

Dear Parents and Carers,

Monday evening was the English workshop event for Year 6 learning, focusing on aspects of the English curriculum and the up-coming SATs in the second week of May. I extend my thanks to those who came, as well as to the teachers who ran the sessions. The materials will soon be available through our website on the [Curriculum support events](#) page.



In the weeks before the SATs, that is, before we break for Easter, the school will run as normal, switching only the week or two before the assessments to give support to the Year 6 pupils. We have revision sessions for Year 6 in the lead up to the SATs, and some learning boosts are taking place already. However, we do not want to put undue pressure on pupils regarding these tests, but rather make sure that they feel as prepared as they can be. Therefore, please support this as keeping reference to SATs in moderation.



We are all being faced with increases in the cost of living, this affecting different people in different ways. We are thankful once again for the new roof that was put on the building about four years ago, as this is keeping the heat inside. We secured our energy costs again just before the increases became evident. However, all other costs have increased, even down to what we pay for exercise or library books.

At the start of the school year, we had to make small adjustments in our prices for lunch items. However, the substantial increases since we have absorbed, although there is a limit to that. We are looking to keep the current variety of offerings at lunch, including the salad bar, snack options, main meals and desserts. However, the snack choices will be done more as 'specials' on particular days to avoid the unused food that we always have after pupils have been through lunch. This will help us rationalise costs without having to reduce the variety or increase costs during this school year.



And remember that I am always with you until the end of time.

Matthew 28: 20

Rev. C. Leach, *Principal*

## This week's theme was:

### Greek Myths

The Word became flesh and lived for a while amongst us. We have seen His glory, that of the one and only Son, full of grace and truth.

John 1: 14

Preferring nothing to you, O Christ, let us hold fast to your love, embrace your cross and honour your name.

Let conviction mark our speech, courage our life and patience our faith; for your own name's sake.

Amen

## Whole school Attendance

95.83%

## Whole School Target

95.6%

02.01.2023 to 06.01.2023

Year 5 — 94.44%

Year 6 — 96.83%

Year 7 — 97.09%

Year 8 — 94.85%



## For the week ahead

<b>The Fruit of Faith is:</b>	<b>Inclusiveness</b>	He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. <i>Matthew 5:45</i>
<b>The assembly theme will be:</b>	<b>Philanthropy</b>	The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. <i>Galatians 5:22</i>

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

<b>The weekend</b>	Pupils and parents in their school preference submissions this year.	<b>Monday</b>	Our MP, Rachel Maclean.
<b>Tuesday</b>	Walkwood's Governors.	<b>Wednesday</b>	Safety on our roads.
<b>Thursday</b>	Our United Kingdom.	<b>Friday</b>	The congregations at The Bridge Church.

## Picture of the Week



Thelma Blewitt

A young red squirrel in Speyside, Scotland.



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# WORLD OF WARCRAFT

AGE RESTRICTION  
12+

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

World of Warcraft originally launched way back in 2004, and since then the game has blossomed into a major entertainment property. It's spawned spin-off novels, merchandise and even a Hollywood movie adaptation – but why are we still talking about it in 2023? World of Warcraft's most recent iteration, Dragonflight, launched last November and marks the game's ninth major expansion. This latest addition has attracted a whole host of lapsed players back to the game – as well as newcomers jumping into the realm of Azeroth for the first time.

## ALWAYS ONLINE

World of Warcraft is an MMORPG, which stands for Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game. Players create a character and head off on mythical quests to earn rewards and become more powerful. The game's environment is absolutely vast, and it can only be played online on PC or Mac – so there's a high probability of young Warcraft fans wanting to monopolise the family computer.

## REGULAR EXPANSIONS

As is common with many MMORPGs, World of Warcraft's developers, Blizzard, release regular expansions for the game (usually every 18 months to two years). So although there's still plenty of content for young players to experience right now, there will almost inevitably be a requirement to continue buying future expansion packs, which tend to cost around £50.

## IN-GAME PURCHASES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Just like its genre contemporary Final Fantasy XIV, World of Warcraft requires a monthly subscription fee to play. It's currently £9.99 per month (although you can get it cheaper by signing up to a longer subscription). There are also many items which can be purchased from the in-game store that don't affect gameplay, but instead offer cosmetic alterations to a player's character.

## VOICE AND TEXT CHAT

Because World of Warcraft is played exclusively on PCs and Macs, it's easy for users to type out text messages if they aren't comfortable using voice chat. If you'll forgive the pun, that's a double-edged sword because – although there's less chance of them being harassed verbally – it puts young players at increased risk of being trolled or receiving spam through the in-game messaging function.

## SIMULATED VIOLENCE

The fact that World of Warcraft is almost 20 years old means that even its most violent battles look slightly cartoonish compared with the level of authenticity in many more modern games. The exception tends to be Warcraft's in-game cutscenes: animated sections which move the plot onto the next stage. These offer more realistic visuals, but they still aren't overly gory or scary.

## POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

World of Warcraft can trigger a powerful "just one more quest" mentality in players (especially young ones) as they rush to secure the next dopamine hit from levelling their character up or earning a new item or weapon. It's also a game that doesn't have a definite "end" – because as soon as a player finishes levelling up one character, they can start afresh with another one.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### MANAGE PLAYTIME

World of Warcraft can be an extremely enjoyable game to play with friends, but it's important that your child doesn't let their adventures crowd out school work, socialising or anything else they also enjoy. You could, for example, consider imposing playtime limits – such as a set number of hours to play Warcraft per week, or restricting it to particular days or just weekends.

### MAKE IT A REWARD

If your child is excited about getting the next World of Warcraft expansion, you could consider using it as a reward for completing their weekly tasks (you could even call them "quests"! like tidying their room or doing their homework. This will demonstrate that you're happy for them to play the game but will also help them to build good, productive habits, reinforcing that hard work earns rewards.

### SIGN UP FOR THE FREE TRIAL

Warcraft's monthly subscription effectively "pays" for the regular new content, but there's also a sizeable free trial that lets new players explore the world of Azeroth without paying a penny. Players can play up until Level 20 for free, which is easily several hours' worth of gameplay. If your child does take this option, we'd suggest minimising in-game spending by not linking a bank card to their account.

### REMEMBER THE AGE RATING

Due to mild violence and the occasional use of offensive language, World of Warcraft has been rated as appropriate for players aged 12 and over by PEGI (the Pan-European Game Information system, which gives games their age certificate). It isn't really suitable for anyone below that age, so you may potentially have to explain this reasoning to your younger children if they want to play it.

### ADVENTURE TOGETHER

Warcraft can certainly be addictive, but playing it together is also a great way to spend time with your child. The game's focus on cooperative questing and battling enemies can make it feel like you've accomplished something as a team, and you'll also be in a prime position to spot any early signs of addiction. Just remember to apply gaming time limits to yourself as well as your young ones!

## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor at technology and entertainment website Dexerto and has been working in the gaming media for three years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have also been published on influential sites including iGN and TechRadar, among others.



NOS  
National  
Online  
Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday





At the end of each term (Autumn, Spring, Summer)

## The Walkwood Celebration Assembly Prize Draw



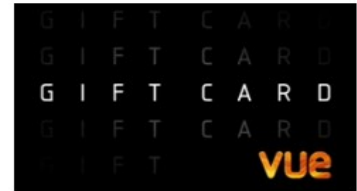
### Fabulous prizes to be won

#### The Attendance Goldfish Bowl

You will be entered into the draw if your attendance is 97% and above

#### The Zero Demerit Goldfish Bowl

You will be entered into the draw for having ZERO Demerits for the term



Spring Prizes to include



# facebook

## Facebook launch competition

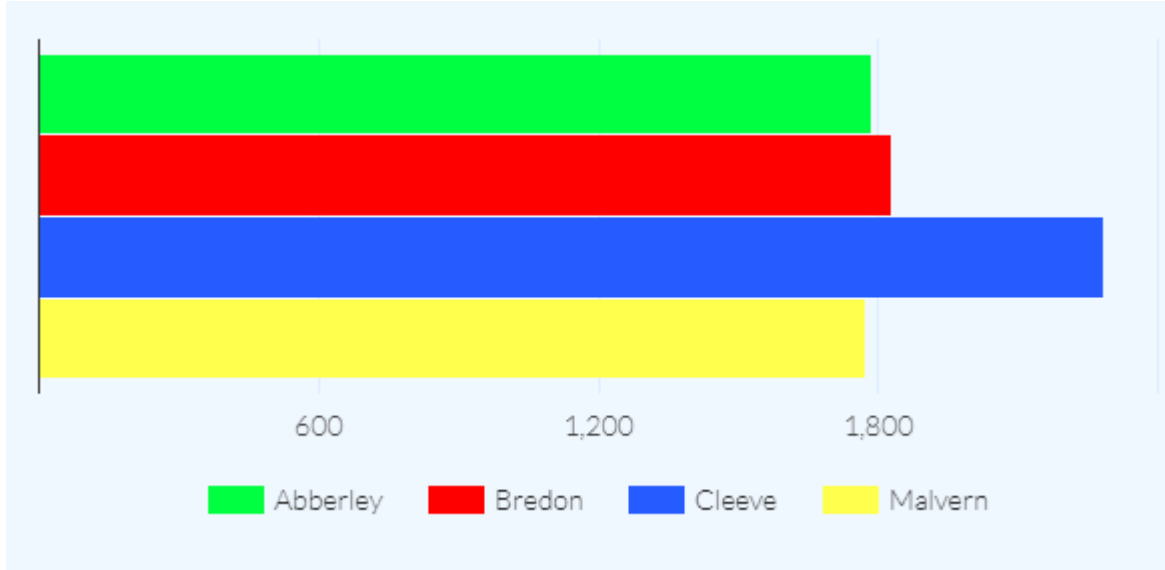
We have now gone live on Facebook. To celebrate the launch of Walkwood's Official Facebook page, we would like to offer our parents, carers and community partners the chance to win a £50 family meal voucher. All you have to do is like our Facebook page and comment 'In it to win it', by following this link <https://www.facebook.com/walkwoodmiddleschool> Please share the page with your friends and family to keep up to date with what's happening at Walkwood.

The prize draw will be carried out on Friday 26th January 2023. Good luck!





# epraise this week



## Nut Allergy

As we have some children in school with a nut allergy can you please ensure that you do not send your child in with any food item that contains any nuts to avoid an allergic reaction. Thank you very much for your co-operation.



# 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](http://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>

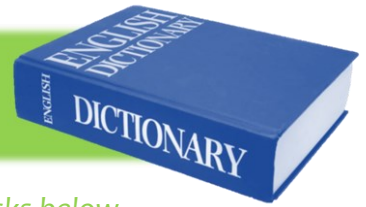
Safeguarding: <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Safeguarding-and-Child-Protection>

<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>



# 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.

## appraise

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 1

	Before School 7:45am – 8:45am	Lunchtime 12.15 – 1.00pm	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
<b>Monday</b>		Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI	Year 5 dodgeball Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> January – Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January.  Year 6 dodgeball Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> January – Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February.  Sign up only. Meet in changing rooms RDJ/ PMC
<b>Tuesday</b>		Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI  Choir, Music Room, GLA, 12.35pm-1pm. All welcome. First sitting lunch pass required. See Mrs Laishley to sign up.	Year 6 gymnastics Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January – Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January (Max 26)  Year 5 gymnastics Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January – Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February (Max 26)  Run by gymnastics coach and KRE. Sign up only. Meet in changing rooms  Keyboard Club: 3.30pm - 4.15pm. Limited spaces. Sign up required. Priority given to those who did not gain a place last term.
<b>Wednesday</b>		Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI  Reading club, room 18, duration of lunch, JWa  Core Reading Club, Room 15, duration of lunch, Mrs Shanley - Invite only	KS3 dodgeball Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January, 18 <sup>th</sup> January, 1 <sup>st</sup> February. Sign up only. RMA/LWO  KS3 dance Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January, 18 <sup>th</sup> January, 1 <sup>st</sup> February, 8 <sup>th</sup> February. Sign up only. KRE  Ukulele Club: 3.30pm - 4.15pm. Limited spaces, sign up required.
<b>Thursday</b>		Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI  Science Homework Drop In – Computing (Year 7 and 8)	Drama Club. Sign up and parental permission needed. 30 spaces available. Sign up only PAL/DDE  Sean Paul Dance academy Year 5 Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> January – Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> January. Sign up only. Meet in changing rooms. Year 6 Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February – Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> February. Sign up only. Meet in changing rooms.  ART CLUB until February half term. Parents have been emailed for those involved. Every Thursday apart from 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan and 9 <sup>th</sup> February in DT2 MGR
<b>Friday</b>		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
Dates below	6	Blackwell	✓		£38 *
30/06 - 03/07/2023	7	Osmington Bay Activity Park		✓	£285
19/07/2023	8	Drayton Manor	✓		£40 *
04/02 - 11/02/2023	6,7,8 •	Obertauern, Austria		✓	£1360

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	Thursday 19 January	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00 -7.00pm
	Wednesday 25 January	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00 -7.00pm
	Monday 20– Friday 24 February	<b>Half Term</b>
	Friday 31 March	<b>End of Term</b>
	Monday 17 April	<b>Staff Development Day</b>
	Tuesday 18 April	<b>First day of the Summer Term</b>
	Monday 1st May	<b>Bank holiday</b>
	Monday 8th May	<b>Bank holiday</b>
	Monday 29 May - 2 June	<b>Half Term</b>
	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	<b>End of Term</b>