

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of the first day of this week saw us follow our plan for a fire evacuation. This is something we practise each term. However, this time the fire system would not reset. The site staff would try to do just that and then bell would silence, only for us to count to three and it started again. Thanks to the arrival of an engineer, we eventually were able to have some quiet. The pupils were excellent throughout this time.



“He guided them safely, so they were unafraid.”

Psalm 78: 53



Ironically, just after we came back into the building, I received an email to say that our bid for new fire equipment has been successful. The school will be contributing about 15% of the total cost of £613k. The money is to extend automatic fire detection systems and bells, including standardising all the call points and adding new fire detection devices. The classroom doors, most of them the originals from when the school opened over 60 years ago, will be replaced, which will enhance the fire safety that the school had already implemented three years ago.

The work will be carried out through the summer holidays, and then there will be 6 weeks of out of hours working to reduce disruption to school daily operations.

We are most pleased that the Department for Education has felt so confident about our school as to invest this substantial amount of money. These improvements will complement the other enhancements that are already planned. It is as if the Department for Education has said *“Walkwood . . . because you are worth it!”* (although other advertising slogans are also available).



Finally, well done to the Year 5 pupils who have been taking part in the ‘Bikeability’ training this week. The instructors were hugely complimentary about the way our pupils listened and then responded, as well as how the children took advice to improve their biking ability. We are so pleased for you all.

Rev. C. Leach, *Principal*

**This week’s theme was:
The Ascension**

Lifting up his hands Jesus blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven.

Luke 24:50-51

Almighty and eternal God, bless us as we celebrate this day’s festival and direct our eyes heavenward where in human flesh, your only Son is with you; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Whole school Attendance

94.59%

Whole School Target

95.6%

15.05.2023 to 19.05.2023

Year 5 95.99%

Year 6 92.98%

Year 7 95.03%

Year 8 91.02%



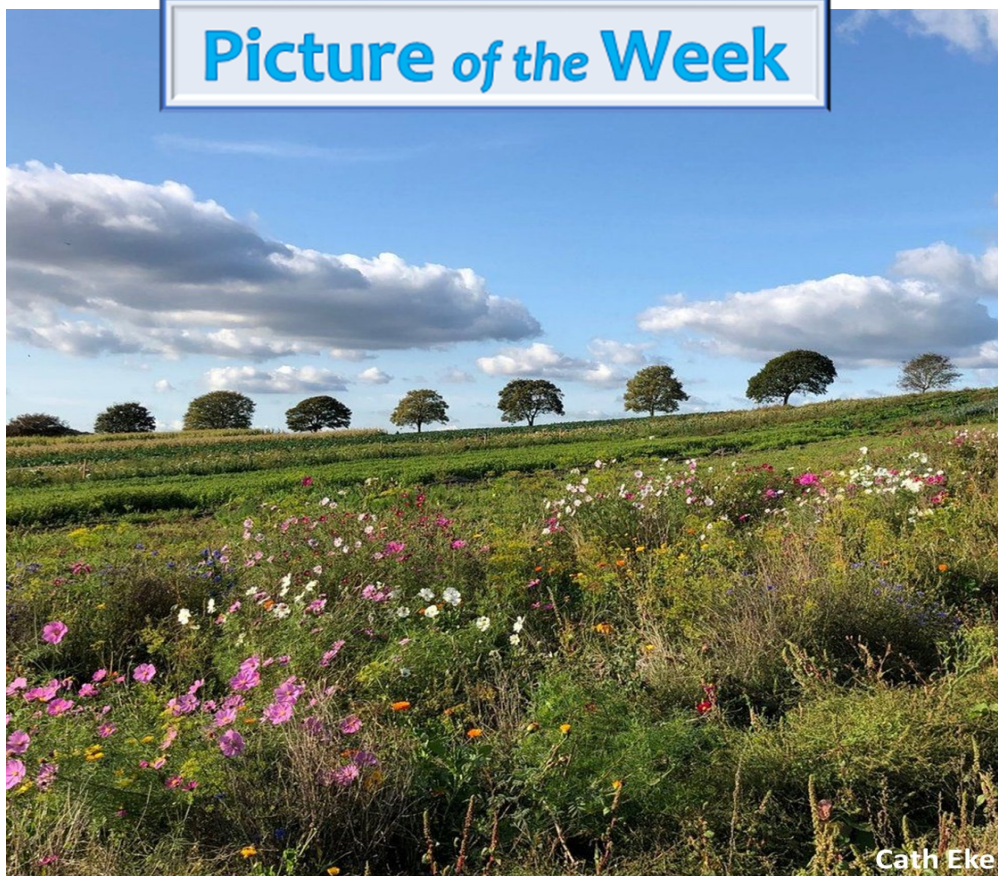
For the week ahead

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:	Celtic Christianity	Everyone on this earth will remember you, Lord. People all over the world will turn and worship you. <i>Psalm 22:27</i>

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

The weekend	safety of our pupils during the half term week.	Monday	the Year 4 pupils who will be joining us in September.
Tuesday	an end to the violence in Sudan.	Wednesday	those working in the UK to ensure clean water for us all.
Thursday	people whose relationships are undergoing change or difficulty.	Friday	our Year 8 pupils who return for the final half term at Walkwood.

Picture of the Week



Cath Eke



The Governing Body of Walkwood Academy Trust have given much thought to the possibility of joining a multi-academy trust. The process began pre-pandemic, but recommenced in the last 12 months.

After due consideration, the decision was to begin a process that could lead to joining [The Spire Church of England Learning Trust](#).

The majority of issues may well be answered in the [frequently asked questions](#), which should be referred to before responding to this survey. The QR code opposite will take you to the consultation, as will [this link](#).



The formal consultation will be open until 9am on Friday 16th June.



This week the council installed a new sign. It is facing down the hill of Feckenham Road, very near the pedestrian crossing. It is solar powered, and displays the speed of approaching cars.

The intention is to ensure that vehicles are not driving fast as they approach the pedestrian crossing in front of the school.

We thank the councillors who have championed road safety outside Walkwood.



Thank you

So much for
'friendliness'!



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about INFLUENCERS

In today's digital age, social media influencers play an increasingly significant role in shaping the opinions, interests and behaviours of our children. While many of these individuals can have a positive effect, influencer culture can also present certain risks – such as encouraging consumerism, affecting self-esteem and blurring trustworthiness. To help ensure a safe online environment for young people, it's vital to maintain open communication, set sensible boundaries, promote a healthy self-image and teach digital media literacy. Our guide delves deeper into all of these.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

HEIGHTENED CONSUMERISM

A major way that influencers make money is through brand partnerships and sponsored content. As a result, children who follow them may be exposed to a steady stream of advertising; this can lead to materialistic attitudes, unrealistic expectations and an increased desire to have the latest products. Many influencers have built huge brand empires around their large, impressionable following.

THE SOFT SELL

Some influencers aren't always transparent about the motivations behind their posts, blurring the lines between genuine recommendations and paid-for promotions – and young people sometimes find it difficult to distinguish authentic content from advertising. Many major social platforms have taken steps to make sponsored content and ads easier to identify, but it remains an area of concern.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Inspired by their favourite influencers, children may start sharing more of their own lives online – which could reveal personal information or details about their daily routine. This openness can put them at risk of cyberbullying or even predatory behaviour. This is exacerbated by live streaming, which gives young people no time to consider the potential consequences of saying too much.

UNDERMINING SELF-ESTEEM

Many influencers share images and videos of themselves and their activities, which are often painstakingly curated and edited to present an idealised version of their life. Children who follow these influencers may develop distorted expectations about body image and the concept of beauty, which can potentially lead to negative self-esteem and even mental health issues.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP TALKING

Chat to your child about the content they consume on social media and the influencers that they like. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear online, and listen to any concerns they might have. Maintaining this line of open, honest communication can help your child to make informed decisions about which individuals they follow and what content they engage with.

SET SOME BOUNDARIES

Agree age-appropriate boundaries for your child's social media use, including time limits and privacy settings (the two major operating systems on mobile devices, Android and iOS, have these controls baked in). Try to keep an eye on your child's online activity and discuss it regularly with them – including reminding them of the potential risks that can arise from following influencers.

SUPPORT A HEALTHY SELF-IMAGE

Reinforce your child's awareness that real life isn't usually as picture perfect as it may appear on social media – and how some content (particularly that of influencers) is often curated, staged or edited to look more glamorous. If possible, highlight examples of other influencers who share authentic, relatable material which acknowledges their imperfections and struggles as well.

PROMOTE MEDIA LITERACY

Talk to your child about the concepts of sponsored content, advertising and potential influencer bias. Teach them to critically evaluate the information they're presented with online and to consider the possible reasons behind content creation. This can help young people develop the skills to make healthier decisions about the influencers they choose to follow and the content they consume.

Meet Our Expert

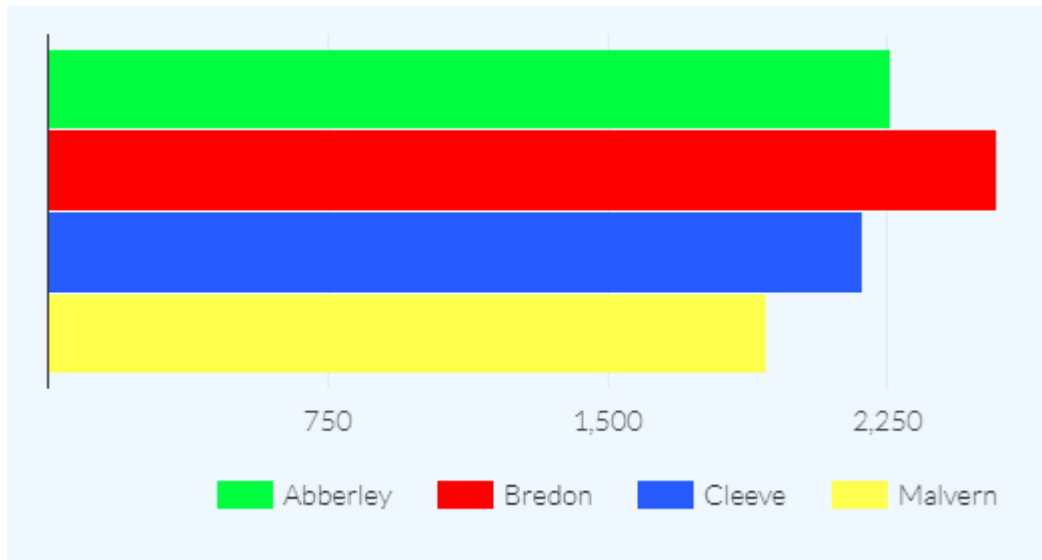
A former director of digital learning and currently a deputy headmaster and DSL, Brendan O'Keefe's experience and expertise gives him a clear insight into how modern digital systems impact the experience of children, staff and parents – and which strategies help to ensure that the online world remains a useful educational tool rather than a minefield of risks.



NOS
National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday



epraise this week



Top Readers for 24.04.2023 — 24.05.2023



Congratulations to:

Top Girl

Hope Ivers (Year 6 BKKH) - who has read 971,812 words.

Top Boy

Kristers Aleksis (Year 8 BKKH) - who has read 219,004 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>



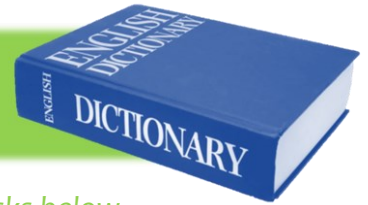
Reading matters



As we approach the half term break, we encourage pupils to enjoy their reading book in the sunshine. Which outdoor places can our pupils find to enjoy their book? Please encourage them to read outside for pleasure occasionally, now that the weather is warmer, and ask them to let their English teachers know where they enjoyed their reading. Happy, sunny reading!



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.

perceive

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 2

	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, 12.35pm-1pm. All welcome. We have instruments for those that need them. See Mrs Laishley to sign up.	
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 . This Club will continue for students currently signed up in preparation for our Summer Concert beginning on 6 th June. However, please note there will be no club on Tuesday 13 th June and Tuesday 20 th June. Last session will be Tuesday 4 th July.
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 . This Club will continue for students currently signed up in preparation for our Summer Concert beginning on 7 th June. Last session will be Wednesday 28 th June.
Thursday	Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI Science Homework Drop In – Computing (Year 7 and 8)	
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 Activity Park		✓	£285
20/07/2023	8	Drayton Manor	✓		£40

[•] Fully booked

For the Year 6 trips, these will go out on the following days:

Wed June 7 6c1 & 6c2

Thu June 8 6c3 & 6e1

Fri June 9 6e2 & 6e3



Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2 0 2 3	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
2 0 2 4	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