

Dear Parents and Carers,

The timetable within school has been adjusted in some part for the next three weeks leading up to the SATs for Year 6. As usual, we do not put lots of pressure on our pupils for these assessments, but we do prepare them well, and the timetable will allow some additional time with English and Maths teachers for Year 6 children. The other year groups will have some variation to the usual timetable too, but this will not affect the lessons of PE and Technology.



You will be aware that the National Education Union has called two further days of industrial action on Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May. Please be aware that on such days schools are not compelled to follow the curriculum nor to set any home learning. However, we have been open for particular year groups when we can. For the other cohorts, we set home learning even though we do not need to, and this has been optional for pupils. The school is not obliged to mark such work as the teachers may not be available, but we do endeavour to upload ePraise points for work that is returned.



The strikes are not simply about pay. The government has not fully funded this year's pay award to teaching or support staff, so we have had to use our reserves. Next year's pay award of 4.5% will also not be fully funded as the government will give schools only 0.5% towards the additional cost. Walkwood would need to find just short of £100k for the next school year.

Today has seen the end of Ramadan, which is celebrated in the festival of Eid al Fitr. After fasting during the days of Ramadan which brings Allah's followers closer to Him, family and friends come together at Eid to give thanks for Allah's blessings through prayer and community. Although this is a day after the Eid, may all your good deeds be accepted by God - *Atamanna lakum Eid sa'id jiddan! Litakun kul a'malakum al-khayyira maqbula 'ind Allah.*



Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, and to those who are true of heart.

Psalm 125: 4

Rev. C. Leach, Principal

This week's theme was: St George

Jesus said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."

Luke 9:23-24

Father God,
Your servant St George, stood up for what he believed in, you. He lay down his life as one devoted to you. We pray that we can be just as devoted to you. We pray that your unending love is in us, that we can feel it and use it to build our relationship with you. Let us be living fully for you and the purpose you gave us. Let us be the examples of how to live for you.
Amen.

Whole school Attendance

94.72%

Whole School Target

95.6%

27.03.2023 to 31.03.2023

Year 5 94.64%

Year 6 93.21%

Year 7 92.50%

Year 8 92.83%



For the week ahead

The Fruit of Faith is:	Honour	Be devoted to one another with mutual love, showing eagerness in honouring one another. <i>Romans 12:10</i>
The assembly theme will be:	The greatness of God	He has shown you his greatness among the nations. Exalt him in the presence of every living being, because he is our Lord and his is our god; he is our Father and he is God for ever. <i>Tobit 13:3</i>

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

The weekend	Those families who are celebrating Eid	Monday	For those who have experienced bullying online and offline
Tuesday	The year 8 pupils who are in their final term with us	Wednesday	Those with disabilities
Thursday	The local churches and community centres	Friday	The teachers and support staff at Walkwood

Picture of the Week

A dew-covered damsel fly



Paul Fraser



Points Boosters

‘Points Boosters’ are 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 awarded at the end of every Week 2

Zero Demerit Points Boosters

A reward for all pupils who continue to demonstrate excellent focus and behaviour in and out of lessons.

- 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 points are awarded at the end of every Week 2

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

The Walkwood Celebration Assembly Prize Draw



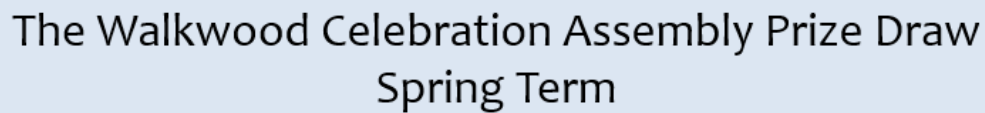
Fabulous prizes to be won

The Attendance Goldfish Bowl	The Zero Demerit Goldfish Bowl
Pupils will be entered into the draw if their attendance is 97% and above	Pupils will be entered into the draw for having ZERO Demerits for the term

Summer Prizes to include



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.



Winner and prize-
 Finley T- Variety Chocolate Set
 Lucy W- £20 Miller & Carter Gift Card
 Eddie C- Marvel T-Shirt
 Jacob B- Baseball Cap
 Daniele D- Wireless Earbuds

Winner and prize-
 Jess A-S- Miniature Wheelie Bin
 Tabitha J- £10 Vue Cinema Gift Card
 Harlie L-L- Trio of Chocolate Bombs
 Maya S- £10 Amazon Gift Card
 Edward R- Pack of Freddo's
 Callie S- KitKat Easter Egg

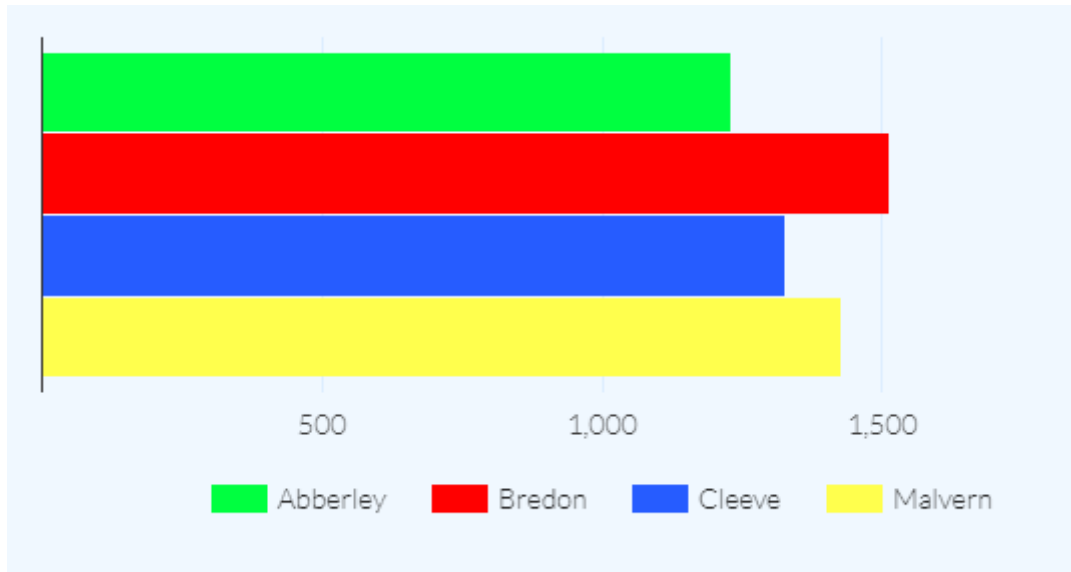


Nut allergy

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.



epraise this week



Top Readers for 20.03.2023 — 20.04.2023

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

Isabelle Martin (Year 6 BDDE) - who has read 427,268 words.

Top Boy

Dylan Arkell (Year 7 ALHA) - who has read 434,120 words.

Well done - merits will be awarded to you both.

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



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

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>



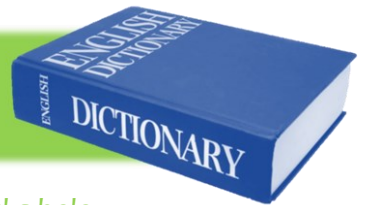
Reading matters



Did you know that reading supports cognitive development and impacts positively across the whole curriculum? Readers are likely to do 'significantly better' in all subjects, with a 9.9% advantage in Maths alone. (IoE, 2013). With this in mind, please remember that we expect our students to read daily for between 20 and 30 minutes. Some of that reading will need to be done outside of school. Pupils will benefit from reading aloud daily to an adult (even if for a short time), right the way up to year 8 and is not just an exercise useful to younger children.



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.

compromise

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.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FORTNITE

CHAPTER

4

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Fortnite may be something of a veteran in gaming terms (having launched back in 2017), but it remains massively popular – with more than 250 million people playing online every month. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons', which bring more subtle changes. The latest iteration, Chapter 4 Season 2, adds a cyberpunk-themed city and anime-style areas, for example, along with new weapons and characters.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player offline mode in Fortnite: it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away of a certain length – such as days out and holidays – than you might have expected.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it *does* offer various additional purchases – cosmetic skins, rare weapons and so on – which don't really impact on gameplay, but can cost quite a significant amount. These items are bought with game's currency, V-Bucks – which can be earned through playing, but are also often purchased from the game's store for real-world money.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like *The Walking Dead* to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as *Street Fighter*. This means you could find your child asking questions about the creature from *Alien* or who Geralt from *The Witcher* is a little sooner than you'd possibly anticipated.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with vast numbers of gamers – of various ages. Crossplay lets friends play with and against each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation or PC – while party chat allows them to communicate during the game. This chat feature can also, therefore, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them. That said, there's no blood or gore: the violence is generally rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood (fishing mini-games, for example). The machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

FREQUENT UPDATES

The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment's map and a different over-arching theme (such as 'medieval', 'pirates' or 'party'). These regular renewals help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep returning to their screens.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to want to play Fortnite alongside their friends. With this in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of your child's social group and trying to coordinate their gaming around certain hours of the day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help your child feel that they're getting adequate opportunity to socialise with their friends online.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into splashing out on those sought-after items before they disappear again for weeks. This could potentially lead to surprise outlays on your card if your child is tempted into an impulse purchase. You could consider setting up a prepaid card for them to use – or ensuring that any online purchases require adult authorisation.

USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite's seasonal updates are free – but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 (and are available as part of larger bundles) and can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for chores like tidying their room.

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with more trusting younger audiences means that there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game: make sure your child knows this.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously via the same TV or computer. That's ideal for siblings or when your child's friends visit – but it also offers you an opportunity to spend time doing something fun with your child, while also being able to make sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows, you might even teach them a thing or two!

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



NOS
National
Online
Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday



Clubs and Activities



Summer Term 1

	Lunchtime 12.15 – 1.00pm	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Monday	Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI Recorder Club, Music Room, GLA, 12.45pm-1pm. All welcome. We have instruments for those that need them. See Mrs Laishley to sign up.	Year 6 and 7 boys and girls cricket club 3.30 - 4.45. Meet at the KS3 playground entrance to changing room. Sign up only. (PMC/RDJ) starts Monday 24 th April
Tuesday	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.	Keyboard Club: <u>3.30pm - 4.15pm</u> . Limited spaces. Sign up via Arbor required. Priority given to those who did not gain a place last term; participants will be informed if they have been successful in gaining a place. Starts 18 th April
Wednesday	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	Ukulele Club: <u>3.30pm - 4.15pm</u> . Limited spaces, sign up via Arbor required. Priority given to those who did not gain a place last term; participants will be informed if they have been successful in gaining a place. Starts 19 th April Redditch United multi sports club. 3.30-4.45 Meet at the KS3 playground entrance to changing room. Sign up only – spaces are full- please email the office to be put on waiting list. Starts 26 th April.
Thursday	Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI Science Homework Drop In – Computing (Year 7 and 8)	KS2 and KS3 athletics club 3.30-4.45 Meet at the KS3 playground entrance to changing room. Sign up only Starts 11 th May for 2 weeks only.
Friday	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
June	6	Blackwell Adventure	✓		£42
30/06 - 03/07/2023	7	Osmington Bay Activity Park		✓	£285
20/07/2023	8	Drayton Manor	✓		£40 *

• Fully booked

* Current estimated cost

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
2023	Monday 1st May	Bank holiday
	Monday 8th May	Bank holiday
	Monday 29 May - 2 June	Half Term
	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	End of Term
	Monday 4 September	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 5 September	First day of the Autumn Term
	Monday 30 October to Friday 3 November	Half Term
	Thursday 21 December	End of Term
2024	Monday 8 January	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 9 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Monday 12 – Friday 16 February	Half Term
	Friday 22 March	End of Term
	Monday 8 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 9 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Monday 27 – Friday 31 May	Half Term
	Friday 19 July	End of Term