

Dear Parents and Carers,

The running of a school can be smooth when there are a number of practices in place that everyone follows. Walkwood is such a school, and we expect our pupils to have the correct equipment, wear uniform appropriately and behave in a way that means the school ten values, our Fruits of Faith, are upheld. There are times when things go a bit wobbly! We were tested this week by the weather on Wednesday and Thursday, and the pupils have responded well to being indoors more than usual.



We welcomed [Engage with China](#) this week—the charity that educates pupils in this country about a culture and nation that is very different from our own. Year 8 are studying China in Geography, and so they had a break from their timetabled lessons to be guided by the charity's directors, who were very pleased with the conduct of our pupils and how they truly did engage with the learning.

One aspect that can be a benefit in some middle schools is the curriculum that is taught. Ours is broad and well-planned, as evidenced within the Ofsted Report that has been formally published. We have shared this good news with the wider community through the local press, and that is also available inside.

St. James' letter to the early Christian church says:

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes.

James 3: 1-2

I don't think he was talking about Ofsted!

Finally, next Wednesday on our green & white day—non-uniform can be worn to celebrate the birthday of the Prophet Mohammad (Peace be upon Him). If pupils wish to come dressed in their own clothing, preferably in the colours that are associated with the Prophet and Islam, the details are inside and involve tinned food as a harvest offering.



Rev. C. Leach, *Principal*

This week's theme was: **Friends of Jesus**

A friend loves at all times, and kinsfolk are born to share adversity.

Proverbs 17: 17, NRSV

Dear Lord,

We thank you that we can call you our friend and that we can share our burdens and our triumphs with you, caring for us in the dark days and rejoicing in the times of celebration. We pray that your friendship will help us to be better friends to each other as we try to imitate Jesus' love in our friendships. Help us to love one another as you love us.

Amen.

Whole school Attendance

96.18%

Whole School Target

95.6%

11.09.2023 to 15.09.2023

Year 5 96.85 %

Year 6 95.96 %

Year 7 93.96 %

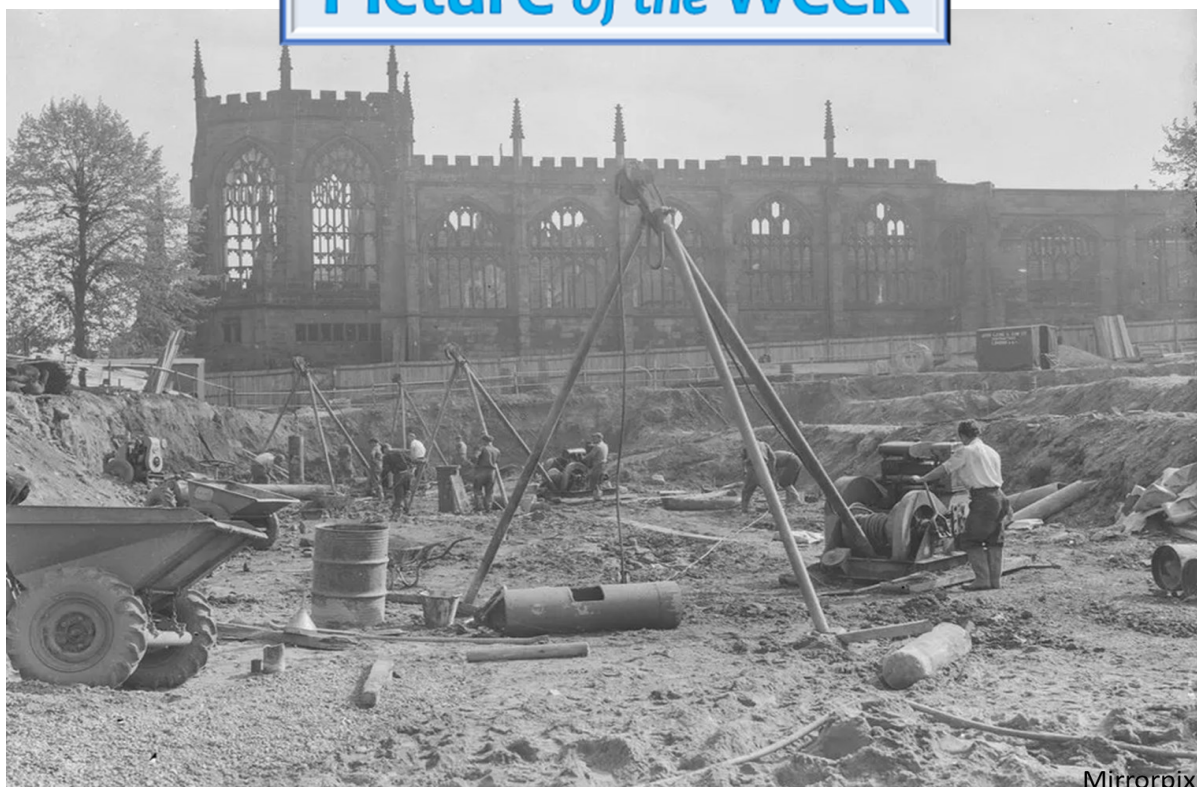
Year 8 96.22%



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:	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 countenance upon you, and give you peace. <i>Numbers 6:24-26</i>
We ask your thoughts and prayers in the week ahead for:		
The weekend	those we know who are unwell	Monday the children and staff at RAAC-affected schools
Tuesday	the safety of people who are travelling	Wednesday our green & white day, that the food collected will be a blessing to others
Thursday	Year 8 pupils as they consider their high school choices	Friday a resolution to the power struggle in Sudan

Picture of the Week



Mirrorpix

Hundreds of concrete piles were driven to form part of Coventry's new cathedral foundations.

The bombed out medieval cathedral stands in the background.

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 confident that if they have a problem there will be someone to talk to and they will always receive help.



Walkwood

Church of England  Middle School



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.

We are celebrating after our recent inspection report.
We are 'Good' yet again!

Teachers have strong subject knowledge and know the needs of their pupils well. They create purposeful learning environments for pupils.



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



The knowledge and skills are important for each of the subjects that pupils are taught.

Learning and thinking skills are part of each lesson, so learning habits become strong.

One of the school's 10 values is within every lesson, so pupils' character grows.



Subject leaders have thought carefully about what pupils should know, do and understand in each subject.

Leaders have created a curriculum that is ambitious for all pupils.

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.



Careers education is strong and goes beyond national guidance.

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.

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.



Walkwood's Governors congratulate pupils and staff on so many positive comments from the inspection.

You are wonderful!

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.

Year 5 Maths and English groups

As previously shared in The Insider, Year 5 will now be taught in seven groups for English and Maths, from Monday 25th September. These will be comprised of a higher group, five mixed ability groups and a group for pupils who will benefit from additional support. The whole year group will have Maths and English at the same time.



The seven maths and English groups will be named as follows:

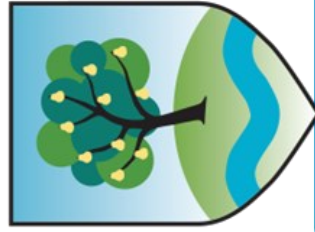
English: Austen, Bronte, Dahl, Dickens, Orwell, Shakespeare, Shelley.

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

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.



It is teachers who determine which groups pupils will be in as they know the children's learning needs and how these are best accommodated.



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.



- ✓ 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.

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.



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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.



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





Fabulous prizes to be won

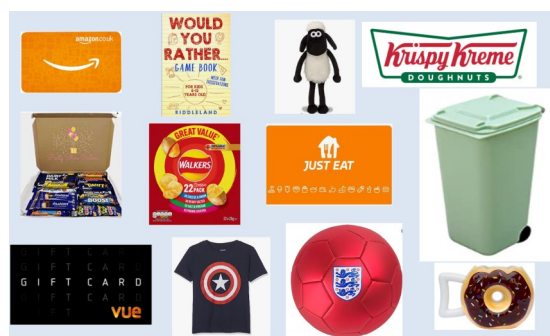
The Attendance Goldfish Bowl

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

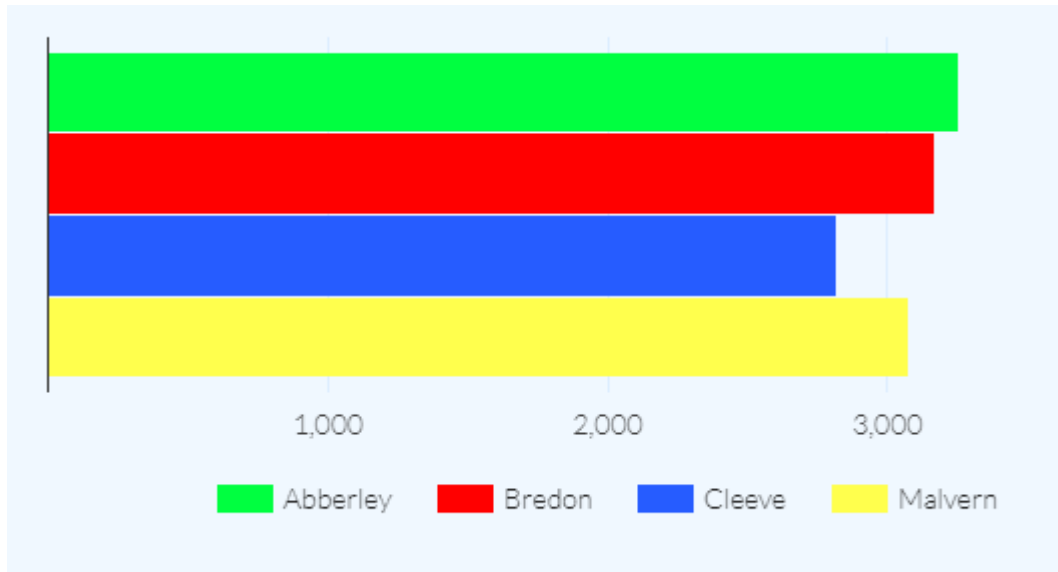
Autumn Prizes to include



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.



epraise this week



Top Readers for 03.09.2023 — 20.09.2023

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

Leah Wilkinson (Year 7 B-NWr) - who has read 191,620 words .

Top Boy

Rowan Campbell (Year 7 C- PJe) - who has read 247,934 words. .

Well done - 5 merits will be awarded to you both. Well done Year 7.

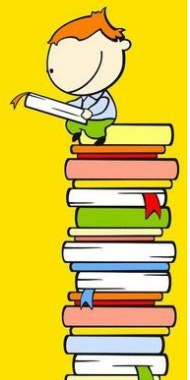
Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU ...



IT ADDS UP!

If you read just 15 minutes a day, in one year you will have read over 1,000,000 words!

Source: Statisticbrain.com



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>



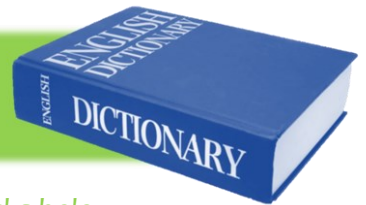
Reading matters



Our Renaissance system is up and running for the new academic year, meaning that pupils in year 5 will soon be taking their first 'Star reading' assessment, which will give us crucial information about them as learners. Pupils in all year groups are now able to quiz on the books they read, so please remind them that they need to quiz on their book as soon as it is finished, by logging into Renaissance, and then to visit the library to choose their new book as a priority. Keep up the reading at home; twenty minutes per evening is best and will help our learners to make optimum progress in English and the full 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.

analogy

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/Rd)</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. (Not on Thursday 5th October due to staff training) <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.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
16+

In UK and Europe;
rest of the world 13+

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently, as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging; WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency'. Plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. If your child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original – and might not be entirely factual, either.

ONLINE

'VIEW ONCE' CONTENT

The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't re-open them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this 'disappearing' content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing increased privacy.

CHAT LOCK

Another new option allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safely on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Carers ...TYPING...

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider, for example, whether the message sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups') to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval: you can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if your child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

THINKING BEFORE SHARING

Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could discuss their reasons for using this feature.

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.



Source: <https://blog.whatsapp.com/an-open-letter> | <https://faq.whatsapp.com/1070/8839582332> | https://faq.whatsapp.com/361006896189245/?helpref=faq_nav | <https://www.whatsapp.com/security> | <https://blog.whatsapp.com/chat-lock-making-your-most-intimate-conversations-even-more-private> | <https://www.aura.com/learn/whatsapp-scams>

...HEY OSCAR...



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



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 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