

The Insider

5th December 2025; issue 582

Our Vision

In our inclusive community,
Each valued individual is taught self-belief
We are resilient and optimistic,
Caring for ourselves and our peers.
We are Children of God, with hope,
Awe and wonder in our hearts.

Our Bible verse: Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

Our Values: Respect Friendship Honesty Kindness
Our motto: Respect. Believe. Succeed

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to share that we raised an amazing £2,644.55 at our Christmas Fair! It was wonderful to see so many parents, carers, and families joining us, generously contributing and bringing festive cheer to Walkwood. A sincere and heartfelt thank you goes to our PTA for their hard work and dedication in making the event such a success. If you would like to join our growing PTA, please get in touch by contacting Mrs Spence via our school office. We would warmly welcome your support as we work together for the benefit of our pupils and the whole school community.

As we enter the final weeks of the autumn term, a number of Christmas events will be taking place.

On Tuesday 9th December, our Year 5 pupils have been invited to Vaynor to watch their Christmas nativity. We are very much looking forward to this event and supporting our local first school.

On Wednesday 17th December at 6pm, you are warmly invited to join us for our annual Carol Service at the Bridge Church. Our wonderful pupils will be leading this special service through readings, prayer and music as we prepare for Christmas.

A reminder that Christmas lunches are planned for Wednesday 10th December (for pupils in years 5 and 7) and Thursday 11th December (for pupils in years 6 and 8). Please book a meal through ParentPay if your child would like one. An optional festive/Christmas jumper day will take place on the last day of term (Friday 19th December), with all proceeds going to Children in Need.

We wish you a restful weekend.

Mrs Lowe

Key Information for Parents

For information about our school: www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk











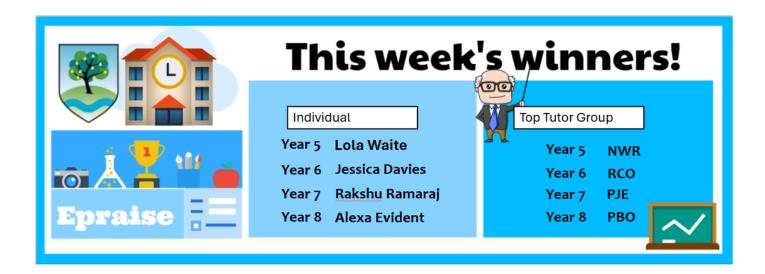
Keeping children safe

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

<u>Early help</u> <u>E-safety</u> <u>Prevent</u>

<u>Child Protection</u> <u>Attendance</u>

<u>Safeguarding summary</u> <u>Safeguarding policy</u>



Absences and illness

Please could you notify school of your child's absence before 9:30am **EACH** day of absence. In the case of sickness and upset stomachs, your child will need to be clear of any symptoms for 48 hours before returning to school.

Thank you.



Every School Day Counts



94% Our overall attendance this academic year











Weekly Attendance

Year 5	94%
Year 6	92%
Year 7	92%
Year 8	96%
Whole School	94%







Year to date Attendance				
Year 5	95%			
Year 6	93%			
Year 7	92%			
Year 8	93%			
Whole School	94%			

Welcome back and congratulations to 5LWA, who had an attendance rate of 97.4% for the week.

The top 3 were all Year 5 classes this week. There are lots of bugs around as usual for this time of year. Let's have a big push for higher attendance as we head towards the Christmas Holidays!



Celebrating attendance

Because attendance matters...





British Values and news

In our Collective Worship this week, we took time to reflect on and discuss a current news story, considering its relevance to one of our key British Values: Mutual Respect and Tolerance.

We encourage you to take a moment to speak with your child about what was discussed and see if they can identify other examples of Mutual Respect and Tolerance in action in our everyday lives—both within school and beyond. It's a wonderful way to continue these important conversations at home and help deepen their understanding of the world around them.







Mutual Respect and Tolerance

The Princess of Wales' carol service brings people together to share kindness and joy. When we show core, we help create togetherness. Respecting people of all ages, backgrounds, and beliefs helps our communities feel welcoming and connected.





Wednesday 17 th December The Bridge Church 6pm



Join us for our annual
Carol Service with music
from our Choir and
Orchestra and reading and
prayers led by our
Collective Worship
Leaders.



TOUCHSTONES LANTERN WALK

A lovely community event to remember those we love, who have died. Open to Everyone

MORTON STANLEY PARK - REDDITCH
Saturday 13th December 2025

Walk starts at 5:45pm

with lantern collection available, and cafe open from 5:15pm

A special family occasion open to everyone, to remember those we love and who we miss

A gentle 30 minute walk with lanterns, and a short time of memory and reflection in the lit grotto - followed by a visit from Father Christmas and his sleigh at 6:30pm. Suitable for all ages and buggies

Lanterns available to buy at £5.00 each, or just bring your own

Hot drinks and snacks available to buy from the wonderful Morton Stanley Cafe

Parking in main car park - off Windmill Drive

It is really helpful to know how many people are coming, and also if you need to purchase lanterns - so please; text or ring Rob on 07491 968 695, or email rob@touchstones-support.org.uk

One the day, for any poor weather updates, keep checking out Touchstones Support on Facebook

Special thanks to the wonderful Redditch Round Table, Redditch Borough Council, the Morton Stanley Cafe and Banbury Litho





Appointment of a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant Grade 4

Walkwood Church of England Middle School are looking to recruit a Grade 4 Higher Level Teaching Assistant.

Remuneration: Scale 4 from £ 31,537 - £ 33,699 pro rata

8.30 am to 3.35 pm

35 hours 25 minutes per week, term time only plus 5 Inset days

"The school's ethos and values are central to every aspect of school life at Walkwood Church of England Middle School. Relationships between pupils and teachers are strong. Pupils enjoy their learning. Pupils achieve well, including those with special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND)"

SIAMS stated (2024):

Led by the vision, leaders are resolute in driving forward the work of the school. This ensures positive outcomes for pupils and adults.

Pastoral care is exceptional and extends from the school into the local community. As a result of this feeling of being treasured, lives are transformed.

There is a strong culture of togetherness, respect and trust between all members of the school community.

Walkwood Church of England Middle School are looking to recruit a HLTA Grade 4 Teaching Assistant.

We are looking for a teaching assistant who:

- Demonstrates the ability to provide efficient and effective support to pupils and staff through a fully inclusive approach
- Assesses and reports on pupils' development, progress and attainment
- Is able to provide effective pastoral care and understanding of all pupils
- Is proactive, flexible and works effectively as part of a team
- Has excellent communication skills with pupils and all stakeholders
- Has experience teaching whole class in the absence of a teacher.
- Is a reflective practitioner
- Is committed to their own professional development
- Is committed to promoting our Christian ethos and values
- Has GCSE passes in Maths and English (4+)

We can offer you:

- A committed and supportive leadership team
- Wonderful, motivated children

- A commitment to your future professional development
- Support from the whole community of our church school

Walkwood Church of England Middle School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS check.

For full details of this position or a tour of the school prior and how to apply, please visit our website at www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk. The application deadline is 11 December 2025 at 9 am. Interviews will take place Tuesday 16 December 2025.

The Lion King Jr - Rehearsal Schedule - Autumn Term 2

Remember, a musical is a living, breathing entity. Where it is necessary to make changes to the rehearsal schedule, we will notify you in advance. Please make sure you know your child's character or which ensemble group they are a part of.

Tuesday	Thomadan
Tuesday	Thursday
3.30pm-4.45pm GLA, PAL, LHO	3.30pm-4.45pm GLA, PAL, LTI
4 th November	6th November
* Hoveline!	<u>o November</u>
Circle of Life: Rafiki, Zazu, Mufasa, Sarabi, Pridelands	Circle of Life: Rafiki, Zazu, Mufasa, Sarabi, Pridelands Tribe, Lion
Tribe, Lion Pride	Pride
Blocking pg. 16-17: Mufasa, Scar, Zazu, Hyena Clan	
11 th November	13 th November
Greenlanda Chanti Bridelanda Tilha Lian Bride Liana	Lianaca Hunt ng 26 27: Lian Brida
Grasslands Chant: Pridelands Tribe, Lion Pride, Hyena Clan	Lioness Hunt pg. 26-27: Lion Pride
	Blocking pg. 24-25, 28-30: Scar, Young Simba, Young Nala,
Blocking pg. 22-24: Mufasa, Young Simba, Zazu	Sarabi, Sarafina, Zazu, Rafiki
18 th November	20 th November
Blocking pg. 38-44: Young Simba, Young Nala, Zazu,	Be Prepared: Scar, Shenzi, Banzai, Ed, Hyena Clan
Mufasa, Scar, Banzai, Shenzi, Ed Blocking pg. 52-53: Mufasa, Zazu, Young Nala, Young	
Simba	
25 th November	27th November
They Live in You: Mufasa, Lion Pride	The Stampede and Shadowland: Nala, Pridelands Tribe, Lion
	Pride
Blocking pg. 59-60: Young Simba, Scar, Banzai, Shenzi,	Blocking pg. 64-66: Mufasa, Scar, Young Simba
Ed 2nd December	4 th December
Z December	4 December
The Mourning: Sarabi, Nala, Rafiki, Scar, Lion Pride,	I Just Can't Wait to be King: Young Simba, Pridelands Tribe
Hyena Clan.	
Blocking pg. 70-73, 84-87: Timon, Pumbaa, Young	
Simba, Zazu, Scar, Banzai, Shenzi, Ed, Nala.	
9 th December	11th December
Circle of Life, Grasslands Chant, Lioness Hunt, Be	Hakuna Matata and Can You Feel the Love Tonight: Timon,
Prepared: Rafiki, Zazu, Mufasa, Sarabi, Pridelands Tribe,	Pumbaa, Simba, Nala.
Lion Pride, Hyena Clan, Scar, Shenzi, Banzai, Ed.	Small ensemble to be selected.
, , ,	
Blocking pg. 92-97: Timon, Pumbaa, Simba, Nala	
16th December	18th December
Blocking pg. 115-116: Nala, Timon, Pumbaa, Rafiki,	This rehearsal will be used as a "catch up". Students required for this rehearsal will be informed in advance.
Banzai, Shenzi, Ed Blocking pg. 118-123: Scar, Sarabi, Simba, Nala, Shenzi,	this renearsal will be informed in advance.
Banzai, Ed, Timon, Pumbaa, Zazu, Rafiki, Hyena Clan,	
Lion Pride	
	1

Characters with solo songs, or those involving small numbers of students, may be called for lunchtime rehearsals. Information about these will be given on our daily notices for students.

Show Dates: Tuesday 24th March 2026, Wednesday 25th March 2026, Thursday 26th March 2026

Clubs and Activities



Autumn Term 2

	Before school	Breaktime 10.20-	Lunchtime	After School
	8.30-8.45	10.35	12.55-13.15	3:30pm – 4:45pm
Monday	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open - read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	AU sports in the hall. Sign up required. PMc Dance- All year groups AU sports in the movement area. Sign up required. PMc
Tuesday	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Choir Year 5 and 7 12.55-1.15 (during playground time) Music Room Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Homework club- DT hub- all year groups- LCU. Sign up required. The Lion King Junior Rehearsals Students to attend according to rehearsal plan. Debating Club KS2 MJo Rm20- Sign up required.
Wednesday	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open - read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Basketball- KS3 AU sports in the hall. Sign up required. KGr Boogie bounce-KS2 movement area. Sign up required. KGr
Thursday	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	The Lion King Junior Rehearsals Students to attend according to rehearsal plan.
Friday	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open - read, quiz or exchange books	Choir Year 6 and 8 1.15-1.35 (during playground time) Music Room Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Multi-sports-KS2 AU sports in the hall. Sign up required. LWo



Looking ahead



2025		
Friday 19 December	End of Term	
	2026	
Monday 5 January	First Day of Spring Term	
Wednesday 4 February	Yr6 & Yr8 Parents' Evening 4:00 – 7:00 pm	
Thursday 12 February	Yr6 & yr8 Parents' Evening 4:00 – 7:00pm	
Monday 16 – Friday 20 February	Half Term	
Wednesday 11 March	Yr5 & Yr7 Parents' Evening 4:00 – 7:00pm	
Thursday 19 March	Yr5 & Yr7 Parents' Evening 4:00 – 7:00pm	
Friday 27 March	End of Term	
Monday 13 April	First Day of Summer Term	
Monday 4 May	Bank Holiday	
Monday 18 th – Wednesday 20 th May	Yr7 Trip - The Ultimate Adventure Centre	
Monday 25 – Friday 29 May	Half Term	
Monday 1 June	Staff Development Day	
Sunday 28 th June – Wednesday 1 st July	Yr5 Devon residential Trip	
Friday 17 July	End of Term	