

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is great until the point when . . . it isn't. That has been a thought this week as our IT contractors have worked with ePraise to work out why some pupil logins have not been working. Additionally, the main router decided to have a sulk and would not 'talk' to a particular part of the school. Add to this that the hall projector would work for a small amount of time before deciding it wanted a rest, whether it was being used for a lesson or not. A persistent pastoral approach, which we would apply for our pupils, has been applied to the tech.



Our pastoral care system of tutors, pastoral managers and college leaders works with the pupil as the central part of our thinking. The communication to you as parents and carers is timely because of the work of these staff. Naturally, not everything goes according to plan, and we recognise that there are times when what we can accomplish is not what some parents or carers would want. That may not always meet every person's expectation but, much more often than not, it meets a pupil's need.

Let your work be manifest to your servants and your glorious power to their children.

Psalm 90:16

The Department for Education has announced this week the release of additional funding for this school year. We shall know how much this will be for our school in a couple of weeks' time. We can then work out if we need to carry this forward to next year to pay staff, or whether we can continue our plans to improve aspects of the school site. At the time of writing, there is no change to the lack of a fully-funded pay award for staff next year.



The process of preparation for moving to new schools for our Year 8 pupils has begun. Our pastoral staff liaise with their counterparts in high schools. This term also sees us begin conversations with the first and primary schools who will send us pupils for the new Year 5. Communication is key, and those who have been offered places at Walkwood for next September have already had a letter from us.

Rev. C. Leach, *Principal*

This week's theme was: The greatness of God

He has shown you his greatness among the nations. Exalt him in the presence of every living being, because he is our Lord and his is our god; he is our Father and he is God for ever.

Tobit 13:3

Lord,
You are great. Greater than any of us. We praise your holy name. Your love and power go beyond our understanding but your greatness is clear. That you are the everlasting God, that we can always rely on. Let your greatness rule within our lives and overpower all that is wrong in this world. In your holy name.

Amen.

Whole school Attendance

94.68%

Whole School Target

95.6%

17/04/2023 to 21/04/2023

Year 5 96.06%

Year 6 94.57%

Year 7 93.22%

Year 8 91.33%



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:	Putting others first	Don't be jealous or proud, but be humble and consider others more important than yourselves. <i>Philippians 2:3 Reference</i>

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

The weekend	A solution to the conflict in Sudan	Monday	British military forces on deployment overseas
Tuesday	Our Year 8 pupils in their final term with us	Wednesday	Year 6 pupils as they prepare for the SATs
Thursday	The people of Ukraine	Friday	HM The King as he prepares for his Coronation

Picture of the Week



Portobello
Beach, Scotland.

*Look carefully at
the order of the
colours in the
two rainbows*

Robert Cook

Communicating with school: guidance to parents and carers



We recognise that there exists for each of the year groups a Facebook group. Our school is not a member of these groups, although we are able to communicate with the moderators. As such, we are aware that there have been posts that have:

- ✗ complained about individual members of staff;
- ✗ complained about the school;
- ✗ made inappropriate comments about members of staff, other parents or pupils;
- ✗ drawn attention to behaviour incidents or alleged conduct of pupils.

Our home-school communications protocol sets clear expectations for staff and parents about how we can communicate directly.

It is our sincere hope that parents and carers are able to abide by these guidelines so that you can help us model safe, responsible and appropriate social media use for our pupils. This includes voicing opinions about the school in a way that respects the hard work, dedication and professionalism of our staff, and speaking to or about other parents and children in a way that is respectful and appropriate.

In summary, and in light of recent troubling posts which have not always compared well with what is happening within school, the following is offered in the spirit of mutual cooperative working.

Complaints and concerns

There may be times where, as a parent or carer, you do not agree with something the school is doing, or where you may have specific concerns. We welcome your feedback, and the opportunity to address any concerns you may have.



The most appropriate way to [raise concerns](#) is [directly with our school](#). Airing complaints or negative opinions on social media does not help us to address the issue in the most constructive way. You can telephone and speak to a member of staff, or book an appointment to speak with a member of the pastoral team face-to-face.

Posting about other parents and pupils

We know that social media is an important way for many in our community to share their day-to-day lives and special events with others. However, we ask that parents and carers think carefully before posting things on social media that contain the names or images of other parents and children.

The school has a responsibility to keep pupils safe online, and posting information about children other than your own (including pictures or videos), without the consent of their parents, can present a safeguarding concern.

Behaviour incidents

We also ask that, if you become aware of a behaviour incident, or have any concerns about the behaviour of groups of pupils or specific pupils, you please [raise these with us directly](#). Posting about incidents or behaviour concerns on social media limits the school's ability to conduct a full and fair investigation.

We appreciate your help in providing a supportive, respectful environment for all of our pupils, parents and staff.



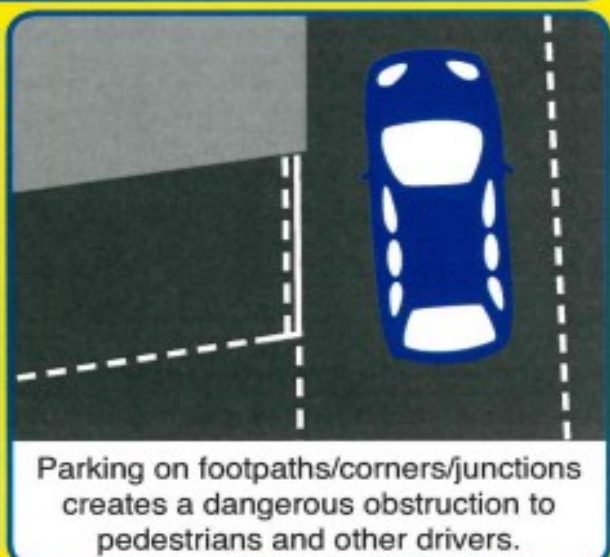
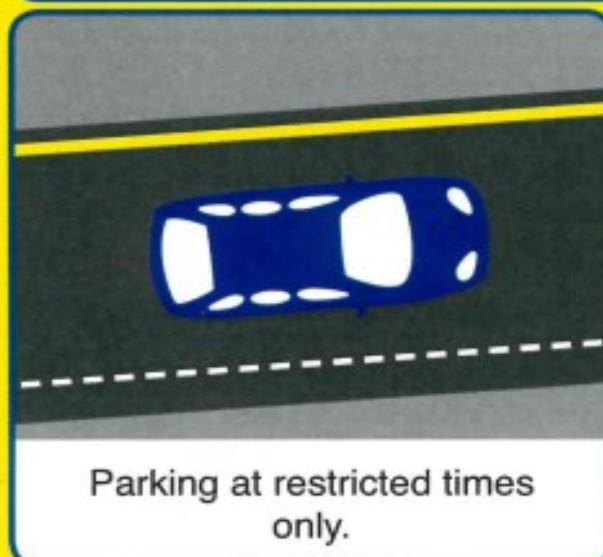
Be aware:

Police and traffic enforcement officers are now issuing penalty tickets

Think before you park!

Illegal and irresponsible parking can put lives in danger.

Remember the following:



If you choose to ignore this advice you may be prosecuted.

The safety of pedestrians is far more important than finding a close spot to leave your car. Always think before you park.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WIZZ

AGE RESTRICTION
12+

12+ App Store
Teen Google Playstore

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Wizz is a networking app which allows users to connect and chat with other people around the world. Its principle is similar to a dating platform: users have a profile with up to three photos, along with optional interests and hobbies tags. This allows other like-minded people to be recommended in searches. If a user likes what they see on someone's profile, they can initiate conversation through the instant message feature; otherwise they swipe on. The app does use age verification technology when an account is created and groups users by age.

OVER-SHARING

Immediately after setting up an account, users start receiving friend requests (mainly from the opposite gender). For many young people, this will be exciting and a boost to their confidence. As young people tend to be more trusting online and may believe what others tell them, however, this can lull them into dropping their guard and revealing personal information to strangers.

CATFISHING AND PREDATORS

Wizz uses Yoti, a digital ID system, to verify users' age. The AI only detects approximate age, though - so an older person who looks younger could be grouped with teens (or vice versa). Also, profile pics on Wizz don't have to match the face of the person who did the initial age verification: it would be fairly easy to create a fake account using another person's photos with a made-up name and age.

EXPLICIT CONTENT

During our research, conversations on Wizz very quickly turned sexual. Users frequently suggested 'taking it to Snap' (Snapchat's disappearing image feature can make it conducive to sharing explicit selfies), connecting on other social media, swapping nude or semi-nude pictures, or holding sexual chats. These users created an impression of the platform being sleazy and unsafe for young people.

INTIMATE IMAGES

It's not unheard of for young people to be coaxed into sending suggestive images of themselves over apps of this kind. Given that Wizz connects users with strangers, who may not be honest about their real intentions, a teenager might conceivably be persuaded to share sexually suggestive selfies by someone who they believed they had a trusting relationship with.

NO PARENTAL CONTROLS

The app claims to provide a secure and inclusive environment, but our researcher couldn't find any parental controls or safety features in evidence. If you report another user for inappropriate behaviour, you are offered the option to block them - but there's no indication as to whether the block has actually been successful, and there was no follow-up contact from the developers.

SECRETS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Wizz sent our researcher occasional 'mystery' friend requests from a blurred-out profile. To discover the sender's identity, users can either watch a video (usually an ad for a game or app) or take out a monthly subscription. Cynics might suggest this could be a way to exploit young people's curiosity into making them pay for the app, and that the 'secret admirers' are bots rather than real people.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK IT OUT

If your child has downloaded Wizz, talk to them about why they like it and who've chatted with. Have they shared any personal details with this person or connected with them on other social media platforms? Refresh your child's memory of the various risks that can arise from engaging with strangers online and get them to consider using a similar app with more robust safety features.

BE SUPPORTIVE

When connecting with strangers on apps like Wizz, seemingly innocent chats can quickly progress to become sexually explicit and lead to nudes being sent. Make sure your child knows to come to you if they're uncomfortable about anything they've been sent or been asked to send. If they've already shared something that they now regret, reassure them that you'll support them no matter what.

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Young people are far more inclined to see the good in others; they often overlook the fact that scammers set up fake accounts on apps like this with the intention of getting money or personal data. Remind them that not everyone online is who they claim to be, how easy it is for someone to create a bogus profile, and why it's vital to think twice about sharing anything on networking apps.

KEEP THINGS TRANSPARENT

It might feel awkward, but regular chats about your child's online life can be beneficial. If they seem suddenly anxious or secretive around their phone or tablet, they may have something they need to get off their chest. You could also consider not allowing digital devices in their bedroom, especially overnight - that's when a lot of the riskier conversations on apps like Wizz tend to take place.

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.



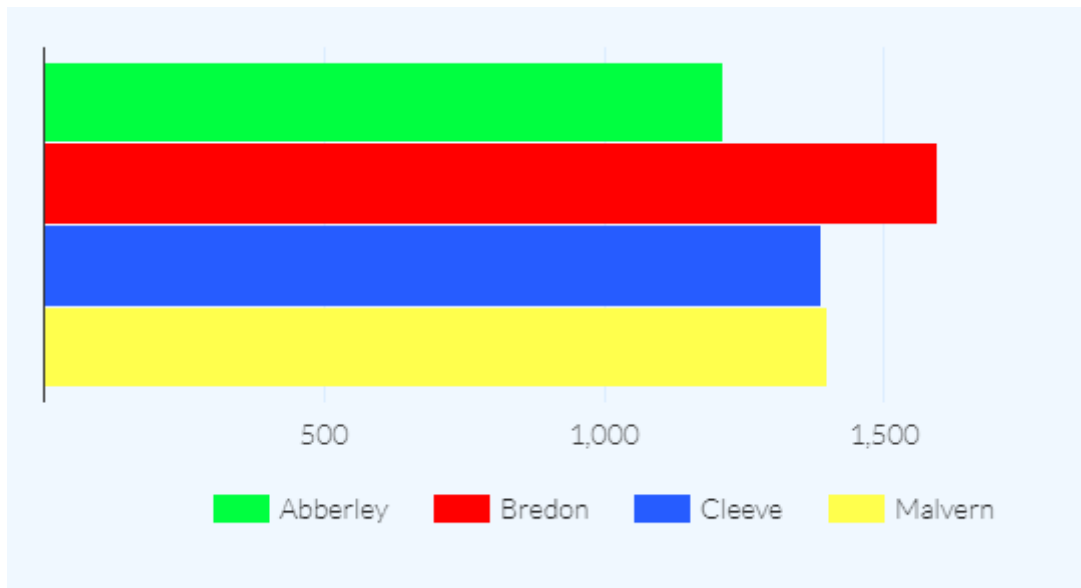
National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=info.wizzapp&hl=en_GB&gl=US | <https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/sexual-offences/sexortion/>



epraise this week



Top Readers for 26.03.2023— 26.04.2023



Congratulations to:

Top Girl

Eden Sherwood (Year 5 CPJE) - who has read 356,033 words.

Top Boy

Dylan Arkell (Year 7 ALHA) - who has read 357,156 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

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

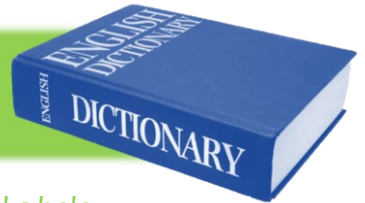


Did you know that research has found that the strongest factor affecting pupils' science scores is reading comprehension (EEF, 2017)?

Please remember our expectation for our students to read daily for between 20 and 30 minutes. Some of that reading will need to be done outside of school. Pupils will benefit from reading aloud daily to an adult (even if for a short time), right the way up to year 8 and is not just an exercise useful to younger children.



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.

serpentine

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 1

	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, 12.45pm-1pm. All welcome. We have instruments for those that need them. See Mrs Laishley to sign up.	Year 6 and 7 boys and girls cricket club 3.30 - 4.45. Meet at the KS3 playground entrance to changing room. Sign up only. (PMC/RDJ) starts Monday 24 th April
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: 3.30pm - 4.15pm . Limited spaces. Sign up via Arbor required. Priority given to those who did not gain a place last term; participants will be informed if they have been successful in gaining a place. Starts 18 th April
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: 3.30pm - 4.15pm . Limited spaces, sign up via Arbor required. Priority given to those who did not gain a place last term; participants will be informed if they have been successful in gaining a place. Starts 19 th April Redditch United multi sports club. 3.30-4.45 Meet at the KS3 playground entrance to changing room. Sign up only – spaces are full- please email the office to be put on waiting list. Starts 26 th April.
Thursday	Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI Science Homework Drop In – Computing (Year 7 and 8)	KS2 and KS3 athletics club 3.30-4.45 Meet at the KS3 playground entrance to changing room. Sign up only Starts 11 th May for 2 weeks only. KS3 rugby club 3.30-4.45 for 2 weeks – 4 th May and 11 th May (Moved from a Monday, places already allocated from last term) Meet at the KS3 playground entrance to changing room
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
June	6	Blackwell Adventure	✓		£42
30/06 - 03/07/2023	7	Osmington Bay		✓	£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 7 June 6c1 & 6c2

Thu 8 June 6c3 & 6e1

Fri 9 June 6e2 & 6e3



Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2023	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
	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
2024	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