

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Monday we welcomed the author Matt Oldfield to the school. He is the author of a number of books about football, both fiction and non-fiction. Matt spoke to each of the year groups for about half an hour, doing so energetically and enthusiastically, explaining how he came to be an author and why he writes books about characters whose passion is football. Perhaps most importantly, Matt was able to ask the pupils questions and gather their responses so as to further enhance his main points, and there was time for the pupils to ask him some questions too.



Unusually for Matt, he sold out of the books he brought with him, which filled two whole boxes! This was a first and he has taken the names of pupils who wanted one of his books and will send the signed copies to us. These will hopefully arrive after half term. Thank you to him for coming to speak to us, and also to parents who supported the event by allowing pupils to bring in their pocket money or allowance to buy books. There will be an additional opportunity to buy books after half term as the termly Book Fair arrives in the library once again.



Today has seen pupils and staff in non-uniform, the majority having sufficient in their wardrobe to dress in blue and yellow. This we have done to show support to the people of Ukraine, 51 weeks after their country was invaded. It was also a true sign to the refugees of that land who we have welcomed into our school. All proceeds will soon be on their way to UNICEF as it continues its work in Ukraine to relieve the suffering of children and families.



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
*Romans 15:13*

Finally, I invite you to view the first of a new series of information, this time looking at [safeguarding matters](#). Other aspects of this nature are detailed within this weekly newsletter.

Rev. C. Leach, *Principal*

**This week's theme was:  
Being thankful**

O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever.

*Psalms 118:1*

Dear God,  
Thank you for the creation of the world. Thank you that we are in a fortunate country where we have clean water and easy access to education. Thank you that we are able to appreciate so many things in this country. We pray that you will continue to give us thankful hearts, that we may show joy and thankfulness in all aspects of our life. In your name,  
Amen.

**Whole school Attendance**

95.05 %

**Whole School Target**

95.6 %

**06.02.2023 to 10.02.2023**

**Year 5 96.49 %**

**Year 6 95.30 %**

**Year 7 94.70 %**

**Year 8 93.51 %**



## For the week ahead

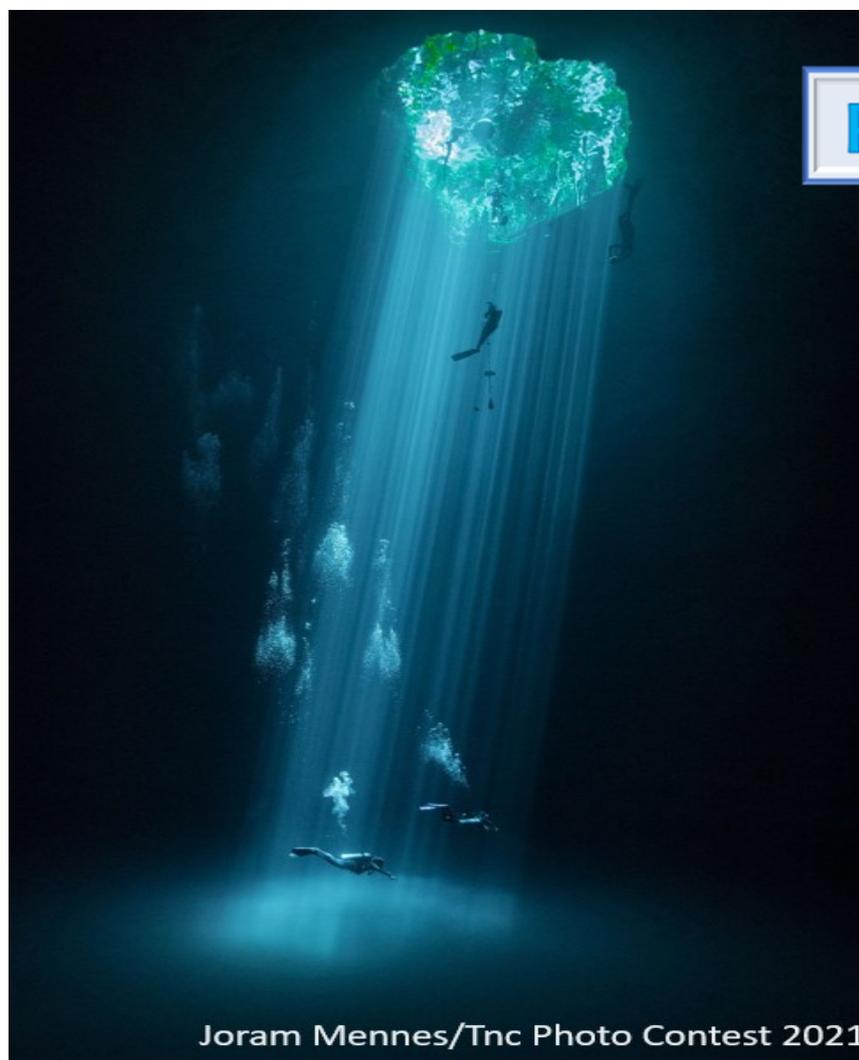
<b>The Fruit of Faith is:</b>	<b>Thankfulness</b>	You are my God, and I will give thanks to you.  Psalm 118:28
<b>The assembly theme will be:</b>	<b>Poverty</b>	Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.  Proverbs 31:9

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

<b>The weekend</b>	those involved in the relief efforts in New Zealand after the storm	<b>Monday</b>	safety for our pupils during half term week
<b>Tuesday</b>	the family of Thai teen footballer Duangpetch Promthep	<b>Wednesday</b>	religious tolerance
<b>Thursday</b>	county and borough councilors for Redditch	<b>Friday</b>	the people of Ukraine, one year on from the invasion of its borders by Russian forces

## Picture of the Week

Swimmers, free divers and divers enjoy their respective activities in a *cenote* [an underground water reservoir] in Mexico.



Joram Mennes/Tnc Photo Contest 2021



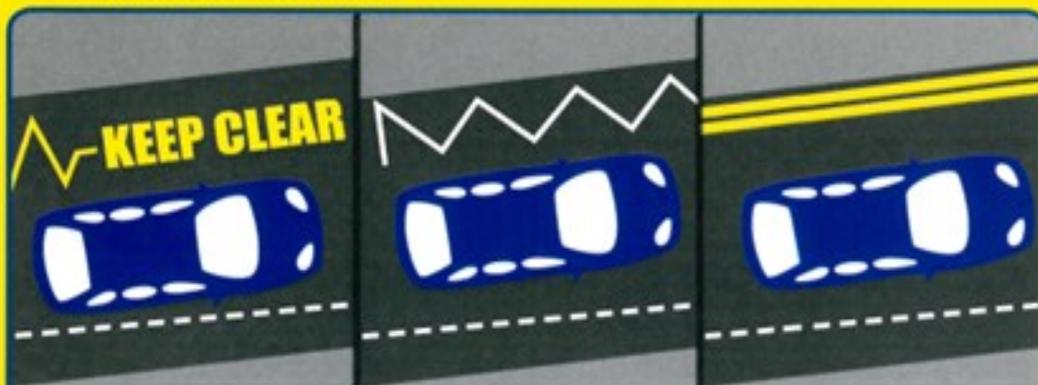
## Medical appointments

We recognise that appointments for hospital treatment that are assigned by an NHS hospital are usually unable to be changed. However, other medical or dental appointments should be arranged, where possible, out of school hours. Where this is not possible, it is expected that the pupil will only miss part of the day.

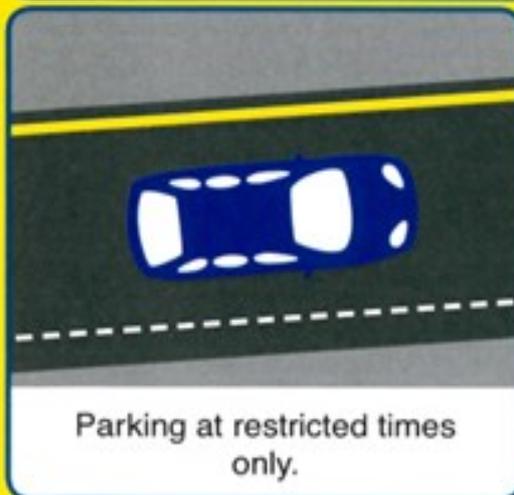
For instance, it is not appropriate that a pupil misses a whole day to attend the dentist for a regular appointment, and such instances may be seen as authorised for only part of the school day. Please also provide confirmation of the appointment, with either a letter or an appointment card. Thank you.

# Think before you park!

Illegal and irresponsible parking can put lives in danger.  
Remember the following:



No parking or waiting at any time.



Parking at restricted times only.



Parking on footpaths/corners/junctions creates a dangerous obstruction to pedestrians and other drivers.

**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. Always think before you park.

TRAVELLING BOOKS

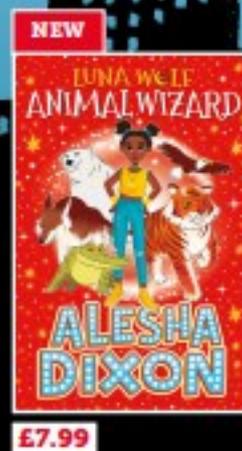
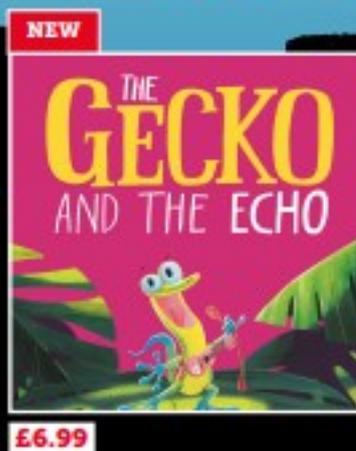
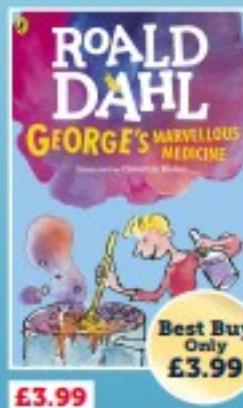
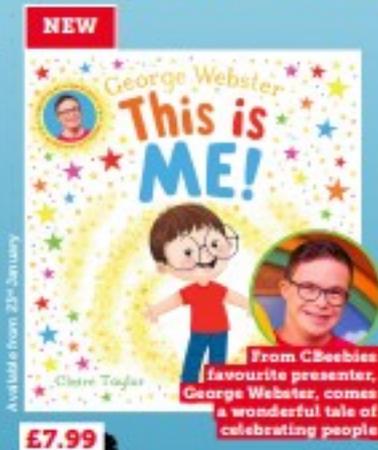
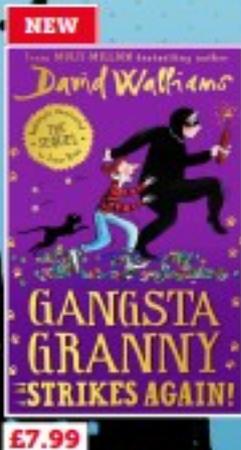
COME TO THE

# BOOK FAIR

FILL YOUR SCHOOL WITH FREE BOOKS WHEN YOU BUY FROM THE BOOK FAIR\*

FIND HUNDREDS OF THE BEST NEW BOOKS FROM JUST £2.99!

LAST YEAR, YOUR SUPPORT HELPED TO DONATE OVER £2.2M BOOKS TO SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE



Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February until Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

WHERE: The library

WHEN: Every lunch and breaktime and at the end of library lessons

Payment must be by CASH, unless parents/carers pay online

Books from as little as £1.00

For the full selection please visit :- [www.scholastic.co.uk](http://www.scholastic.co.uk)

Scan the QR code to pay online!

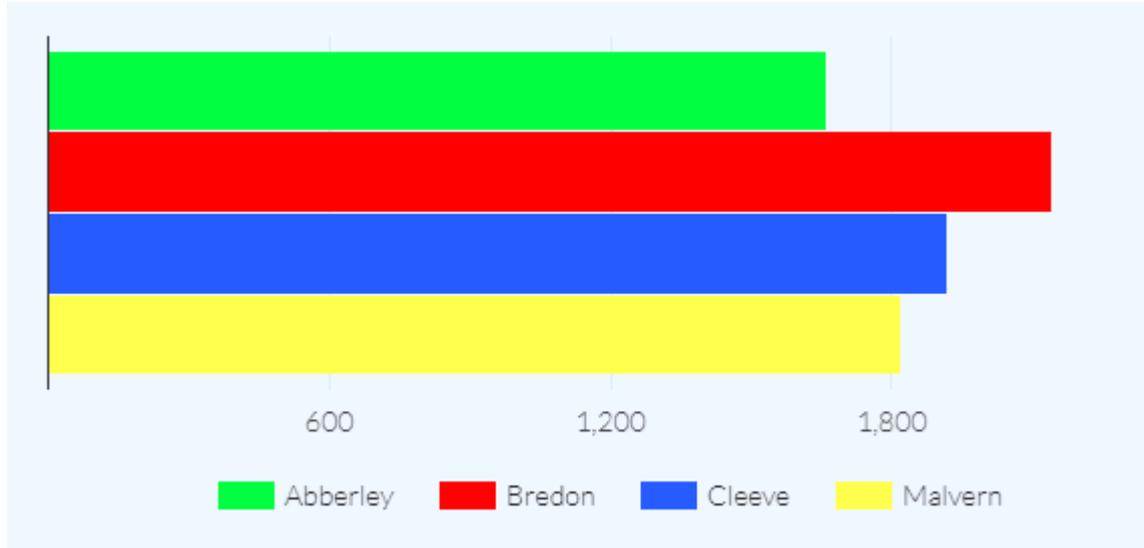


\*Free books are subject to terms and conditions. Please contact your Book Fair Organiser or Scholastic Book Fairs for details.

Art © Dav Pilkey



# epraise this week



## Top Readers for 15.01.2023 — 15.02.2023

Congratulations to:

### Top Girl

Eden Sherwood (Year 5 CPJE) - who has read 693,127 words.

### Top Boy

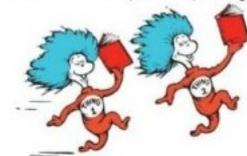
Charles Gardner (Year 7 MDSL) - who has read 458,734 words.

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

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU ...



The MORE  
that you read,  
the MORE things  
you will know.  
The MORE that you  
Learn,  
the MORE places you'll go.



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SOLUTIONS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AI solutions are becoming increasingly popular. Trained on vast datasets of text (such as books, articles and websites) in order to learn patterns and relationships, AI solutions can generate text, images, audio, video, code or synthetic data, and can be used for things such as crafting poems or books, creating digital imagery or delivering video content. Recently there's been significant discussion in relation to the benefits and risks of AI solutions, with many undecided on whether it will be a force for good or potentially reduce the need for some job roles.

## ROOM FOR INACCURACY

AI solutions, such as language models, generate their responses purely based on the data they've been trained on, which often comes from sources on the internet. Whilst questions will often illicit relevant responses, if some of the information they've been 'fed' is incorrect, it follows that the answers too may contain factual errors or inaccuracies.

## REINFORCING BIAS

AI solutions, such as those generating content or images, can perpetuate existing biases present in the data they were trained, whether through the algorithms written by humans or the content taken from the web. This could easily lead to biased responses and potentially reinforce existing stereotypes, such as those around gender, race or disability.

## IRRELEVANT INFORMATION

AI solutions don't have the ability to understand the context or meaning behind a question or a user request. Although highly advanced, the AI relies entirely on the data it's been exposed to and is devoid of independent thought or reasoning, which could lead to irrelevant or even nonsensical responses to queries.

## LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Fundamentally, AI solutions are machines or technology programmes that don't have the ability to take responsibility for the responses they generate. This could lead to confusion or misunderstandings in certain cases if the answers are taken as given. For instance, image-generative AIs can lead to output clearly derived from other peoples' content but without any attribution to the original source artist's work.

## STIFLING CREATIVITY

One of the potential risks of children and young people continually using AI solutions for things (such as their homework) is that eventually, they might become reliant on it. In the long term, this could potentially impact their development and hamper their ability to think creatively or solve problems independently without the aid of an AI tool.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If possible, try to be around when your child uses any type of AI solution and employ content filters to try and reduce the chance of profanity or age-inappropriate subjects appearing in responses. As with any kind of technology, it's important to ensure that children are using AI solutions responsibly and to be there to enable opportunities to discuss their use as part of a safe environment.

### PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Explain to your child that AI solutions can be used as one of many tools to help them research and learn, but that they shouldn't simply accept the responses they receive as the truth. Encourage them to question, verify and think critically about the information they get back - all of which apply equally to any website or platform they use.

### DISCUSS BIAS

Talk to your child about the potential biases that may be present in the data that AI solutions are trained on, and how these viewpoints might find their way into the responses that AI generates. Again, with many things children might read online, it's healthy for them to consider whether the information is factual and presented fairly.

### ENCOURAGE HUMAN INTERACTION

Not only should children supplement any use of software like AI with additional resources such as books and reputable internet sites, but they also should remember what they can learn from interaction with other people. Discussing things with teachers, relatives and friends isn't just an important and often invaluable aspect of learning - it's an essential part of life, too.

### CHECK SCHOOL RULES

Make yourself aware of any rules or guidance your child's school might have about the use of AI solutions. Most software is still extremely new, so many schools may not yet have a policy, however, it's important to make sure your child is aware of how to use it appropriately and will be using it for the right reasons.

## Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that adults and children alike become more aware of the risks associated with technology, as well as the many benefits.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

# 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](http://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk)

[Safeguarding information summary](#)

## 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



Did you know that reading improves children's vocabulary by 26%, regardless of background\*?

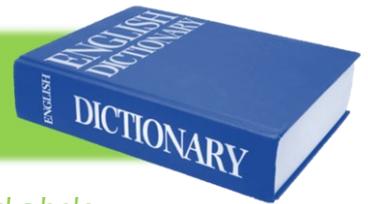
The average child becomes a fully fluent and automatic reader at the age of 13 years. Until then, reading aloud daily to an adult will be of benefit to all of our students. Even five minutes of reading aloud per day will be impactful and will support children with their fluency, including intonation and emphasis upon various words and phrases.

A reminder also that all of our students should be reading at home for an average of 30 minutes per day (30 minutes is optimal; 20 minutes minimum, as a target). This is essential for enhancing progress not just in the subject of English, but in all subjects across the curriculum.

\*Centre for Longitudinal Studies, 2017



## 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.*

### prove

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.*



# Sport round-up



Date	Sport	Age group	B/g/mixed	Opponent	Result
13.02.2023	Football	Year 8	girls	Bredon Hill	Walkwood lost 2-4



# Clubs and Activities



## Spring Term 2

	Before School 7:45am – 8:45am	Lunchtime 12.15 – 1.00pm	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Monday		<p>Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI</p> <p>Recorder Club, Music Room, GLA, 12.45pm-1pm. All welcome. We have instruments for those that need them. See Mrs Laishley to sign up.</p>	
Tuesday		<p>Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI</p> <p>Choir, Music Room, GLA, 12.35pm-1pm. All welcome. First sitting lunch pass required. See Mrs Laishley to sign up.</p>	<p>28<sup>th</sup> February year 7/8 netball team training only 3.30- 4.45</p> <p>Keyboard Club: 3.30pm - 4.15pm. Limited spaces. Sign up required. Priority given to those who did not gain a place last term.</p>
Wednesday		<p>Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI</p> <p>Reading club, room 18, duration of lunch, <u>JWa</u></p> <p>Core Reading Club, Room 15, duration of lunch, Mrs Shanley - Invite only</p>	<p>Starting Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March Year 6 netball club sign up only 3.30-4.45 Meet in changing rooms <u>KRE</u></p> <p>Ukulele Club: 3.30pm - 4.15pm. Limited spaces, sign up required.</p>
Thursday		<p>Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI</p> <p>Science Homework Drop In – Computing (Year 7 and 8)</p>	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> March year 7/8 team netball training only 3.30- 4.45</p>
Friday		<p>Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/PWE</p>	



# Trips and Visits



Date	Year group	Destination	Day trip?	Residential?	Cost
07/07 - 10/07/2023	5 <sup>•</sup>	Brecon Beacons Activity Centre		✓	£250
June 23	6	Blackwell Adventure	✓		£38 *
30/06 - 03/07/2023	7	Osmington Bay Activity Park		✓	£285
19/07/2023	8	Drayton Manor	✓		£40 *

<sup>•</sup> Fully booked

\* Current estimated cost

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 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 1st May	Bank holiday
	Monday 8th May	Bank holiday
	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