

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week saw activity regarding the different positions for pupil leaders as Year 7 finished their applications. It is a little like deciding if you would wish to apply for a job. There has been some long-listing taking place, and the process will continue over the next couple of weeks. The hustings - where pupils give their speech to seek the votes of others - will take place in September so that the new Year 5 can vote too.



Also in September will be the opportunity for younger children to be involved through other positions, such as sitting on Pupil Parliament, acting as a mentor or buddy, assisting in the library or helping craft tutor-time acts of worship.

How much of what we would normally do will depend on the Covid-19 status of the country and, therefore, the guidance that schools are expected to follow which comes from the Department for Education. At this time there are no clear instructions about what scenarios schools should be expected to plan for in September. Therefore, a timetable has been written and we shall prepare to return to a much more usual way of school working, but please be ready to be flexible.



One thing that has remained throughout this year is our clear expectations as to what makes good behaviour. This is based on our 10 school values, the Fruits of Faith. There are times when some people will find these hard to keep to, but as each lesson has a focus of one of these, there remains plenty of opportunity to practice and our pastoral team remain ready to support.

Our Lord, you bless everyone who lives right and obeys your Law. You bless all of those who follow your commands from deep in their hearts. Young people can live a clean life by obeying your word.

Psalm 119: 1-2,9

Rev. C. Leach, Principal



inquisitiveness    inclusiveness

achievement  
aspiration

forgiveness  
friendliness

tolerance  
thankfulness

honesty  
honour

## Fruits of Faith

### A Prayer for St Francis of Assisi

Most High, glorious God, enlighten the shadows of my heart, and grant me a right faith, a certain hope and perfect charity, sense and understanding, Lord, so that I may accomplish your holy and true command.

Amen.

### This week's theme was: St Francis of Assisi

I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws.

Psalm 119:7

### Whole School Attendance

94.56%

### Whole School Target

95.6%

There were no tutor groups with 99%+ week commencing 14.6.2021



# For the week ahead

<p><b>The Fruit of Faith is:</b></p>	<p><b>Honour</b></p>	<p>Be devoted to one another with mutual love, showing eagerness in honouring one another.</p> <p>Romans 12:10</p>
<p><b>The assembly theme:</b></p>	<p><b>Doing the right thing</b></p>	<p>In every country God accepts anyone who worships him and does what is right.</p> <p>Acts 10:35</p>

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

<p><b>The weekend</b></p>	<p>refugees who are displaced due to war.</p>	<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p>Year 8 pupils who are in their final half term with us</p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p>local charities that support the community of Redditch.</p>	<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p>Year 4 pupils who are looking forward to joining Walkwood in September</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p>those we know that are unwell</p>	<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p>those coordinating the roll-out of Covid-19 vaccines.</p>

## Picture of the Week



# Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

## humdinger

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 23rd May 2021 - 23rd June 2021

Congratulations to:

### Top Girl

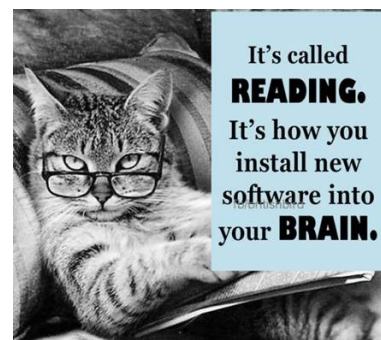
Daisy Sheehy (8E3) - who has read 447,029 words

### Top Boy

Harley Wilson (7E3) - who has read 681,136 words

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

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



It's called  
**READING.**  
It's how you  
install new  
software into  
your **BRAIN.**

## Pupil Leadership Team, Prefects and Sports Council



Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those Year 7 pupils who applied to join the new Pupil Leadership Team here at Walkwood for the academic year 2021-2022.

We had such a large number of pupils who applied for various roles and we would like to thank them for the time and effort which went into their application process.

Pupils who have been shortlisted for Head Boy and Head Girl will have been provided with information about their selection to the next interview stage of the process during the week of the 28<sup>th</sup> June.

Those pupils who have been shortlisted for College Captains and Vice Captains will be informed via letter on 28<sup>th</sup> June and during this week will have discussions with their College Leader providing advice about speech writing.

Between the dates of the 5<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup> July all the successful Pupil Leadership Team candidates will be recorded performing their speeches.

Hustings will then take place during the first week back in September.

Those who have applied to be Prefects and members of the Sports Council will find out about their success when the Hustings results have been collated.

Miss Reeves  
Pupil Leadership Coordinator



If you drop pupils at Morton Stanley Park, they can walk to Walkwood from the parking area there using foot-paths and the under-

passes.

The road crossing outside school is under the direction of one of the senior staff, and for those going across at the bottom of Feckenham Road there is a crossing patrol.



## Year 7 Costume Club

This costume was designed for a female/performer/actress/dancer. The girls chose a bright colour theme, similar to that of the colours on a coral reef.

The girls created a wide range of coral reef style pieces that were made from needle felting, coffee filter ink dipping, window blinds and drawing ink with surface painting techniques, and tonal painted egg carton 'spike' pieces for polyps. The girls also wanted the fabric for the skirt to look like a lost fishing net so carefully choose the fabric and how it was draped.

A huge well done girls!



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SPORTS BETTING

Sports betting involves staking money on the predicted outcome of sports results. Online sports gambling is much faster and easier than using a traditional bookmaker and provides more markets to wager on – including in-play betting, enabling bets to be placed on an event after it has started. Online betting operators also provide the incentive of odds which look like a better deal than high-street bookmakers, along with bonuses and promotions for customers. Alongside the convenience of being able to place a bet (in seconds) from a mobile phone or tablet at any time, this has helped online sports betting in the UK to grow year on year.

## Betting for 'fun'

A study into why young people use gambling platforms reported that the most common responses were "because it's fun" (55%), "to give me something to do" and "to win money" (both 31%). Other reasons on the list included "because it's cool", "because it's something my parents or guardians do" and "because it helps me when I feel depressed".

## Cross-selling of products

Cross-selling is a critical marketing strategy for sports betting operators. It is a concern because it can lead users of one gambling platform onto another, and then to another. These other gambling apps and sites include high-speed casino games (such as blackjack and roulette), which are extremely addictive and financially thrive on engaging the user to gamble.

## Underage gambling

The UK Gambling Commission suggests around 140,000 11- to 16-year-olds have, or risk having, a gambling problem. Gambling under 18 is illegal, but some platforms' weak age verification processes make it possible for young people to bet using their own card details or an adult's. Usually, if the name used to sign up matches the cardholder's name, then the user will have no issues depositing funds to bet with.

## Financial risks

There have been numerous reports of instances where a young person has gambled away a significant amount of money in a short space of time on a parent's card. The parent has then had to retrospectively file a complaint with the operator of the gambling platform and attempt to prove that it was not the cardholder who had signed up and placed bets.

## Possibility of addiction

Researchers have proved that when we take any risk and it pays off, our brain releases the chemical called dopamine which causes us to feel good. So in a gambling context, when a person places a bet and is successful, these reward pathways are triggered in the brain. This physiological response can very rapidly become addictive for some people.

## Negative impact on mental health

Several scientific studies have concluded that gambling can lead to mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, anger management problems and even suicidal thoughts. In fact, gambling disorder (the overall term for compulsive gambling or gambling addiction) is highly correlated with suicide and disproportionately affects people under the age of 30.

## Safety tips for Parents & Carers

### Talk about the risks

Even if your child has not asked about betting on sports online, talk to them about its potential dangers. Young people are exposed to gambling through their devices, via social media and by friends. Make sure they are aware of the risks of gambling apps and platforms.

### Support critical thinking

Encourage your child to think critically about online gambling. Explain how limited the chances of winning are, and make sure they understand that the whole business of gambling companies is taking money from users.

### Install protective software

Install blocking software such as Gamban, BetFilter or BetBlocker on your child's devices. These user-friendly, non-intrusive pieces of software stop users from accessing thousands of online gambling websites and apps worldwide.

### Limit access to funds

Ensure your card details aren't saved on your child's device (from a previous purchase, for example). This restricts their spending and stops them gambling if they don't have their own debit card. If your child *does* have a bank card, make sure they realise that gambling can leave them with no money to spend on other things that they like.

### Be a role model

It's wise not to expose your child to gambling, because seeing you bet can normalise it and suggest to them that it is risk-free and harmless. They would also be far less likely to take you seriously when you talk to them about the dangers of gambling.

### Seek support

If you're concerned about your child and online gambling, it's important to step in early. What might first appear to be the odd bet here and there can quickly become a serious issue. If your child is affected, don't be afraid to ask for guidance and advice – there are several charities who you can turn to for support.

**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

## Meet Our Expert

TalkGEN is a non-profit organisation that was formed by individuals who have lived experiences of gambling harm. As well as their own direct efforts to reduce the dangers through research, education and treatment, TalkGEN actively campaign for reform of the sector to eliminate the potentially devastating effects of problem gambling on current and future generations.



## Spot the signs

Problem gambling can be very isolating. Awareness of the issue is increasing, but it can still be difficult for people to seek help or even admit that they are struggling. These signs are common indicators of gambling issues: if your child displays any of them, it might be time for an honest talk.

- Regularly borrowing money
- Expenditures they don't want to explain
- Being secretive about their devices
- Controlling or manipulative behaviour
- Becoming depressed, agitated or anxious
- Changes in performance at school
- Mood swings



ARE YOU  
A YOUNG  
LGBTQ+  
PERSON?

DO YOU WANT TO MEET OTHER  
YOUNG PEOPLE IN YOUR  
COMMUNITY?




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Email [hannahlee@isocuk.org](mailto:hannahlee@isocuk.org) for more information

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Friends, parents and allies



# 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

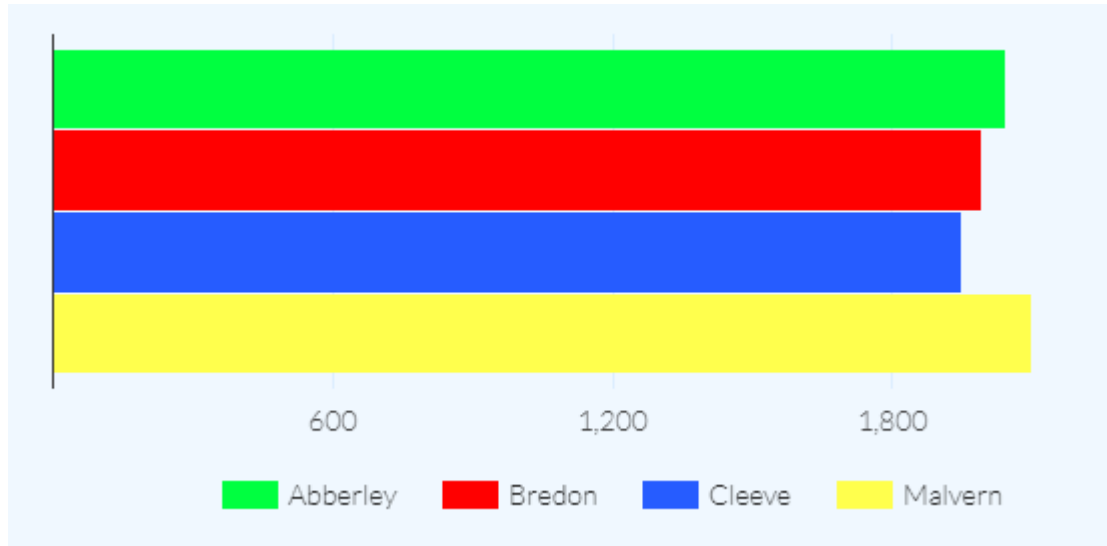
Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.





# Epraise Update

## Points This Week: By College





# Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2021	Wednesday 21 July	<b>End of Term</b>
	Thursday 2 September	Staff Development Day
	Friday 3 September	Staff Development Day
	Monday 6 September	First day of the Autumn Term for <b>Year 5 only</b>
	Tuesday 7 September	First day of the Autumn Term for Years 6, 7 & 8
	Tuesday 7 September	Individual photographs for all students
	Friday 22 October	Staff Development Day
	Monday 25 to Friday 29 October	<b>Half Term</b>
	Friday 17 December	<b>End of Term</b>
2022	Tuesday 4 January	Staff Development Day
	Wednesday 5 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Monday 21 to Friday 25 February	<b>Half Term</b>
	Friday 8 April	<b>End of Term</b>
	Monday 25 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 26 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June	<b>Half Term</b>
	Thursday 21 July	<b>End of Term</b>