



Dear Parents and Carers,



The theme for assemblies this week was 'Remembrance'. This was leading to yesterday's annual commemoration at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. It can be most challenging for children of middle school age to be silent for two minutes, but Walkwood had an ultimate hush throughout from 11am. Also, we are aware that pupils may need assistance in connecting with what to be thinking during the two minutes. Therefore, we use PowerPoint to help the pupils focus.

The presentation during the two minutes silence begins with The Last Post, the traditional final salute to the fallen, played by a bugler in honour of the memory of the soldiers lost in battle. There then follows images of participants of conflicts, including the roles of women and soldiers from countries in what is now the Commonwealth of Nations. The end of the silence is signalled by Reveille, which was used to wake military personnel at the start of the day. It also has Christian significance of the rising of those who have passed away into their heavenly life. The national service at The Cenotaph in Whitehall, London, will be this coming Sunday.



...nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Isaiah 2:4b

The sign-up sheet for our school production, *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat*, has been well used this week as pupils consider taking part. Naturally, not everyone will be able to capture a main part, and some may also want to assist staff in other tasks such as the painting of scenery.

Our prefects and members of the pupil leadership team have continued their roles around the school, principally at lunch time. They assist other pupils in 'doing the right thing', as well as supporting duty staff. Their contribution is appreciated.

Rev. C. Leach, *Principal*

A prayer for Remembrance

Ever Living God,

We remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

This week's theme was:
Remembrance

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.

Micah 4: 3

Whole School Target

95.6%

Whole School Attendance

93.46%



For the week ahead

The Fruit of Faith is:	Achievement	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>
The assembly theme:	What brings happiness?	If you obey and do right, a light will show you the way and fill you with happiness. You are the Lord's people! So celebrate and praise the only God . <i>Psalm 97: 11-12</i>

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

The weekend	greater understanding between nations leading to lasting peace	Monday	Malala Yousafza after her nikkah ceremony this week
Tuesday	prefects and the pupil leadership team	Wednesday	experts in public health and for all those on the frontline of infection control
Thursday	those who volunteer giving time, love and care	Friday	the education team at the Diocese of Worcester, lead by Tim Reid

Picture of the Week



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a photo- and video-sharing app which also allows users to chat with friends via text or audio. Users can share images and videos with specific friends, or through a 'story' (documenting the previous 24 hours) visible to their entire friend list. Snapchat usage rose during the pandemic, with many young people utilising it to connect with their peers. The app continues to develop features to engage an even larger audience and emulate current trends, rivalling platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects on the app with people they know, they may still receive friend requests from strangers. Snapchat's links with apps such as Wink and Hoop have increased this possibility. Accepting a request means that children are then disclosing personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features. This could allow predators to gain their trust for sinister purposes.

EXCESSIVE USE

There are many features that are attractive to users and keep them excited about the app. Snap streaks encourage users to send snaps daily, Spotlight Challenges give users to the chance to obtain money and online fame, and the Spotlight feature's scroll of videos makes it easy for children to spend hours watching content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat are not suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's Discover function lets users swipe through snippets of news stories and trending articles that often include adult content. There is currently no way to turn off this feature.

SEXTING

Sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse. While these pictures do disappear – and the sender is notified if it has been screenshotted first – users have found alternative methods to save images, such as taking pictures with a separate device.

DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE

Snapchat's filters and lenses are a popular way for users to enhance their 'selfie game'. Although many are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' filters on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Comparing themselves unfavourably against other Snapchat users could threaten a child's confidence or sense of self-worth.

VISIBLE LOCATION

My Places lets users check in and search for popular spots nearby – such as restaurants, parks or shopping centres – and recommend them to their friends. The potential issue with a young person consistently checking into locations on Snapchat is that it allows other users in their friends list (even people they have only ever met online) to see where they currently are and where they regularly go.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add function helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this feature could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

Talk to your child about what is and isn't wise to share on Snapchat (e.g. don't post explicit images or videos, or display identifiable details like their school uniform). Remind them that once something is online, the creator loses control over where it might end up – and who with. Additionally, Snapchat's 'Spotlight' feature has a #challenge like TikTok's: it's vital that your child understands the potentially harmful consequences of taking part in these challenges.

CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

Snapchat has recently announced that it is rolling out a new safety feature: users will receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Your child can send Snaps directly to friends, but Stories are visible to everyone they have added, unless they change the settings. If they use SnapMaps, their location is visible unless 'Ghost Mode' is enabled (again via settings). It's prudent to emphasise the importance of not adding people they don't know in real life. This is particularly important with the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchatters to see the places your child regularly visits and checks in: strangers, bullies and groomers could use this information to engage in conversation and arrange to meet in person.

TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it is important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sending, receiving or sharing explicit images, as well as the possible emotional impact. Emphasise that your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that if they receive unwanted explicit images, they should tell a trusted adult straight away.

BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending explicit images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and choose report or block. There are options to state why they are reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



NOS
National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Year 6 Art Club

Year 6 spent 4 weeks in Art Club making Witch and Wizard hats ready for Halloween. The pupils learnt a range of Theatrical 3D building and painting techniques. Each hat was colour themed with feathers, spiders, bats and buckles! A huge well done to all of them!



Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

paraphrase

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 10th October 2021 — 10th November 2021

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

Shania Mander (5 CLTH) - who has read 1,041,950 words

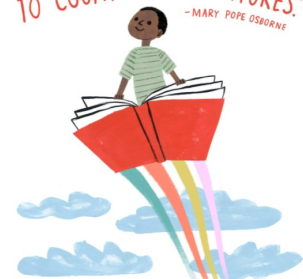
Top Boy

Joshua Powell (6 BHMA) - who has read 363,135 words

Well done - 3 merits will be awarded to you both.

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU

"READING IS A PASSPORT
TO COUNTLESS ADVENTURES."
- MARY POPE OSBORNE





Walkwood
Church of England  Middle School

Appointment of Administrative Assistant

Ofsted stated (2018):

“An impressive ethos pervades the school. Its motto ‘Love to learn, learn to live, live to love’ reflects the Christian principles that underpin the school’s work. The school is fully inclusive of all faiths and beliefs. It values each individual whatever their background, aptitudes and experiences. It has nourished a very positive climate for learning in the school, which helps all pupils to thrive.”

Walkwood Church of England Middle School requires an Administrative Assistant.

The successful applicant will be proactive, have a positive attitude and good communication skills. They will enjoy working in a team environment and demonstrate the ability to provide efficient and effective administration support. A good telephone manner and interpersonal skills are imperative. Previous experience is desirable for this role, together with GCSE passes in Maths and English (C+) or equivalent and a RSA1/equivalent qualification in typing.

For details, please email recruitment@walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk, from where full details will be sent of the post and the school. Application deadline: **9am on Monday 22 November 2021**. Walkwood Church of England Middle School is committed to the protection and safety of children and young people. An enhanced DBS check will be expected from the successful candidate.

Remembrance Display

Pupils of the MAB and Mrs Griffiths’ interventions have created a remembrance display to commemorate those we have lost.



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>



New household account feature for parents reporting test results

NHS Test and Trace are continuing to develop and improve the process for self-test reporting. Currently, if a parent is submitting results through their account on behalf of a child, they have to enter the child's details every time they report a result.

As a result of feedback from parents, NHS Test and Trace have introduced household accounts. This allows parents to save their children's details to their own user accounts so parents can report results for multiple members in the household more quickly and easily.

When reporting self-test results parents will now be offered the opportunity to create a household account, which should take no more than 2 minutes. Parents can then add all household members to their account, enabling them to save time when reporting all future self-test results.



Trips and Visits 2021-23



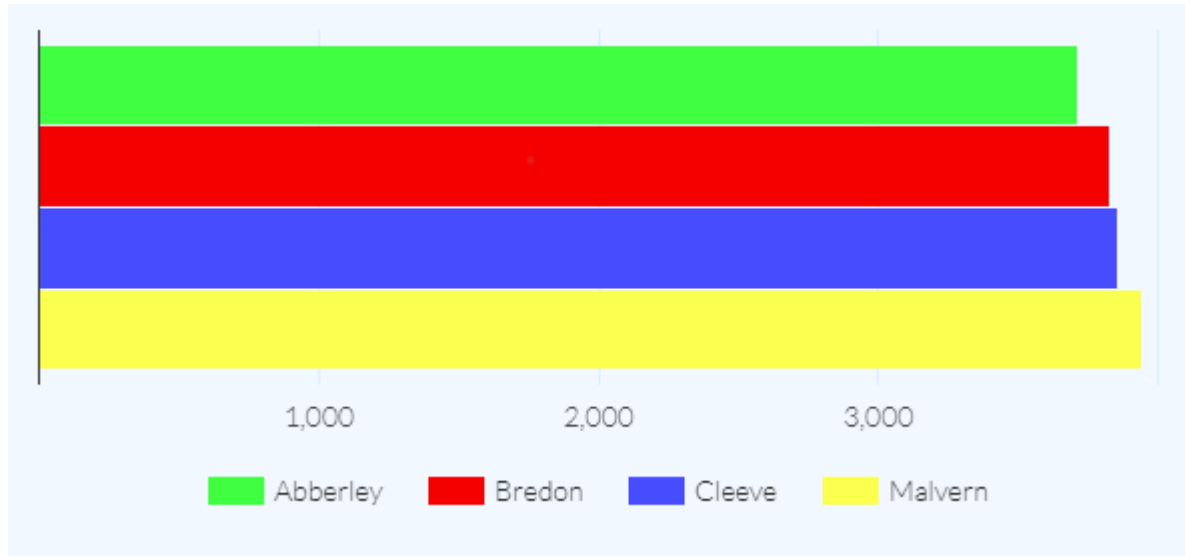
Date	Activity	Location	Open To	Cost	Leader
May 2022					
Fri 13 – Mon 16	Outward Bound	Yorkshire	Y6	£ 324	Rev Leach
June 2022					
Wed 22 – Fri 24	Arts and Theatres	London	Y8	£ 300	Rev Leach
Fri 24 – Mon 27	Outward Bound	Yorkshire	Y7	£ 324	Rev Leach
Fri 24 - Mon 27	Outward Bound	Brecon Beacons	Y5	£ 220	Mr Macdonald / Mrs Cull
February 2023					
Sat 4 – Sat 11	Ski Trip	Obertauern, Austria	Y5-Y7	£ 1360	Mrs Cull



Epraise Update



Points This Week: By College





Looking ahead



	Date	Event
202	Monday 22 November	Parents' KS2 Workshop 6.30—7.30 pm
	Wednesday 15 December	Christmas Concert 7.30 pm
21	Friday 17 December	End of Term
	Tuesday 4 January	Staff Development Day
202	Wednesday 5 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Monday 10 January	Parent English KS2 Workshop 6.30—7.30 pm
202	Thursday 27 January	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00—7.00 pm
	Wednesday 2 February	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00—7.00 pm
202	Monday 21 to Friday 25 February	Half Term
	Wednesday 30 March	Y6 Yorkshire information evening 6.30 pm
202	Friday 8 April	End of Term
	Monday 25 April	Staff Development Day
202	Tuesday 26 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Wednesday 18 May	Y5 residential information evening 6.30 pm
202	Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June	Half Term
	Thursday 9 June	Y5 Y7 Parent's evening 4.00 —7.00 pm
202	Wednesday 15 June	Y5 Y7 Parent's evening 4.00 —7.00 pm
	Thursday 21 July	End of Term