

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are in day 2 of the national lockdown as well as our town now being in the 'high' risk category for virus transmission. The second is now a direct consequence of the first. Also, at 3.54pm on Wednesday, schools received the information from the Department for Education concerning how we are to operate during the new national restrictions. I have been heartened that the actions Walkwood has taken means there are no changes to the way we work. Our approach has been an abundance of care and caution, and that continues.



Department
for Education



A colleague from Worcestershire's social care team was in school this week to work with pupils. She commented how organised our arrangements were, how teachers had high levels of control and pupils were so responsive as they went to and from classrooms. I felt so encouraged by that insight.

May the gracious favour of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper our handiwork; O prosper the work of our hands. Psalm 90: 20



As a reminder, the recommendations remain that school or work clothing is washed regularly. The same can be said for reusable face coverings, although it is preferable that these are washed each day. We shall continue our expectation that pupils wear face masks at key points of the day unless there is an exception that you have shared with us. Our staff continue with wearing face coverings around school and when with pupils, using visors in the classroom as a face mask just isn't appropriate when teaching.

If you ordered school photographs, these should have been delivered this week by pupil post. Otherwise, you may find the order at the bottom of a certain school bag!



I know tutors are looking forward to the parents evening this coming Thursday, and hoping that the technology holds up too! Meetings will be for five minutes only, but I hope you will be able to put a face to a name.

Rev. C. Leach, Principal

A prayer for Remembrance (WW2)

Ever-living God,

We remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

This week's theme was:

Remembrance (WW2)

'See the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'

Revelation 21: 3-5

Whole School Attendance

96.33%

Whole School Target

95.6%

Congratulations to the following tutor groups 99%+ for the week commencing 19.10.20

5C1, 5C3

6E1

8C2, 8E3, MAB



For the week ahead

The Fruit of Faith is:	Achievement	At last I have seen what is good and beautiful: It is to eat and drink and to enjoy the good in all our hard work under the sun during the brief lives God gives us. That is our lot in life. Ecclesiastes 5:18
The assembly theme:	Making peace	Let's keep on pursuing those things that bring peace and that lead to building up one another. Romans 14:19

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

The weekend	the safety of all during the lockdown.	Monday	trust between faith leaders and their communities.
Tuesday	Rachel Maclean, Redditch County's MP.	Wednesday	members of Walkwood's leadership team.
Thursday	staff in our mainstream autism base	Friday	continued blessings for our school to the benefit of our youngsters.

Picture of the Week



The star in the centre of the image is the Albireo double star, surrounded by trails of Earth's moving artificial satellites. The photo was taken over a period of some minutes.

As part of the government's guidance on the full reopening of schools, and from information about the national lockdown now in force, we must cooperate as part of the national Track and Trace. Therefore, if you report to us that a pupil has tested positive, we report that to our local public health team. We do not share the status of the child or other family members with anyone else.



What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops any symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days.

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school, nursery or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If your child has symptoms, try and keep them as far away from other members of your household as possible. It is especially important that they stay away from anyone who is clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable with whom you share a household.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)



For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do

- 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

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>



When you know that your child is self-isolating, or has tested positive, we shall supply home learning using ePraise.

For those who completed the recent survey, we shall supply paper copies of work as you requested.





Homework 2020-21

As previously shared in the Insider we have re-introduced homework. The tasks may take many forms, but to help the children organise themselves, we have drawn up a two-week timetable, which covers Maths and English for Key Stage 2 and Maths, English, Humanities and Science in Key Stage 3.

Homework will be recorded on Epraise, which can be accessed at home via your child's account or your own parental account. On completion of homework, we ask the pupils mark tasks as 'done' on their Epraise accounts (via class notes). If the homework requires them to upload work to Epraise, the act of doing this will mark the task as having been completed. For each homework that is completed on time, your child will receive one Epraise point and your child's teacher will acknowledge it as 'complete' via Epraise. In some cases, your child may be directed to other websites such as Mymaths to complete their tasks but these will still be recorded on Epraise.

When homework has not been completed or is completed after the due date, your child will receive a demerit. If homework is not being completed on a regular basis you will be contacted by your child's subject teacher and/or tutor to discuss ways to help your child complete their homework.

Key Stage 2

Pupils in years 5 and 6 received one maths and one English homework a week from the week beginning the 5th October. From the week beginning the 2nd November, this increased to their full homework timetable as shown below:

WEEK 1 and 2	Year 5 and 6
MONDAY	English - Reading
TUESDAY	Maths - times tables/arithmetic (6C3 set on Monday)
WEDNESDAY	
THURSDAY	Maths - topic based
FRIDAY	English - Spellings

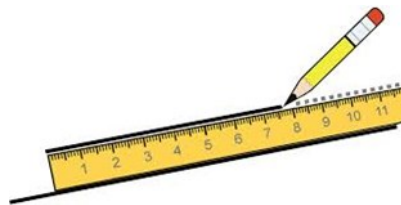
continued . . .

Equipment for lessons

We have noticed that some children do not have the necessary equipment needed for lessons anymore. Sharing of equipment presents challenges in the current climate. With this in mind we would appreciate it if you could check your child's pencil case to ensure they have what they need for lessons.

Compulsory items:

- Pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Pencil sharpener
- Colouring pencils
- A notebook
- Scientific calculator (Year 7 and 8 only)
- A pair of compasses (Year 7 and 8 only)



The following items are not compulsory but are useful:

- Whiteboard pen
- Glue stick
- Pink highlighter
- Green highlighter
- Protractor



GermDefence



Advice for parents to help protect their homes from COVID-19

Developed by Universities of Southampton, Bath and Bristol, an interactive website called Germ Defence has been launched which provides interactive advice on preventing transmission in households.

Someone can have the virus without knowing about it, and easily pass it on. They won't be aware of the risk to other people until it's too late. This website will help you find out how to reduce this risk. After a bit of practice the ideas and advice in Germ Defence will become habits and they will help protect you from coronavirus - and other germs in the future.

UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton

UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

University of
BRISTOL

<https://www.germdefence.org/>



Positive Postcards




This week we have launched the brand new Walkwood Positive ePostcards. These are to recognise those pupils who are achieving and working above and beyond within their lessons.

Pupils will be nominated by staff and then an ePostcard will then be sent directly to parents and carers via email.

Positive ePostcard


Just a quick note to say that.....



Thank you

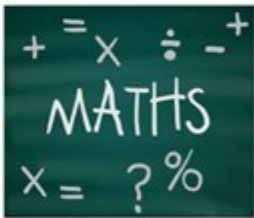
Walkwood
Church of England Middle School

Phone: 01527 543361
E-mail: office @walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk



Maths Department


Just a quick note to say that.....



Thank you

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Church of England Middle School

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What parents & carers need to know about ...

AMONG US

PEGI
7

Among Us is one of the most popular games of 2020. A space-themed 'social deduction game' where 4-10 players take on the guise of Crewmates, who must complete various tasks around their spaceship, while randomly selected Imposters must try their hardest to sabotage the others' efforts. The Imposters have to remain undetected through rounds of voting to win. While Among Us is a largely safe game, it's still prudent to be aware of any potential risks young ones might encounter when playing.

Inappropriate chat



While Among Us can be enjoyed locally via wi-fi, it is commonly played online. Between rounds, players come together to discuss who they think the Imposter is with a text chat, and it's here where children will come into contact with others. There is a profanity filter on the game as standard, but it can very easily be disabled and (like any unmoderated chat groups) children can be exposed to inappropriate, sexual or explicit language.

In-game purchases



Among Us is currently available on both PC (via the gaming service Steam) and mobile devices. On the PC, the game costs a flat amount of £3.99 and has some in-game purchases, whereas the mobile version is free to play but contains adverts and in-game purchases. You can pay to remove the ads or purchase in-game cosmetic items. While these amounts are relatively low, there's still the possibility that young ones could accidentally spend lots of money on the game without realising it, as the process is complete in a couple of taps if a card is connected to your store account.

Risk of hacking



Among Us has been the target of hacking activity. Indeed, only recently the game's developer, InnerSloth, tweeted advice that users play private games or with people they trust, in response to hacking issues. As yet, there has been no breach in player accounts. However, if a big enough hack were to take place and player details were accessed, it could lead criminals to having access to credit card data and other personal credentials.

Use of external apps



Many players use external apps like Discord to voice chat with each other while they're playing. The problem with this is that it is unregulated by the game. Usually on Discord, players will only talk to other people they know in private chats, but a stranger could add a child on an external app: pretending to be interested in playing Among Us with them, when in reality they could be attempting to bully, groom or extort.

Mild violence

The art style of Among Us is cartoony but does contain some very mild violence. Imposters must kill off Crewmates one by one and can do this in a number of different ways. Some younger children might find this uncomfortable and could get scared or become upset when an Imposter is chasing them, or if they are the Imposter and are forced to kill. An age rating of PEGI 7 should help guide you in deciding if the game is appropriate or not.



Safety tips

Play with your children

Playing with your kids is one of the best ways to understand the game, and what makes it so popular. Among Us is free on mobile and is incredibly easy to pick up and play. It's also a great way to bond with your young ones - unless of course you're the Imposter or vote them out of the spaceship! You can do this by picking 'Local' on the main menu then 'Create Game'.

Use private lobbies



Among Us uses private lobbies to let players keep track of who they're gaming with. Using a uniquely generated code that can be given to friends prior to a game starting, it gives parents peace of mind knowing who their kids are playing with. To get a game code, simply select 'Host', choose the game settings, press 'Confirm', then send the six-digit code at the bottom of the screen to friends to invite them.

Deactivate credit cards



Having your credit card automatically paired with any online accounts that can be accessed by children is asking for trouble. A solution could be setting them up with their own account with no credit card attached. They can still ask you when they want to make a purchase, but it's totally up to you as and when that transaction happens.

Use an alias



By default, your name on Among Us will be set to whatever name your device recognises you as. If this is your child's real name, you'll want to ensure they change it before hopping into a game. This is really easily done by clicking 'Online' on the main menu, then simply typing in a new name at the top of the screen.

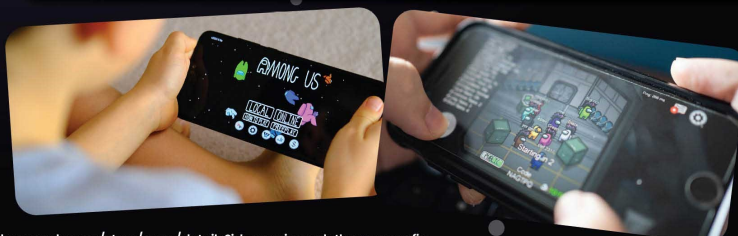
Talk about the risks



It's a good idea to talk to your child about the risks associated with online gaming, especially when there are chat options and an ability to communicate with others. Try to maintain an open dialogue with your child: talk about their experiences of the game and who they're playing with. This will help you to stay on top of how they're feeling and ensure they know they can come to you if ever they feel upset or uncomfortable about anything they've experienced.

Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for five years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGbible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work - but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



Sources: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.innersloth.spacemafia>

Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

phlegmatic

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 5th October 2020 - 5th November 2020

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

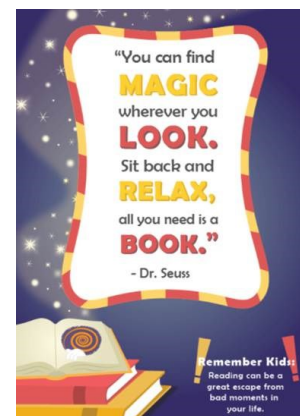
Lauren Carrington (8E1 - Abberley) - who has read 548,542 words

Top Boy

Jo Bellizi (6C2 - Malvern) - who has read 1,029,259 words

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

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU



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>



[Check if you or your child has coronavirus symptoms](#)

[Track and trace](#)

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.



Public Health
England

[Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)

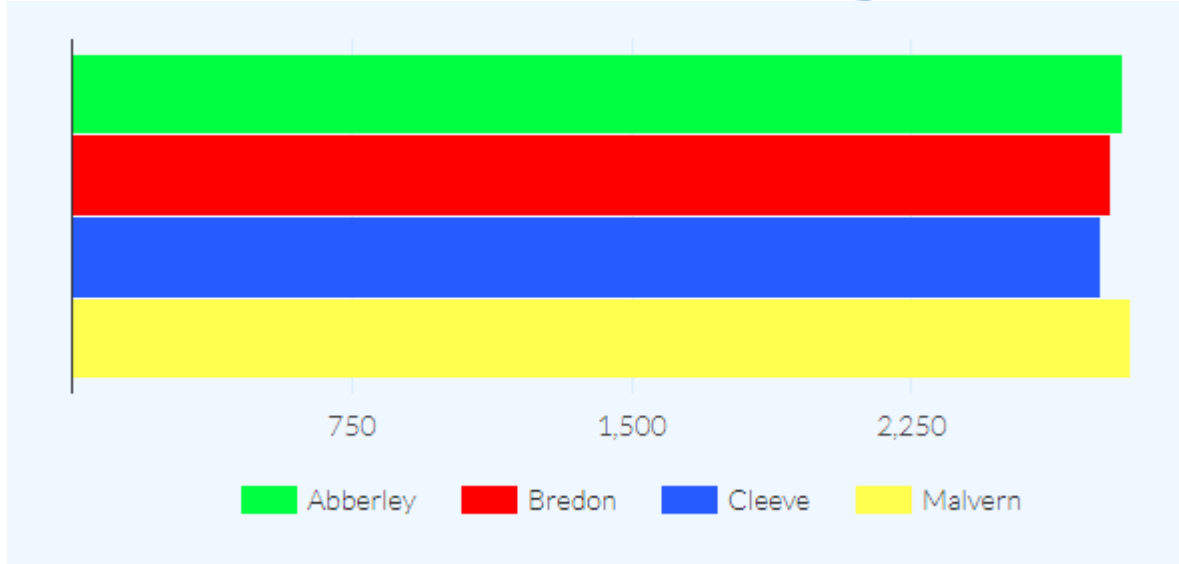
[Guidance for households with grandparents, parents and children living together where someone is at increased risk or has possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)



Epraise Update



Points This Week: By College





Looking ahead



	Date	Event
	Friday 18 December	End of Term
2021	Monday 4 January	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 5 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Monday 15 to Friday 19 February	Half Term
	Thursday 1 April	End of Term
	Monday 19 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 20 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June	Half Term
	Wednesday 21 July	End of Term