, Principal

## This week's theme was: **Mary Magdalene**

Mary Magdalene then went and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord. She also told them what he had said to her.

*John 20:18*

Almighty God,  
Whose Son restored Mary Magdalene to health of mind and body and called her to be a witness to his resurrection: forgive our sins and heal us by your grace, that we may serve you in the power of his risen life; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

## Whole school Attendance

**94.20%**

## Whole School Target

**95.6%**

**06.03.2023 to 10.03.2023**

**Year 5 — 95.83%**

**Year 6 — 93.01%**

**Year 7 — 94.61%**

**Year 8 — 93.20%**



## 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 will be:	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.  Proverbs 1:1-3

### Our prayer for the week ahead:

To you we come, O wisdom without end.  
In you we rest, O mercy without limit.  
Only in you are we fully alive.  
Only in your light can we truly see.  
Only in your strength are we safe to pursue our way.  
Amen.

Mechtild of Magdeburg (1210–1280)

## Picture of the Week



Vietnamese workers sit, surrounded by thousands of incense sticks in Quang Phu Cau, a village in Hanoi, Vietnam, where the sticks have been traditionally made for hundreds of years. "Incense plays an important role in the spiritual lives of Vietnamese people."

Azim Khan Ronnie



## A Card for The King



Rachel Maclean MP has invited our pupils to take part in a 'Card for the King' competition to find a design for a card which will be sent to His Majesty The King on behalf of everyone who lives in Redditch.

The winning design will be chosen by Rachel Maclean MP and sent to Buckingham Palace ahead of the Coronation on Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> 2023.

The competition is open to children aged 4-13, so all our pupils are eligible to take part.

To enter, our pupils will need to design a Coronation themed picture on an A4 piece of paper which if chosen will be printed on to a card for The King.

Entries can be emailed to [rachel.maclean.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:rachel.maclean.mp@parliament.uk) or by sending it to the constituency office via FREEPOST RACHEL MACLEAN MP.

**Alternatively, entries can be handed in to the Pastoral Office at school and we can send them to Rachel Maclean on your behalf.**

Entry is limited to one design per child and all entries must be received by Friday April 7<sup>th</sup> 2023. Artists should include their full name, age, school and address.

We look forward to seeing your creative designs and we wish you good luck.



## Morning schedule

A reminder: the front gates and the Scott Road gate are open at 8.30 a.m. This is when there are staff on playground to supervise the children. Pupils begin lining up a little after 8.40 a.m and will start going into school gently, ready for the first registration bell at 8.50 a.m. We ask parents to ensure that their children do not arrive before 8.30 a.m as there will be no staff to supervise before that time.






# Walkwood attendance amongst the best in England!



We are very proud of our pupils and their attendance this academic year- much to be celebrated. Our approach to raising attendance is very much targeted and strategic, which enables us to highlight those pupils who require help, support and encouragement to come to school. The pupils are aware of their attendance and we ensure that it is celebrated regularly throughout the school year.

Attendance for  <b>Walkwood</b> Church of England Middle School	National average so far this year	National percentile The closer to 100, the better the attendance
Whole school attendance		
94.89%	90.7%	99%
Attendance of Pupil Premium children		
93.7%	86.6%	99%
Attendance for pupils who receive free school meals		
93.2%	86.3%	99%
Attendance of pupils who are identified with SEND		
92.4%	86.4%	97%
Attendance of children who are 'looked after'		
98.8%	88.1%	94%
Attendance for pupils whose first language is not English		
94.2%	88.1%	92%

## Every School Day Counts

As you can see from the table, our attendance figures are excellent and rank extremely favourably nationally- thank you to all parents for your continued support within this regard.

The school year seems to be flying by. This particular half-term is shorter than last but is a half-term filled with consolidation of prior learning, introduction of new learning and, for our Y6 students, final preparations for the SATs in May.

With this in mind, I would like to stress the importance of attendance at school throughout this term and the remainder of the academic year. Being present in lessons is vital for all pupils: full attendance ensures smooth and consistent academic development and is essential if pupils are to achieve full potential in lessons, as well as in internal and external assessments.

Please continue to support and encourage full attendance at school. If you have any concerns about attendance or need pastoral support in regard to attendance, please contact your College Pastoral Manager at school.

# Top Tips for Adopting SAFE & HEALTHY ONLINE HABITS

Everyone has so much going on in their lives, and that includes children: from exams and deadlines to anxiety and mental health struggles. It's quite easy to send memes, make jokes and vent online about the things that irritate us, but when was the last time you – or your child – took a moment to share something kind or positive instead? In fact, when did you last stop and think about your family's online activities? To help keep them safe and teach them healthy online habits, we need to develop our children's digital resilience. There are lots of ways that children can become more digitally resilient, and we've pulled together some popular strategies here...

## WHAT IS DIGITAL RESILIENCE?



Resilience doesn't mean being so tough that nothing gets to you, and it's not about "putting up with things" either. Instead, it's the ability to recover from setbacks. Everyone feels sad, worried, scared or upset at times: it's how we respond and adapt to those situations which is important. Digital resilience is about making choices that keep us safe and happy online, even when we're exposed to something negative or upsetting. Building your child's digital resilience will help reduce the impact of potential risks as they engage with and navigate around the online world.

## MAKE POSITIVE LIFESTYLE CHOICES



- ✓ Make time for the people and things that make you happy.
- ✓ Monitor your screen time and stick to your limits.
- ✓ On social media, follow people that make you feel good about yourself – and unfollow the ones who don't.
- ✓ Spread some positivity: post good reviews, leave encouraging comments and share good news.

## KEEP YOUR HEALTH IN MIND



- ✓ Try to factor in regular breaks offline and away from your screen – ideally, outdoors for some revitalising fresh air.
- ✓ Exercise is a brilliant stress-buster: even a walk around the block, a bike ride or a stroll to your local shop can really work wonders.
- ✓ Be strict with yourself about putting devices away in plenty of time before bed: they can interfere with a good night's sleep, which is essential for staying healthy.

## REACH OUT FOR SUPPORT

- ✓ If you have a problem online, don't be afraid reach out to specialist people or organisations that could help.
- ✓ Follow people on socials who have the same values and morals as you.
- ✓ You could always talk to a friend, or a trusted adult like a teacher or family member for some advice.

## PUT SAFETY FIRST



- ✓ If you see something online that upsets or worries you, tell a trusted adult about it as soon as possible.
- ✓ You could also report the content that's making you feel uncomfortable to the site or app that you saw it on, so they can look into it.
- ✓ Another option is to block the person or the account that's causing you a problem – or you could go one step further by totally deleting the app you were using.

## GET THINGS CLEAR IN YOUR HEAD



- ✓ Ask yourself what kindness online actually looks like. Can you remember the last time someone was kind or supportive towards you online? What did they do?
- ✓ Think about how it makes you feel when someone sends you a positive or funny message online.
- ✓ What about the opposite: has someone ever been deliberately unkind to you online? What did they do and how did it make you feel?
- ✓ If someone's behaviour online is causing you stress, try to remind yourself of all the steps you can take if a person's being unkind online.

## Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is a registered counsellor with the Health Professions Council of South Africa, working in private practice to offer counselling to children, teenagers and young adults. She is the founder of Ingage Support, a mobile app focusing on mental health awareness with the goal of providing resources and solutions to schools worldwide.



**National  
Online  
Safety**

#WakeUpWednesday



It can be difficult to know what is fake news and what the implications of such information can be.

**This useful guide** can help with that. It also has additional links for guidance and support.

**Know the fact. Challenge the fake!**



**Walkwood**  
Church of England  Middle School

## **Pastoral Manager**

*Walkwood Church of England Middle School are looking to recruit a Pastoral Manager Remuneration: TA 2 – TA 4 pro rata from £ 21,575 to £ 29,439 pro rata*

*5 days a week, 35 hours per week, term time only plus the 5 Inset Days (with a view to amended hours due to after school club support)*

*Also, we would welcome applications from individuals looking to explore flexible working hours.*

We are looking for a strong and empowering Pastoral Manager with an understanding of the best way to support pupils' emotional and wellbeing journey throughout their time at Walkwood. They will enjoy working as part of a pastoral / college-based team and demonstrate the ability to establish good working relationships with pupils and parents, acting as a role model. Previous experience is desirable for this role although not essential.

Closing of applications is **9.00am** on **Monday 17th April 2023**. Short-listed candidates will be contacted soon after this date.



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. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS check .

# Walkwood

Church of England ☩ Middle School

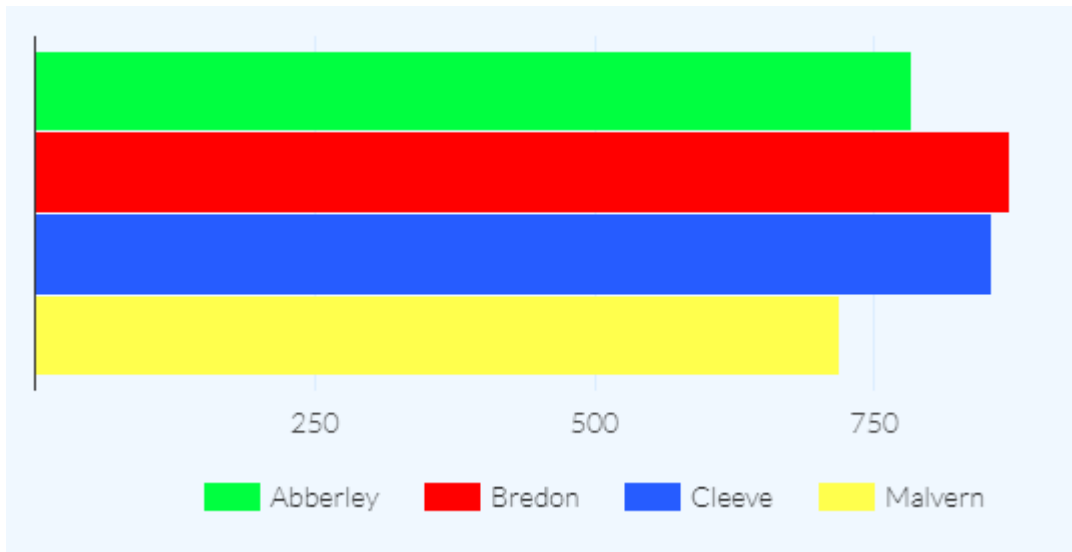
## Lunch menu



		Week A menu	Week B menu
          	<b>Monday</b> Main	Monday Brunch including Sausage, Bacon, Hash Brown, Baked Beans and Scrambled Egg  Vegetarian Monday Brunch Selection of pizzas, chicken burgers, selection of paninis, fish burgers.	Chicken/Vegetarian Fajita (build your own)  Served with Mexican rice and Salsa, Potato Wedges
	Specials		
	<b>Tuesday</b> Main	Pork Meatballs/ vegetarian meatballs  Served with tomato & basil pasta and garlic bread	Macaroni Cheese  Served with garlic bread
	Specials	Selection of pizzas, cheese & Tomato lattice, Sausage Roll, Breakfast Muffin	
	<b>Wednesday</b> Main	Roast of the day  Served with seasonal vegetables	Roast of the day  Served with seasonal vegetables
	Specials	Selection of pizzas, selection of toasties, hotdogs	
	<b>Thursday</b> Main	Chicken Tikka /Vegetarian Tikka  Served with rice and nann bread	Chicken Korma /Vegetarian Korma  Served with rice and nann bread
	Specials	Selection of pizzas, Meatball Sub, Sweet chilli chicken wrap	
	<b>Friday</b> Main	Fish & Chips Vegetarian fingers and chips  Served with beans or peas	Chicken nuggets & Fries Vegetarian nuggets & Fries  Served with beans or peas
	Specials	Selection of pizzas, Southern fried chicken & fries, Burgers	
<b>Main meals at £1.80 per meal, <u>Specials</u> at £1.60 per meal,</b> <b>Choice of fruit puddings, cheese &amp; biscuits, yogurt, jelly pot 50p each</b> <b>Selection of juice cartons 50p each</b> <b>Sachet (vinegar, tomato ketchup, mayonnaise etc.) 10p</b>			
Self-select	Choice of the salad bar 65p		
	Choice of sandwiches, baguettes and wraps <u>£1.50</u> Choice of puddings, cheese & biscuits, yogurt, jelly pot or fruit 50p each Fruit Salad 65p each Selection of juice cartons 50p – 60p each		
	Jacket Potato Fillings of cheese, tuna, beans (or combination of 2) <b>£1.80</b>		



# epraise this week



## Top Readers for 15.02.2023 — 15.03.2023

Congratulations to:

### Top Girl

Tilly Pym McGran (Year 7 BDDE) - who has read 385,325 words.

### Top Boy

Charles Gardner (Year 7 MDSL) - who has read 340,027 words.

Well done - merits will be awarded to you both.

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU ...



# 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)

[Safeguarding information summary](#)

## 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>



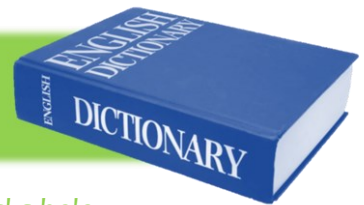
# Reading matters



If you are interested in looking at children's poetry, please take a look at the following: [Books for KS2 children aged 7-11 | School Reading List](#) The list includes a selection of contemporary, classic, themed, diverse and exciting poetry books for KS2 children, classrooms and school libraries. Featuring collections and anthologies by Michael Rosen, Joseph Coelho, Carol Ann Duffy, Brian Moses, Benjamin Zephaniah, Zoro Weil, Kate Wakeling, Neal Zetter, John Agard, T.S Eliot, Maya Angelou, Kaye Webb and more, there's a wide range of forms, styles and subjects for every interest, topic area and ability.



## Word of the Week



*Each week, there is a word displayed here. If the pupils have a go at the tasks below linked to the weekly word, they will earn a point from their tutor. Once per fortnight the tutor will go through the previous two weeks' words and pupils will work collaboratively exploring their meanings, features and usage.*

## co-operate

1. What word class is this word? Could it belong to more than one word class?
2. How many syllables does it have?
3. Write the dictionary definition(s) of this word, using your own words.
4. What are the synonyms for the word?
5. What are the antonyms for the word?
6. Write four sentences, each containing the word.

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 *exhilarated*:

**Statement:** Sam is feeling exhilarated this morning.



## Hockey and Rugby College Matches

The PE department run college matches twice a year, where pupils participate in a sporting activity against the other colleges in the school. Points are awarded to teams, and these then go towards the college sports total at the end of the year. College matches take place during lesson time where a whole year group will come down to PE at once. This may mean your child has two PE lessons that week and so will need to bring their kit in on two days. Please can you make sure pupils have correct PE kit for the following days. It is also recommended that boys have boots as they will be on the field. KS3 pupils will require a gum shield if they are taking part in the full contact rugby games, otherwise they will take part in 'touch' Rugby.

Many thanks,  
PE Department

**23<sup>rd</sup> March -28<sup>th</sup> March**

Day/Date	Lessons	Year Group	Activity
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	4 & 5	5	Boys – Rugby Girls - Hockey
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	4 & 5	6	Boys – Rugby Girls - Hockey
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	2 & 3	7	Boys – Rugby Girls - Hockey
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	2 & 3	8	Boys – Rugby Girls - Hockey



# Clubs and Activities



## Spring Term 2

	Lunchtime 12.15 – 1.00pm	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
<b>Monday</b>	Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI  Recorder Club, Music Room, GLA, 12.45pm-1pm. All welcome. We have instruments for those that need them. See Mrs Laishley to sign up.	Year 7/8 boys Rugby – Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> March. Sign up only. Advised to bring boots and gum shields. 3.30-4.45.  Year 5 and 6 Multi skills fitness club start Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> to March 27 <sup>th</sup> . Sign up only. 3.30-4.45. Meet in the changing rooms. RDJ & PMC.
<b>Tuesday</b>	Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI  Choir, Music Room, GLA, 12.35pm-1pm. All welcome. First sitting lunch pass required. See Mrs Laishley to sign up.	Year 7/8 recreational netball club starts Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> . Sign up only. 3.30-4.45. Meet KRE in changing rooms.  Keyboard Club: 3.30pm - 4.15pm. Limited spaces. Sign up required. Priority given to those who did not gain a place last term.
<b>Wednesday</b>	Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI  Reading club, room 18, duration of lunch, JWa  Core Reading Club, Room 15, duration of lunch, Mrs Shanley - Invite only	No more year 6 netball club – <b>selected team only</b> tournament on the 22 <sup>nd</sup> March.  Ukulele Club: 3.30pm - 4.15pm. Limited spaces, sign up required.  year 8 boys football training Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> (Invite only) RMA
<b>Thursday</b>	Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI  Science Homework Drop In – Computing (Year 7 and 8)	Year 5 Football Team training only 3.30-4.45 CHU <b>(Club cancelled on 23<sup>rd</sup> March)</b>  Drama club starting 9 <sup>th</sup> March 3:30-4:45 <b>(Club cancelled on 23<sup>rd</sup> March)</b>
<b>Friday</b>	Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/PWE	

**No clubs on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March due to staff meeting**



# Trips and Visits



Date	Year group	Destination	Day trip?	Residential?	Cost
07/07 - 10/07/2023	5 •	Brecon Beacons Activity Centre		✓	£250
June	6	Blackwell Adventure	✓		£38 *
30/06 - 03/07/2023	7	Osmington Bay Activity Park		✓	£285
20/07/2023	8	Drayton Manor	✓		£40 *

• Fully booked

\* Current estimated cost

For the Year 6 trips, these will go out on the following days:

Wed June 7 6c1 & 6c2

Thu June 8 6c3 & 6e1

Fri June 9 6e2 & 6e3



# Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2023	Friday 31 March	End of Term
	Monday 17 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 18 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Monday 1st May	Bank holiday
	Monday 8th May	Bank holiday
	Monday 29 May - 2 June	Half Term
	Wednesday 14 June	Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Thursday 22 June	Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Friday 21 July	End of Term