

Dear Parents and Carers,

The deadline for applications for Takeover Day closed last Friday, and staff have been reading the letters this week. Pupils are being informed of whether they have been successful or not to proceed to the next round, which will be interviews. Not everyone will move to this phase of the selection process, just as not every application for a job results in an interview. However, resilience is applied as other opportunities will arise in some form.

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.
Joshua 1:9

That said, our Year 7 pupils are able to consider themselves for a place in the Pupil Leadership Team for next year. This group of children have a part in the running of the school, covering leadership roles in the four colleges, within sport as well as prefects and the Head Girl and Head Boy. The process here will involve completing an online application form, possible interviews, and for some posts, writing and delivering a speech to other pupils. Full details are available inside.



Year 6 have been at Blackwell Adventure over three days this week (the original plan for it being one day after SATs having to be redesigned due to the coronation bank holiday). The pupils have enjoyed the different activities, challenging themselves in different ways and buoyed up by their peers. You may have seen some of the pictures on our Twitter feed.

As we progress into the second half of the summer term, there may be further bouts of warm weather. We encourage pupils to make use of our water dispensers by filling up their water bottles (best to name them in case they get lost—and all too many do!). Avoiding guzzling water is something that pupils gradually learn, in time, and we ask that water bottles are placed in a specific place in our classrooms to avoid 'over-watering' which then results in numerous requests for visits to the toilet. The wearing of jumpers has been optional this week, as well as for the coming week, due to the expected temperatures.



Rev. C. Leach, Principal

This week's theme was: **Celtic Christianity**

Everyone on this earth will remember you, Lord. People all over the world will turn and worship you.

Psalm 22:27

Dear Lord,
I am giving Thee love with my whole devotion,
I am giving Thee kneeling with my whole desire,
I am giving Thee love with my whole heart,
I am giving Thee my soul,
O God of all Gods.

Amen

Whole school Attendance

94.51%

Whole School Target

95.6 %

22.05.23 to 26.05.23

Year 5 93.95%

Year 6 90.41%

Year 7 95.82%

Year 8 89.25%



For the week ahead

The Fruit of Faith is:	Honour	Be devoted to one another with mutual love, showing eagerness in honouring one another. <i>Romans 12:10</i>
The assembly theme will be:	Holy spirit	Everyone on this earth will remember you, Lord. People all over the world will turn and worship you. <i>Psalms 22:27</i>

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

The weekend	a resolution to the war in Ukraine	Monday	our Year 7 pupils who are considering leadership roles
Tuesday	local and national leaders of government	Wednesday	our school's governors
Thursday	the Diocese of Worcester education team	Friday	authors and illustrators of children's books

Picture of the Week



Fishing in River Sirajgong, Bangladesh.

Algae accumulates and fills the whole river, then many boatmen fish in the water.

The river is filled with green moss.

Ashraful Islam



The Governing Body of Walkwood Academy Trust have given much thought to the possibility of joining a multi-academy trust. The process began pre-pandemic, but recommenced in the last 12 months.

After due consideration, the decision was to begin a process that could lead to joining [The Spire Church of England Learning Trust](#).

The majority of issues may well be answered in the [frequently asked questions](#), which should be referred to before responding to this survey. The QR code opposite will take you to the consultation, as will [this link](#).



The formal consultation will be open until 9am on Friday 16th June.



Pre-loved book donations

We are continually adding to our stock of books in Walkwood's library.

If you have a book or two at home that is no longer being read regularly and you would like to donate it, we shall gladly receive any books. Please ask your child to put their name on a piece of paper and place that inside the cover of the book; then place the book in the box by the red post box. We shall add 4 points for each book brought in.





New 'Pupil Leadership Team' for 2023-2024

This Friday, 9th June, we will be launching the new 'Pupil Leadership Team for 2023-2024. Current year 7 pupils will have the opportunity to apply for a role, ready for the new academic year in September. The aim of the 'PLT' is to empower pupils to become ambassadors for the school, take on leadership roles and to be involved in our school community.

This will be launched during an assembly and pupils will be advised of the job descriptions for each available role, which include Head Boy and Head Girl, College Captains and Vice Captains and a team of Prefects.

The closing date for applications is Friday 7th July.

All applications will be completed online via a link. This link can be accessed via a personal student school email, the Insider and school website via a link and QR code. Shortlisting will take place between 10th - 14th July. By the 16th of July pupils will be aware of their success and will be invited to take part in the 'Hustings' part of the process. It is important that the newly elected 'Pupil Leadership Team' represents the pupils in our school and so the 'Hustings' is their chance to have their say. Those shortlisted for roles will give a speech before their peers stating why they should be elected.

Wednesday 6th/ Thursday 7th September will see the first of the Hustings for College Captains.

Friday 8th September will see the Hustings for Head Boy and Girl.

I am sure you will join me in wishing all the pupil's good luck in the application process. The 'Pupil Leadership Team' will then be announced during a whole school assembly later in September.

Miss Reeves

PLT Coordinator



The work undertaken by the 'PLT' has been invaluable and a great success. Here are some of the views from the team:

I love being on the pupil leadership team. It has made me a lot more confident as I get to participate more in jobs and activities around the school. I love doing my duty on my set day and get to show parents around. It has been an unforgettable experience.

"The pupil leadership team has been a great experience and has given everyone involved many more opportunities to share their thoughts and ideas for the school."

Being on the pupil leadership team has been fun and we have been able to help out at parents evenings and other school



https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DLKbF_K2skm4Vr4y1pECGTRo_y6Tg31BkHdcOGMuP4pUNEo4RlhNNjR5SUhVSkJRRDg1WVZMVVZGNy4u

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

OMETV

OmeTV is another app which encourages users to 'make friends from all around the world'. People can search profiles by age and gender and send direct messages or photos. However, the app is primarily used for video calls. When using this feature, users are connected at random, although only their country of origin is shared. People can then either choose to move on to the next chat or can stay in that call for as long as they wish.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STRANGER DANGER

While young people generally know not to share personal information with strangers, the safety of their home and the distance offered by technology can make them feel more relaxed and uninhibited. Combined with the fact that OmeTV provides a webcam function – and anonymity – it can be an easy way for groomers to gather information, ask to connect on other social media platforms, or potentially request intimate images.

EXPLICIT CONTENT

Unfortunately, there are a lot of users who use OmeTV's webcam feature to expose themselves. While users can swipe to the next call quickly, it's not something that can be filtered out completely – so young people could easily be exposed to highly inappropriate images.

REPORTING DIFFICULTIES

When video calling, the other person's username is often hidden and therefore they can't be blocked or reported. There is a 'Report Abuse' tab at the bottom of the video, but the speed with which calls can swipe past can make it difficult to use this system. There's also little evidence to suggest that offenders are dealt with appropriately (through warnings or account termination, for example).

AGE VERIFICATION

17+

Although the site states that users must be 18 or over, there's no way to verify this, and it's easy to use an existing Facebook account to log in, or for users to set up a fake account. To access OmeTV, users simply need to press a button confirming they're an adult, which means it's likely many users will claim to be much older than they are.

VIDEO RECORDING

REC

When young people are chatting live on a webcam, they could be coaxed by others into doing things they don't feel comfortable doing, or persuaded that no harm can come from it. What they don't know is whether the other user is recording them. These videos could then be used to embarrass or blackmail them, or they could be kept by a potential online predator.

LIMITED PARENTAL CONTROLS

OmeTV has very limited parental controls. There is a 'safe mode', but this is of little practical use given that explicit content isn't filtered out. While the site lists several rules and regulations, there are few apparent ways to enforce them or restrict what users can see or do.

Advice for Parents & Carers

FOLLOW AGE GUIDELINES

OmeTV has an age recommendation of 18 and over, which suggests the developers are aware that it may facilitate adult content. It's important to adhere to the age guidelines and try to restrict access to the app for younger users. If you find it on an under-18's device, talk to them about the potential risks and explain why they probably shouldn't be using it.

DISCOURAGE CHATS WITH STRANGERS

Remind your child of the dangers of talking to strangers online. The anonymity OmeTV offers, plus its webcam function, makes it an attractive place for groomers to network and create inappropriate content. Explain that your child may see something which upsets them – and that it's a crime for anyone to expose themselves to a young person online.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



DISCUSS THE DANGERS

Maintain communication with your child about online safety and empower them to protect themselves. Simply deleting an app from their device impacts their independence and can cause resentment. Instead, highlight news reports of predators exposing themselves to children on the internet, and discuss what they should do if asked for explicit images.

ENABLE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Regardless of how responsible your child may be, it's essential to use parental controls on their device. It's easy for young people to get lured in by others, feeling they've built up a trusting friendship and being coaxed into doing things they wouldn't normally do. Ensure in-app purchases aren't enabled on their device, and emphasise that they can always talk to you about anything online that worries them.

NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: https://www.nola.com/news/crime_police/man-exposes-himself-to-marrero-middle-school-students-in-online-chat-tv-station-reports/article_c10b8e40-0019-51b7-acad-6f62af129bb.html
<https://www.wrtv.com/news/local-news/crime/indy-man-sentenced-to-15-years-for-owning-two-phones-with-nearly-2-000-files-of-children-being-sexually-abused/> | <https://ome.tv/rules/>



epraise this week



Top Readers for 07.05.2023 — 07.06.2023

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

Hope Ivers (Year 6 BKKH) - who has read 610,741 words

Top Boy

Mikaaiyl Farhan (Year 7 BAFA) - who has read 200,442 words

Well done 3 merits will be awarded to you both.

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



TODAY I GIVE MYSELF
PERMISSION TO REST,
RELAX, AND READ.

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>



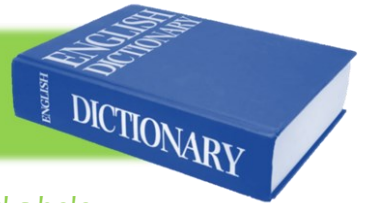
Reading matters



Keep up the daily reading at home please, pupils. Our average reading minutes on Renaissance always drop a little after a school holiday, and this week it is no different. Pupils should be reading at home daily, for a minimum of 20 minutes. This will help our pupils to succeed in all subjects of the curriculum, both now and for years to come.



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.

identify

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



Summer Term 2

	Lunchtime 12.15 – 1.00pm	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Monday	Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI Recorder Club, Music Room, GLA, 12.35pm-1pm. All welcome. We have instruments for those that need them. See Mrs Laishley to sign up.	Monday – KS2 tennis June 12 th June– 10 th July Sign up only. 3.30-4.45 Meet outside on KS3 playground by changing room doors.
Tuesday	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.	Keyboard Club: <u>3.30pm - 4.15pm</u> . This Club will continue for students currently signed up in preparation for our Summer Concert beginning on 6 th June. However, please note there will be no club on Tuesday 13 th June and Tuesday 20 th June. Last session will be Tuesday 4 th July. Tuesday – Year 5 multi sports run by Redditch United 13 June to 11 July Sign up only. 3.30-4.45 Meet outside on KS3 playground by changing room doors.
Wednesday	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	Ukulele Club: <u>3.30pm - 4.15pm</u> . This Club will continue for students currently signed up in preparation for our Summer Concert beginning on 7 th June. Last session will be Wednesday 28 th June. Wednesday – KS2 and KS3 rounders 21 st June – 12 th July. Sign up only. 3.30-4.45 Meet outside on KS3 playground by changing room doors.
Thursday	Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI Science Homework Drop In – Computing (Year 7 and 8)	Thursday – KS2 and KS3 cricket (24 pupils) 15 th June – 13 th July (Excluding: 22 nd June- parents eve, 29 th June- staff training) Sign up only. 3.30-4.45 Meet outside on KS3 playground by changing room doors.
Friday	Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/PWE	



Trips and Visits



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

• Fully booked

* Current estimated cost



	Date	Event
2023-24	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
	Monday 4 September	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 5 September	First day of the Autumn Term
	Monday 30 October to Friday 3 November	Half Term
	Thursday 21 December	End of Term
	Monday 8 January	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 9 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Monday 12 – Friday 16 February	Half Term
	Friday 22 March	End of Term
	Monday 8 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 9 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Monday 27 – Friday 31 May	Half Term
	Friday 19 July	End of Term