

Dear Parents and Carers,

Some of you may have had pancakes for dinner a week last Tuesday. 'Shrove Tuesday' was the last opportunity to use up eggs and fats before Lent; pancakes are an effective way of using up these ingredients. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, which is the time of preparation for the coming of Easter. The colours in church change to **purple** for preparation. We follow the pattern as the cloth at the front of assemblies is purple, and so is the scarf over the cross.



The Gospel of St John ends: *There are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.*



So, what have you given up for Lent? I will not allow pupils to give up homework for Lent (good try, by the way!) as Lent is when we recall how God will be merciful and forgive us our sins, rather than creating new sins by avoiding doing homework!

Having had an author visit before the half term break, this week has seen the book fair arrive in the library once again. Pupils have had the opportunity to visit, although some of these were with less time to linger due to not all pupils being in school on Wednesday.



**March
15 & 16**

Thank you for your understanding over the arrangements we had to make for this last Wednesday, when the strike by the National Education Union allowed us to have only Year 6 in school. The national industrial action by the NEU is scheduled for 15th and 16th March. The Secretary of State, Gilliam Keegan MP, has offered talks to resolve the dispute, so we shall assess what is possible on these dates and let you know a week in advance. Do bear in mind that matters may change—again, we shall keep you updated.

Rev. C. Leach
Principal

This week's theme was: **Poverty**

Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

Proverbs 31:9

Father God, we pray for those who are less fortunate than us. For families struggling for the most basic of things. We pray that your love is with them and that there will not be discouraged. That you will bless them abundantly. We pray that they can teach us to understand how blessed we are by what we do have.
Amen.

Whole school Attendance

94.96%

Whole School Target

95.6%

13.2.23 to 17.2.23

Year 5 96.37%

Year 6 94.94%

Year 7 96.39%

Year 8 95.41%



For the week ahead

The Fruit of Faith is:	Thankfulness	You are my God, and I will give thanks to you. Psalm 118:28
The assembly theme will be:	The Incarnation	In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:1-5

Our prayer for the week ahead:



O Holiness, O Beauty, O Life,
You called creation into being,
sustained by your will alone,
it is an offering of your love poured out for others to enjoy.
Your goodness echoes in the light and shade,
the palette and textures,
in the sounds and movements of life.
Knowing ourselves loved, we love.
Knowing ourselves welcomed, we welcome.
Knowing ourselves as recipients, we give.
Let our lives be all you long for them to be. Amen.

After Kerry Tankard, Yorkshire West District Chair, The Methodist Church

Picture of the Week



Anthony Wallace / AFP

An angler walks on concrete tetrapod wave breakers, whose shape helps dissipate the force of the water while remaining relatively stable, in Gangneung, South Korea

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SPOTIFY

Spotify is a digital music, podcast and video service which gives users access to millions of songs and other content from creators all over the world. Since launching in 2008, Spotify has revolutionised the way music is listened to: it now offers the ability to manage and share more than 100 million tracks and five million podcast series, plus personalised recommendations, new release updates and the option to create collaborative playlists. As of February 2023, it is the world's most popular audio streaming subscription service with 489 million users globally.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXPLICIT LYRICS

As per Spotify's terms and conditions, people need to be at least 13 to use it. That said, the platform doesn't censor lyrics unless instructed to do so in the settings – so it's worth noting that young teenagers could still be exposed to age-inappropriate songs which contain explicit references to sexual behaviour, violence, discriminatory language and swearing.

GROOMING TACTICS

Although Spotify doesn't come with dedicated chat functionality, concerns were raised in January 2023 after reports of an 11-year-old girl being coerced into sharing explicit pictures of herself on the platform. The case highlighted predators' tactics of sharing empty playlists with other users: their messages were being exchanged undetected through edited song titles and descriptions, bypassing security measures.

OVERSHARING

Spotify provides a perfect way to play music, with the ability to connect to another device, such as a Bluetooth speaker or an in-car stereo. While this is a useful feature, it's also easy to forget your surroundings and inadvertently play content which isn't appropriate for all listeners (especially those under the age of 18), potentially causing alarm or distress.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE PODCASTS

Spotify's podcast community has grown exponentially and it's become a popular base for millions of users to listen to shows, stories, interviews and more – with content covering an array of topics. This includes some material which isn't suitable for minors, including audio which is obviously adult-themed, but can be just as easily accessed as everything else.

ACCESS TO SPOTIFY LIVE

If your child has a Spotify account, they'll also be able to access the platform's audio-only chat service: Spotify Live. While it's a separate stand-alone app, Spotify Live allows people to listen to live discussions on the main Spotify platform and, more notably, lets users enter virtual rooms to chat with other users, opening up direct conversations with strangers and individuals who might not necessarily be there for the right reasons.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SWAP TO SPOTIFY KIDS

If you're concerned about what your child might hear while streaming music, Spotify Kids is a separate, ad-free service specifically designed for children aged 12 and under. It allows younger users to enjoy human-curated, child-friendly content (such as music and audiobooks) and is available to users with a Spotify Premium Family subscription – meaning that parents can view and manage the content their child listens to.

TALK ABOUT THE RISKS

As with any platform, it's good practice to talk to your child about what they should be aware of when using Spotify. For instance, it's important they're aware never to share any personal information with strangers, and what they should do if they're exposed to inappropriate content. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear so that they feel comfortable raising any concerns with you.

CENSOR EXPLICIT CONTENT

Regardless of what type of account your child uses to access Spotify, there is an option to turn off explicit content in the settings – greying out all songs marked with an 'E' tag. If your child has their own individual account, it's easier for them to turn it back on – whereas with a family plan, you're in control and your child can't alter the setting without knowing the password.

KEEP AN EYE OUT

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Spotify or you've noticed they're being particularly secretive about how they're using it, encourage them to talk about what they're listening to. It's always prudent to show an interest in their online habits from the outset – so you're confident they're using apps and services in the right way, for the right reasons, and they're not being drawn into anything they shouldn't be.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



Source: <https://newsroom.spotify.com/company-info/> | https://www.spotify.com/privacy/files/Parental_Guide.pdf | <https://www.spotify.com/us/live/> | <https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/police-confirm-investigation-launched-after-25918035>

NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday



Staffing

When we have staff who take leave of absence for a variety of reasons, or who are otherwise absent for the longer term, we endeavour to find someone who can 'cover' the job role.

This year, the sourcing of appropriate staff has been a challenge, especially for teaching posts. This is a common feature for schools in the West Midlands where there is a dearth of teachers who are employed by agencies, and is a result of the growing recruitment and retention concern within the teaching profession. These placements sometimes break down.

We shall continue to do all we can to ensure that there is a person in front of classes that is able to deliver the curriculum and we are working with agencies to alleviate the current challenges.



Worcestershire Early Help Partnership want to hear from parents, carers, children and young people in Wychavon and Redditch on what help, support and services they need and how they prefer to access this. The survey will help influence and inform how partner agencies deliver help and support to families in their community, bringing together the creation of Family Hubs.

In Worcestershire, they currently deliver help and support to families in many different ways, face to face, through clinics at libraries, children's centres, youth centres and schools, virtually or over the phone. Family Hubs focus on bringing services together and changing the way family help and support is delivered locally.

The survey will better enable them to provide joined-up help, support and services to children, young people, parents and carers from pregnancy through to the age of 19 years old or 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

Anyone who completes the Family Hub Consultation will have the opportunity to enter a free prize draw to win one of four £50 supermarket shopping vouchers. The surveys are anonymous, confidential and open to everyone living in Wychavon or Redditch and can be found on in the County Council website at <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/familyhub>.

Alternatively you can access the surveys via the following direct link:

[Complete the Redditch Family Hubs Survey](#)

The survey closes at midnight on Sunday 30 April 2023. If you require a Word version of the survey or need this information in another format, language or easy read, please email your details to YourSay@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

Tackling the Sales of Vapes to Children

Vaping is becoming increasingly popular with young people and is replacing cigarettes. Brightly coloured, sweet-flavoured and branded disposable vapes are very attractive, easily hidden and affordable at around £4.

Vapes are of concern because as their lungs grow and brains develop, children are vulnerable to the harms caused by these devices. Some vapes are non-compliant with UK law and may contain toxic materials. What we do know is children and young people who vape are at three-times higher risk not only of nicotine addiction, but of going on to use cigarettes and tobacco.

The legal age someone can purchase a vaping product is 18.

Trading standards regularly carry out test purchasing exercises at premises where they have been informed of or have received intelligence about selling to children under the age of 18. Trading Standards are working closely with Public Health to tackle this issue, they urgently need teachers, parents and children to come forward and tell them of any traders who are selling these products to underage children. They need as much information as possible, including trading names, addresses, and times of sales. Every piece of information can be seen as a jigsaw piece which helps them see the full picture.

Information can be provided by calling the Citizens Advice Consumer helpline 0808 223 1133 (anonymously if you wish) or via their [online form](#) or anonymously via the Worcestershire Trading Standards 'Tip Us Off' page. There is also a general Trading Standards e-mail address TSEnquiries@WorcestershireTS.gov.uk - Please use this email address if you would like to speak to someone from the team working on underage sales



Morning schedule

A reminder: the front gates and the Scott Road gate are open at 8.30am. This is when there are staff on playground to supervise the children. Pupils begin lining up a little after 8.40am and will start going into school gently, ready for the first registration bell at 8.50am. We ask parents to ensure that their children do not arrive before 8.30am as there will be no staff to supervise before that time.





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.

Where Next will be in school on Friday 17th March to purchase items for Mothers Day.



Price list
MOTHER'S DAY SALE

PRIMROSES	£1
OSTESPERNUM	£3
SENETII	£3
POTTED BASKETS	FROM £5
AZELA	£5
ROSES	£10
KITCHEN HERB GARDENS	£5
OTHER GIFTS	£5-£20

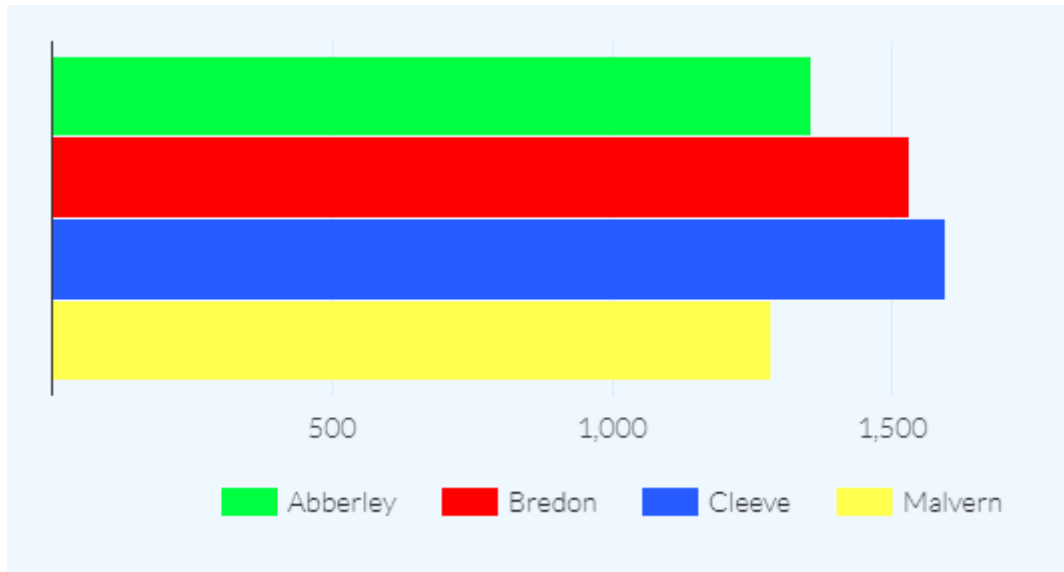
Where Next is a charity working with adults with learning difficulties nurturing their potential. Last years sale raised just short of £1,000 everybody in Where Next were very grateful for your support.

scan the code to learn more about
Where Next





epraise this week



Top Readers for 01.02.2023 — 01.03.2023

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

Eden Sherwood (Year 5 CPJE) - who has read 471,040 words .

Top Boy

Harley Moorhead (Year 7 BMMG) - who has read 456,535 words. .

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

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU



There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island.

Walt Disney

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>



Reading matters



You may have heard of a recent campaign about increasing children's reading ability, which is linked to simply turning on the subtitles on the television at home.

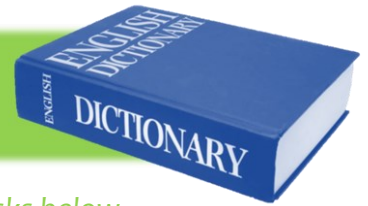
Alongside daily reading with your child, turning on the subtitles while children are watching the television is an easy and effective way of further improving their reading skills. Please read more about this research here: [Research into Same-Language Subtitling - Turn On The Subtitles](#)

Based on an academic study of 2,350 children, 34% became good readers with schooling alone. But when exposed to 30 minutes a week of subtitled film songs, that proportion more than doubled to 70%. There are lots of studies about the benefits of subtitles. This is just one!

Have a read of the website with your child —several celebrities are also involved!



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.

discourse

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.



Clubs and Activities



Spring Term 2

	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>	<p>Year 7/8 boys Rugby – Monday 6th-27th March</p> <p>Year 5 and 6 Multi skills fitness club start Monday 6th to March 27th</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>28th 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, JWa</p> <p>Core Reading Club, Room 15, duration of lunch, Mrs Shanley - Invite only</p>	<p>Starting Wednesday 1st March Year 6 netball club sign up only 3.30-4.45 Meet in changing rooms KRE</p> <p>Ukulele Club: 3.30pm - 4.15pm. Limited spaces, sign up required.</p> <p>Year 7 and 8 girls Rugby Wednesday 8th and 16th March</p> <p>year 8 boys football training Wednesday 22nd and Wednesday 29th (Invite only) RMA</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>2nd March year 7/8 team netball training only 3.30- 4.45</p> <p>Year 5 Football Team training only 3.30-4.45 CHU</p> <p>Drama club starting 9th March 3:30-4:45</p>
Friday	Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/PWE	



Trips and Visits



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

• 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	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