

Dear Parents and Carers,

There have been some amendments to the timetable this week to allow Year 6 to have additional sessions of English and Maths. This is not designed as a way of cramming before the SATs! It is for the well-being of the pupils before the SATs next week, complimenting the work that goes on in lessons throughout the year. By having a little extra time with their teachers, the Year 6 pupils can have anxieties soothed as much as possible. As I have written before, we do not want pupils or teachers to get stressed by these assessments, and I encourage you to take the same approach at home.



Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

Romans 12:12



We have again received a large number of applications for next Year 5 in September, in fact, more than we have places for. I have written to all those who have been offered a place and our contact with first schools will begin soon. Visits from high school staff have begun, and I know that some of our oldest pupils are a bit unsettled as they know that there are a few weeks left. We shall do all we can to reduce any anxieties, but do let us know if there are issues we can address.

By the time you read the next issue, half of Year 6 will be at East Barnby in Yorkshire for the post-SATs residential, with an altered day for those who remain at school. The weather looks ok so far.



We have staff at key points of the school at the start of the day, and there are teachers in particular parts of the surrounding area at the end of our day. We do this as we have a large number of pupils arriving and leaving. In the latter case, however, we cannot be everywhere, so please remind your youngster that she or he needs to be careful crossing roads and using the pavements.



Rev. C. Leach, Principal

A prayer for Truthfulness

Lord, We have been taught to be truthful, especially to you. We know that truthfulness is the way in which we can become closer to you. What is the point in untruth? We pray that you fill our hearts and minds with the truth that honesty is the best choice in our lives. We know that it can fill us with the joy and truth that we need in our lives. In your Name,

Amen.

This week's theme was: Truthfulness

Truth will last forever; lies are soon found out.

Proverbs 12:19

Whole School Attendance

Target

95.6%



For the week ahead

The Fruit of Faith is:	Honour	Be devoted to one another with mutual love, showing eagerness in honouring one another. Romans 12:10
The assembly theme:	Truthfulness	Truth will last forever; lies are soon found out. Proverbs 12:19

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

The weekend	peace for the war-torn countries of our world	Monday	our Year 6 pupils as they do their SATs
Tuesday	high school teachers who begin their contact with middle schools	Wednesday	Newly elected councillors
Thursday	Walkwood's teaching assistants	Friday	Truthfulness as a personal and national aspiration

Picture of the Week



Kenneth Gilmour

The Forth Road Bridge, Scotland

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert; potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

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Advice for Parents & Carers

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CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

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.



Parking

'Hi, my name is Jamie Campbell and I am the Safer Neighbourhood Officer for Headless Cross and Oakenshaw.

Since coming in to post back in May 2021 one of the issues that immediately got brought to my attention was parking problems on Feckenham Road. I asked West Mercia Police's Traffic Management Advisor Dave Hind to complete a site visit with myself and he identified what he thought the main safety issues were.

A further site visit was made by Dave and a Highways Officer from Worcestershire County Council. I was then informed that Worcestershire County Council would be making some improvements such as the re-painting of the zebra crossing, yellow school keep clear markings, single yellow lines, double yellow lines and lights both above the zebra crossing and the road sign near the junction with Tennyson Road. Consideration was also to be given to some type of barrier at the zebra crossing to improve safety.



Sadly almost twelve months on we are still waiting for the majority of these improvements to be completed. In the interim you will hopefully have seen me and my team (2 x PCSO's) patrolling the school at the relevant times. If you have been parked illegally or irresponsibly you may have been challenged politely. Our policy has always been to advise and educate people as to where they can and can't park. I'm pleased to say that the majority of people are parking appropriately however there is a minority who don't and despite our best efforts they continue to park illegally and show little or no consideration for the safety of the children at the school.

I will be asking for Civil Enforcement Officers to attend on a more regular basis in future to enforce any parking violations.

To make it clear **you should not park or wait at any time on the zig-zags, the school keep clear markings or double yellow lines.** If you choose to ignore this advice you may be prosecuted.

The safety of pedestrians is far more important than finding a close spot to leave your car or drop off your children. **Please think before you park.** You should not park on the single yellow lines unless it is outside of restricted times and please do not park on footpaths/corners/junctions as it creates a dangerous obstruction to pedestrians and other drivers. Thanks very much.'

Regards Jamie

PC 3477 CAMPBELL



Clubs and Activities

Summer term 1 2022

	Before School 7:45am – 8:45am	Lunchtime 12.35 – 1.20PM	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Monday		Lexia <u>L</u> Mo in ITA	Homework Club Year 5/6 boys and girls multi-sports club group 2 3.30-4.45pm (Pupils have signed up already and been allocated spaces)
Tuesday	Orchestra CGR 8.45am - 9.25am Music Room	Lexia <u>Z</u> Bi in ITA	Homework Club
Wednesday			Homework Club
Thursday		Choir CGR 12.55pm - 1.20pm Music Room All Year Groups	Homework Club All year's athletics club (Sign up -limited spaces available) 3.30-4.45pm
Friday			

Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

gauge

What word class is this word? Could it belong to more than one word class?

How many syllables does it have?

Write the dictionary definition(s) of this word, using your own words.

Are there any synonyms for the word?

Are there any antonyms for the word?

Write four sentences, each containing the word.

Challenge: 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 joyous:

Statement: Xavier is feeling joyous this morning.

Question: Does that music sound joyous to you?

Command: Make yourself look a little more joyous.

Exclamation: What a joyous evening!

Show your tutor your notes on Word of the Week and receive a merit for answering the questions above!



Top Readers for 4th April 2022 — 4th May 2022

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

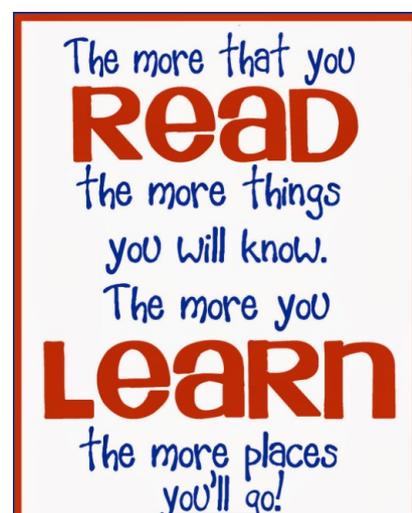
Hope Ivers (BKKH) - who has read 562,841 words

Top Boy

Oliver Hughes (CEDU) - who has read 257,154 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>



Trips and Visits 2021 - 23



Date	Activity	Location	Open To	Cost	Leader
May 2022					
Fri 13 – Mon 16	Outward Bound	Yorkshire	Y6	£ 324	Rev Leach
June 2022					
Wed 22 – Fri 24	Arts and Theatres	London	Y8	£ 300	Rev Leach
Fri 24 – Mon 27	Outward Bound	Yorkshire	Y7	£ 324	Rev Leach
Fri 24 - Mon 27	Outward Bound	Brecon Beacons	Y5	£ 220	Mr Macdonald / Mrs Cull
February 2023					
Sat 4 – Sat 11	Ski Trip	Obertauern, Austria	Y5-Y7	£ 1360	Mrs Cull



Epraise Update



Points This Week: By College





Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2 0 2 2 2 0 2 3	Wednesday 18 May	Y5 residential information evening 6.30 pm
	Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June	Half Term
	Thursday 9 June	Y5 Y7 Parent's evening 4.00 —7.00 pm
	Wednesday 15 June	Y5 Y7 Parent's evening 4.00 —7.00 pm
	Thursday 21 July	End of Term
	Monday 5 September	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 6 September	First Day of the Autumn Term
	Monday 24 - Friday 28 October	Half Term
	Friday 16 December	End of Term
	Tuesday 3 January	Staff Development Day
	Wednesday 4 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Monday 20– Friday 24 February	Half Term
	Friday 31 March	End of Term
	Monday 17 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 18 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Monday 29 May - 2 June	Half Term
Friday 21 July	End of Term	