

Dear Parents and Carers,

In some ways it seems as if we have only just started back from the summer holidays. However, when I look back at how much has been packed into this half term, I realise that the start of the academic year is a fair while ago. There have been on-going sporting commitments alongside the daily routine of school, and our musical skills have been in evidence too. This was certainly the case at the annual Primrose Proms Concert, held in our school hall last Friday night, where a brass band and the Primrose Choir were joined by Walkwood's own choir. Money raised by the event goes to support the work of our local hospice.



The response to the Christmas shoe box appeal has been amazing. This afternoon will see the Year 6 pupils at The Bridge Church where the presents will be laid at the altar and thanksgiving is offered for the generosity of so many, to the children whom we shall never meet, who have so few things.



The timing of the morning Homework Club is changing, as are the arrangements that we now need to put in place. This facility is for the completion of homework or for silent reading, and we shall be reinforcing this from the start of the next half term.

Should you need to speak to a staff member, please be aware that it is not always possible for that to happen on the same day. Teachers and other support staff have their roles to perform, many of which mean they are with pupils during the school day, and teachers do carry out extra-curricular activities too. Thank you for the understanding of the vast many of you when you need to make contact. Don't forget that you must always sign in at Reception if you are meeting with staff, except at a Parents' Evening.

My thanks to all the staff of our school who have supported pupils over the last few weeks, whether it is within the classroom, as a tutor, or in one of the many other ways that involves keeping the school going. This also includes trying to return lost property to the correct child!

*The older will serve the younger. Romans 9:12*

Rev C Leach  
Principal

Father God,

We thank you for all you've given us. We thank you for the food that grows on the trees and in the ground. We are blessed to live in a place where we can choose between so many different foods to eat. We thank you for the hard work people have to do in order for us to have such foods. May you bless us as we remember your creation and bless the hands that look after it.

Amen.

This week's theme was: Harvest

As long as the earth continues, planting and harvest, cold and hot, summer and winter, day and night will not stop.

Genesis 8:22

**Whole School Attendance – 96.31%**

**Whole School Target – 95.6%**

**15.10.18—19.10.18**

**Year 5 — 97.49%**  
**Year 6 — 96.29%**  
**Year 7 — 96.49%**  
**Year 8 — 94.97%**



# For the week ahead



<b>The Fruit of Faith is:</b>	<b>Achievement</b>	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. <i>Ecclesiastes 5:18</i>
<b>The tutor group virtue:</b>	<b>Determination</b>	That is why I run straight for the finish line; that is why I am like a boxer who does not waste his punches. I harden my body with blows and bring it under complete control, to keep myself from being disqualified after having called others to the contest.
<b>The assembly theme:</b>	<b>Remembrance (WW2)</b>	‘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.’ <i>Revelation 21: 3-5</i>

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

<b>The weekend</b>	A relaxing and restful half term for staff and students	<b>Monday</b>	Those who are struggling in poverty
<b>Tuesday</b>	The teachers and support staff of St Luke’s First School	<b>Wednesday</b>	The homeless as the weather temperature drops
<b>Thursday</b>	The NHS doctors, nurses and support staff	<b>Friday</b>	The upcoming Book Fayre



## KS2 VIPERS Homework Sheets

After half term, Year 5 and 6 English teachers will be setting a 'VIPERS' sheet for the Monday reading homework tasks. These tasks are focused around specific reading skills (Vocabulary – Inference – Prediction – Explain – Retrieve – Summarise), which are linked to the SAT Content Domains. Your child's reading progress will improve further if pupils can practise and discuss these skills with you at home as frequently as possible. We would like the weekly homework session to be completed in the following way please:

- Listen to your child read their Renaissance reading book for 10/15 minutes.
- Look at the VIPERS sheet which has come home that week.
- Work through some or all of the questions on the sheet, in reference to the book your child has read to you. Should you need some help, there are exemplar, modelled VIPERS sheets on our website in the 'Pupils' section, with suggested answers to each question. These are not exhaustive, but are examples of the sort of response which each question requires. These modelled sheets refer to an extract of 'Wind in the Willows', also on the website.
- Your child will write their answers on the sheet – these can be quite brief – and then hand in the sheet to their English teacher for the homework due date. There is a comments section for parents also.

### Renaissance quizzing at home

On a separate note, should you like your child to quiz on Renaissance books at home (including books from home which they might have read in their spare time, and which appear on the Renaissance system), please go to the following URL, where your child can login and take their quiz in the usual way:

<https://ukhosted23.renlearn.co.uk/2250823/default.aspx>

Many thanks for your continued hard work with supporting your child with his/her reading progress.

Mrs M Johnson  
Head of English

## Walkwood Book Fair



We are hosting a children's BOOK FAIR from Travelling Books on the following dates:

**Monday 5th November until Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

A timetable has been created to allow all pupils to view and buy books. Leaflets with a small selection of the titles available are being sent home. There are hundreds of titles to choose from, so please feel free to browse from the full selection on [www.travellingbooks.co.uk](http://www.travellingbooks.co.uk)

Please note that the library is also open at break times and at lunchtime for purchases ONLY.

**Great ideas for Birthday or Christmas presents.**



## Year 6 SATs Information Evening 2018

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November, we will be holding our annual Standardised Attainment Tests (SATs) Information Evening from 6:30-7:45 pm.



The format of the evening will be as follows:

6:30-6:45 pm General information about SATs and SATs week.

6:45-7:45 pm English and Maths workshops, where you will be given subject specific information and a flavour of the types of questions that will be asked of your child.

If you have not had experience of the SATs before I would recommend you attend, as the introduction of a new curriculum in September 2014 has meant changes to the tests and the way in which the results of the tests are reported to parents.

***Pupils need not attend the information evening.***

## Year 7 Curriculum Information Evening 2018

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November, we will be holding a curriculum information evening for Year 7 parents and carers. The evening will run from 6:30-7:30pm.

The evening will consist of a short presentation on the Key Stage 3 Curriculum including an overview of expectations, topics and standards. Representatives from the Maths and English Departments will then present some subject specific information about their curriculum areas.

***Pupils do not need to attend this evening.***

## Apple Picking

On Sunday morning I went apple picking with Sophie Davies and Harriet Coates. We went to a farm in Newent. It took an hour to get there.

We had to choose an aisle to pick some apples. You cannot just pull the apple off the tree. You have to roll it or twist it and then pull. We did face some soggy



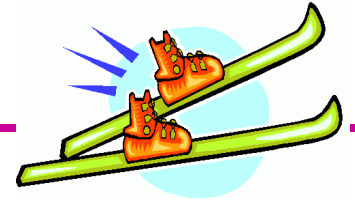
mud and I twisted my ankle standing on hard apples and apple mush. Our shoes and socks were super soggy. The reason we did it was because if the apples were not picked they would be left to go mouldy on the trees and be wasted. Picking them to be used instead is called gleaning.



Altogether the group we were with picked 4 tonnes of apples - which is millions of apples! The apples will be shared out to community groups so they will be eaten. About 1 tonne will be made into juice which will be sold to raise money for Bromsgrove and Redditch Welcome Refugees. We also brought some back for the children at Walkwood.



## Ski Trip 2020



I am thrilled to say we have had an overwhelming response to the Ski Trip 2020 launch. I have been in touch with the tour operators and I am able to increase the numbers to 60 pupils without it changing the cost of the trip due to increasing transport vehicles. The only hold up I am currently facing is confirmation that the hotel can accommodate this increase in numbers. Our tour operators are waiting to hear from their Austrian agents, but as soon as they do I will let you know. I apologise for this hold up and would like to re-assure you that offer of a place and reserve list letters will be sent home as soon as is possible. Thank you for your patience with this.

Mrs L Cull

### Year 5 Brecon Beacons Trip

Offer of a place and reserve list letters should have been received for all pupils who returned the reply slip.

We would like to remind you that the total cost of the trip is £170 of which a non-refundable **deposit of £50 is required by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October**. Subsequent payments, also non-refundable, are due as follows and must be adhered to as these have been set by the travel company:



2<sup>nd</sup> payment of £60 required by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

Final payment of £60 required by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

Smaller more frequent payments can be made as long as the totals above are paid by the dates stated.

We ask that all payments be made using Parentpay, our payment system for which you should already have received a personalised letter stating your log in details.



Please note that once money has been paid to the travel company they will not refund us, therefore it cannot be refunded to parents/carers.

If you have any further queries regarding the trip, then please do not hesitate to contact either of us at school. Nearer the time, we will be holding an information evening where you will be given a kit list and all other necessary information.

Please can you inform us by letter or phone if your child no longer wishes to take up their place on the trip.

Mrs L Cull and Mr R Macdonald



# Clubs and Activities

## Autumn Term 1 2018

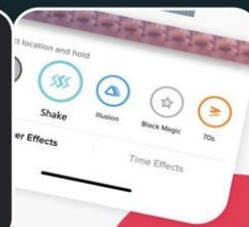
	Before School 7:45am – 8:45am	Lunchtime 12.35 – 1.20PM	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
<b>Monday</b>	Homework Club DT Block 8.00-8.45am  Orchestra Music Room - 8.45-9.30am (CGR)	KS3 Art Club starting 18 <sup>th</sup> September (ECO)  Choir (all year groups) 12.50-1.20pm Music Room (CGR)  Monday lunchtime DT block Movie Club all years (AMI) starting Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Homework Club DT Hub 3.30 – 4.30pm  Kurling and Boccia Club (invite/sign up only) (NFO) 3.30 – 4.45pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	Homework Club DT Block 8.00-8.45am	Signing Club (All year groups) Textiles Room (JHA)	Homework Club DT Hub 3.30 – 4.30pm  Cheerleading starting 13th (team selection after try outs) November 3.30-4.45pm LMO/KRE  KS2 Science Club Lab 2 3.30—4.30pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Homework Club DT Block 8.00-8.45am	All years Silent Reading Club Rm 19 (LBA)	Homework Club DT Hub 3.30 – 4.30pm  Cooking Club 3.30 – 4.45pm – (DSL) (rota of when you are cooking will be confirmed)  Fitness (all years) 3.30—4.45pm RMA/CHU/NFO/KRE  Year 7/8 Rugby until end of November PJE
<b>Thursday</b>	Homework Club DT Block 8.00-8.45am	Choir (all year groups) Music Room - 12.50-1.20pm (CGR)  Eco Schools Club Week 1 in Room 21 (Lab 3) (MBI) First meeting Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2018.	Homework Club DT Hub 3.30 – 4.30pm  KS2 Dance 3.30-4.45pm LMO/KRE  Another club to be confirmed CHU
<b>Friday</b>	Homework Club DT Block 8.00-8.45am		Homework Club DT Hub 3.30 – 4.30pm  Rec Football – NFO, CHU, RMA, (until end of November)





Tik Tok

TikTok is a global video community where users create, share and discover 'funny and memorable moments' via short video clips – typically about 15 seconds long. Videos can be 'spiced up' with special effect filters, stickers, music and sound clips. Currently one of the world's most popular apps, TikTok was formerly known as Musical.ly, before it was rebranded by the Chinese company that acquired it in November 2017. If your child had previously had a Musical.ly account, all of their videos and personal settings will have automatically been moved to TikTok.



AGE RESTRICTION  
13+



What parents need to know about

# TikTok

## BEING INFLUENCED

More than one third of children aged 6-17 consider 'social media stars' to be among their top role models. There are millions of creators on TikTok, showcasing their 'talents, moments and knowledge', from singing to dancing to stunts and comedy skits, which receive thousands of likes and comments from around the world, quickly turning people into 'stars'. There is the danger that children may develop unrealistic expectations of how they should look and behave on the app in order to become the next 'star'. They may have feelings of inadequacy and low self-esteem or become swayed by certain opinions.

## INAPPROPRIATE SONG LYRICS

TikTok lets users lip-sync to their favourite songs and produce their own music videos. Some of the music choices contain swear words or sexual themes. So not only can children be exposed to potentially inappropriate content but they can broadcast themselves miming or singing these lyrics.

## CONCERNING CONTENT

Some of the outfits and dance moves in videos can be overtly sexual and provocative. There have also been reports of some users sharing concerning content, such as videos that promote anorexia, porn, self-harm and violence.

## DANGEROUS TRENDS & CHALLENGES

On TikTok, there are always 'trending challenges' and hashtags that users can copy or build upon, and sometimes, these challenges can pose risks to young people.

## STRANGERS CAN FOLLOW YOUR CHILDREN

If your child's profile is open, strangers can use the app to comment on your child's videos. While this isn't always sinister, it gives potential predators the ability to contact your child through the platform.

## IN-APP PURCHASES

Of course, as with many apps, there's a paid element to TikTok. Users can buy virtual coins to be exchanged for virtual gifts – for example, if they like a specific video, your child can use coins to purchase emojis to show approval. These can be expensive and easily purchased – there is the option to buy 10,000 coins for £97.99 with a one-click buy button.

## ANYONE CAN SEE YOUR CHILD'S CREATIONS

TikTok encourages users to 'share their passion and creative expression through their videos' and while something may seem fun at the time, videos can get in the wrong hands and cause embarrassment in the future. If posted publicly, anyone in the world can see your child's homemade music video and potentially cause bullying within personal friendship groups or even online.



National Online Safety

# Top Tips for Parents



## TALK ABOUT THE PITFALLS OF OVERSHARING

Encourage your kids to always think before they do, say, like or post anything online, explaining that their 'digital footprint' can shape their online reputation and the way that other people see them. Something they may find funny and entertaining now may impact them in the future. Talk about how to deal with peer pressure and how doing something they think will impress others could affect them.

## HANDLING CRITICISM

While it's fantastic to see your child being creative and expressive and bonding with people with similar interests, they need to be aware that not everyone will be supportive online. Comments can be negative or even cruel. Make sure they know how to comment respectfully and handle negative feedback. In the app's Privacy and Safety settings, your child can decide who can react to their videos, who can comment, and who can send them private chat messages. We suggest using these settings so only their friends can interact with their posts.

## SIGNING UP WITH THE CORRECT AGE

When signing up to TikTok, you are prompted to input your birth date. If your child inputs their age as 'under 13', the app will not allow them to sign up and will be locked for 24 hours. The app is intended for users aged 13+, so explain that the rating is there for a reason; to keep them protected from online dangers. It is actually possible to watch TikTok videos without even creating an account, so it's important to check if your underage child has downloaded the app to their devices.

## USE THE 'DIGITAL WELLBEING' SETTING

If you're concerned about the amount of time your child is spending on TikTok, in the app's setting, you can switch on a feature called Digital Wellbeing. This includes 'Screen Management' to limit the amount of time your child spends on the app.

## SET THE ACCOUNT TO PRIVATE

This means that only people who you and your child approve of can see their creations. To make an account private, tap the three dots at the top right of the screen to access settings. Click 'Privacy and Safety', Scroll down until you find 'Private Account' and turn this setting on.

## REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

If you or your child see something on TikTok that appears to be inappropriate, they can report content in different ways within the app. They can report an account, video, comment or chat conversation by simply tapping 'Report'. In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' feature, there is also an 'Enhanced Restricted Mode', which limits the appearance of videos that may not be appropriate for all audiences.

## AVOID IDENTIFIABLE OBJECTS

To ensure that there's no way of anyone tracking your child's location or identity, make it clear to them that they should never film a video in their school uniform or near a landmark that gives away where they live.

## DISCUSS IN-APP PURCHASES

To lower the risk of your child making accidental in-app purchases, teach them exactly what in-app purchases are and the risks of making them without permission. Tell them that they are not essential to enjoy the app and that if they want to make a purchase, they should always ask you beforehand. In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' feature, there is the option to disable the function of purchasing coins and sending gifts.

SOURCES: [mediapost.com/publications/article/319720/social-media-stars-influence-kids-but-parents-still.html](https://mediapost.com/publications/article/319720/social-media-stars-influence-kids-but-parents-still.html), [commonsensemedia.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-musically/](https://commonsensemedia.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-musically/), [metro.co.uk/2017/03/17/musical-ly-everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-app-your-children-are-obsessed-with-6516068/](https://metro.co.uk/2017/03/17/musical-ly-everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-app-your-children-are-obsessed-with-6516068/), [youtube.com/watch?v=AN06s4fCDUs](https://youtube.com/watch?v=AN06s4fCDUs), [youtube.com/watch?v=YVGZ1ZQ4jQM](https://youtube.com/watch?v=YVGZ1ZQ4jQM), [static.muscdn.com/website/pdf/creatorPlaybook.pdf](https://static.muscdn.com/website/pdf/creatorPlaybook.pdf), [youtube.com/watch?v=8TajOQCnTaM](https://youtube.com/watch?v=8TajOQCnTaM), [support.musical.ly/knowledge-base/community-guidelines](https://support.musical.ly/knowledge-base/community-guidelines)

© National Online Safety Ltd

This is not a definitive guide. Please always check with the app's support information to see if your security and privacy concerns are addressed.

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j150BqInjnY>



# Homework Club

Pupils at Walkwood Church of England Middle School have the unique opportunity to complete their homework before and after school right here on site. Homework Club runs from Monday to Friday, before school, from the revised time of 08:00-08:45 in the library, then after school from 15:30-16:30 in the DT Hub. If you would like your child to attend our Homework Club, please could you complete the registration form which can be found by Reception. This will inform us of your consent and will also give us an indication of when your child will be accessing the club. Before registering, please could you and your child read the rules and conditions which we expect each pupil to adhere to when they attend each session:

Only homework/classwork is to be completed at Homework Club

Pupils are to silent read/complete book quiz if assigned tasks have been completed

Pupils are to work quietly whilst allowing others to do likewise

Pupils must sign in on arrival and out when leaving

Pupils do have access to computers for work purposes ONLY- No games

Revised Pick-Up Arrangements- The PM Homework Club will run from 15:30-16:30 and pupils will no longer be able to be collected any earlier than 16:30. At this time, the member of staff on duty will bring ALL pupils out to the Feckenham Road entrance where they can be collected.

Failure to comply with these rules will result in the withdrawal of this privilege for a stated period of time, in the first instance. Each session will have a maximum amount of pupils so we will inform you if any of the sessions are full.

## Primrose Proms Concert

Last Friday evening Walkwood Choir performed in a super concert with the Primrose Choir and Avonbank Brass Band. Our school hall was decorated with bunting and flags to fit in with the Proms theme. Everyone was taken by surprise when the band started to play their opening march tune because they were quite loud! Next, the Primrose Choir sang a medley from Mamma Mia and then it was Walkwood's turn to sing. Our children were brilliant and you could hear every word they sang.

After some songs by the two choirs, more music from the band, the interval and the raffle, we got to the grand finale of the concert where everyone joined in with singing the traditional Proms songs of Land Of Hope And Glory, Rule Britannia and Jerusalem whilst waving flags in time to the music. It was a great finish to a great concert.

Congratulations to all our Walkwood singers - I was extremely proud of you all!

Mrs C Griffiths





# Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

## effervescence

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 September 2018 — 23rd October 2018

Congratulations to:

### Top Girl

Caitlin Banks (Year 5 BJHD) - who has read an incredible 1,484,055 words

### Top Boy

Samuel Curtis (Year 5 MDSL) - who has read a fantastic 855,570 words

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

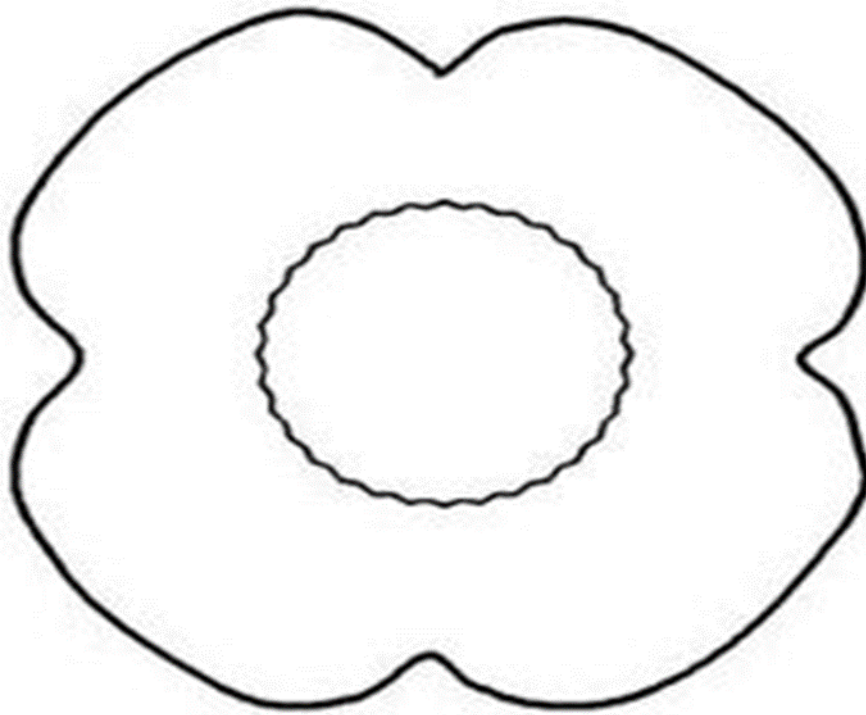




1918

LEST WE FORGET

2018



Do you have a family member that fought in WW1 and you would like to honour and remember?

Walkwood is looking to do a WW1 Remembrance display to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Great War.

Please cut out the poppy template and write your family members' details and your child's name and tutor (a photo if possible) and send into Walkwood FAO Mrs West or email into school at [office@walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk) Thank you to those who have done so already.



# Trips and Visits

## 2018 - 2019



DATE	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	OPEN TO	COST	LEADER
<b>May</b>					
Fri 17—Mon 20	Outward Bound	Yorkshire	Y6	£ 300	Rev Leach
<b>June</b>					
Thurs 20—Sat 22	Arts and Theatres	London	Y8	£ 300	Rev Leach
Fri 21—Mon 24	Outward Bound	Isle of Wight	Y7 & 8	£ 315	Mr West
Fri 21—Mon 24	Outward Bound	Brecon Beacons	Y5	£ 170	Mr Macdonald / Mrs Cull

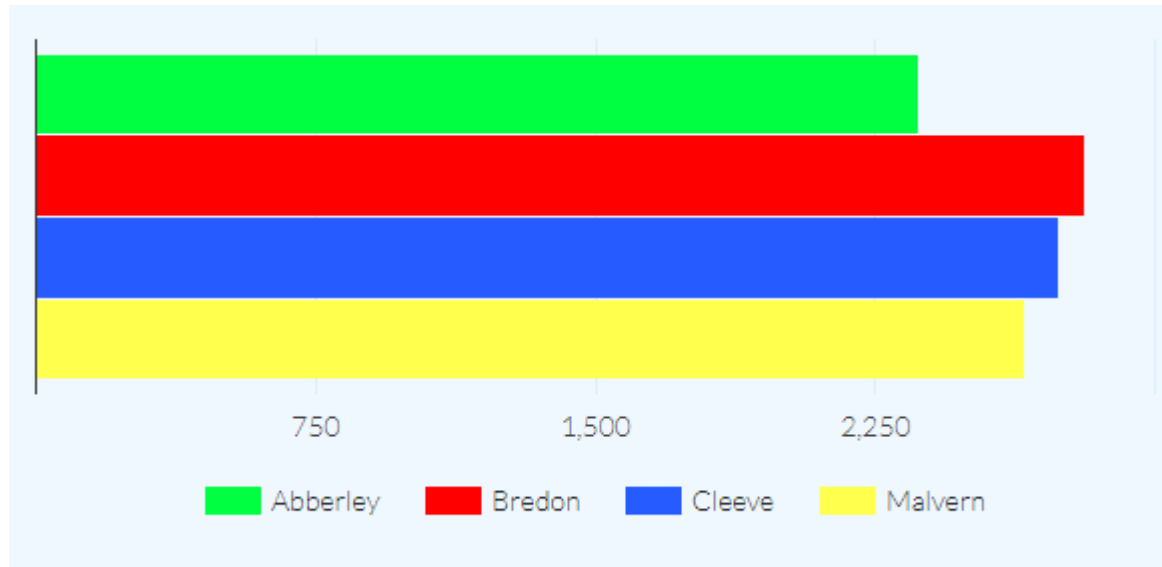




# Epraise Update



## Points This Week: By College



## Top Ten Points Scorers

1. Lauren Sole (AMLA) (27)
2. James Thomas Manders (MKRE) (25)
2. Thomas Showell (AECO) (25)
4. Liam Cooke (CLBK) (24)
4. Emily Nattrass (ALBA) (24)
4. Maisie Frost (BRCO) (24)
4. 🍌 Eleanor Taylor (CAMI) (24)
4. Grace Hyde (MPJE) (24)
9. Matthew Banks (AECO) (23)
10. Katie Crouch (BJHD) (22)



# Looking ahead



	Date	Event
<b>2018</b>	Friday 26 October	Staff Development Day
	Monday 29 October to Friday 2 November	Half term
	Wednesday 7 November	SATs Information Evening <b>6.30-7.45 pm</b> Year 7 Curriculum Information Evening <b>6.30-7.30 pm</b>
	Monday 26 November	Parents' Maths KS2 Workshop <b>6.30-7.30 pm</b>
	Wednesday 19 December	Christmas Concert <b>7.30 pm</b>
	Friday 21 December	End of Term

<b>2019</b>	Monday 7 January	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 8 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Monday 21 January	Parent English KS2 Workshop <b>6.30-7.30 pm</b>
	Thursday 31 January	Y6,Y8 Parents' Evening <b>4.00-7.00 pm</b>
	Wednesday 6 February	Y6,Y8 Parents' Evening <b>4.00-7.00 pm</b>
	Monday 18 to Friday 22 February	Half Term
	Friday 12 April	End of Term
	Monday 29 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Wednesday 8 May	Y5 Brecon Beacons Information Evening <b>6.30 pm</b>
	Monday 27 to Friday 31 May	Half Term
	Thursday 6 June	Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening <b>4.00-7.00 pm</b>
	Wednesday 12 June	Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening <b>4.00-7.00 pm</b>
	Friday 19 July	End of Term