

### The Insider

12th December 2025; issue 583

#### **Our Vision**

In our inclusive community,
Each valued individual is taught self-belief
We are resilient and optimistic,
Caring for ourselves and our peers.
We are Children of God, with hope,
Awe and wonder in our hearts.

Our Bible verse: Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32



Our Values: Respect Friendship Honesty Kindness
Our motto: Respect. Believe. Succeed



Dear Parents and Carers,

Our pupils have worked exceptionally hard this term and have earned an impressive number of EPraise points. We are thrilled to share that we have a record number of pupils achieving Gold, Silver, and Bronze Awards which is fantastic news and a real testament to our brilliant Walkwood students. Furthermore, at our recent Christmas Fayre, visitors commented on how polite and well-mannered our pupils were, which made us incredibly proud. We look forward to Rewards Afternoon next week and to our Celebration Assembly on the final day of term, where we will reflect upon and celebrate the successes and achievements of the past few months.

We are delighted to share that Jacob (6RCO) was a runner-up in the Charity Christmas Card Competition and will receive a certificate and prize from our MP, Chris Bloore. Jacob's design also features on the Christmas card that Chris (MP) will be sending out this year. We are incredibly proud of his achievement, as well as of all the children who entered the competition. There were many beautiful designs reflecting our wonderful community, and every pupil who took part will receive a certificate. Well done to you all!



Walkwood Middle School

On Tuesday, our Year 5 pupils visited Vaynor First School to watch their Christmas nativity. We received a warm welcome, and our pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The Reception children were wonderful and certainly brought plenty of festive cheer. In the new year, we look forward to continuing our collaboration with Vaynor for the benefit of both Walkwood and Vaynor pupils.

Our pupils and staff have also enjoyed a wonderful Christmas lunch this week – thank you to our catering team for the care they put into this festive meal, which was thoroughly appreciated. A reminder that our Christmas Carol Service will take place on Wednesday 17th December at The Bridge Church. All are warmly invited to join us for this special act of worship. On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December, pupils can wear non-unform with a festive/Christmas jumper – this is optional and unform can be worn if preferred. Further details on p2.

We wish you all a restful weekend!

Mrs Lowe

#### **Key Information for Parents**

For information about our school: www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk











# Keeping children safe

The following information regards how we continue to ensure that pupils are cared for within our school:

<u>Early help</u> <u>E-safety</u> <u>Prevent</u>

Child Protection Attendance

<u>Safeguarding summary</u> <u>Safeguarding policy</u>

#### **Absences and illness**

Please could you notify school of your child's absence before 9:30am **EACH** day of absence. In the case of sickness and upset stomachs, your child will need to be clear of any symptoms for 48 hours before returning to school.

Thank you.

#### **Christmas Jumper Day**

An optional festive/Christmas jumper day will take place on the last day of term (Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December), with all proceeds going to Children in Need.

The £1 can be paid via Parent Pay, Christmas Jumper day 2025. Thank you.





#### **Lunch Money**

Please can we ask that all ParentPay accounts are settled regularly. Once the outstanding balance is cleared, please ensure the account remains in credit.

You are able to set up regular weekly payments via ParentPay, as well as email alerts to remind you when the balance is getting low. Can we also remind you that the FSM allowance is to be used at lunchtime only and does not include breaktime snacks.

If you have any queries, please contact the finance office.

Thank you.





#### **British Values and news**

In our Collective Worship this week, we took time to reflect on and discuss a current news story, considering its relevance to one of our key British Values: Individual Liberty.

We encourage you to take a moment to speak with your child about what was discussed and see if they can identify other examples of Individual Liberty in action in our everyday lives—both within school and beyond. It's a wonderful way to continue these important conversations at home and help deepen their understanding of the world around them.







# **Every School Day Counts**



94% Our overall attendance this academic year



#### Weekly Attendance

Year 5	94%
Year 6	95%
Year 7	90%
Year 8	92%
Whole School	93%







<b>Year to date Attendance</b>				
Year 5	96%			
Year 6	94%			
Year 7	93%			
Year 8	93%			
Whole School	94%			



Congratulations to 6RCO, who had an attendance rate of 99.4% for the week. A wonderful achievement- Well done!

Walkwood continues to be in top 15% for attendance in the country. Thank you to you all for keeping our standards for attendance in school high. Room for even more improvement? Absolutely.



**Celebrating attendance** Because attendance matters...





# Wednesday 17 th December The Bridge Church 6pm



Join us for our annual
Carol Service with music
from our Choir and
Orchestra and reading and
prayers led by our
Collective Worship
Leaders.



#### The Lion King Jr - Rehearsal Schedule - Autumn Term 2

Remember, a musical is a living, breathing entity. Where it is necessary to make changes to the rehearsal schedule, we will notify you in advance. Please make sure you know your child's character or which ensemble group they are a part of.

Tuesday	Thursday
Tuesday	Thursday
3.30pm-4.45pm	3.30pm-4.45pm
GLA, PAL, LHO 4th November	GLA, PAL, LTI 6th November
4 <sup></sup> November	6 November
Circle of Life: Rafiki, Zazu, Mufasa, Sarabi, Pridelands Tribe, Lion Pride	Circle of Life: Rafiki, Zazu, Mufasa, Sarabi, Pridelands Tribe, Lion Pride
Blocking pg. 16-17: Mufasa, Scar, Zazu, Hyena Clan	
11 <sup>th</sup> November	13 <sup>th</sup> November
Grasslands Chant: Pridelands Tribe, Lion Pride, Hyena Clan	Lioness Hunt pg. 26-27: Lion Pride
Blocking pg. 22-24: Mufasa, Young Simba, Zazu	<b>Blocking pg. 24-25, 28-30:</b> Scar, Young Simba, Young Nala, Sarabi, Sarafina, Zazu, Rafiki
18 <sup>th</sup> November	20 <sup>th</sup> November
Blocking pg. 38-44: Young Simba, Young Nala, Zazu, Mufasa, Scar, Banzai, Shenzi, Ed Blocking pg. 52-53: Mufasa, Zazu, Young Nala, Young	Be Prepared: Scar, Shenzi, Banzai, Ed, Hyena Clan
Simba	O7th No. 200 Long
25th November	27th November
They Live in You: Mufasa, Lion Pride	The Stampede and Shadowland: Nala, Pridelands Tribe, Lion Pride
Blocking pg. 59-60: Young Simba, Scar, Banzai, Shenzi, Ed	Blocking pg. 64-66: Mufasa, Scar, Young Simba
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	4 <sup>th</sup> December
The Mourning: Sarabi, Nala, Rafiki, Scar, Lion Pride, Hyena Clan.	I Just Can't Wait to be King: Young Simba, Pridelands Tribe
Blocking pg. 70-73, 84-87: Timon, Pumbaa, Young Simba, Zazu, Scar, Banzai, Shenzi, Ed, Nala.	
9th December	11 <sup>th</sup> December
Circle of Life, Grasslands Chant, Lioness Hunt, Be	Hakuna Matata and Can You Feel the Love Tonight: Timon,
Prepared: Rafiki, Zazu, Mufasa, Sarabi, Pridelands Tribe,	Pumbaa, Simba, Nala.
Lion Pride, Hyena Clan, Scar, Shenzi, Banzai, Ed.	Small ensemble to be selected.
Blocking pg. 92-97: Timon, Pumbaa, Simba, Nala	
16th December	18th December
TO December	10 December
<b>Blocking pg. 115-116:</b> Nala, Timon, Pumbaa, Rafiki, Banzai, Shenzi, Ed	This rehearsal will be used as a "catch up". Students required for this rehearsal will be informed in advance.
Blocking pg. 118-123: Scar, Sarabi, Simba, Nala, Shenzi, Banzai, Ed, Timon, Pumbaa, Zazu, Rafiki, Hyena Clan, Lion Pride	

Characters with solo songs, or those involving small numbers of students, may be called for lunchtime rehearsals. Information about these will be given on our daily notices for students.

Show Dates: Tuesday 24th March 2026, Wednesday 25th March 2026, Thursday 26th March 2026



#### Appointment of Teaching Assistant Grade 2

Remuneration: Scale 3 from £ 25,583 - £ 25,989 pro rata

8:45am -3:30pm

33 ¾ hours per week, term time only plus 5 Inset days

"The school's ethos and values are central to every aspect of school life at Walkwood Church of England Middle School. Relationships between pupils and teachers are strong. Pupils enjoy their learning. Pupils achieve well, including those with special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND)"

#### SIAMS stated (2024):

Led by the vision, leaders are resolute in driving forward the work of the school. This ensures positive outcomes for pupils and adults.

Pastoral care is exceptional and extends from the school into the local community. As a result of this feeling of being treasured, lives are transformed.

There is a strong culture of togetherness, respect and trust between all members of the school community.

Walkwood Church of England Middle School are looking to recruit a Grade 2 Teaching Assistant.

#### We are looking for a teaching assistant who:

- Demonstrates the ability to provide efficient and effective support to pupils and staff through a fully inclusive approach
- Assesses and reports on pupils' development, progress and attainment
- Is able to provide effective pastoral care and understanding of all pupils
- Is proactive, flexible and works effectively as part of a team
- Has excellent communication skills with pupils and all stakeholders
- Is a reflective practitioner
- Is committed to their own professional development
- Is committed to promoting our Christian Ethos and values
- Has GCSE passes in Maths and English (4+)

#### We can offer:

- A committed and supportive leadership team
- Wonderful, motivated children
- A commitment to your future professional development
- Support from the whole community of our church school
- Support from The Spire Trust (currently in process of joining)

Previous experience is desirable for this role, although not essential. Experience of working with children with autism and other additional needs is desirable or at the least, a willingness to gain experience, together with GCSE passes in Maths and English (C/4+) or equivalent.

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. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS check.

For full details of this position and how to apply, please visit our website at <a href="https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk">www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk</a>. The application deadline is 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 9 am. Interviews will take place shortly afterwards.



#### Appointment of a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant Grade 4

Walkwood Church of England Middle School are looking to recruit a Grade 4 Higher Level Teaching Assistant.

Remuneration: Scale 4 from £ 31,537 - £ 33,699 pro rata

8.30 am to 3.35 pm

35 hours 25 minutes per week, term time only plus 5 Inset days

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#### SIAMS stated (2024):

Led by the vision, leaders are resolute in driving forward the work of the school. This ensures positive outcomes for pupils and adults.

Pastoral care is exceptional and extends from the school into the local community. As a result of this feeling of being treasured, lives are transformed.

There is a strong culture of togetherness, respect and trust between all members of the school community.

Walkwood Church of England Middle School are looking to recruit a HLTA Grade 4 Teaching Assistant.

We are looking for a teaching assistant who:

- Demonstrates the ability to provide efficient and effective support to pupils and staff through a fully inclusive approach
- Assesses and reports on pupils' development, progress and attainment
- Is able to provide effective pastoral care and understanding of all pupils
- Is proactive, flexible and works effectively as part of a team
- Has excellent communication skills with pupils and all stakeholders
- Has experience teaching whole class in the absence of a teacher.
- Is a reflective practitioner
- Is committed to their own professional development
- Is committed to promoting our Christian ethos and values
- Has GCSE passes in Maths and English (4+)

#### We can offer you:

• A committed and supportive leadership team

- Wonderful, motivated children
- A commitment to your future professional development
- Support from the whole community of our church school

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. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS check.

For full details of this position or a tour of the school prior and how to apply, please visit our website at <a href="https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk">www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk</a>. The application deadline is 9 January 2026 at 9 am. Interviews will take place shortly afterwards.

# Clubs and Activities



## **Autumn Term 2**

	Before school 8.30-8.45	Breaktime 10.20- 10.35	Lunchtime	After School
Monday	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	12.55-13.15  Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	3:30pm – 4:45pm
Tuesday	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Choir Year 5 and 7 12.55-1.15 (during playground time) Music Room  Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	The Lion King Junior Rehearsals Students to attend according to rehearsal plan.
Wednesday	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	
Thursday	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	The Lion King Junior Rehearsals Students to attend according to rehearsal plan.
Friday	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Choir Year 6 and 8 1.15-1.35 (during playground time) Music Room Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	



# Looking ahead



2025			
Friday 19 December	End of Term		
2026			
Monday 5 January	First Day of Spring Term		
Wednesday 4 February	Yr6 & Yr8 Parents' Evening 4:00 – 7:00 pm		
Thursday 12 February	Yr6 & yr8 Parents' Evening 4:00 – 7:00pm		
Monday 16 – Friday 20 February	Half Term		
Wednesday 11 March	Yr5 & Yr7 Parents' Evening 4:00 – 7:00pn		
Thursday 19 March	Yr5 & Yr7 Parents' Evening 4:00 – 7:00pm		
Friday 27 March	End of Term		
Monday 13 April	First Day of Summer Term		
Monday 4 May	Bank Holiday		
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Yr7 Trip - The Ultimate Adventure Centre		
Monday 25 – Friday 29 May	Half Term		
Monday 1 June	Staff Development Day		
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> June – Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Yr5 Devon residential Trip		
Friday 17 July	End of Term		