

Dear Parents and Carers,

There have been challenges to overcome this week across the country and I hope these were not duly difficult for you. We have looked to ensure our regular routines and expectations have been impacted as little as possible.

At Walkwood, we continue to be committed to the education of the whole child, looking for pupils to **love to learn** the content of the curriculum, to **learn to live** through the **Superhero** learning skills and also to **learn to love** through the outworking of our **Fruits of Faith**. The academic progress our pupils make through the four years here is excellent, with over three-quarters of pupils achieving beyond their age expectations by the time they leave us. Unlike some primary schools, we do not put our Year 6 pupils through an unrelenting diet of English and Maths, but allow a balanced curriculum. The SATs will come around again, and we shall do all we can to keep matters low key so that the pupils do not feel too pressured. Year 8 are a few weeks away from hearing which high school they have been allocated. However, the memory of Walkwood will be with them, as it is with so many who have left us in years gone by.



I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Psalm 32:8



There is much that is taking place prior to the visit of author Matt Oldfield in the coming weeks. Each of the year groups will have the opportunity to hear him speak about his work, along with the chance to buy a book. More details of this forthcoming event are inside.

We have been gathering some lost property, both clothing and equipment. Where items are named, we do our best to alert the pupil so they can collect from the Reception office. There are occasions when a sock or shirt is left in the changing rooms too, although we remain puzzled as to how we can have just one trainer of a pair! Please email us if there are items that do not make it home, and we can check the cupboard.

Please
name it

Rev. C. Leach, Principal

This week's theme was: **St Valentine**

Continue to love those who know you and to do good to those who are righteous.

Psalm 36:10

Lord, As we celebrate the loved ones in our lives and time we've spent with them, we pray that we most importantly remember your love. Your love is greater than any others. Your love can overcome all things, and is unconditional. We pray for the who are on their own and at times may feel unloved, that they remember that they are a child of God, and are loved by you, and you will never stop loving them. Allow us to love as you love us. In your name, Amen

Whole school Attendance

95.58%

Whole School Target

95.6%

23.01.2023 - 27.01.2023

Year 5 95.48%

Year 6 94.70%

Year 7 96.81%

Year 8 95.34%



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. Matthew 5:45	
The assembly theme will be:	The Trinity	Now that we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts. And his Spirit tells us that God is our Father. Galatians 4:6	
We ask your thoughts and prayers in the week ahead for:			
The weekend	relief work for areas of challenging weather, including New Zealand and India	Monday	pilots and support personnel within the Royal Air Force
Tuesday	pupils and staff at other Church of England schools	Wednesday	His Holiness, Pope Francis, as he visits Africa
Thursday	those we love, be they near or far	Friday	pupils and staff as they prepare for the trip to Austria

Picture of the Week

The risen of the sun over the village of Brede in East Sussex, with some woolly on-lookers.





Author visit!

On Monday 13th February, author of the very popular *Ultimate Football Series* books,

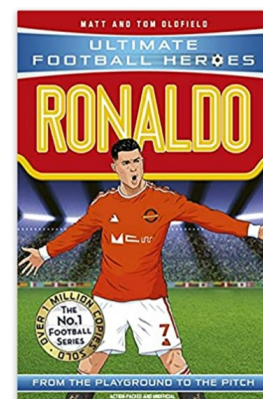
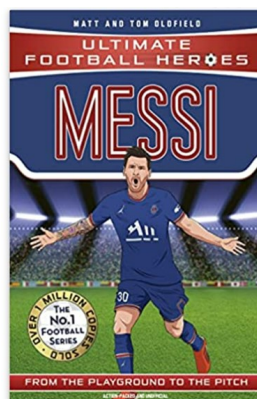
Matt Oldfield, will join us in school for the day. He will present to each of the four year groups in turn and take their questions during a discussion time at the end of each lesson.

Also Matt will be selling some of his titles on the day, for £5 each (cash only). He will bring some of his most popular titles with him plus a few of his other titles, such as *Unbelievable Football*, *Johnny Ball: Accidental Football Genius* and *Ultimate Cricket Superstars*. If your child would like to purchase a book, please remind them to bring cash with them on the day.

Pupils and staff alike are very much looking forward to this special visit!

Mrs Johnson

Assistant Principal



Supporting Ukraine

The 24th February 2023 marks one year since the president of Russia launched an unwarranted invasion of Ukraine. Many countries remain defiant of this act and in support of [Ukraine](#).

This date falls during our half term. However, on the final Friday before the break, **Friday 17th February**, we shall have a non-uniform day when we shall urge pupils to come dressed in blue and yellow—the colours of the flag [Ukraine](#).

In return, we ask those who come in non-uniform to donate the minimum of £1. This will be sent to the relief work of UNICEF. This organisation is working around the clock with partners to scale up life-saving programmes for children, including healthcare and welfare.



£1

Each tutor group will have a raffle for those within it who come dressed sensibly in blue and yellow, the prize being a pin badge of the flag of [Ukraine](#).

Tips for Encouraging Open Discussions about DIGITAL LIVES

The online world is an entirely familiar and commonplace part of life for today's children and young people, far more so than for previous generations. There are many positives to children being able to access online materials, so it's important not to demonise the internet, games and apps, and limit the benefit of their positive aspects. At the same time, we do have a responsibility to educate children about the hazards they may encounter online (just as we would about real-world dangers) so it's essential that we don't shy away from talking to them about the complex – and often sensitive – subject of what they do and what they see when they're online.

Here are some suggestions for kicking off conversations with your child about their digital life ...

MAKE YOUR INTEREST CLEAR

Showing enthusiasm when you broach the subject signals to your child that you're keen to learn about the positives of their online world. Most children enjoy educating adults and will happily chat about what they use the internet for, or what games and apps they're into and how these work. Asking to see their favourite games and apps in action could help you spot any aspects that may need your attention – such as chat functions which might require a settings adjustment to limit contact with strangers. Keep listening even if your child pauses for a long time: they could be considering how to phrase something specific, or they may be gauging your reaction.

BE OPEN AND HONEST, APPROPRIATE TO THEIR AGE

At various stages, children and young people become curious about puberty and how their body changes; about relationships; about how babies are made; and about sexual health. If your child knows that they can discuss these sensitive subjects with you, they tend to be less likely to go looking online for answers – which can often provide them with misleading information and, in some cases, lead to them consuming harmful content. Don't worry if you don't immediately know the answers to their questions – just find out for yourself and go back to them once you have the facts.

REMINDE YOUR CHILD THEY CAN ALWAYS TALK TO YOU

In my role I work with many children and young people who admit being reluctant to tell a trusted adult about harmful content they've viewed online, in case it leads to having their devices confiscated. Emphasise to your child that you're always there to listen and help; reassure them that if they do view harmful content, then they are not to blame – but talking about it openly will help. Children shouldn't be expected to be resilient against abuse or feel that it's their job to prevent it.

KEEP TALKING!

The most valuable advice we can give is to keep talking with your child about their digital lives. You could try using everyday situations to ask questions about their online experiences.

DISCUSS THAT NOT EVERYTHING WE SEE ONLINE IS REAL

Here, you could give examples from your own digital life of the online world versus reality – for example, those Instagram posts which show the perfect house: spotlessly clean, never messy and immaculately decorated. Explain to your child that there are many other aspects of the online world which are also deliberately presented in an unrealistic way for effect – such as someone's relationship, their body, having perfect skin and so on.

TRY TO REMAIN CALM

As much as possible, try to stay calm even if your child tells you about an online experience that makes you feel angry or fearful. Our immediate emotions frequently influence the way we talk, so it's possible that your initial reaction as a parent or carer could deter a child from speaking openly about what they've seen. Give yourself time to consider the right approach, and perhaps speak with other family members or school staff while you are considering your next steps.

CREATE A 'FAMILY AGREEMENT'

Involving your whole household in coming up with a family agreement about device use can be immensely beneficial. You could discuss when (and for how long) it's OK to use phones, tablets, consoles and so on at home; what parental controls are for and why they're important; and why it's good to talk to each other about things we've seen or experienced online (both good and bad). Explaining your reasoning will help children to understand that, as trusted adults, we want to make sure they are well informed and kept safe. Allowing children to have their say when coming up with your family agreement also makes them far more likely to stick to it in the long term.

Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings of RAISE (Raising Awareness in Sex Education) has almost 20 years' experience delivering relationships and sex education and training to schools, colleges and other education providers. A published author on the subject, she also advises the Department of Education on the staff-training element of the RSE curriculum.

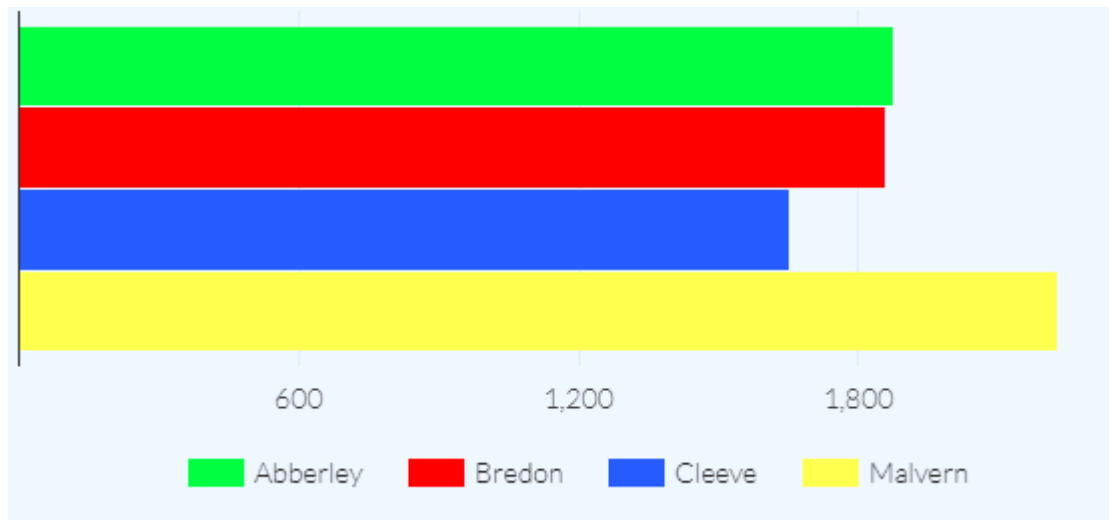


National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



epraise this week



Top Readers for 01.01.2023 — 01.02.2023

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

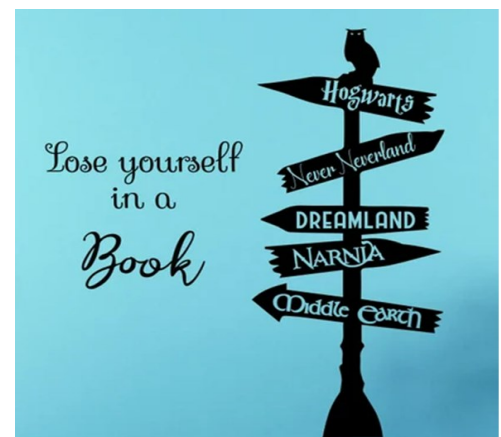
Sarah McKay (Year 6 AJMA) - who has read 630,673 words .

Top Boy

Stanley Sole (Year 6 ARCO) - who has read 491,430 words. .

Well done 3 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

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>

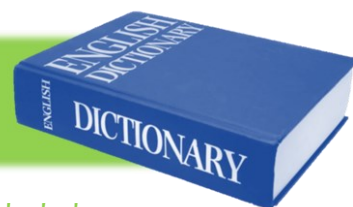
Safeguarding: <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Safeguarding-and-Child-Protection>

<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>



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.

regulate

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.



Sport round-up

Date	Sport	Age group	b/g/mixed	opponent(s)	Result(s)
26.01.2023	Football	Year 8	b	St Bedes	3-0



Clubs and Activities



Spring Term 1

	Before School 7:45am – 8:45am	Lunchtime 12.15 – 1.00pm	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Monday		<p>Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI</p> <p>Recorder Club, Music Room, GLA, 12.45pm-1pm. All welcome. We have instruments for those that need them. See Mrs Laishley to sign up.</p>	<p>Year 6 dodge ball Monday 30th January – Monday 13th February.</p> <p>Sign up only. Meet in changing rooms RDJ/ PMC</p>
Tuesday		<p>Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI</p> <p>Choir, Music Room, GLA, 12.35pm-1pm. All welcome. First sitting lunch pass required. See Mrs Laishley to sign up.</p>	<p>Year 5 gymnastics Tuesday 31st January – Tuesday 14th February (Max 26)</p> <p>Run by gymnastics coach and KRE. Sign up only. Meet in changing rooms</p> <p>Keyboard Club: 3.30pm - 4.15pm. Limited spaces. Sign up required. Priority given to those who did not gain a place last term.</p>
Wednesday		<p>Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI</p> <p>Reading club, room 18, duration of lunch, JWa</p> <p>Core Reading Club, Room 15, duration of lunch, Mrs Shanley - Invite only</p>	<p>KS3 dodgeball Wednesday 11th January, 18th January, 1st February. Sign up only. RMA/LWO</p> <p>KS3 dance Wednesday 11th January, 18th January, 1st February, 8th February. Sign up only. KRE</p> <p>Ukulele Club: 3.30pm - 4.15pm. Limited spaces, sign up required.</p>
Thursday		<p>Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI</p> <p>Science Homework Drop In – Computing (Year 7 and 8)</p>	<p>Drama Club. Sign up and parental permission needed. 30 spaces available. Sign up only PAL/DDE</p> <p>Sean Paul Dance academy Year 6 Thursday 2nd February – Thursday 16th February. Sign up only. Meet in changing rooms.</p> <p>ART CLUB until February half term. Parents have been emailed for those chosen. Every Thursday apart from 19th Jan and 9th February in DT2 MGR</p> <p>No drama or Art club Thursday 9th February due to staff meeting. Dance club IS on.</p>
Friday		Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/PWE	

No drama or Art club due to staff meeting on Thursday 9th February. Dance club IS on.



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		✓	£285
19/07/2023	8	Drayton Manor	✓		£40 *
04/02 - 11/02/2023	6,7,8 •	Obertauern, Austria		✓	£1360

• 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	Monday 20– Friday 24 February	Half Term
	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