

Dear Parents and Carers,

Did you remember to adjust the clocks last Sunday? Or are your timing devices electronic and therefore self-adjust? In whichever applies, I hope the extra hour was appreciated. One effect of that change is that at the end of some of our clubs at school it is becoming dark. Therefore, if you are picking up your child, please be prompt so they do not end up worrying. Staff will see the pupils to the gate and make sure they are safe.

Half-term brought two matters that you would not ordinarily know about. The first was that the main part of the school's roof has been replaced, which meant that a lot of the tall scaffolding has been taken down. One part of the roof, where the school was extended many years ago, has had the asbestos removed safely, so that section can now have the new outer-roof fitted. The other factor was the replacement of our school oven. Unfortunately, the contractor got things somewhat muddled, and it was only after many phone calls by our site manager Mr Robins that ensured the different sections of the new oven were here, albeit three days later than our contractor committed to. Mr Robins and I came in on the Saturday morning to assist with the installation—not that I am much of an expert on such things, but I can help lift and shove, just about. The new machine has an excellent interactive display and cleans itself when it is told to (this latter feature is not transferable to pupils and their rooms at home, I am afraid!). Thank you to Mr Robins for ensuring we could cook on Monday.

Thank you to our Year 5 parents for their comments at this week's Consultation Evening. I am also grateful to the many parents of that year group who completed our survey about the experience of beginning at Walkwood, and for the statements that were shared. As for all our surveys, we publish the results on our website, with the latest version available here: <http://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Content/files/a6ad-Y5%20Parental%20Feedback%20Transition%202017%20results.pdf>. Be assured, we will continue to work hard to maintain these standards.

Rev C Leach
Principal

You are a chosen people . . . God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. *1 Peter 2: 9*

Dear Lord,

Our Father in heaven,
Holy is your name.
May your kingdom be among
us and may your works be
done in this world. Give us
your blessing today, and for-
give us for all the bad things
we have done. Help us as we
try to forgive those who do
bad things against us and
guide us away from evil. Ever-
ything in heaven and earth is
yours. Let your glory reign,
now and forever.
Amen

This week's theme was:

The Lord's Prayer

Pray then in this way: Our Father
in heaven, hallowed be your
name. Your Kingdom come. Your
will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread....

Matthew 6: 9-13

Whole school Attendance—96%

Whole School Target – 95.6%

16.10.17—20.10.17

Year 5 — 97.94%
Year 6 — 95.28%
Year 7 — 94.44%
Year 8 — 96.36%



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 tutor group virtue:	Hope	May God, the source of hope, fill you with all joy and peace by means of your faith in him, so that your hope will continue to grow by the power of the Holy Spirit. <i>Romans 15:13</i>
The assembly theme:	Remembrance (WW1)	He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide disputes for strong nations far away; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. <i>Micah 4:3</i>

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

The weekend	the safety of all at bonfire or fireworks events.	Monday	trust between faith leaders and their communities.
Tuesday	Rachel Maclean, Redditch County's MP.	Wednesday	members of Walkwood's Pupil Parliament.
Thursday	Staff in our catering team.	Friday	continued blessings for our school to the benefit of our youngsters.





Year 6 SATs Information Evening 2017

On Thursday 9th November we will be holding our annual Standardised Attainment Tests (SATs) Information Evening from 6:30-8:00 pm.

The format of the evening will be as follows:

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

6:45-8:00 pm: Reading, Writing/SPAG 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.

I would strongly recommend your attendance, as the introduction of a new curriculum in September 2014 has meant changes to the SATs tests and the way in which the results of the tests are reported to parents.

Pupils need not attend the information evening.



CHARITY NEWS

The week before half-term the following girls were raising money for the **Lung Foundation Charity**:

Charlotte Foster – DSL (Whose elder sister, Lauren, is preparing to run the Brighton Marathon in aid of this Charity – the sisters are supporting this good cause in memory of their Grandad).

Evie Dalton – JHY

Amber Laydon – DSL

Caryn Porter – MLA

Sophie Harris – MMG

Sadie Ryan – CLO

They raised the wonderful sum of £36.10



Readathon 2017



This year the Readathon will run from Monday 6th November – Friday 10th November. It will be a celebration of reading for pleasure, with pupils striving to read and quiz on their library books with particular gusto during this week. The top reader in each college (measured by the number of words read) will win a prize of a £10 book voucher.

In addition, the Readathon will also be a celebration of reading poetry for pleasure; every child in the school will be given the task of learning a poem off by heart, to perform in an English lesson during the week of the Readathon. This is a light-hearted, fun celebration of poetry – both classic and contemporary, and is a celebration which we know the pupils will love to be a part of.

To support the pupils with choosing their poem, we have collated two collections of poetry - one of KS2 appropriate poetry and one of KS3 poetry - a mix of contemporary, classic, sad, humorous, lengthy and brief, with inclusion of a wide variety of poetry, from sonnets to haikus. There is a poem in there which each pupil in the school, regardless of ability, will be able to access and enjoy!

These collections of poetry will be uploaded to Epraise by your pupil's English teacher in the near future and pupils will be given two English homeworks to help them with the task of learning their poem by heart. Your child could simply choose a Haiku if they wanted, or if he/she wanted more of a challenge, they might opt for a Shakespearian sonnet; indeed your child is welcome to choose any appropriate poem of their choice outside of the suggested Poetry Packs, if they so desire.

English teachers will then choose an English lesson during the week of the Readathon for the poetry sharing. This might be organised as a poetry 'slam' type lesson, others might share sitting as a circle; others might organise pupils to work together to deliver a choral presentation of their poem.

Year 5 – please note that year 5 pupils will be organised into ability sets after half term, and so their launch of the poetry task will wait until then. They will be given longer to learn their poem and so they may not perform them during the actual week of the Readathon.

We know that our pupils will embrace the Readathon with enthusiasm. Should you have any questions, please contact your child's English teacher.

Many thanks

Mrs M Johnson
Head of English





Music News



Choir and Orchestra have already started rehearsing their Christmas programme of music.

The Orchestra were sounding fabulous on Monday morning, which is very encouraging and shows how their playing has progressed.

Choir have made an equally impressive start, although more singers from any year group will be very welcome. Rehearsals are currently on Monday and Thursday lunchtimes, increasing to more lunchtimes as we get nearer to the concerts. There will not be any after school rehearsals in this half term.



Concert Dates:

School Christmas Carol Concert (all the Choir and Orchestra) – Tuesday 12th December at 7.30pm. This will last for approximately one hour.

Hindlip Concert – 25 selected choir members, as guests of West Mercia Police Brass Band – Thursday 14th December. More details nearer the time.

Carol Singing – a limited number of choir members to visit a group of our local elderly residents – during the afternoon of Thursday 7th December, returning to school for 3.30pm.

Mrs C Griffiths



Sports News

Just to let you know that next week will be the last week that PE clubs are running as they are.



The week beginning the 13th November will be a new PE extra-curricular timetable.

Book Fair

We are hosting a children's Book Fair from Scholastic.

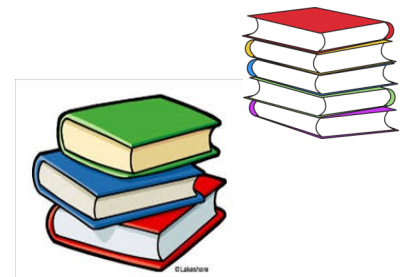
The Book Fair will be open in the School Library from Monday 6th November until Friday 10th November.

A timetable has been created to allow all pupils time to view and buy books.

Leaflets with a small selection of the titles available have been sent home.

There are hundreds of titles to choose from so please browse the full selection, on www.scholastic.co.uk.

Great Christmas presents or Birthday gift ideas too!



Points Boosters



This week we have launched a brand new initiative called 'Points Boosters'. It is designed to reward all pupils who have 100% attendance and those pupils who consistently uphold and adhere to the Walkwood Values.

How does it work?

Attendance Points Boosters

A 5-point booster will be awarded for every time your child has 100% Attendance for the period of the 2-week timetable- Week 1 & Week 2.

These points are automatically given out on the Friday of Week 2.

Each time your child receives an Attendance Booster their name will be entered in to the Attendance College Prize Draw. See Below:

Autumn Attendance College Prize Draw

All-New Fire 7 Tablet with Alexa



Exciting!! There is one of these to be won for each College.

Zero Demerit Points Boosters

We feel that we need to reward all pupils who continue to demonstrate excellent focus and behaviour in and out of lessons and complete all of their homework on time.

We are awarding a 5-point booster for every time your child has Zero Demerits during the period of the 2-week timetable- Week 1 & Week 2.

Again, these booster points are automatically given out on the Friday of Week 2.

As a school, we continue to evolve and adapt our systems as we search to motivate our pupils to want to attend school and give their best whilst they are here. As always, your support is greatly appreciated.

Top Readers for 2nd October 2017 - 2nd November 2017



Congratulations to:

Top Girl

(Baillie Carr CAMI Year 8) - who has read an outstanding 1,189,066 words

Top Boy

(Oliver Hands MNSA Year 7) - who has read a fabulous 915,430 words

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU



Clarification on hair styles

Thank you to all those parents/carers who get in touch with support or suggestions. These help us to improve both the academic and life experiences that your child receives while they are at our school. You can be assured we are constantly reviewing all aspects of our school to ensure your child receives the best possible education.

In support of this, the school has a number of policies which set out the levels and standards we expect for attendance, uniform, behaviour and homework. Copies of these are available on our website, www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/. In-depth uniform guidance is also outlined in the pupil planners as well as on the website.

The majority of our pupils respect and follow these policies. However, in recent weeks we have noticed that a small number of pupils are attending school with hairstyles which we do not consider appropriate within the policy, which makes us mention that we do not allow extremes of hairstyles in school. To avoid any confusion, all hairstyles need to adhere to the following guidelines:

- No parting lines, patterns or tramlines should be shaved into the hair or eyebrows.
- Hair should not be shaved shorter than a grade 2.
- No undercuts.
- Colouring is only allowed if it appears natural.
- Hair bands must be plain and only blue, black or grey in colour (no other hair accessories should be worn).
- Hair extensions are not permitted.

Please note that should a Walkwood pupil be found not to be adhering to the above, it may be that they are withdrawn from their normal timetable whilst parents are contacted and the issue rectified. In some cases it may be necessary to send a pupil home to make the necessary adjustments, before returning to their learning. The school's decision in all matters is final.

UPDATE

Since returning from the half-term holiday there has been a noticeable improvement with regards to pupil hairstyles. We thank you, as parents, for your continued support in this matter, as we strive towards excellence in the way our pupils present themselves.





Trips and Visits

2017 - 18



DATE	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	OPEN TO	COST	LEADER
May					
Fri 18—Mon 21	Outward Bound	Yorkshire	Y6	£ 270	Mr Sanders
June					
Wed 20—Fri 22	Arts and Theatres	London	Y8	£ 280	Rev Leach
Fri 22—Mon 25	Outward Bound	Wales	Y8	£ 270	Mr Jenkin
Fri 22— Mon 25	Outward Bound	Brecon Beacons	Y5	£ 155	Mr Macdonald / Mrs Cull



Clubs and Activities Autumn Term 1



Day	Before School 7:45am—8:45 am	Lunchtime 12.35-1.20 p.m.	After School 3.30 pm—4.45 pm
Monday	<p style="color: #0070C0;">Homework Club (Library)</p> <p>Orchestra (Music Room) 8.45-9.30am (CGr)</p>	<p>KS3 Art Club Starting 18th September (ECO)</p> <p>Choir (all year groups) 12.50-1.20 pm Music Room (CGR)</p> <p style="color: #0070C0;">Monday lunchtime DT block Movie club (all years) (AMI)</p> <p>Gardening Club Textiles Room At the start of lunch (STA)</p> <p>Maths Club for KS2 and KS3 Room 6</p>	<p>Homework Club (Library) 3.30–4.30pm</p> <p style="color: #800080;">Kurling and Boccia Club (invite/sign up only) (NFO/DPA) 3.30-4.45pm</p>
Tuesday	<p style="color: #0070C0;">Homework Club (Library)</p>	<p>DT Club in DT block All years (AMI)</p> <p>KS2 Art Club Art Room (ECO)</p> <p>Card Making club (invite only) Art Room (STA)</p>	<p>Homework Club (Library) 3.30–4.30pm</p> <p style="color: #800080;">Year 5 & 6 Science Club 3.30-4.30 pm LAB1 (JHD) Starts 12th September (not on 17th October, 31st October, 12th December and 19th December)</p> <p style="color: #800080;">Year 5/6 Netball—(HTR/KRE)</p> <p style="color: #800080;">Years 5, 7 & 8 Football (RMA, CHU, SWA)</p>
Wednesday	<p style="color: #0070C0;">Homework Club (Library)</p>	<p>Signing Club (All year groups) (Textiles Room) (JHa)</p> <p>Silent Reading Club Room 19 (LBa)</p> <p>Colouring and Drawing Club for Mindfulness and Relaxation (12.50—1.20) Room 9 (MMG and PC) (limited places available)</p>	<p>Homework Club (Library) 3.30–4.30pm</p> <p style="color: #800080;">Cooking Club 3.30–4.45pm (DSL) (rota of when you are cooking will be confirmed)</p> <p style="color: #800080;">Girls Football 5/6—7/8 (RMA/HTR/NFO)</p> <p style="color: #800080;">KS2 Boys Hockey (DPA)</p> <p style="color: #800080;">Cross Country Club Field (NRO)</p>



Clubs and Activities Autumn Term 1



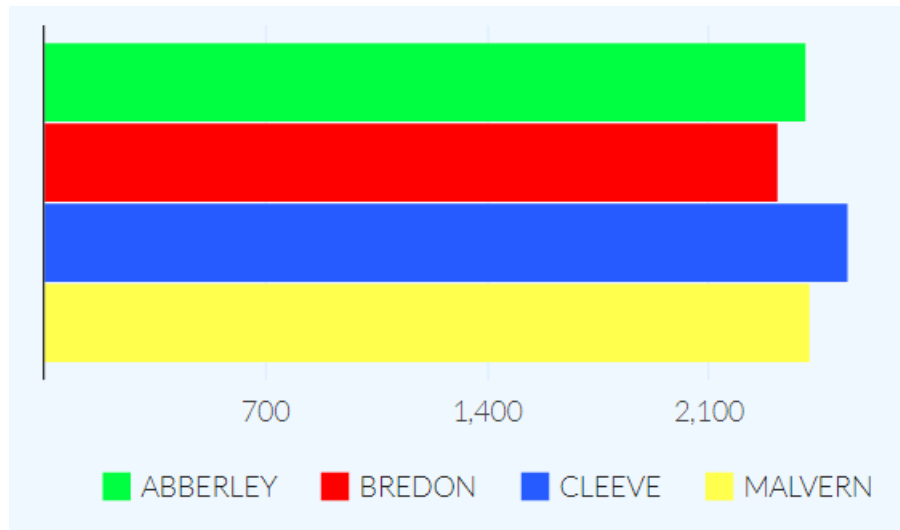
Thursday	Homework Club (Library)	Choir (All year groups) Music Room—12.50- 1.20pm (CGR) Languages Club 1.00 pm in Room 15 (NHU) To start after October half- term Green Ambassadors Club All years Week 2 only 12.35 pm—if you need a lunch pass collect from MBI	Homework Club (Library) 3.30–4.30pm Year 7/8 Rugby—(PJE/SWA) Year 7/8 Netball—(HTR/KRE) Year 6 Football—(NSA/DPA)
Friday	Homework Club (Library)		Homework Club (Library) 3.30–4.30pm Rec Football - (SWA, NFO, CHU, DPA, RMA)



Epraise Update



Points This Week: By College



Top Ten Points Scorers

1. Maisy West (MNSA) (33)
2. Ben Day (BCLO) (29)
2. Tom Payne (BJHY) (29)
2. Courtney Hawthorne (MMMG) (29)
2. Erin Wakefield (ALBA) (29)
6. Zaynab Noor (BCJO) (28)
6. Daniel Wild (MNSA) (28)
6. Jamie Knight (CAMI) (28)
9. Skye Shovell (CCMI) (27)
10. Louis-Philippe Johnson (BSTA) (26)



Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2017	Thursday 9 November	SATs Information Evening 7 pm
	Monday 4 December	Parents' Maths KS2 Workshop 6.30—7.30 pm
	Tuesday 12 December	Christmas Concert 7.30 pm
	Tuesday 19 December	End of Term
2018	Wednesday 3 January	Staff Development Day
	Thursday 4 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Monday 15 January	Parent English KS2 Workshop 6.30—7.30 pm
	Thursday 1 February	Y6 & Y8 Parents' Evening 4—7 pm
	Wednesday 7 February	Y6 & Y8 Parents' Evening 4—7 pm
	Thursday 15 February	Y5 & Y7 reports to Parents / Carers
	Monday 19 – Friday 23 February	Half-Term
	Friday 9 March	Parent Focus Group 2.00—3.00 pm
	Thursday 29 March	End of term
	Monday 16 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Wednesday 16 May	Y5 Brecon Beacons information evening 6.30 pm
	Monday 28 May—Friday 1 June	Half-Term
	Monday 4 June	Staff Development Day
	Thursday 7 June	Y5 & Y7 Parents' Evening 4—7 pm
	Wednesday 13 June	Y5 & Y7 Parents' Evening 4—7 pm
	Monday 9 July	Parent Focus group 6 pm
	Tuesday 24 July	End of Term
	Monday 3 & Tuesday 4 September	Staff Development Days
	Wednesday 5 September	First day of the Autumn Term
	Friday 26 October	Staff Development Day
Monday 29 Oct to Friday 2 November	Half term	
Friday 21 December	End of Term	
2019	Monday 7 January	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 8 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Monday 18—Friday 22 February	Half Term
	Friday 12 April	End of Term
	Monday 29 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Monday 27—Friday 31 May	Half Term
	Friday 19 July	End of Term