

Dear Parents and Carers,

You should have received this week the photographic ‘proof’ of your pupil. We are using a different company this year, and I hope the method of ordering a photograph works for all of you.



Lessons which I have visited this week have been calm and productive, with pupils engaged in their learning, being supported by effective teaching. There is a misconception that rooms have to be silent for learning to be the most effective, which can be the case for some tasks, but the need for ‘one voice’ when the teacher is explaining or a pupil is offering an answer or explanation is essential. There are activities when pupils need to talk to each other, or when they are carrying out practical work, and all this has been done in the way that upholds our school values—our Fruits of Faith.



We have shared before that Walkwood is within the top 3% of schools nationally for attendance. One factor here will be the support you give by ensuring that children miss out on the very least amount of schooling possible. Another is likely to be that children feel safe in our school and that teachers care about them—these are key messages from the Ofsted report, but we are pleased that this is recognised. Within this edition is a message from healthcare leaders which supports the need for children to be in school, experiencing the social elements which reduce anxiety. Some of you may have needed to drop off a tearful child, and the worst thing is to stay around—once in, our children know they will be cared for, as well as learning in lessons. In thinking about a caring approach, the following can apply (non-genderised language used here):

Strength and dignity are their clothing, and they approach the future with glee. They open their mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on their tongue.

Proverbs 25-26

Our green & white non-uniform day is coming up later this month—details are inside on page 3.

Rev. C. Leach, Principal

This week's theme was: **Trust**

We are saved by trusting. And trusting means looking forward to getting something we don't yet have.

Romans 8: 24, TLB

Dear God,

We pray this week we can learn to trust in you in all areas of our lives. We thank you that we can trust in your grace and faithfulness to help guide and protect us in each day. Your love helps to strengthen our faith and build up our lives, and we trust that in you, your love and peace will shine in all that we do. Amen.

Whole school Attendance

96.39%

Whole School Target

95.6%

05.09.2023 to 08.09.2023

Year 5 99.24%

Year 6 95.61%

Year 7 93.94%

Year 8 96.80%



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:	Friends of Jesus	A friend loves at all times, and kinsfolk are born to share adversity. <i>Proverbs 17: 17, NRSV</i>
We ask your thoughts and prayers in the week ahead for:		
the rescue efforts in: Morocco after the earthquake; Libya after the severe flooding.		

Picture of the Week



Abhijit Chakraborty

As climate change and sea level rises threaten the future of the Sundarbans, India, building dams and mangrove beds is becoming one of the last hopes for the people here.

Non-uniform day

Wednesday 27th September is the birthday of the Prophet Mohammed (Peace be upon Him). We shall celebrate as a school by wearing non-uniform, *preferably* in the colours of green and white which are important in Islam.

Pupils may wear uniform if they wish. If they choose to come in non-uniform it is expected that they bring in a tin of one of the following items:



Tinned fruit
Tinned vegetables
Tinned soup



These will be donated this year to a local charity that supports families in need—we hope the Prophet will be pleased with this. If a pupil would prefer to make a donation in money, we would ask for £1.



Advice from healthcare leaders

There is wide agreement among health professionals and educational professionals that school attendance is vital to the life chances of children and young people. Being in school improves health, wellbeing and socialisation throughout the life course. The greatest benefits come from children and young people attending school regularly.

It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above. We would encourage you to read the [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#) which has further information.

In addition to respiratory illnesses, we are aware that more children may be absent from school due to symptoms of anxiety than before the pandemic. Worry and mild or moderate anxiety, whilst sometimes difficult emotions, can be a normal part of growing up for many children and young people. Being in school can often help alleviate the underlying issues. A prolonged period of absence is likely to heighten a child's anxiety about attending in the future, rather than reduce it. The Department for Education has published useful [guidance on mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance](#) and those who are experiencing persistent symptoms can be encouraged to access additional support.

Professor Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer, England

Pat Cullen, General Secretary, Royal College of Nursing

Professor Kamila Hawthorne, Chair, Royal College of General Practitioners

Dr Camilla Kingdon, President, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health

William Roberts, Chief Executive, Royal Society for Public Health

Dr Lade Smith, President, Royal College of Psychiatrists



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.

Achievement Badges

At Walkwood, we have a vast array of activities and clubs that the pupils can become involved with. Becoming involved in extra-curricular is a great way to increase self-confidence, meet new people and learn new skills.

Here are just some of the badges that are awarded to pupils to recognise their participation and achievements.
These are lit up on the pupils profile page.



Termly 100% Attendance Award

Awarded for achieving 100% attendance during a whole term.



Termly Zero Demerits

Awarded for absolutely no demerits during the term.



Millionaire Reader

Awarded when pupils have reached the 1 million words milestone.



Sports Awards

Awarded when pupils represent the school in a match, tournament or event in a variety of sports.



Positive ePostcard (all subjects)

Awarded when pupils receive an epostcard for excelling in school from their teacher.



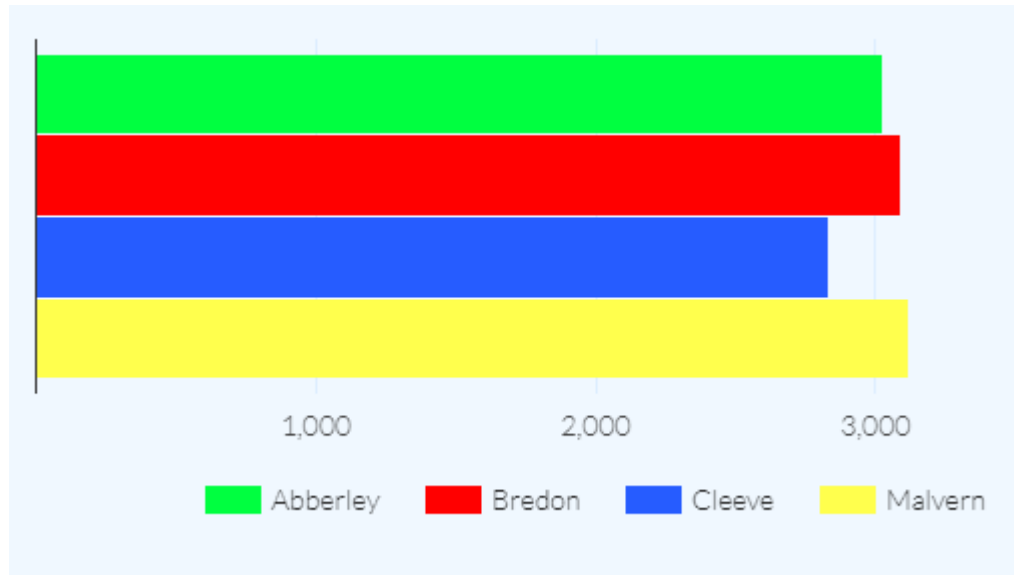
Sports Council

Awarded when pupils are elected on to the Sports Council.

And many, many more. Please log in to  to check your child's profile page!



epraise *this week*





Key Stage 3

Music

All students in Year 7 and 8 study the Musical Futures Just Play curriculum.

This gives all students the opportunity to learn an instrument. We know that many students have instruments at home, so there is now the option to continue their practice at home via Musical Futures Online.

Go to www.musicalfuturesonline.org

Click "Log On"

Enter the username and password [walkwoodmusic](#)

Select "Just Play" to follow our lesson resources or "Playalong Library" to find a song of your choice.

If you require help, scan the QR code to follow the video tutorial.



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>



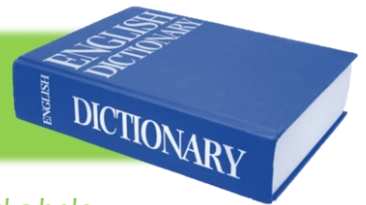
Reading matters



At Walkwood we are extremely lucky to have a very well-stocked library and our own librarian too, Mrs West. New students are encouraged to visit the library during a break or lunchtime to meet Mrs West and to peruse the bookshelves, which host an extensive array of fiction books, of all genres and interests, as well as plentiful non-fiction books to appeal to all our learners. Our motto is 'reading for empowerment' and pupils will learn more of what this means in their library and English lessons. Pupils are expected to read for twenty minutes each day outside of school, to help maximise their progress not only in English lessons, but in all subjects of the curriculum.



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.

adjacent

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.

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upcombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



NOS National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://hipal.app/about/privacy.html>



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	KS2 Dodgeball club Sign up only Starts 18 Sept
Tuesday	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI	<u>Year 7 and 8 netball club</u> 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 Worcester-shire 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> 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. <u>Year 7 boys football club (PMI)</u> Pupils selected have been notified. <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 5th October due to staff training)
Friday	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/LTI	Boys all years recreation football – sign up will be open via arbor Monday.



Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2023	Monday 18th September	SAT's information evening 6.00 - 7.00pm
	Thursday 19th October	Open Evening 6.45 - 8.15pm
	Thursday 26th October	Year 5 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Monday 30 October to Friday 3 November	Half Term
	Monday 4th December	Parents' English KS2 Workshop 6.30 - 7.30pm
	Thursday 21 December	End of Term
	Monday 8 January	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 9th January	First day of the Spring Term
	Thursday 25th January	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Wednesday 31st 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 11th April	Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Wednesday 17th April	Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Monday 27 – Friday 31 May	Half Term
	Friday 19 July	End of Term