

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of what has been a busy term, we can reflect upon the achievements and successes of the autumn term, whether this be through our learning within the classroom or through enrichment opportunities and sporting events.

This term we have some staff leaving Walkwood and we would like to take this opportunity to wish Mr Mosedale, Miss Barker, Miss Linzey and Mr Cook every success as they embark upon chapters new. Also our kind volunteer, Miss Henley, will be leaving us this term and we wish her well in her new role.



As a result of some of the staff changes, Mr Wright will now be teaching science. For pupils currently in Mr Wright's English and maths groups, they have been allocated to an appropriate new English or Maths group. For those pupils taught by Mr Wright in other subject areas, they have also been carefully allocated to new teachers. Please note that these changes will apply from the start of the Spring term; pupils have been informed. Mr Wright has also relayed pertinent information to the new teachers of all of his pupils to ensure a smooth transition so please be assured that pupils will continue to receive high quality provision. Mr Wright will remain with his current tutor group; tutor group CLBA will be taught by Mrs Hughes and Miss Walker; Tutor group MTCO will be taught by Mr Dawson, as will the Computing timetabled lessons. We will also welcome new teacher Ms Corbett, who will teach the timetable of Mr Mosedale and will also take on the AKMO tutor group.



Thank you to the school choir and orchestra for your wonderful contribution to the Christmas Carol service on Tuesday. It was truly a special event and lovely to see so many of you joining with us.

On behalf of all of the staff of Walkwood Middle School, we would like to wish all of our families a Merry Christmas and a peaceful and happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January, at 8:40am.

Mrs C. Lowe

## This week's theme was: Global Christmas

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

*John 1: 1-5, NIV*

## Father God,

We thank you Oh Lord, as we remember that you sent your Son Jesus Christ down for us. At this time of year we remember that he was and is a gift to us, that we may now live having a relationship with you. We thank you that even though we don't deserve it, you choose to bless us with the greatest gift of all, your love. May your love and presence be among us over this Christmas period. In your name.

Amen.

## Whole school Attendance

94.11%

## Whole School Target

95.6%

11.12.2023 to 15.12.2023

Year 5 92.33%

Year 6 93.88%

Year 7 90.98%

Year 8 90.63%



## 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 will be:	New Year's Resolution	Broken promises are worse than rain clouds that don't bring rain. <i>Proverbs 25: 14, CEV</i>

## Picture of the Week



The very powerful Gullfoss waterfall in Iceland

Heather Whatley



# Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

## IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

## ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

## PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At [my.account.sony.com](https://my.account.sony.com), create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

## IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

## XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

## NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

## WINDOWS 11 PCs

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

## CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need to set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

## MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

## SMART TVs

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

## Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years' experience of working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a tech pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of internet safety.



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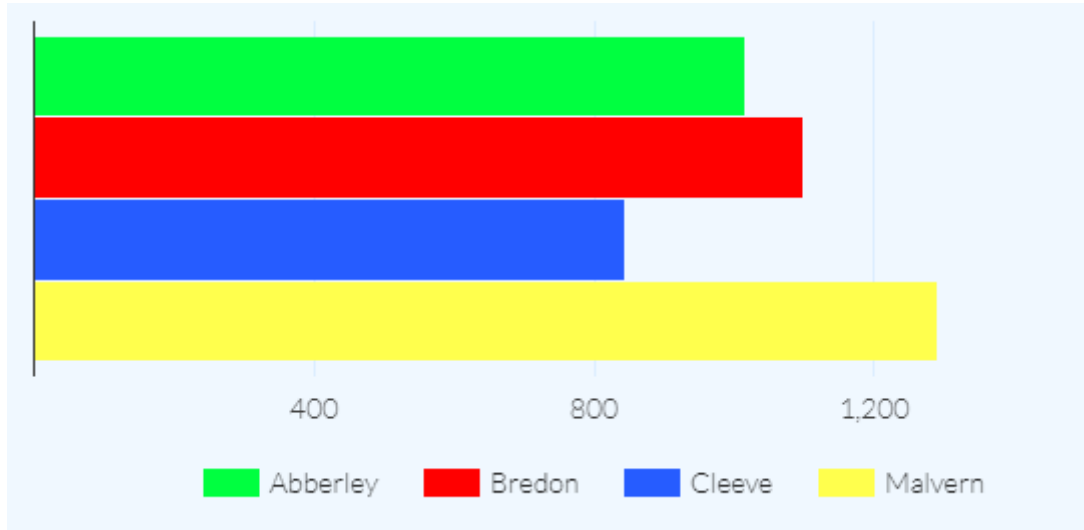
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# epraise this week



## Lunch Money

We ask that all ParentPay accounts are settled regularly and sufficient credit added to avoid any debit balances. You can view what your child has purchased on ParentPay.

A reminder that free schools meals does not include toast or juice at breaktime.

If you have any queries, please contact the finance office.

Thank you.



# Walkwood

Church of England  Middle School

For information about our school:

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

A summary of how our school works can be found in:

[handbook for parents and carers](#)

## Keeping children safe

The following information concerns how we continue to ensure that pupils are cared for within our school:

[Early help](#)

[E-safety](#)

[Prevent](#)

[Anti-bullying](#)

[Attendance](#)

[Safeguarding summary](#)

[Safeguarding policy](#)

## 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](#)



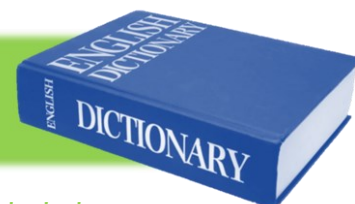
# Reading matters



Keep up the reading, Walkwood! Remember that we expect you to read for 20—30 minutes each day, and at least some of that reading needs to be done at home. Discussing new vocabulary and its meaning with an adult will help pupils enormously with their reading ability. We hope that pupils can enjoy reading for pleasure and empowerment throughout the Christmas break.



## 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.*

### trivial

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



## Walkwood Vs Nunnery Wood Match Report by Joe Craig and Ollie Carroll (12/12/23)

Match location: Arrow Vale High school astro-turf      Kick off:14:00

We conceded first, due to a high cross and the keeper (Alfie) saved it then it fell to their striker for an easy finish. Soon after, we started dominating and Ollie C scored a banger from 30 yards out! At half-time, it was 1-1. Then after much pressure, the Nunnery CB tried to play it back to their keeper, but Jackson got to the ball first and slotted it into the bottom left corner, for 3-1. Ollie did a fantastic dribble and squared it to Alfie, who had an easy finish and scored! Later, Tyler did some good dribbling as well and won a penalty... he smashed it bottom right corner! 4-1! Then Ollie made a great pass to Tom, who poked it past the keeper. 5-1! After that, Ollie put Tom through, and Tom scissor-kicked it into the corner, but it was offside so it was disallowed.

Then Mr Hunt blew the final whistle, and it finished 5-1 to Walkwood. Fantastic football and great team work!

## The Year 6 County Cup Match Report (1/12/23)

It was the second round of the County Cup. The team were playing against Oasis Warden Academy. It was their first 9 a side game they've ever played and 25 minutes per half. The game kicked off! After 10 minutes, we scored as Ollie struck the ball into the bottom corner. Two minutes after the first goal, we struck again. Ollie scored again with a great ball from a corner. Somehow, Ollie scored another goal by taking on 2 players and slotting it in the bottom corner.

After that, the half time whistle blew. Sir gave an important half time speech and after that we were motivated for the second half. Soon after the second half started, Ollie scored again. After time passed by, Ollie Turner struck another one into the top right hand corner (he had scored six out of the seven goals!).

What an amazing victory!



# Clubs and Activities



## Spring Term 1

	Lunchtime 12.15 – 1.00pm	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
<b>Monday</b>	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI	
<b>Tuesday</b>	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI	School Production Rehearsals for whole cast for full run of Act 1 (GLA/DDE/PAL/LHA) (3.45pm-4.45pm)  <b><u>No Homework club</u></b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI	<b><u>No Homework club</u></b>
<b>Thursday</b>	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI	<b><u>No Homework club</u></b>  School Production Rehearsals for Shrek, Donkey, Adult Fiona, Gingy, Lord Farquaad, Captain of the Guards, Guards Ensemble and ALL fairytale characters (including the en- semble) for Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan (further plans for the term to be emailed out to parents) (GLA/ DDE/PAL/LHA) (3.45pm-4.45pm)
<b>Friday</b>		





# Trips and Visits



Date	Activity	Location	Open To	Cost	Leader
<b>June 2024</b>					
Fri 28 – Mon 1	Outward Bound	Osmington Bay, Weymouth	Y7	£ 330	Mr West
<b>July 2024</b>					
Wed 3 – Fri 5	Outward Bound	Brecon Beacons	Y5	£ 320	Mr Wootton
Wed 3 and Thur 4	Outdoor activity centre	Blackwell Ad- venture	Y6	£ 45	Mrs Johnson
<b>February 2025</b>					
Sat 1 – Sat 8	Ski Trip	Obertauern, Austria	Y5-Y7	£ 1659	Mrs Cull



# Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2023	Thursday 21 December	<b>End of Term</b>
	Monday 8 January	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 9 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Thursday 25 January	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Wednesday 31 January	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Monday 12 – Friday 16 February	<b>Half Term</b>
	Friday 22 March	<b>End of Term</b>
	Monday 8 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 9 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Thursday 11 April	Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Wednesday 17 April	Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Monday 27 – Friday 31 May	<b>Half Term</b>
	Friday 19 July	<b>End of Term</b>