

Dear Parents and Carers,



There has been a smooth start to the new school year. The first day included photographs for all pupils, proofs will be sent out once received back from the photographers, and Year 5 went to The Bridge Church for a welcome service led by Father Glenn. Wednesday involved Hustings where Year 8 pupils who wish to be part of the Pupil Leadership Team gave a speech to seek support from their peers, and the pupils and staff then voted. The results were part of the assembly on Friday afternoon. The voting was for College Captains and Vice Captains, as well as for Head Girl and Head Boy.



We have been spending money on the school site, having 'saved up' over the last three years or so. New chairs and tables are now in classrooms, with many places also having new carpet (the old ones were fraying or would no longer stick down). The playground fences have been replaced with much stronger mere-mesh, so the hope is that these contain the footballs at lunch much better! The playground for the older children was not quite finished at the start of the week, and they have been very understanding and patient with the temporary fencing.

Within this Insider you will find some headlines from our Ofsted inspection in mid-June. As you will not be surprised to learn, Walkwood continues to be a good school. There are many positives within the report, particularly how the ethos of the school supports pupils (as well as staff), the effect being that pupils are safe and are achieving well because the teachers care and the children know they are supported. As usual, there are things to develop further, and these are matters which we offered to the inspector and were agreed, knowing that life is a journey of change. You can access the full report. We are very pleased that this report reflects the school as we know it.



How abundant are the good things that you have stored up for those who follow you, that you bestow in the sight of all.

Psalm 31: 19

This week's theme was: New Beginnings

God makes everything happen at the right time. Yet none of us can ever fully understand all he has done, and he puts questions in our minds about the past and the future.

Ecclesiastes 3:11, CEV

Dear Lord,
You bring new and exciting things into our lives. You gives us adventures and take us on journeys that we can not imagine. We pray that this year is a new journey for us, that can be full of exciting times. A time where we can come to fully rely on you and your Spirit to take us where you want us to go. Let your Spirit guide us as we start this new year.

Amen.

Attendance Every School Day Counts

Perfection!	0 days off school
Excellent	2 days off school each year
Good	5 days off school each year
Concern	10 days off school each year
Very concerned	20 days off school each year
Extreme concern	30 days off school each year



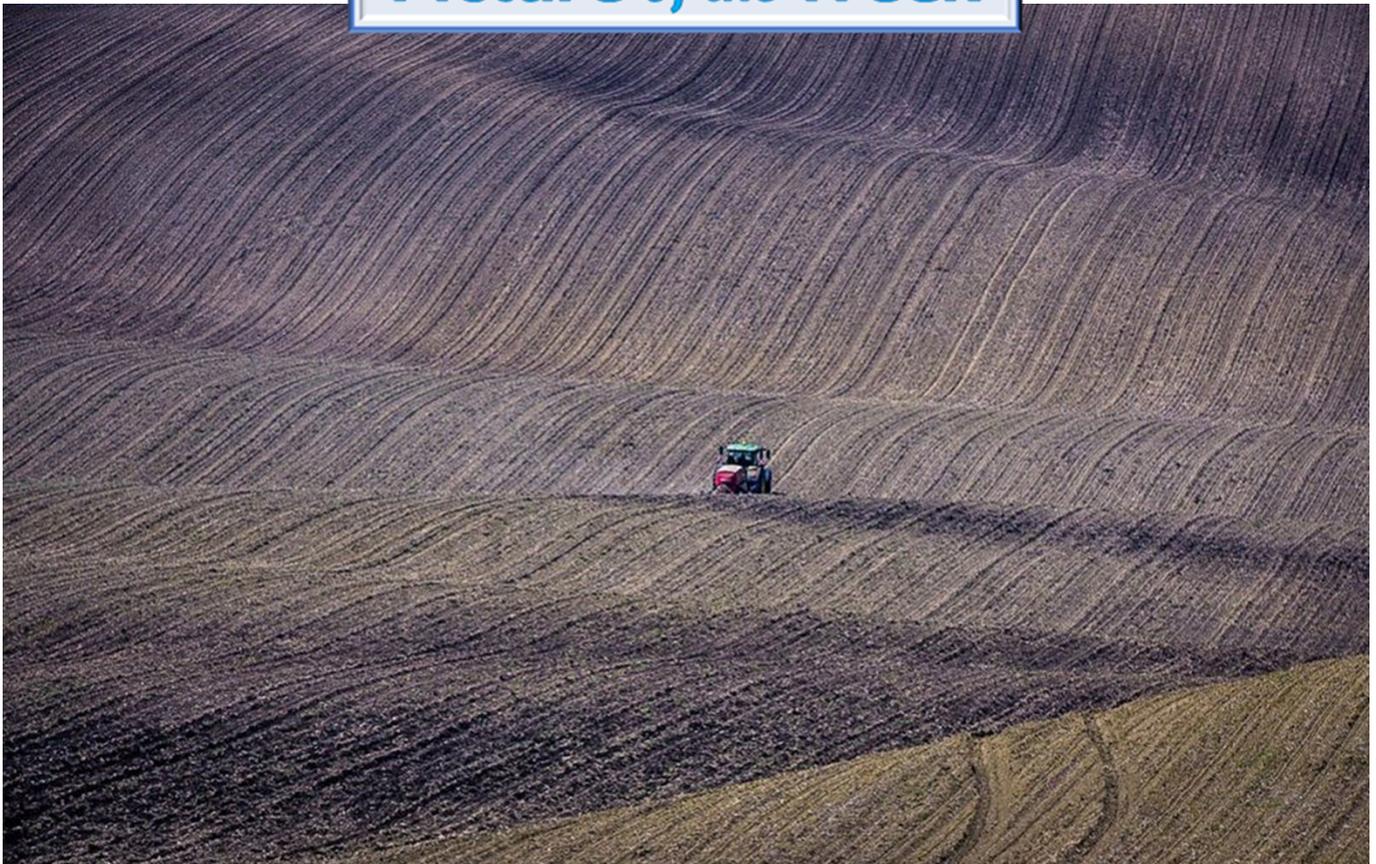
For the week ahead

The Fruit of Faith is:	Friendliness	When others are happy, be happy with them, and when they are sad, be sad. Be friendly with everyone. Don't be proud and feel that you are smarter than others. Make friends with ordinary people. Don't mistreat someone who has mistreated you. But try to earn the respect of others. <i>Romans 12: 15-17</i>
The assembly theme will be:	Trust	We are saved by trusting. And trusting means looking forward to getting something we don't yet have. <i>Romans 8: 24, TLB</i>

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

The weekend	farmers who shall be bringing in the harvest.	Monday	people who are in hospital for extended stays.
Tuesday	parents of children who have started at a new school.	Wednesday	Police Officers and Police Community Liaison Officers.
Thursday	Redditch's Member of Parliament, Rachel Maclean	Friday	rest for our pupils who complete their first <i>full</i> week.

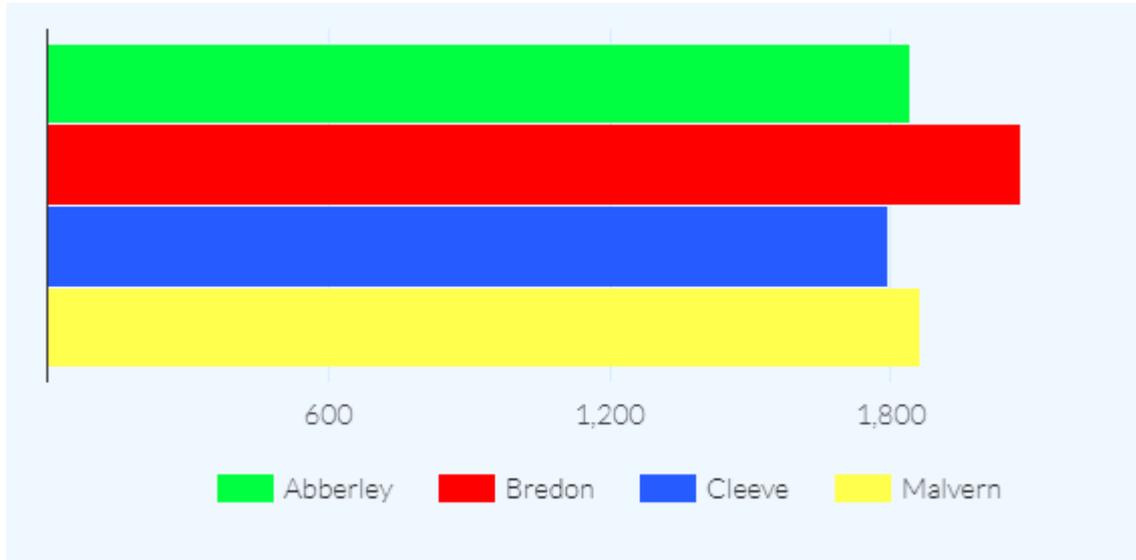
Picture of the Week



Preparing the ground



epraise



Inspection headlines

The school's ethos and values are central to every aspect of school life.

Relationships between pupils and teachers are strong. Pupils enjoy their learning. They say that their teachers care about them and help them to do their best.

Pupils feel safe at school. They are taught how to keep themselves safe online and in the community. They are confident that if they have a problem there will be someone to talk to and they will always receive help.

Staff know pupils well and are quick to identify when anyone might be at risk of harm. Staff work closely with families to provide support.



The organisation of tutor groups helps pupils to make friendships with pupils across the school. Because of this, pupils build strong relationships with their peers.

Teachers have strong subject knowledge and know the needs of their pupils well. They create purposeful learning environments for pupils. Teachers also use a range of routines to help pupils learn.



...there is very little bullying. When it does happen, staff deal with it quickly and effectively.

Leaders have created a curriculum that is ambitious for all pupils. Leaders want all pupils to 'love to learn, learn to live and live to love'. Leaders use these values as the basis for curriculum design.

Reading is a priority for leaders. They have ensured that it is a feature in all subjects. As a result, pupils read widely and often.

Staff say that leaders and those responsible for governance take their well-being seriously. They appreciate the care they receive, and the way leaders consider their workload.

Subject leaders have thought carefully about what pupils should know, do and understand in each subject. They have sequenced the curriculum to make sure that new knowledge builds on prior learning.

[The full report is available here.](#)

Year 5: Getting to school



New pupils and parents will have noticed how busy the pathways outside school can be. However, we know that as the weeks go on, fewer parents and carers meet their children at the school gates.

There are footpaths to our school from Morton Stanley Park. A crossing patrol operates at the lower end of Feckenham Road, while our Principal escorts children on the pedestrian crossing in front of school.



When pupils are ready for a bit of independence, consider letting them walk to your car at Morton Stanley Park.

Parking

We appreciate the additional road safety when the zig-zag lines are kept clear of parked cars at all times of the day. This is for the safety of our children as they cross the road, and for other car users



as they enter and exit the school site. Thank you for your consideration in this.

Can I please ask parents to park courteously and not to block driveways of our neighbours, nor to park on both sides of the road in the Scott Road cul-de-sac.

Thank you.



Some of the advice from Oxford Owl is summarised here:

1. Keep reading to your child as long as possible

At this age, it is tempting to leave your child to get on with reading on their own. But hearing a story read to them is still very important for developing their comprehension.

Here are a few reasons why:

- Hearing a story read out loud means that your child can have access to books that may as yet be too challenging to read alone. These challenging texts will help to develop their comprehension skills.
- Left to their own devices, your child might tend to pick lots of similar texts to read (for example, books from a favourite author or magazine). Reading aloud to your child gives you the opportunity to introduce them to books that they might not choose to pick up themselves, exposing them to a wider range of stories and types of text.
- Listening to an adult read gives a model for fluent reading. It allows your child to hear how a skilled reader uses expression, bringing the words on the page to life.
- Reading together gives your child time to discuss ideas and share opinions about what you're reading. This is great, as it helps children to think deeply about a text and practise explaining their opinions.

2. Listen to your child read

Even though your child is likely to be an independent reader by Year 5, it's still helpful to listen to them read. It means you can help them with unfamiliar words and talk together to make sure that they understand the book.

3. Read a wide variety of books

Encourage your child to choose texts with a variety of formats and layouts. Lots of children have favourite authors and genres, but it can be helpful to expand into new types of books every so often – and be sure not to neglect non-fiction texts, such as magazine articles, brochures, adverts, newspaper columns, signs, and notices.

Showing your child lots of kinds of texts will give them experience reading in a real-world context and will also prepare them for national assessments where they are expected to engage with a wide variety of text types. Make sure you talk together about how the texts are presented – the writing will look different depending on what type of text it is from.

Morning arrivals

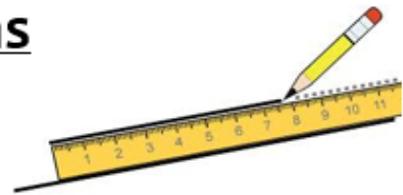
Morning arrivals: the earliest that pupils can be at school is 8.30am. This is because Walkwood staff begin playground supervision at this time. Thank you for your understanding.



Equipment for lessons

Compulsory items:

- Pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Pencil sharpener
- Colouring pencils
- A notebook
- Scientific calculator (Year 7 and 8 only)
- A pair of compasses (Year 7 and 8 only)



The following items are not compulsory but are useful:

- Whiteboard pen
- Glue stick
- Pink highlighter
- Green highlighter
- Protractor





Teaching groups and sets for 2023-24

Pupils attend the majority of their lessons in teaching groups. Teaching groups are mixed ability.

Sets for Maths, English and Science are organised according to teacher recommendations and analysis of pupils' performance during the last academic year. Pupils are placed in sets with others currently working at a similar ability stage to them. There may be movement between sets and teaching groups over the course of the year.

Teaching groups

Year 5 will be taught in six teaching groups. These groups are created based on information passed to us during our transition meetings with first schools.

Year 6, 7 and 8 will be taught in six teaching groups. From year to year, we do make changes to these with the pupils' learning at the heart of all decisions.

Teaching groups are called C1, C2, C3, E1, E2 and E3.

English and maths groups

Year 5 will be taught in their six mixed ability teaching groups initially. We will then use teacher assessment and GL data to organise them into seven groups. These will be comprised of a higher group, five mixed ability groups and a lower group. The whole year group will have maths and English at the same time.

Year 6 will be taught in seven groups. These will be comprised of a higher group, five mixed ability groups and a lower group. The whole year group will have maths and English at the same time.

For years 5 and 6, the seven maths and English groups will be named as follows:

Maths- Archimedes, Aristotle, Fibonacci, Newton, Pascal, Pythagoras, Turing.

English- Austen, Bronte, Dahl, Dickens, Orwell, Shakespeare, Shelley.

In both years 7 and 8, pupils will be split into two halves (c and e) and each side of the year will be taught in three ability groups, sets 1 to 3.

Science groups

Science groups have been arranged as follows:

Year 5 and 6 will be taught science in their mixed ability teaching groups.

Year 7 and 8 will be split into two halves (c and e) and each side of the year will be taught in ability sets 1-3.



Clubs and Activities



Autumn Term 1

	Before School 7:45am – 8:45am	Lunchtime 12.15 – 1.00pm	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Monday		Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI	
Tuesday		Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI	
Wednesday		Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI	<p><u>Year 8 boys football trials (LWO)</u> Sign up group for trials next week via Arbor link sent to parents/guardians. (Latest sign-up Tuesday 12th September)</p> <p><u>Girls Cricket Club</u> Limited spaces available for Cricket coaching with Worcestershire Dynamos. Please sign up for the club via the Arbor link. Starts Wednesday 13th September for 7 weeks (3.30 – 4.45)</p>
Thursday		<p>Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI</p> <p>Choir will take place during 2nd sitting 12:35 - 1pm All members will need to collect a lunch pass from Mrs Laishley.</p>	<p><u>Year 6 boys football trials (CHU)</u> Sign up group for trials next week via Arbor link sent to parents/guardians. (Latest sign-up Tuesday 12th September)</p> <p><u>Year 7 boys football trials (PMI)</u> Sign up group for trials next week via Arbor link sent to parents/guardians. (Latest sign-up Tuesday 12th September)</p>
Friday		Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/LTI	



Walkwood

Church of England  Middle School

Appointment of a School First Aider and Administrative Assistant

We are a school that cares for its children and staff, and are seeking an appointment for someone who will help sustain this approach. The Governors of this Church of England academy require a School First Aider and Administrative Assistant, who will provide first aid to children and adults, overseeing the care of pupils and others who are unwell or injured, deciding on the appropriate course of action.

The successful candidate will be expected to carry out assigned duties with a minimum of supervision and have the ability to use their own initiative and work to schedules and deadlines. Supporting administrative staff will also be required.

For details, please email recruitment@walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk, from where full details will be sent of the post and the school, or visit our website www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk. Application deadline: 9am on Monday 25th September 2023. CV's will not be accepted.

Walkwood Church of England Middle School is committed to the protection and safety of children and young people. An enhanced DBS check will be expected from the successful candidate.

It's time to talk **ATTENDANCE**

POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION



DO YOU LOVE
ART AND HAVE
A KNACK FOR
CREATIVITY?



The attendance poster design competition is to promote the importance of regular school attendance.

There will be 2 goody bag prizes, including safari park tickets awarded for the best posters designed:

- by a pupil aged 9 and under.
- by a pupil aged 10 and above.

The winning designs, plus others will be used by *Worcestershire Children First* in school attendance promotions.



Scan me



for more information

WORCESTERSHIRE
CHILDREN FIRST



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>



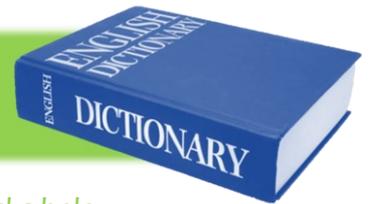
Reading matters



A reminder to all our parents that students are expected to read for twenty minutes per evening at home, in order to help maximise their progress across all subject areas. Within the next few days, new pupils will be given a login to Accelerated Reader, our online reading platform, so that they quiz on the books they read at home. More information on this will follow; in the meantime, please continue to support your child by encouraging them to read at home daily for twenty minutes. A mixture of silent reading and reading aloud to an adult is perfect.



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.

advocate

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.*



Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2023	Monday 18 September	SATs information evening 6.00 - 7.00 pm
	Thursday 19 October	Open Evening 6:45-8:15 pm
3	Thursday 26 October	Year 5 Parents' Evening 4:00 - 7:00 pm
	Monday 30 October to Friday 3 November	Half Term
	Monday 4 December	Parents' English KS2 Workshop 6:30 - 7:30 pm
2024	Thursday 21 December	End of Term
	Monday 8 January	Staff Development Day
	Thursday 25 January	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4:00 - 7:00 pm
	Tuesday 9 January	First day of the Spring Term
4	Wednesday 31 January	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4:00 - 7:00 pm
	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
	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	Half Term
Friday 19 July	End of Term	