



Dear Parents and Carers,

The national Act of Remembrance is always 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month. We are not at school then so we shall not fall silent for two minutes. However, our assemblies this week have been about remembrance and the need for us to come together, recall the devastation that war brought, and to pray for peace to thrive. This is just as important for people who have not experienced war as for those who have served bravely.

Year 8 volunteers have taken the poppies around this week and there has been encouraging support from our pupils. The money goes towards the valiant and continued work of the Royal British Legion.



The information page within The Insider has been updated, as have the links within it. The intention has been to allow you to access information more easily, as well as having the chance to access the whole website. However, a summary of our ways of working is contained within the handbook for parents and carers, this having been updated for this academic year. If any link does not work, or you are unsure about any information, please let us know.

Let Your work of love be on display for all Your people; let Your children see Your majesty. And then let the beauty and grace of the Lord—our God—rest upon us and bring success to all we do. *Psalm 90: 16-17*



The weather begins its change from autumn to winter, and so the hope that our children will wear a coat to school. We do not specify what sort of coat, although we do not accept hoodies as these are not waterproof. Naturally, coats are outdoor wear rather than being worn in school, this applying also to gloves and hats.

You may have seen the new barriers that have been installed outside the school. The intention here is to stop the dropping off and picking up of pupils along the white zig zags. This is because such action is illegal as it blocks the view of the crossing which the lines lead to (or from!). The installation is prompted by our local councillors whose diligence for the safety of our children remains.



Rev. C. Leach, Principal

## This week's theme was: Remembrance

He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide disputes for strong nations far away; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

*Micah 4: 3, ESV*

Dear Lord,

As we remember the days of war over 100 years ago, we pray that you will fill our hearts with humility and hope. We know that you conquer all things and we pray that you are with those who are remembering people today, and those who are in war today. We pray for your protection of them and your love over them, that they will feel safe in your arms.

Amen.

## Whole school Attendance

94.73%

## Whole School Target

95.6%

23.10.2023 to 27.10.2023

Year 5 94.1%

Year 6 92.12%

Year 7 87.26%

Year 8 92.18%



## For the week ahead

The Fruit of Faith is:	Aspiration	Oh listen, dear child - become wise; point your life in the right direction. <i>Proverbs 23: 19</i>
The assembly theme will be:	The Lord's Prayer	Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.... <i>Matthew 6: 9-13, NRSV</i>

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

peace between nations and tolerance for people who believe different things.

## Picture of the Week



St. Catherine's Monastery, located in the Sinai in Egypt at the foot of Mount Moses. According to the Bible and the Quran, Mount Sinai is the site where Moses received his Ten Commandments from God, making the area of religious importance to Christianity, Islam and Judaism. Dating as far back as the 6th century, the Monastery of St Catherine and its surroundings are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site.



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about



AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

In October 2022, the enormously popular social media network Twitter was purchased by tech tycoon Elon Musk. That sparked a host of changes to the platform – not all which have been received positively by its fans. The alterations have continued with each passing month, many of them raising online safety concerns among the 530 million users of Twitter (now rebranded as simply X). With further adjustments reportedly in the pipeline, X has attracted more than its usual share of controversy and caution in recent times.

## A BLOCK ON BLOCKING

X has announced plans to remove its blocking feature. Previously, this stopped other users from viewing your profile or sending you direct messages, while also hiding their posts from your feed. Only this latter function will now remain. The decision has been criticised by some members, who feel that blocking (in its current form) protects them from X users who promote denial and hatred.

## LIMITED REPORTING FEATURES

X offers a premium membership, with some functionality (such as controlling who can view and reply to your posts) increasingly being made exclusive to those who pay the subscription fee. Several commentators have speculated that X could one day become an exclusively paid-for service, with access to accounts being revoked for anyone unwilling or unable to take out a subscription.

## AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Many of X's less age-appropriate posts can feature anything from extreme political views to pornography. While accounts marked as 18+ are restricted from non-members, it's still fairly easy to stumble across this material accidentally. X's new 'For You' page also shows content from accounts that a user *doesn't* already follow – meaning that almost anything could end up on a child's feed.

## VERIFICATION FOR SALE

Historically, Twitter's moderators granted account verification: certifying someone as authentic by placing a blue tick next to their username. One of X's earliest changes was to place verification behind a paywall; this caused the number of celebrity impersonators to rise and left no way to distinguish, say, a legitimate influencer from a copycat fake account seeking to exploit other users.

## BLUE TICK SALE

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### PROTECT PRIVACY

Unsavory characters may try to gain access to a young person's X account – either to view their posts and gather information on them, or to completely take control of it. To minimise risk, ensure the account has a strong password and enable the 'Protect Your Posts' feature (via the account settings), so that strangers can't view your child's posts without first being approved as a follower.

### DON'T RISE TO THE BAIT

To gain more views and followers, some X users post deliberately inflammatory comments on sensitive topics such as race, sexual orientation and gender issues. Many young people could find this upsetting. Emphasise that, if your child encounters someone spreading hate on X, it's best not to give that person what they want: an argument. Ignore them, mute their account and move on.

### STAY ALERT FOR IMPOSTERS

Make sure your child understands that X's blue ticks no longer guarantee the identity of anyone on the platform. While it might be exciting if a celebrity liked your child's post, it could just as easily be an imposter with malicious intentions. If your child's not 100% sure that an X user actually is who they claim to be, advise them to err on the side of caution and avoid interacting with that account.

### ONLY FOLLOW TRUSTED ACCOUNTS

Using the 'Following' tab on X helps to ensure that the only content your child sees has come from accounts they've chosen to follow: this should reduce the chance of them inadvertently being exposed to harmful, violent or explicit content. Show your child how to report another user's account if, say, they're behaving inappropriately by spreading misinformation or offensive opinions.

### BE READY TO TAKE ACTION

If your child suffers harassment on the platform or becomes the target of a hack, you could consider deactivating their account entirely. Recently, X's safety features have been criticised for allegedly failing to protect users' wellbeing – so if your child is being subjected to abusive messages or similar mistreatment on the platform, it might be prudent to remove them from X altogether.

## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.

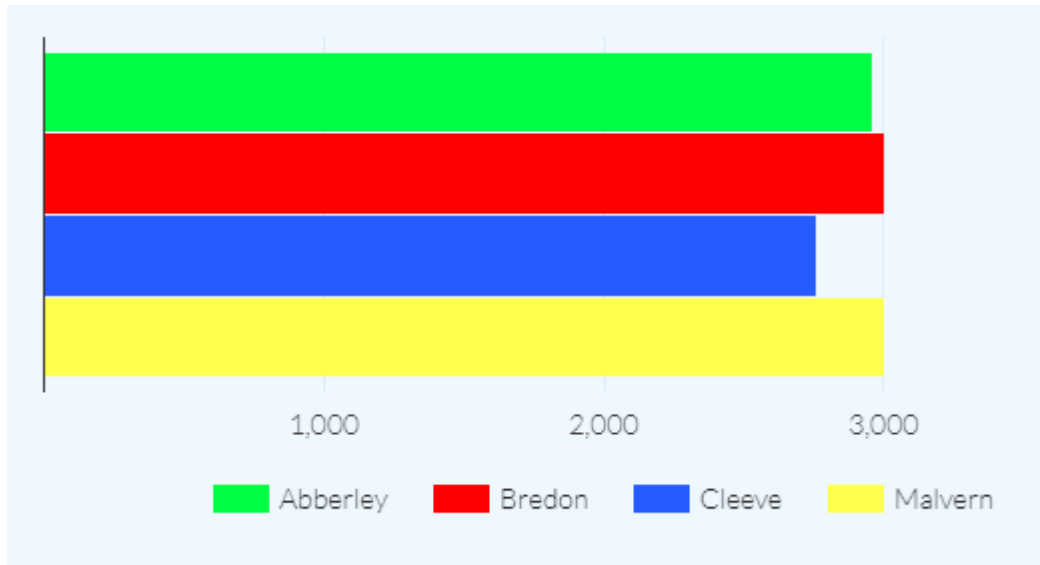


**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday





# epraise this week



## Top Readers for 08.10.2023 — 08.11.2023

Congratulations to:

### Top Girl

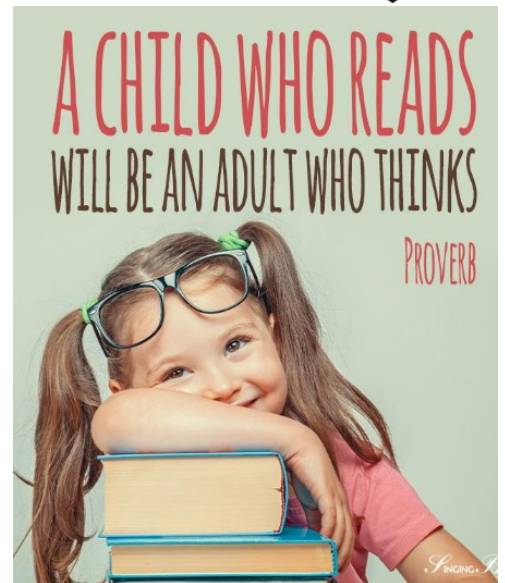
Eden Sherwood (Year 6 C-PJe) - who has read 582,981 words .

### Top Boy

Dylan Arkell (Year 8 A-SII) - who has read 493,869 words. .

Well done - 5 merits will be awarded to you both.

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





# Walkwood

Church of England  Middle School

For information about our school:

[www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk)

A summary of how our school works can be found in:

[handbook for parents and carers](#)

## Keeping children safe

The following information concerns how we continue to ensure that pupils are cared for within our school:

[Early help](#)

[E-safety](#)

[Prevent](#)

[Anti-bullying](#)

[Attendance](#)

[Safeguarding summary](#)

[Safeguarding policy](#)

[Relationships and Sex Education](#)

## 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](#)



# Reading matters

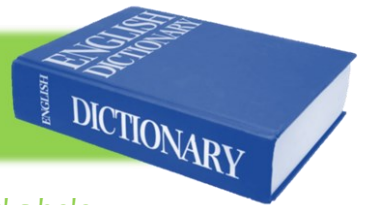


As you know, Walkwood is extremely committed to making reading a priority for our pupils. Our motto is that we 'read for empowerment', ensuring that pupils understand that engaging with reading fully now will help them to make more effective progress now, in all subjects, but also to increase their chances of success at GCSE level and beyond.

Our Renaissance reading program reveals that our pupils have read a whopping 25,314,854 words between them already since the start of September. Superb reading, Walkwood!



## 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.*

## hierarchical

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.



# Clubs and Activities



## Autumn Term 2

	Lunchtime 12.15 – 1.00pm	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
<b>Monday</b>	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI	KS2 fitness club (PMC/RDJ) Start Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November – Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December. Sign up only limited numbers.
<b>Tuesday</b>	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI	School Production Rehearsals (GLI/DDE/PAL/LHA) Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November – Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December  <b>Homework club</b> (3.30 – 4.45) DT hub Sign up only.
<b>Wednesday</b>	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI	KS3 Boogie bounce (KRE) start Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November – Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December. Sign up only limited numbers.  <b>Homework club</b> (3.30 – 4.45) DT hub Sign up only.
<b>Thursday</b>	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI  Choir will take place during 2nd sitting.  12.35 - 1pm  All members will need to collect a lunch pass from Mrs Laishley.	KS3 fitness (CHU/RMA/LWO/PMI/RDJ/PMC) start Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November – Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December. Sign up. <u>Not on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November due to meetings.</u>  KS2 Boogie bounce (KRE) start Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November – Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December. Sign up only. <u>Not on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November due to meetings.</u>  School Production Rehearsals (GLI/DDE/PAL/LHA) Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November – Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December  <b>Homework club</b> (3.30 – 4.45) DT hub Sign up only.
<b>Friday</b>	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/LTI	



# Trips and Visits



Date	Activity	Location	Open To	Cost	Leader
<b>June 2024</b>					
Fri 28 – Mon 1	Outward Bound	Osmington Bay, Weymouth	Y7	£ 330	Mr West
<b>July 2024</b>					
Wed 3 – Fri 5	Outward Bound	Brecon Beacons	Y5	£ 320	Mr Wootton
<b>February 2025</b>					
Sat 1 – Sat 8	Ski Trip	Obertauern, Aus- tria	Y5-Y7	£ 1659	Mrs Cull





# Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2 0 2 3  2 0 2 4	Monday 20 November	Parents' Maths Workshop 6.00—7.00 pm
	Monday 4 December	Parents' English KS2 Workshop 6.30 - 7.30pm
	Thursday 7 December	Year 5 theatre trip to Birmingham Rep
	Thursday 21 December	<b>End of Term</b>
	Monday 8 January	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 9 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Thursday 25 January	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Wednesday 31 January	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Monday 12 – Friday 16 February	<b>Half Term</b>
	Friday 22 March	<b>End of Term</b>
	Monday 8 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 9 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Thursday 11 April	Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Wednesday 17 April	Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Monday 27 – Friday 31 May	<b>Half Term</b>
	Friday 19 July	<b>End of Term</b>