

Dear Parents and Carers,

The weather has certainly changed this week, and I was heartened by the number of coats that were evident in the mornings. It does amuse me when I see a pupil carrying a coat over their arm, which tends to happen at the end of a school day, especially when it is raining. However, we do try and ensure that pupils can go out to play as much as we can throughout the school year.



I am pre-empting the usual clamour when the SATs results are finally published, although the election may make more noise in the news. The tests that pupils sit in May of Year 6 produce outcomes that are not easy to apply when we are in a three-tier system. In fact, middle schools have Year 6 pupils for only five terms. Fortunately, Walkwood has a broad and balanced curriculum, which means that pupils are not being trained to do the tests, and this view has been taken by the current Chief Inspector of Schools. In fact, Ofsted say:

There are some schools that start and stop at non-standard ages for pupils, so we take into account national expectations differently. And it continues: Pupils at middle schools, on average, have lower progress scores at the end of key stage 2 than pupils at primary schools. Due to the age range of pupils at middle schools, pupils will have only attended a middle school for a short time before they take their key stage 2 tests and will still have a number of years left at the school. Inspectors will take this into account...

At Walkwood, our pupils make excellent progress throughout the four years they are here, with on average, 75% of pupils exceeding age-related expectations in reading, writing and maths by the end of Year 8. Do bear this in mind when SATs get into the news.



Our theme this week has been 'temptation' or rather, avoiding it! Our Fruits of Faith expect pupils to have thoughts and actions that show honour, honesty, friendliness and forgiveness. Naturally, children are children so expectations are not always met, but life is learning!

Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others.

Philippians 2:4

Rev. C. Leach, Principal

A prayer against Temptation

Lord Jesus, you showed us that temptation can be overcome. You have taught us that you alone can help us to stand up against it and strengthen our lives and character as we face the enemy. Let your spirit fill our hearts and minds with your will and power to overcome temptation just as you did. Help us to understand the consequences of temptation so that we can have a heart to stand up to it. Amen.

This week's theme was: Temptation

Every test that you have experienced is the kind that normally comes to people. But God keeps his promise, and he will not allow you to be tested beyond your power to remain firm; at the time you are put to the test, he will give you the strength to endure it, and so provide you with a way out.

1 Corinthians 10:13

Whole School Attendance

96.81%

Whole School Target

95.6%

Congratulations to the following tutor groups 99%+ for the week commencing 18.11.19

ALBA

MAB



For the week ahead

The Fruit of Faith is:	Aspiration	Oh listen, dear child—become wise; point your life in the right direction. <i>Proverbs 23:19</i>
The assembly theme:	The Future	For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. <i>Jeremiah 29:11</i>

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

The weekend	tolerance between nations and a softening of harsh words.	Monday	our Queen, Elizabeth II
Tuesday	the UK's forthcoming election.	Wednesday	fun and safety for children as they play in the evenings.
Thursday	our emergency services.	Friday	relative calm as the preparations begin for Christmas!

Picture of the Week



Floating barges with solar panels on the Lac des Toules, an alpine reservoir lake in Bourg-Saint-Pierre, Switzerland. The floating solar panel station consists of 36 floating barges featuring 2,240m² of solar cells.

Year 5 Theatre Visit

Reminder: Please ensure that permission slips have been returned by Friday 29th November.

All of our year 5 pupils are going see a performance of Peter Pan at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre on Friday 13th December 2019 with the cost of the trip covered by the school. On the day itself, pupils will eat a snack in the theatre before the performance and lunch during the interval. Pupils who are entitled to a free school meal will be able to order a packed lunch in advance from the school.

Mrs Hughes - Trip Leader



Festive Jumpers

On the last day of this term, Friday 20th December, pupils and staff are invited to replace their usual jumpers with a Christmas version. The rest of the Walkwood uniform is to be worn, please, as it is not a non-uniform day.

Voluntary Donation of £1 to



The wearing of festive jumpers is not compulsory!
There will be pupils and adults who will be in their usual attire.

School will finish at the usual time of 3.30pm—ho, ho, ho!



Absence

We ask that if your child has a sickness bug they must not return to school for **48 hours** since their last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.

Every day that your child is off school, please notify us. This can be done either by the absence line or by email through the website. Please notify us by 9.30am at the latest.

Thank you





KS2 Maths Workshop

Thanks to all parents and carers who attended the KS2 Maths workshops on Monday 25th November. We hope you found the evening useful and we were able to answer any queries or questions you had about the arithmetic curriculum.

If you were unable to attend, you can find all presentations and handouts on the school website:

<https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/KS2-Maths-workshop>

We look forward to see many of you at our KS2 English workshops on Monday 13th January.



Mrs L Cull



Ski Trip 2020



Thanks to all those that attended the Ski Trip Information Evening on Wednesday 13th November. If you were unable to attend you should have received a kit list from your child, which I sent home with them via the tutor bags. The presentation from the evening can be found on the school website in the Parents and Carers section under the 'Trips and Visits' tab. Letters have been emailed out regarding the beginner's Snow Dome trip in January. Please ensure reply slips are sent back by the date stated in order for me to confirm numbers with the Snow Dome.

Finally, a reminder that all remaining trip payments must be made by the end of November. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions.

Mrs Louise Cull

Christmas Lunch 2019

Christmas lunches this year will be held on Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th December 2019. If your child wishes to have a Christmas lunch, the cost will be £3.50, to be paid via Parentpay.

Abberley and **Malvern** Colleges will have their Christmas lunches on Wednesday 18th December, while **Bredon** and **Cleeve** College lunches will be on the following day. **There will be no other catering available on these days**, so pupils who do not wish to have a Christmas lunch will need to bring in a packed meal from home; equally the children in the colleges not having Christmas lunch will need to bring in a packed lunch as no other meals will be available. Those who take free school lunches will be provided with their meal (a Christmas meal on their allocated College day and a packed lunch on the other day). Please note that when paying by Parentpay, the Christmas lunch option will be listed as a separate item so that we can identify the number of meals required. Please select the Christmas lunch item (log in to Parentpay, then go into ‘pay for other items’) and ensure that you make your payment by 15th December 2019. If you are unable to pay by Parentpay, please put £3.50 in an envelope clearly marked with your child’s name and tutor group and put it in the drop box. Please ensure that your child does not put their £3.50 in the cashloader as this method is only to be used for everyday school meals.

Please note, **no tuck** will be available on Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th December.

Christmas Lunch 2019

Menu



- Roast Turkey
- Sage and Onion Stuffing
- Pigs in Blankets
- Roast Potatoes
- Sprouts, Carrots and Peas
- Gravy



Roast Quorn (Vegetarian Option)

Christmas Tree Ice Cream

Flavoured Drink





Applying for middle school

For children who are currently in Year 4 and intend to be in a middle school for Year 5, it is time to apply for a place. This needs to be completed using the online system:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

If you do not have internet access, call the county admissions team on 01905 822700 for assistance.

Walkwood Church of England Middle School is part of the Worcestershire County Council's coordinated scheme, which is administered by Babcock Prime.

The closing date for both first and middle school places is 15th January 2020

**CHRISTMAS CRAFT AND GIFT FAYRE
SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2019
2PM TIL 430PM
AT WEBHEATH VILLAGE HALL**



In support of Redditch HomeStart Snowflake Appeal

Come and see Santa and browse the homemade craft, cakes, preserves stalls and much, much more.

Helping the homeless

After a train journey into Birmingham New Street Isabelle noted several homeless people on the streets around the City Centre.

Upon returning home she began putting together what she called care packages.

Rummaging in the loft, contacting family members and friends asking for warm clothing, blankets and anything else they could spare in order to provide warmth to people sleeping on the streets.

After two weeks Isabelle successfully filled 5 bags to the brim, each including blankets, pillows, jumpers, socks, gloves, hats and scarfs among other under layer items such as t-shirts.

By the 20th November Isabelle was ready to take to the streets and deliver her packages. Upon returning home from school I asked if she was sure she wanted to go as it was so cold outside, her response “this Mom is why we need to do it today”



Two hours after we started Isabelle had provided warmth to those in need, her selfless act was so greatly appreciated. One homeless man took off a small angel brooch he had, handed it to her and told her she was an angel.

This is the start of Isabelle’s journey to provide help to those in need. The next set of care packages are already being discussed.

For your 2020 diary.....

Walkwood
Church of England Middle School



Bugsy Malone

Tuesday 31st March

Wednesday 1st April

Thursday 2nd April

Performances begin at

7.30pm

All tickets £5

Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

abysmal

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 28th October 2019 - 28th November 2019

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

Olivia Rea (Year 5 BRCO) - who has read an incredible 552,959 words

Top Boy

Joseph Bellizzi (Year 5 MHBA) - who has read a fantastic 811,988 words



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

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU



Trips and Visits

2019 - 2020



DATE	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	OPEN TO	COST	LEADER
May					
Fri 15 - Mon 18	Outward Bound	Yorkshire	Y6	£ 300	Rev Leach
June					
Wed 17 - Fri 19	Arts and Theatres	London	Y8	£ 300	Rev Leach
Fri 19 - Mon 22	Outward Bound	Isle of Wight	Y7	£ 320	Mr West
Fri 19 - Mon 22	Outward Bound	Brecon Beacons	Y5	£ 173	Mr Macdonald/ Mrs Cull



Clubs and Activities

Autumn Term Part 2, 2019



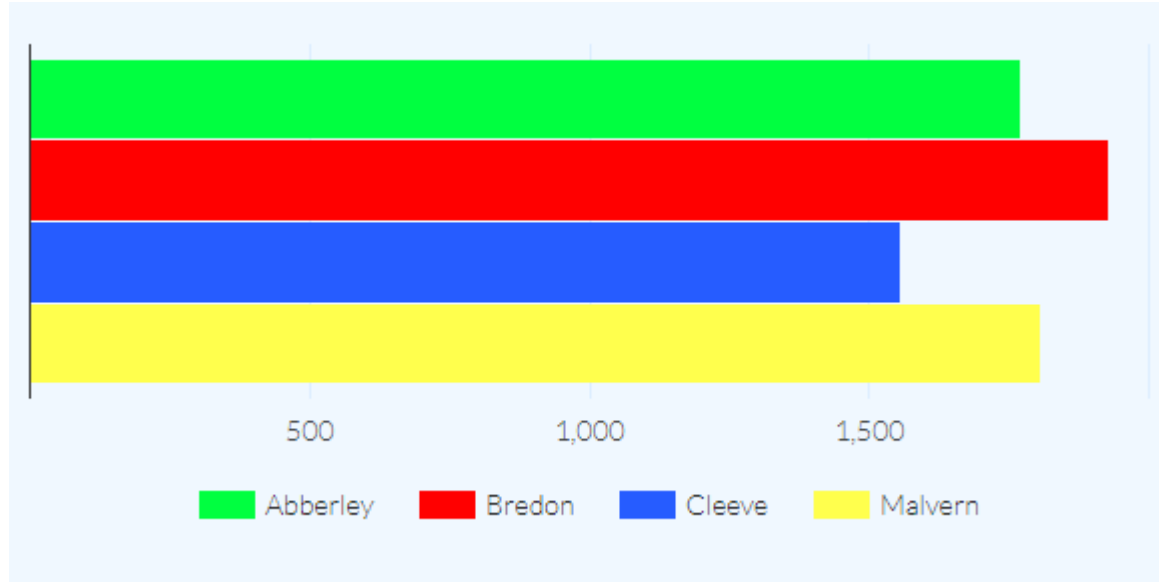
	Before School 7:45am – 8:45am	Lunchtime 12.35 – 1.20PM	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Monday	Homework Club Library Orchestra Music Room 8.45-9.30am (CGR)	KS3 Art Club starting 18 th September (ECO) Choir (all year groups) - Music Room 12.50-1.20pm (CGR) Parliament Club - Lab 2 (invitation only) 12.50—1.20 pm ECO Club - Lab 2 12.50-1.20 pm	Multi skills (all years) 3.30-4.45pm (PMC)
Tuesday	Homework Club Library	Nearly Jazzy Band (invitation only) Music Room 12.50–1.20pm (CGR)	Homework Club - Library 3.30–4.30pm Dance Club All years Starts 12 th November(KRE)
Wednesday	Homework Club Library	Colouring Club Room 15 (RSH) Silent Reading Club - Room 19 (LBA) KS3 Science Ambassadors - Lab 2 12.50-1.20pm (JHd)	Homework Club - Library 3.30–4.30pm KS2 Science Club - Lab 2 3.30-4.30pm (JHd) Cooking Club 3.30 – 4.45pm (DSL) Cheerleading Squad 3.30-4.45pm (LMO/KRE)
Thursday	Homework Club Library	Choir (all year groups) - Music Room 12.50-1.20pm (CGR)	Homework Club - Library Library 3.30– 4.30pm Fitness Club Starting 14 th November (all years) (KRE/CHU/LWO)
Friday	Homework Club Library		



Epraise Update



Points This Week: By College



Top Ten Points Scorers

1. 🍌 Emily Nattrass (ALBA) (28)
1. 🍌 Tiegan May (CTPO) (28)
3. 🍌 Sophie Frost (BRCO) (27)
4. 🍌 Cadee Leigh Chaney (BHMA) (26)
4. 🍌 Alesia Moore (AECO) (26)
6. 🍌 Niamh Power (ACWO) (25)
6. 🍌 Olivia Rea (BRCO) (25)
8. 🍌 Jennifer Barratt (AMLA) (24)
9. 🍌 Emilia Tyler (BRCO) (23)
10. 🍌 Malachi Cavell (MMMGM) (22)



Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2	Wednesday 18 December	Christmas Carol Concert 7.30 pm
	Friday 20 December	End of Term
0	Monday 6 January	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 7 January	First day of the Spring Term
1	Monday 13 January	Parents' English KS2 Workshop 6.30—7.30 pm
	Thursday 30 January	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00—7.00 pm
9	Wednesday 5 February	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00—7.00 pm
	Monday 17 to Friday 21 February	Half Term
2	Wednesday 18 March	Y6 Yorkshire information evening 6.30 pm
	Friday 3 April	End of Term
0	Monday 20 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Wednesday 6 May	Y5 Brecon Beacons information evening 6.30 pm
2	Friday 8 May	May Day bank holiday
	Monday 25 to Friday 29 May	Half Term
0	Thursday 4 June	Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening 4.00—7.00 pm
	Wednesday 10 June	Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening 4.00—7.00 pm
2	Friday 17 July	End of Term
	Tuesday 1 & Wednesday 2 September	Staff Development Days
0	Thursday 3 September	First day of the Autumn Term
	Friday 23 October	Staff Development Day
2	Monday 26 to Friday 30 October	Half term
	Friday 18 December	End of Term
0	Monday 4 January	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 5 January	First day of the Spring Term
2	Monday 15 to Friday 19 February	Half Term
	Thursday 1 April	End of Term
0	Monday 19 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 20 April	First day of the Summer Term
2	Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June	Half Term
	Wednesday 21 July	End of Term
1		