

Dear Parents and Carers,



Our Green & White day was to celebrate the birthday of the Prophet Mohammad (Peace be upon Him). There was plenty of tinned goods which we collected in school, before arranging for it to be forwarded to a local charity for distribution. In effect, this was our harvest, as fruit of the land was offered to those in need, and as we acknowledge that it is God's creation, and his generosity, that we offer back:



He has not left himself without a witness in doing good - giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, and filling you with food and your hearts with joy.

Acts 14: 17

This week had the launch of the residential trips: Brecon Beacons for Year 5, Osmington Bay for Year 7, and the ski trip in 2025 for years 5-7. There will be day reward trips for Years 6 and 8 this year. Not all year groups have residential as we are aware of the cost to parents and carers who have children in more than one year group.

After our recent inspection, the report made positive and accurate comments about the pastoral care that our pupils receive.

Pupils feel safe at school. They are confident that if they have a problem there will be someone to talk to, and they will always receive help.

They say that their teachers care about them and help them to do their best.

Staff work closely with families to provide support. They call upon an extensive range of external agencies to provide additional support when it is needed.

When referencing the rarity of bullying, the report noted that

when it does happen, staff deal with it quickly and effectively.

Our pastoral staff work tirelessly to ensure that parents and carers know what has happened and what has been done. We do have a [home-school communication protocol](#) that sets out how the school works. Just a reminder that staff have duties that are children-focused at the start of each day: it is better to arrange a telephone call, as school visits 'on the off chance' first thing in the morning are not always possible.

Rev. C. Leach, Principal



This week's theme was: World Smile Day

The Lord bless you and keep you:
The Lord make his face to shine
upon you, and be gracious to
you: The Lord lift up his counte-
nance upon you, and give you
peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

Lord, We lift up your name and
praise it, for you bring so much
joy into our lives. Thank you for
the blessings we have, for they
are countless. Let your Spirit fill
us with overwhelming happiness
that we can spread your joy to
those around us. Help us to see
the good in every day and be
thankful for your creation.

Amen.

Whole school Attendance

95.36%

Whole School Target

95.6%

18.09.2023 to 22.09.2023

Year 5 96.61%

Year 6 95.64%

Year 7 93.90%

Year 8 95.27%



For the week ahead

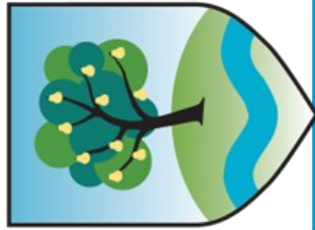
The Fruit of Faith is:	Friendliness	When others are happy, be happy with them, and when they are sad, be sad. Be friendly with everyone. Don't be proud and feel that you are smarter than others. Make friends with ordinary people. Don't mistreat someone who has mistreated you. But try to earn the respect of others. <i>Romans 12: 15-17</i>
The assembly theme will be:	Helping others	You obey the law of Christ when you offer each other a helping hand. If you think you are better than others, when you really aren't, you are wrong. <i>Galatians 6: 9, CEV</i>
We ask your thoughts and prayers in the week ahead for:		
The weekend	people who are short of the basics of life	Monday yourselves so we accept the difference between what we want and what we need
Tuesday	The Bishop of Dudley	Wednesday students have begun university
Thursday	our own use of energy	Friday farmers who gather in the harvest

Picture of the Week



Prerna Jain

The historic Red Fort is seen behind a street in Delhi, India.



Love to Learn;

Learn to Live;

Live to Love.



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

Walkwood

Church of England  Middle School



Open Evening

for prospective Y5 pupils and parents.

Thursday 19th October,
from 6.45 to 8.15pm

The current pupils, staff and Governors invite prospective Y5 pupils with their parents to our **Open Evening**. Tours of the school with current pupils will demonstrate the breadth of learning that a middle school can provide.



Outstanding

Our Church of England

inspection said:

- ✓ The inclusive vision of the school ensures that all children are supported in their personal well-being and academic achievement.
- ✓ Key to the school's vision is that every individual is created in the image of God, and from this belief springs the school's outstanding attention to individual needs, both academic and pastoral.



Parents' Days

Tuesday 24th and
Wednesday 25th October

Our **Parents' Days** will show the school in action. There will be a tour, with the opportunity to ask questions of pupils and staff. Places on the tour can be booked by contacting the school Reception on 543361, or emailing us at office@walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk.



- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.





Points Boosters

'Points Boosters' are designed to reward all pupils who have good attendance and those pupils who consistently uphold and adhere to the Walkwood Values.

How does it work?

Attendance Points Boosters

A 5-point booster will be awarded for every time your child has 100% Attendance for the period of the 2-week timetable- Week 1 & Week 2.

These points are awarded at the end of every Week 2

Zero Demerit Points Boosters

A reward for all pupils who continue to demonstrate excellent focus and behaviour in and out of lessons.

We are awarding a 5-point booster for every time your child has Zero Demerits during the period of the 2-week timetable- Week 1 & Week 2.

Again, these points are awarded at the end of every Week 2

At the end of each term (Autumn, Spring, Summer)

The Walkwood Celebration Assembly Prize Draw



The Attendance Goldfish Bowl

Pupils will be entered into the draw if their attendance is 97% and above

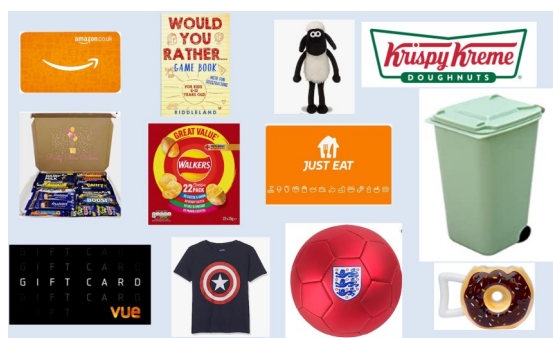


The Zero Demerit Goldfish Bowl

Pupils will be entered into the draw for having ZERO Demerits for the term

Fabulous prizes to be won

Autumn Prizes to include



As a school, we continue to evolve and adapt our systems as we search to motivate our pupils to want to attend school and give their best whilst they are here. As always, your support is greatly appreciated.



Fire drill

We had our first fire drill on Monday. The pupils were able to come out of the buildings using the appropriate routes, and lined up on the playground quickly and silently. Registers were taken and all were confirmed to be here.

Rev. Leach thanked the pupils and staff for a very well conducted evacuation.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about THE DANGERS OF VAPING

Data collected for ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) shows an increase in 11 to 17-year-olds experimenting with vaping: from 7.7% in 2022 to 11.6% in 2023. It's concerning that these age-restricted products are getting into the hands of under 18s as most contain nicotine, which can be detrimental to brain development and cause long-term addiction. Some schools have reported students having their focus in lessons affected by nicotine cravings; vaping in school toilets; and even trying vapes found in their local park. Raising awareness of the risks among young people could help to prevent these problems from escalating and reduce the number of young vapers.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

NICOTINE ADDICTION

Since they were initially developed to help people stop smoking, the vast majority of vape liquids contain nicotine. Not only is this a highly addictive stimulant, but it can also have detrimental effects on brain development in the under-25s. Nicotine can decrease the ability to pay attention, weaken impulse control, affect mood and increase the likelihood of substance addiction as an adult.

WHAT IS VAPING?

Vapes contain a liquid (vape juice/e-liquid) that is heated by a battery and evaporates, creating a chemical vapour which the user inhales. They can be disposable (once the liquid or battery runs out, the vape is thrown away) or rechargeable (the user replaces the liquid and recharges the battery on demand). Most vape liquids contain nicotine and other chemicals.

LACK OF AWARENESS

A proportion of young people tend to view vapes as harmless, mainly because of the products' appearance and the perception (often strengthened on social media) that "vaping is cool" and on trend. In many instances, young people don't fully appreciate the concept of addiction; that is, they aren't adequately aware of the risk of becoming hooked on nicotine before trying a vape.

POTENTIAL TOXICITY

Many vape liquids have been found to contain 'heavy' metals such as lead, tin, nickel and (in some cases) mercury – all of which are toxic. These metals often take the form of tiny shards inside a device's liquid tank, which are then inhaled into the body. Some media reports have suggested these metals are particularly prevalent in illegally imported vapes which don't comply with UK regulations.

UNCLEAR LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES

The liquids in vapes also contain solvents, which can create carcinogens at the point of evaporation. Vapes were only introduced into the UK in 2005 – and, because of the relatively short timeframe involved, there is insufficient medical evidence to assess the long-term harms that regular inhalation of these chemical fluids might have on the human body.

ATTRACTIVE PACKAGING

The packaging of many disposable vapes is very appealing to young people, frequently echoing the colours and flavours of the sweets or fizzy drinks they're used to buying. There's a relative lack of regulation around vape marketing, and vaping is often depicted positively on social media – which can lead young people to develop favourable views of vaping and overlook the possible harms.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

In the UK alone, around 1.3 million disposable vapes go to landfill every week. Due to such significant numbers of these products not being recycled, their components – a lithium battery and a chemical liquid – pose a toxic risk to the environment, the ecosystem and wildlife. Vapes are also predominantly made of plastic and metal; materials that, of course, do not naturally decompose.

WIDER HEALTH CONCERNS

Studies are already showing a link between vaping and oral health problems such as tooth decay and gum disease. This is because vaping reduces the amount of saliva in the mouth, while increasing bacteria – resulting in bad breath and a build-up of plaque. There are also concerns that, in some users, vaping could lead to the development of asthma, a persistent cough and breathing difficulties.

UNREGULATED VAPING PRODUCTS

The number of retailers willing to sell vapes to under-18s is a worry, as the chance of these products being unregulated (and therefore containing illegal chemicals and higher levels of nicotine) is high. A related concern is that the mechanisms inside unregulated products are unlikely to have been tested and safety checked – presenting a possible fire risk if the liquid and battery come into contact.

SCARCE INFORMATION

The lack of information about the ingredients and potentially harmful chemicals in a vape is troubling. Some vape fluids (unregulated in the UK) contain traces of nuts, which can cause an allergic reaction or anaphylactic shock. To date, medical warnings aren't required on vape packaging – with only medical disclaimers being found on the websites of the various brands.

VAGUE INGREDIENTS LISTS

Early research has suggested that the chemicals used to produce some strawberry and banana flavour e-liquids can kill cells in the blood vessels and heart. These ingredients aren't identified on the packaging, instead falling under the umbrella term 'natural and artificial flavourings'. Such vague listings mean that consumers aren't aware of the liquid's content so can't identify potential risks.

Meet Our Expert

Run by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Healthy Schools Service (commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council), Catch Your Breath is a school-based project aimed at young people. Its goal is to embed a proactive, coordinated approach among both primary and secondary schools in discouraging smoking and vaping behaviours.



HEALTHY SCHOOLS
CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH

The National College

Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-65809924>



www.thenationalcollege.co.uk



@thenatcollege

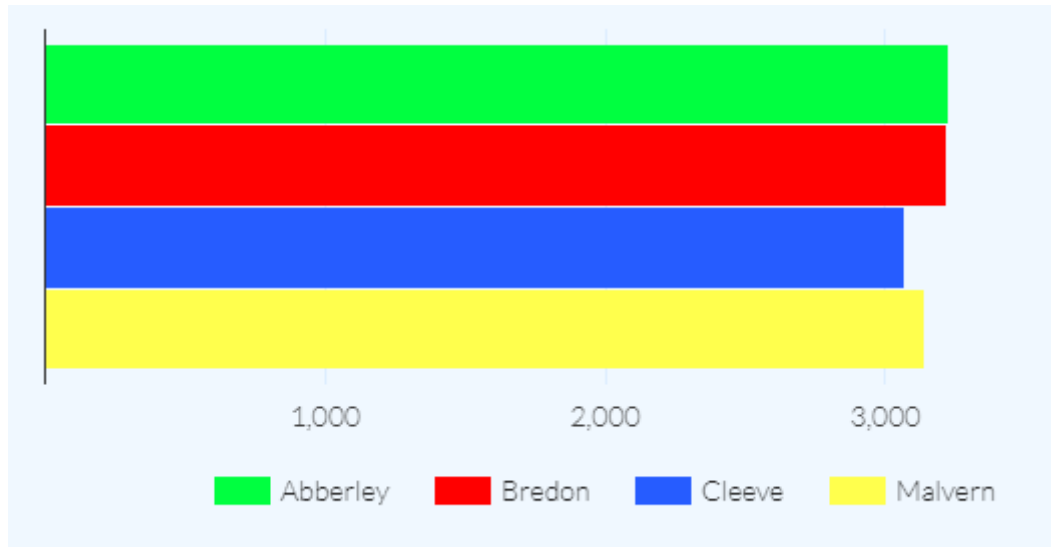


/thenationalcollege

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epraise this week



Top Readers for 03.09.2023 — 27.09.2023



Congratulations to:

Top Girl

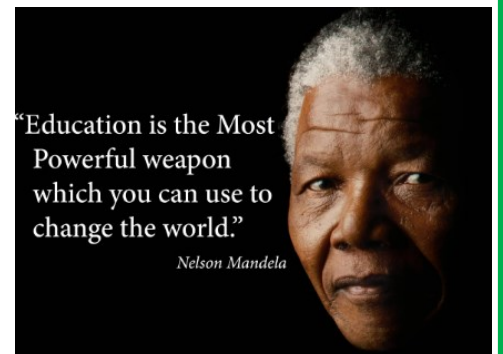
Ellie MacKay (Year 6 C-MGr) - who has read 194,409 words .

Top Boy

Charlie Gardner (Year 8 M-DSI) - who has read 455,957 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>



Reading matters



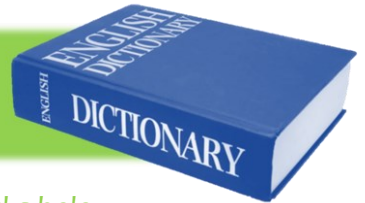
Thank you for continuing to make reading a priority at home for our learners. Many pupils are telling us that they are managing to fit in the 20 minutes of reading per day which we expect, which will make tremendous difference to pupil progress, both in English and across the full curriculum. Well done Walkwood—keep on reading!

The following website has some free online resources which may be of interest to you at home:

[Free eBook library | Oxford Owl from Oxford University Press](#)



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.

assimilate

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.



Trips and Visits



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



Clubs and Activities



Autumn Term 1

	Lunchtime 12.15 – 1.00pm	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Monday	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI	<u>KS2 Dodgeball club (Pmc/Rdj)</u> Sign up via Arbour.
Tuesday	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI	<u>Year 7 and 8 netball club</u> Sign up only. <u>Homework club</u> (3.30 – 4.45) DT hub Sign up only.
Wednesday	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI	<u>Year 8 boys football club (LWO)</u> Pupils selected have been notified. <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 13 th September for 7 weeks (3.30 – 4.45) <u>All year's girl's football club.</u> <u>Homework club</u> (3.30 – 4.45) DT hub Sign up only.
Thursday	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.	<u>Year 6 boys football club (CHU)</u> Pupils selected have been notified. (Not on Thursday 5 th October due to staff training) <u>Year 7 boys football club (PMI)</u> Pupils selected have been notified. (Not on Thursday 5 th October due to staff training) <u>Year 5 and 6 netball club.</u> Sign up only. Meet at the bottom of the changing room stairs on KS3 playground. (Not on Thursday 5 th October due to staff training) <u>Homework club</u> (3.30 – 4.45) DT hub Sign up only. (Not on Thursday 5 th October due to staff training)
Friday	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/LTI	<u>Boys all years recreation football</u> – sign up only.



Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2 0 2 3 2 0 2 4	Thursday 19 October	Open Evening 6.45 - 8.15pm
	Thursday 26 October	Year 5 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Monday 30 October to Friday 3 November	Half Term
	Monday 4 December	Parents' English KS2 Workshop 6.30 - 7.30pm
	Thursday 21 December	End of Term
	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	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