

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may be aware that SATs for Year 6 are to go ahead this year. We shall continue the preparations, but we do not put undue pressure on pupils as they have had to face enough over the last couple of years. However, we have 'learning boosts' taking place for some to ensure that they do not get stressed and any learning gaps can be closed.



As the weather remains chilly and we need to keep the school well-ventilated, I do recommend that pupils have a coat if they need to walk a short distance or more, or if they sit in a desk near an open window in a classroom. We understand that pupils need to stay warm despite our Covid measures, although pupils will not need to wear their coat throughout the day because they will be in different places in different teaching spaces. When they arrive in the morning, or go home from the front gate, I suggest to them that zipping or buttoning their coat would be an advantage, but I note that there can be a puzzled look in reply!

We have a number of vacancies that have arisen over recent months that we are now offering to recruit for. We would welcome applications from individuals looking to explore flexible working hours. This includes situations where full-time or part-time working may be considered—if the needs of candidates and the needs of the school can be blended, then that works (if you will excuse the pun) for both sides.



My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action.
John 3:18



The school gates open at 8.30am, as that is when staff are on duty. Therefore, we ask that pupils do not arrive before this time as supervision will not begin until half past eight. This gives 20 minutes until we note that pupils are late - 8.50am is the time that the gates close. Our staff are again on duty at the day's end to ensure that exits from the school are smooth. You will also notice that we have staff at certain places around the roads to ensure that pupils are ok. This is for the safety of pupils and not to deal with parking or other road-related matters.



Rev. C. Leach, Principal

A prayer for Sacred Art

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

This week's theme was: Sacred Art

The Lord is urging him and Oholiab from the tribe of Dan to teach others. And he has given them all kinds of artistic skills, including the ability to design and embroider with blue, purple, and red wool and to weave fine linen.

Exodus 35:34-35

Whole School Target

95.6%

Whole School Attendance

Congratulations to the following tutor groups 99%+ for the week commencing



For the week ahead

<p>The Fruit of Faith is:</p>	<p>Inclusiveness</p>	<p>He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.</p> <p><i>Matthew 5:45</i></p>
<p>The assembly theme:</p>	<p>Careers</p>	<p>Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.</p> <p><i>Colossians 3:23</i></p>

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

<p>The weekend</p>	<p>Those in unemployment, looking for work</p>	<p>Monday</p>	<p>Children who don't have access to school</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>Those helping the effort to reduce global warming</p>	<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>A successful Parent's Evening for Years 6 and 8</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>potential candidates for our vacant posts</p>	<p>Friday</p>	<p>For those who have experienced abuse online and offline.</p>

Picture of the Week



The American SpaceX company has made the biggest rocket ever constructed. The vehicle has two segments - an upper-stage called Starship and a booster called Super Heavy. There are 29 methane-burning engines at the base of the Super Heavy booster.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Carers

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.

18

CENSORED

TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

exemplify

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 27th December 2021 — 27th January 2021

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

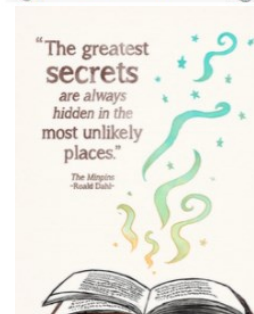
Amna Hussain (5E2) - who has read 434,017 words

Top Boy

Joe Craig (5C3) - who has read 982,053 words

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

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU



Year 6 & 8 Parents & Carers Consultation Evenings

We would like to offer you the opportunity to speak with your child's teachers on the dates listed below. This will be an opportunity for you to talk with subject teachers to discuss your child's progress and attitude in lessons.

You are welcome to attend one of two parents' evenings on either:

Second event:

Wednesday 2nd February, 16:00-19:00



This year, due to current circumstances, parent's evening will be held remotely using Teams but you must still book your appointment using ePraise.

There is an ePraise app available for Android and Apple phones or you can visit www.epraise.co.uk, ensuring you select Walkwood Church of England Middle School from the list of schools.

If you have forgotten your password, or have never logged into ePraise before, then click on the parent tab and enter your email address, leave the password field blank, press submit, and a password will be sent to your email.

If you do not have an email address registered with us then you will be unable to login: you will need to contact the [school office](#) to add an email address to your contact details.

The booking system for these Parents' Evening went live on ePraise from Friday 14th January. Teachers of the core subjects (Maths, English and Science) tend to get booked up quickly, so I would encourage you to book your appointments as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Each subject appointment will last for a maximum of five minutes. I would suggest leaving at least ten minutes between appointments to allow you time to enter the next Teams meeting.

Once in Epraise please:

- select [Community](#)
- then choose Parents' Evenings.
- Now click on the **Parents' Evening** you require, please check you have selected the date you want, and you will be given the option to book in with your child's subject teachers. If you see two teachers listed for one subject it is because it is a shared group. You will only be able to book in with one teacher so I would suggest selecting the teacher who has them for most of the lessons.

Some teachers are part time so they will only be present for parent's evening on the days they work. All staff are present for at least one of the above evenings.

Before the date of your parent's evening links to the different Teams meetings will be issued to you via your Parents' Evening booking in Epraise. You can use this Meeting link on a computer, smart phone or tablet but you must have a camera and microphone to enable parent's evening to run.

On the day of the Parents' Evening, please follow the correct link five minutes before your appointment time. Ensure you join the meeting when asked as this means you will be held in the virtual lobby until your time slot. The teacher will admit you to the meeting when they are ready for you. When following the link to the meeting you will be asked to enter a name, can you **please use your child's name**, this will enable staff to invite parents into the meeting in the correct order.

Mrs L Cull,
Assistant Principal



Clubs and Activities

Spring term 1 2022

	Before School 7:45am – 8:45am	Lunchtime 12.35 – 1.20PM	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Monday			Homework Club KS2 Fitness Club Group 2 (3.30-4.45) RDJ/PMC
Tuesday	Orchestra CGR 8.45am – 9.25am Music Room		Homework Club KS3 Boogie Bounce (3.30-4.45) Sign up only KRE
Wednesday			Homework Club KS3 Fitness Club (3.30-4.45) Sign up only KRE/RMA/CHU Cooking club (3.30-4.45) <u>DSL</u> Pupils should have signed up and on a rotation.
Thursday		Choir CGR 12.55 – 1.20 Music Room All Year Groups	Homework Club KS2 Boogie Bounce Group 2 (3.30-4.45) Sign up only KRE
Friday			



Club Information

Due to Parents Consultation evening on **Wednesday 2nd February** there will be no after school clubs or learning boost sessions in the afternoon, apart from Homework club.

The country has now exited Plan B restrictions, but as you may be aware there have been cases of COVID-19 identified in each year group and most classes.

We are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

The school remains open and *providing your child remains well* they can continue to attend the setting as normal. We will keep this under review.

Children Identified as Contacts:

Children who are identified as contacts of the positive case(s) will be asked to complete 7-day LFD testing.

Due to there being cases in each year group, the advice we are asked to impart is that you consider taking additional precautions to limit the spread of infection by reducing their contacts with others outside the school/ the settings, avoiding close contact with those who may be clinically vulnerable.

Children who are symptomatic:

If your child has symptoms of Covid-19 please keep your child at home and book a PCR test as soon as possible.

[Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

If you are concerned that you may have symptoms of COVID-19, or you live with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19, follow the [Stay at Home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19](#).

Rapid Testing (Lateral Flow Test):

If your child has taken an LFD Test and they receive a negative LFD result they can attend school as usual. If the LFD test result for your child is positive they will need to isolate and follow the current isolation guidelines at [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). There is currently no need for your child to seek a confirmatory PCR test in this instance.

There are still simple things we can all continue do to reduce the risk of spreading the virus: [wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds](#)

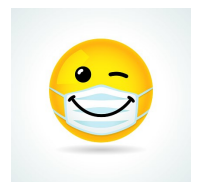
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

There continues to be additional support for those self-isolating or vulnerable as a result of COVID-19 can be accessed through Here2Help:

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help> or 01905 768053 then press option 3. The Here2Help opening hours are Monday to Thursday 9.00am to 5.00pm and Friday 9.00am to 4.30pm

Last week the Prime Minister announced that face coverings were no longer recommended in classrooms and teaching spaces. As of yesterday, this applies to communal areas too.

If staff or pupils wish to wear a face covering, then we shall not quibble with that wish.





Walkwood

Church of England  Middle School

Current Vacancies

We have a number of vacancies that have arisen over recent months that we are now offering to recruit for. We would welcome applications from individuals looking to explore flexible working hours. This includes situations where full-time or part-time working may be considered—if the needs of candidates and the needs of the school can be blended, then that works for both sides.



Please click below for more details:

Administrative Assistant	Advertisement	Applicant pack
Caretaker	Advertisement	Applicant pack
Cleaner - end of day	Advertisement	Applicant pack
Cleaner - during the day	Advertisement	Applicant pack
Design Technician	Advertisement	Applicant pack
Science Technician	Advertisement	Applicant pack
Teaching Assistant	Advertisement	Applicant pack

Walkwood Church of England Middle School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Successful applicants will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS check.

Application forms are available from the school website: [Application form for support staff](#)
Also reference the [Guidance notes](#) and the [Privacy Statement](#). The school recruitment policy is also view-



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



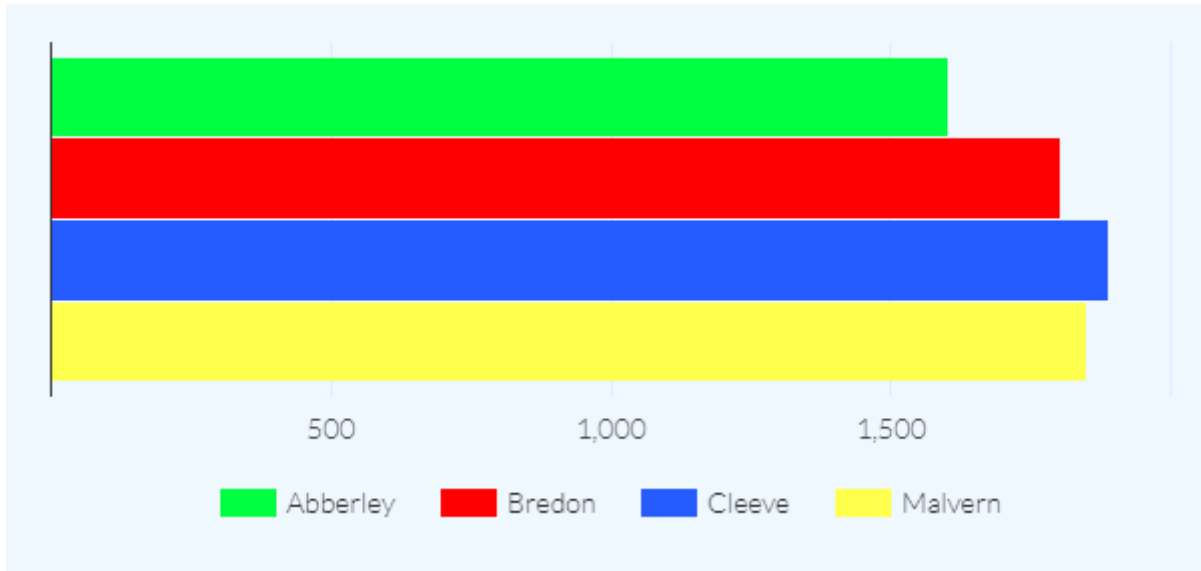
Date	Activity	Location	Open To	Cost	Leader
May 2022					
Fri 13 – Mon 16	Outward Bound	Yorkshire	Y6	£ 324	Rev Leach
June 2022					
Wed 22 – Fri 24	Arts and Theatres	London	Y8	£ 300	Rev Leach
Fri 24 – Mon 27	Outward Bound	Yorkshire	Y7	£ 324	Rev Leach
Fri 24 - Mon 27	Outward Bound	Brecon Beacons	Y5	£ 220	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 2	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