

Dear Parents and Carers,



The first Friday in October is designated World Smile Day, and Mr West shared with the school in assembly this morning how important laughter can be for us. By seeking a sunny disposition, there are chemical messages within the brain that allow us to lift our mood, and that we use humour sensitively and never against someone else, as that is not an expression of friendliness, one of our school values. Mr Dawson seemed to win the vote from pupils for the best joke told during the assembly!

My words were eagerly accepted like the showers of spring, and the smile on my face renewed everyone's hopes.
Job 23-24



This week has tested our wet weather routines somewhat as we manoeuvre between showers and bear with the windy conditions, the latter can affect the way pupils behave, making them louder than usual—it may seem peculiar but tends to hold true. There is an old saying: *you can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make it drink*. The school equivalent is that you can buy a child a coat but you cannot always get them to wear it. That is why you may see children carrying their coats no matter what the weather. Anyway, with the lower temperatures there is reduced chance of children losing their jumpers, because they are wearing them.



The extra-curricular events have been very popular and began this week for almost all of them. We have needed to make some amendments to take account of the numbers and have let you know, although there is also an adjusted list within this edition.

The residential trips have also been very well received, and we have begun today looking at the numbers involved and reflecting on the logistics. Where there has been over-subscription, we shall follow the procedures set out within the initial letters and shall share further information in due course as we will need to liaise with our suppliers in some cases.

Rev. C. Leach, *Principal*

A prayer for Helping others

God in heaven, we offer our deepest appreciation for the many blessings you shower upon us every day. We are truly humbled by the bounty of your graces. We ask for the compassion to follow the inspiring example of the good Samaritan. Help us to embrace and bring comfort to those suffering immensely. Let us remember that each day that we help someone we are helping you.

Amen.

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

Whole School Target

96.95%

Whole School Attendance

93.92%



For the week ahead

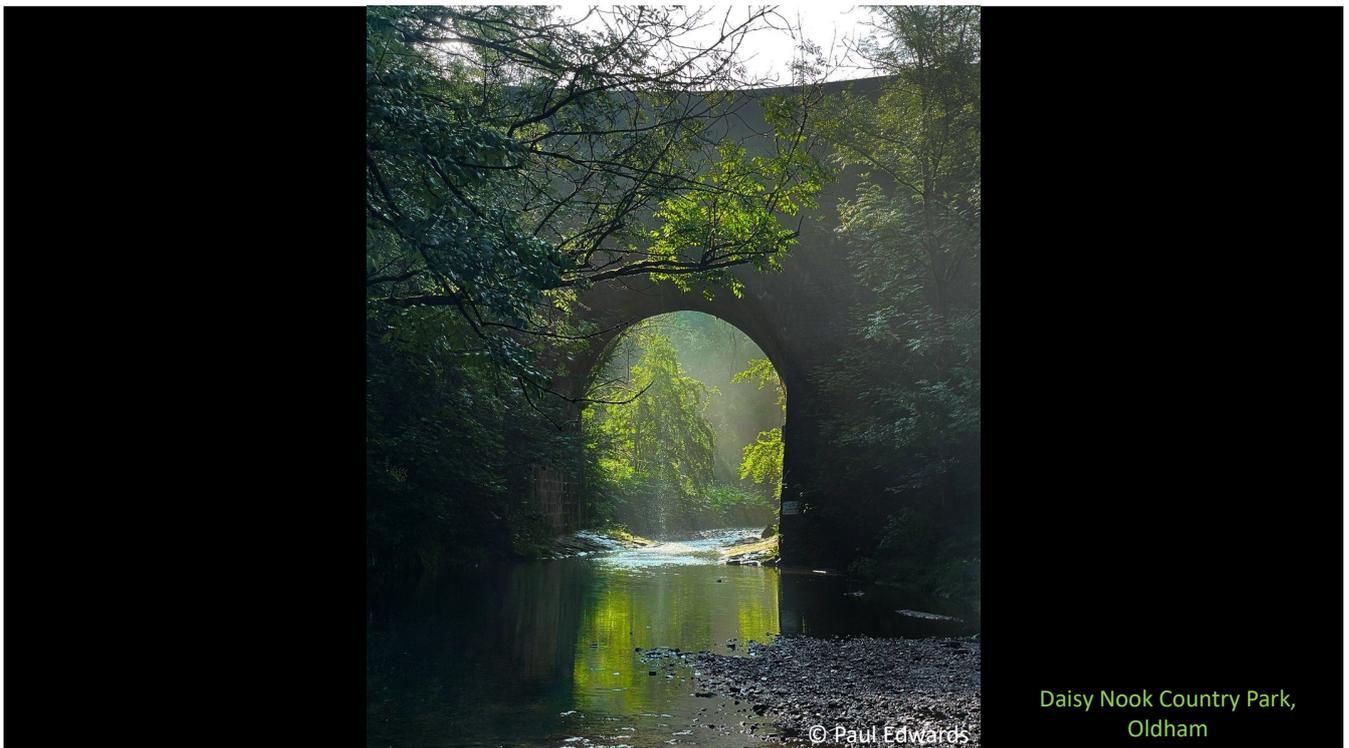


The Fruit of Faith is:	Friendliness	<p>When others are happy, be happy with them, and when they are sad, be sad. Be friendly with everyone. Don't be proud and feel that you are smarter than others. Make friends with ordinary people. Don't mistreat someone who has mistreated you. But try to earn the respect of others.</p> <p>Romans 12:15-17</p>
The assembly theme:	World smile day	<p>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.</p> <p>Numbers 6:24-26</p>

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

The weekend	Members of the emergency services	Monday	Our Pupil Leadership Team
Tuesday	The admin staff here at school	Wednesday	Our town of Redditch, and those who work at the borough offices
Thursday	Governors of our school	Friday	Understanding and mutual respect between leaders of faiths

Picture of the Week



Daisy Nook Country Park, Oldham

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Clubs and Activities

Autumn Term part 1 2021

	Before School 8.00 – 8.45 am	Lunchtime 12.35 – 1.20 pm	After School 3.30 – 4.45 pm
Monday			Homework club All year's girls football club (Sign up only) – meet in girls' changing rooms <i>Mr McHague</i>
Tuesday	Orchestra 8.45 – 9.30 am <i>Mrs Griffiths</i>		Homework club Y 5 and 6 football team training (if selected) - meet in boys' changing rooms Y5 maths club (Sign up only) <i>Mrs Cull</i> Outdoor Activities Club (Sign up only, Y7 & Y8) – meet in changing rooms
Wednesday			Homework club Y7 girls' netball club (Sign up only) – meet in girls' changing rooms <i>Miss Reeves</i>
Thursday		Choir 12.55 – 1.20 pm <i>Mrs Griffiths</i>	Homework club Y6 Art Club (Sign up only) - DT2 <i>Mrs Grimes</i> Y8 girls netball club (Sign up only) – meet in girls' changing rooms <i>Miss Reeves</i> Y7 and 8 football team training (if selected) – meet in boys changing rooms <i>Mr Hunt / Mr Macdonald</i> Y7 Science Club (starts 7 October) (Sign up only) <i>Mrs Haldane</i>
Friday			Boys all year's Rec football club for all those who didn't make the team (Sign up only) – meet in boys' changing rooms <i>Mr Hunt / Mr Macdonald / Mr Wootton / Mr West / Miss Reeves / Mr McHague</i>



Music News

Instrumental and vocal lessons are now well-underway this term and our visiting music staff have commented on the good organisation and enthusiasm of our pupils. We still have a few vacancies left for flute, saxophone, guitar, keyboard and drums. Please get in touch if your child is interested in learning to play one of these instruments.

Choir and Orchestra have both seen an encouraging and enthusiastic start to the term and it is lovely to be able to get these groups up and running again.

Learning to play a musical instrument takes time and involves lots of dedication and perseverance. Our visiting teachers are all highly skilled and experienced musicians who will be able to teach their pupils plenty... ..as long as the pupils practise what they have learnt in their lesson when they get home. Music practice needs only to be 10 minutes a day for beginners, increasing as pupils progress through their grades.

So, here is the challenge for all pupils who have instrumental or vocal lessons: if you can complete at least 10 minutes of music practice on 5 days of any week you will earn an Independent Learning point. Your practice diary will need to be signed by your parent or carer (you could use a little note book for this if your instrumental teacher hasn't provided you with one). Bring your practice diary to Mrs Griffiths in the Music Room to claim your points.

Happy practising!

Mrs C Griffiths

epraise

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 <i>Awarded for achieving 100% attendance during a whole term.</i>
	Termly Zero Demerits <i>Awarded for absolutely no demerits during a term.</i>
	Millionaire Reader <i>Awarded when pupils have reached the 1 million words milestone.</i>
	Sports Awards <i>Awarded when pupils represent the school in a match, tournament or event in a variety of sports.</i>
	Positive ePostcard (all subjects) <i>Awarded when pupils receive an epostcard for excelling in school from their teacher.</i>
	School Parliament <i>Awarded when pupils are elected on to the Pupil Parliament.</i>

And many, many more. Please log in to [epraise](#) to check your child's profile page!

Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

execute

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 6th September 2021 — 30th September 2021

Congratulations to:

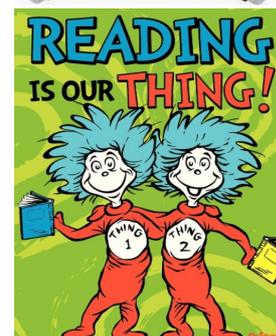
Top Girl

Ashlee Vong (7MABE) - who has read 367,668 words

Top Boy

Jack Mould (6BDDE) - who has read 551,659 words

Well done - 3 merits will be awarded to you both.



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>



New household account feature for parents reporting test results

NHS Test and Trace are continuing to develop and improve the process for self-test reporting. Currently, if a parent is submitting results through their account on behalf of a child, they have to enter the child's details every time they report a result.

As a result of feedback from parents, NHS Test and Trace have introduced household accounts. This allows parents to save their children's details to their own user accounts so parents can report results for multiple members in the household more quickly and easily.

When reporting self-test results parents will now be offered the opportunity to create a household account, which should take no more than 2 minutes. Parents can then add all household members to their account, enabling them to save time when reporting all future self-test results.



Trips and Visits 2021-23



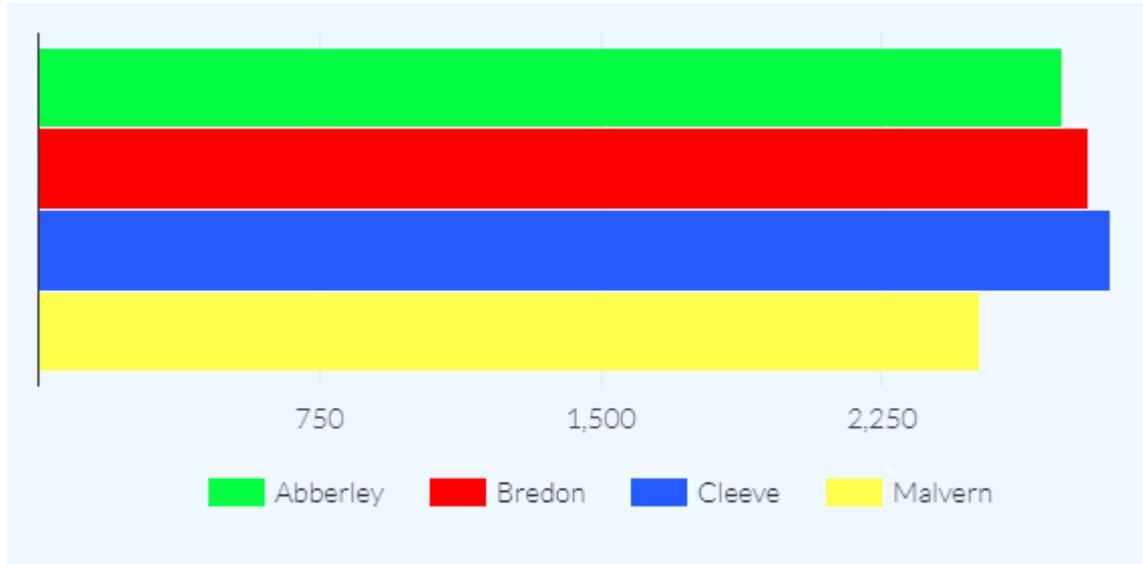
Date	Activity	Location	Open To	Cost	Leader
May 2022					
Fri 13 – Mon 16	Outward Bound	Yorkshire	Y6	£ 324	Rev Leach
June 2022					
Wed 22 – Fri 24	Arts and Theatres	London	Y8	£ 300	Rev Leach
Fri 24 – Mon 27	Outward Bound	Yorkshire	Y7	£ 324	Rev Leach
Fri 24 - Mon 27	Outward Bound	Brecon Beacons	Y5	£ 220	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 1	Friday 8 October	All Years' nasal flu vaccination
	Thursday 21 October	Y5 Parents' Evening 4.00—7.00 pm
	Friday 22 October	Staff Development Day
	Monday 25 to Friday 29 October	Half Term
	Monday 22 November	Parents' KS2 Workshop 6.30—7.30 pm
	Friday 17 December	End of Term
2 0 2 2	Tuesday 4 January	Staff Development Day
	Wednesday 5 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Monday 10 January	Parent English KS2 Workshop 6.30—7.30 pm
	Thursday 27 January	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00—7.00 pm
	Wednesday 2 February	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00—7.00 pm
	Monday 21 to Friday 25 February	Half Term
	Wednesday 30 March	Y6 Yorkshire information evening 6.30 pm
	Friday 8 April	End of Term
	Monday 25 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 26 April	First day of the Summer Term
	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