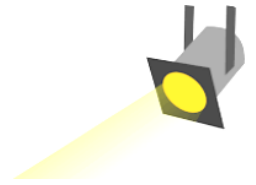


Dear Parents and Carers,

The countdown to the revealing of the school production has begun, with the daily notices having a number of tempting possibilities. The staff team who will lead this are being very tight-lipped, and the announcement will be made soon.



The attendance at the extra-curricular clubs has been very encouraging, with parents and carers signing up the children for these activities. Sport, along with homework club, predominate this half term, but we do rotate these sessions throughout the year, so there will be opportunities for other areas of interest.

This week I was able to visit Tudor Grange Academy Redditch, going into classrooms to seek out former Walkwood pupils. Year 9 lessons were Music, Art and Food, with students keen to learn in the calm and focused classrooms. Teachers were listened to carefully and the progress that students have made in the first four weeks was clearly evident. I was welcomed warmly by our past pupils, although I tried not to disturb the lessons. I was also able to visit the Tree Tops provision on the same site, again saying 'hello' to students who have moved up from Walkwood. Thank to Mrs McNamara for taking me around the site, and to the students who greeted me.



Live as children of light - for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

Ephesians 5:9



The College competitions will be coming up soon - more inside - with these tending to be during regular PE lessons. Of course, every lesson in all subjects has the potential for pupils to gather points for their work in that lesson, these building up not just for the pupils themselves but also the College Cup for each half term.

Rev. C. Leach
Principal

This week's theme was: 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.

Galatians 6: 9, CEV

Dear Lord,

Father, Help us to help others. We pray that your hand will be our guide to know when to step up and assist others in their lives. Thank you for those people in my life who help and support me. I pray that you pour out your blessing upon them. Give me the courage to step out in faith and support those I don't know. Let me be an example of your kindness among my friends.
Amen.

Whole school Attendance

95.42%

Whole School Target

95.6%

25.09.2023 to 29.09.2023

Year 5 98.07 %

Year 6 94.48%

Year 7 88.48 %

Year 8 93.72%



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:	The Beatitudes	Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. <i>Matthew 5: 3-9, KJV</i>

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

The weekend	The emergency services	Monday	Local charities that support the community of Redditch
Tuesday	The local churches and community centres	Wednesday	The staff at the Alexandra Hospital
Thursday	Those affected natural disasters around the world	Friday	The teachers and support staff of The Vaynor First School

Picture of the Week



The Giant Shipbuilder at Port Glasgow.

There are two figures which pay tribute to those who worked in the shipyards of Port Glasgow and Inverclyde, and made the area world famous for shipbuilding.

Geoff Der

Netball, Benchball and Football College matches

The PE department run college matches twice a year, where pupils participate in a sporting activity against the other colleges in the school. Points are awarded to teams and these then go towards the college sports total at the end of the year.

College matches take place during lesson time where a whole year group will come down to PE at once. This may mean your child has two PE lessons that week and so will need to bring their kit in on two days.

Monday 16 th October	Lesson 4 and 5	Year 8
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Tuesday 17 th October	Lesson 4 and 5	Year 5
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Thursday 19 th October	Lesson 4 and 5	Year 6
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Friday 20 th October	Lesson 2 and 3	Year 7
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Please can you make sure pupils have correct PE kit for the above days. It is also recommended that boys have boots and shin pads.

Thanks,

PE Department



College Cross Country Runs

It's that time of year again!!

As part of both the PE Curriculum and intra-school competition, your child will be taking part in a 'College Cross-Country Run' during their normal timetabled PE lessons during the days of Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October.

Not only do the children gain points for their college in taking part but it helps us to identify pupils that will be invited to compete in the Redditch Schools District cross country after half term.

Date	Lesson	Classes
Monday 23 rd October	2 & 3	8C
	4 & 5	8E
Tuesday 24 th October	2 & 3	7E
	4 & 5	5C
Wednesday 25 th October	2 & 3	5E
	4 & 5	6C
Thursday 26 th October	4 & 5	6E
Friday 27 th October	2 & 3	7C

We can't predict what the weather will be like next so we ask that your child could bring the following to their next timetabled PE lesson:

Walkwood PE kit.

A towel.

A carrier bag to put dirty shoes in.

Football boots to run in. (Optional but recommended)

An old T-shirt/Top to run in over their PE top.

If your child suffers from asthma, please ensure they have their inhaler with them clearly labelled.

Every pupil is expected to take part but if your child is unwell and unable to take part, please provide us with a letter excusing them. However, they must still come with PE kit as they will take part in an officiating role down on the field.

Miss K Reeves

Curriculum Leader of PE

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMONG US

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 60 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as The Traitors, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord: a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grislier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

CHAT ABOUT CHATTING

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

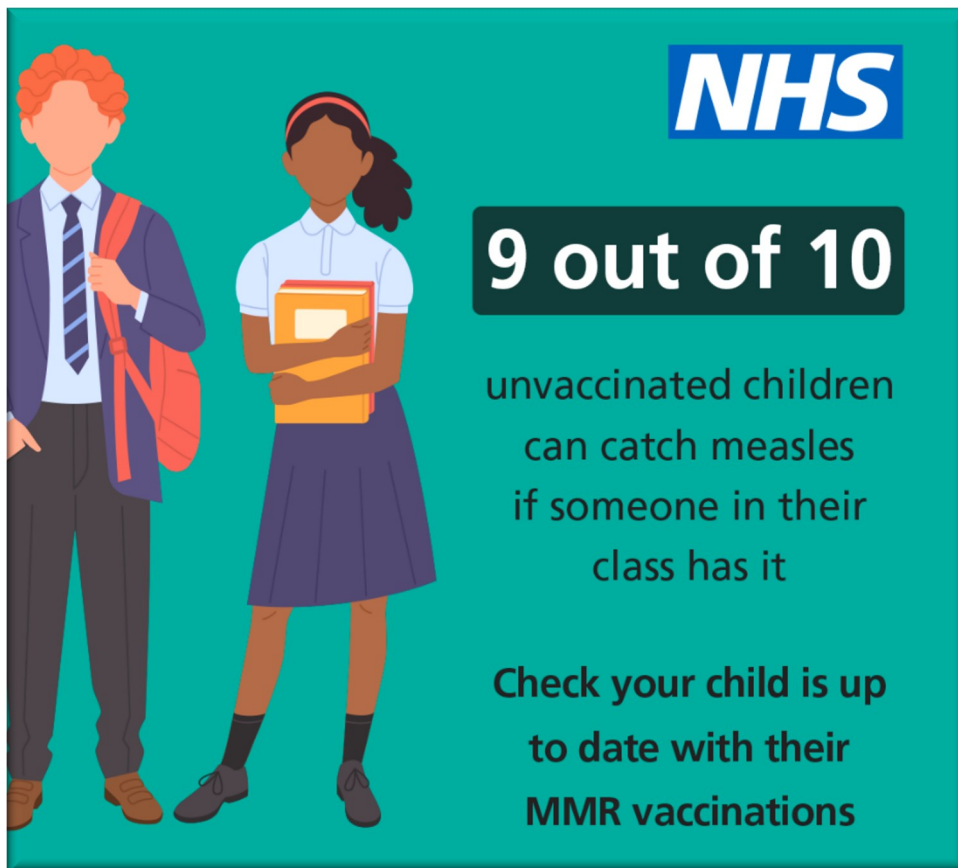
STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.





NHS

9 out of 10

unvaccinated children
can catch measles
if someone in their
class has it

**Check your child is up
to date with their
MMR vaccinations**



The Children's Commissioner for England has recently launched 'The Big Ambition' to hear directly from children, young people, and parents across the country.

This is an opportunity to hear from all children, in every part of the country and in every setting. The survey will be used to encourage policymakers to think about children and young people's needs, to ensure children's voices are reflected in the decisions that will affect them in years to come.

Education settings play a critical role in enabling us to hear from as many children and young people as possible. That is why we are encouraging all settings in England to take part and let their pupils have their say on what is important to them!

To find out more head to [The Big Ambition page](#). To take part in The Big Ambition survey visit: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition.



Login support for parents:

[Walkwood Church Of England Middle School | epraise.co.uk](https://epraise.co.uk/WalkwoodChurchOfEnglandMiddleSchool)

Selecting Walkwood Church of England Middle School from the list.

Please select your school

Home Schools

walkwood

Walkwood Church Of England Middle School
Worcestershire, England

Click on the parent tab, and then enter your email address, and leave the password field blank, press submit and a password will be sent to your email.

Walkwood Church Of England Middle School

Home Schools Parents Log in

Email

Password

Leave password empty to reset

Log in

Login support for pupils both in school and outside of school:

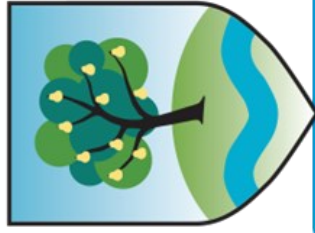
[Walkwood Church Of England Middle School | epraise.co.uk](https://epraise.co.uk/WalkwoodChurchOfEnglandMiddleSchool)

Pupils can login using their Walkwood network credentials. Please use 'login with Microsoft'

Username are all in the same format

Passwords- These were all set to 'Walkwood2023!'

Pupils may have changed their password when they logged in for the first time on the Walkwood network.



Love to Learn;
Learn to Live;
Live to Love.



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

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.





epraise this week



Top Readers for 03.09.2023 — 04.10.2023

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

Eleanor Phillips (C-LBa) - who has read 436,783 words.

Top Boy

Charlie Gardner (M-DSI) - who has read 568,995 words. .

Well done - merits will be awarded to you both.

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



“
Reading is
freedom for the
mind and laughter
for the soul.”



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

This school is proud to be a
MUSIC MARK SCHOOL

In recognition of a commitment to
providing a high-quality music education
for all children and young people

2023 - 2024



Bridget Whyte
CEO of Music Mark



Supported by:

Find out more:



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



Reading remains a huge priority at our school and as part of that, we would like to share with you recommended reading lists for each year group – all of them considered to be high quality reading books. You may wish to explore these books with your children, perhaps by visiting a local library to explore these titles. Many of the books on the list are stocked in our school library also:

Year 5 recommended reading list: [Books for Year 5 children aged 9-10 | School Reading List](#)

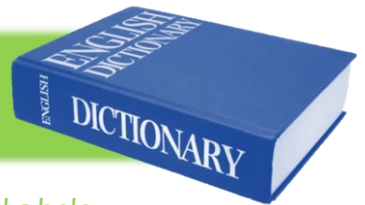
Year 6 recommended reading list: [Books for Year 6 children aged 10-11 | School Reading List](#)

Year 7 recommended reading list: [Year 7 books for pupils aged 11-12 in KS3 - our suggested reads \(schoolreadinglist.co.uk\)](#)

Year 8 recommended reading list: [Suggested reading book list for Year 8 pupils | KS3 | Age 12-13 \(schoolreadinglist.co.uk\)](#)



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.

benign

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



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. <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. <u>Homework club</u> (3.30 – 4.45) DT hub Sign up only.
Friday	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/LTI	<u>Boys all years recreation football –</u> sign up only.



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



Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2023	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 7 December	Year 5 theatre trip to Birmingham Rep
	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