

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term is always the longest of the school year, and we have navigated it well because of our pupils' conduct and engagement, and also because of the professionalism of Walkwood's staff. The adjusted arrangements have worked so well, with attendance remaining high and support being applied where it has been requested and/or needed. May I also thank you for the supportive messages throughout the term, emails that have understood the enormity of the task of keeping the school safe and productive in these challenging times. Naturally, our efforts will continue into 2021.

As usual, term has ended with some special activities. The competitions within the year groups culminated yesterday with an awards afternoon for one class in each year. Today has been a Deep Day where pupils have learnt a bit more about the Christmas story and the characters involved. Arts and crafts have been applied to make the day different, and there has been a high level of engagement around the classrooms this morning. Each end of term has a celebration assembly, and we used Microsoft Teams today, including prize draws for 100% attendance, zero demerits, over 300 points, along with the all-important College Cup!

In the next couple of weeks I hope you and your families will have a safe and happy time, even if you cannot all be together.

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit

*Romans 15:13*

Rev. C. Leach, Principal



A prayer for The Star

Be a bright flame before me,  
O God a guiding star above me.  
Be a smooth path below me,  
a kindly shepherd behind me.  
**Amen.**

This week's theme was:  
The Star

And the star the wise men had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were thrilled and excited to see the star. When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they knelt down and worshiped him.  
Matthew 2: 9-11

Whole School Attendance

95.38%

Whole School Target

95.6%

**Congratulations to the following tutor groups 99%+ for the week commencing 07.12.20:**

7E2

MAB



# For the week ahead



<p><b>The Fruit of Faith is:</b></p>	<p><b>Inclusiveness</b></p>	<p>He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.</p> <p><i>Matthew 5:45</i></p>
<p><b>The assembly theme:</b></p>	<p><b>Epiphany— giving gifts</b></p>	<p>When the wise men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they knelt down and worshiped him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and gave them to him.</p> <p><i>Matthew 2: 11</i></p>

### Our prayer for the holiday period, including the new year:

Loving God, thank you that in your love, forgiveness and compassion you did not abandon all that you have made but came amongst us in your Son, Jesus Christ, to heal, guide and transform. May your life and love truly inform and shape all our hearts and minds for the challenges and the opportunities that lie before us. For those who struggle, may there be comfort and release; for those who would bring relief, may there be wisdom and strength; and for those who lead, and for us all, may eyes and minds, hearts and hands be open to see, love and respond, as you see, love and respond, for the sake and love of all. Amen.

*James Tebbutt, Cumbria District Chair, The Methodist church*

## Reporting a positive Covid-19 test during the holidays

During the Christmas break it is our school's responsibility to support Public Health with contact tracing for positive cases. Where a pupil has spent any time in school in the 48 hours before the onset of symptoms we need to know. This means that once we have broken up on the 18th December and a child displays symptoms on the Saturday or Sunday following that, it is important that you inform the school. You can do this by pressing on the yellow banner above.

### Next term

With the relaxed rules for all Tiers over the Christmas period, from 23rd to 27th December, to enable families to enjoy a Christmas which is as close to normal as possible, there is inevitably going to be a spike in cases in January. To avoid the potential significant impact on other children's learning, it is very important that **no pupils return to school if they are displaying any COVID related symptoms, or are unwell in any way**. There are potentially other symptoms linked to coronavirus but these are the three most prevalent ones. If you have any doubt at all then please keep your child at home and arrange for them to be tested. If they then receive a negative result they can immediately return to school when they are well enough.

**B o o k   a   t e s t**

All year groups return!

First day of the new term:

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

The day begins at the usual time for the different year groups



## College Cup



Autumn—second half term

**Malvern** 26,144

**Bredon** 25,621

**Abberley** 25,157

**Cleeve** 24,848

### Messages to school during half term



The school office will be closed during the Christmas holidays. However, if you do want to let us know about any particular matters, we shall be able to respond once school reopens at the start of next term.

[office@walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk)

For letting us know about any Covid-19 cases, please use the link below.

### Reporting a positive Covid-19 test during the holidays

#### What a Star!



Maisie Hunt from 5E1 is having 12 inches of her hair cut off as she wishes to donate it to the Little Princess Trust who make wigs for young children who have lost their hair due to cancer treatment.

Well done Maisie -- you should be very proud of yourself!





# The 12 Online Safety Tips of Christmas

## FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

Christmas is almost upon us once again, and soon some lucky children will be excitedly tearing the wrapping off a new mobile phone, tablet or games console. For some of them, it will be the first time they've owned a device that connects them to the online world. Even for older children, a new device means new corners of the digital landscape to explore – and, unfortunately, new risks to be aware of.

We've put together our top tips so that you can guide your young ones in enjoying their new digital gifts safely and responsibly throughout the year to come. Merry Christmas!



### 1. ALWAYS SET A PASSWORD



If your child's new device has a password protection feature, use it! It'll help to keep their private information safe and will deny others access to their device without permission. Your children's passwords should be something memorable to them – but something which other people can't guess (it's also a good idea for parents to write it down in case it gets forgotten!).

### 2. SET UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS'



This really is an essential when your child gets a new device, so they're protected from the outset. Most phones, tablets and consoles allow you to customise their settings to determine which games your child can play, how they can communicate (and who with), what content they can access and so on. It will give you peace of mind that they can't inadvertently do something they shouldn't.

### 3. PAY ATTENTION TO AGE RATINGS



One of the first things children want to do with any new device is play games and explore apps. Before they download anything or install a new console game, check its age rating. Many popular games and apps have content that's not suitable for younger ages. The safest long-term solution is to adjust the device's settings so they can only download and use games and apps appropriate for their age.

### 4. KEEP NUMBERS AND DEVICES PRIVATE



Make sure your child understands that they should never share their phone number with someone they don't know or accept a friend request from them. They should also appreciate that it's a good idea to mainly keep their device out of sight, never lend it to a stranger, and never put it down somewhere that other people could steal it or take it to use without asking.

### 5. HAVE 'THE MONEY CONVERSATION'



Before your children start using their new device in earnest, talk to them about in-app purchases and other ways that money might be spent through their device. Once they understand, you might want to agree on a spending limit and reassure them that they can come to you if they're uncertain, or if they have made a purchase by accident.

### 6. DISCOURAGE DEVICE DEPENDENCY



Of course, children who've just got a new device will naturally want to spend as much time on it as possible. But whether they're zapping bad guys, watching videos or connecting with friends, it's easy for them to get attached very quickly. Gently remind them that having family time, going outdoors and getting some exercise are still fun, too. And the device will be there when they get back.

### 7. EXPLAIN SECURE WIFI NETWORKS



Your home WiFi is protected by a password that only your family knows, whereas public networks (like those found in coffee shops, for example) can be accessed by anyone. It's important that your child grasps this difference because, if they're using a portable device on an unsecured network, then a hacker could access their personal information without them even knowing.

### 8. LIMIT SCREEN TIME



Using a device for too long, especially just before bed, can interfere with a child's sleep quality and reduce their concentration and overall enthusiasm. It might be helpful to agree on certain times of day when they don't use their device. Most devices' settings let you specify a screen-time limit, helping your child to stay fresh and focused in order to perform well at school.

### 9. ONLY PAIR WITH KNOWN BLUETOOTH DEVICES



Your child may want to connect to another device via Bluetooth, so they can listen to music wirelessly or share pictures and videos with nearby friends. But if they use Bluetooth to link with a device that they don't know, they're at risk of a stranger being able to see their personal information or having someone transmit a virus onto their device.

### 10. TURN LOCATION SETTINGS OFF



It's safest to disable the device's location services (if it's a portable device) so your child doesn't inadvertently make other people aware of where they are. You can usually do this via the device's privacy control settings. Turning location settings off not only means your child's whereabouts can't be tracked by others, it also significantly extends battery life.

### 11. STAY AWARE OF THE SURROUNDINGS



It's quite common to see adults not looking where they're going while engrossed in their phone. Children are even more easily distracted. In some cases, children have been hit by cars or cyclists because they were staring at their device and lost track of where they were. Remind your child that screens and walking don't mix. If they need to use their device, they should stop in a safe place first.

### 12. BE THERE IF THEY NEED TO TALK



Even when you've made a device as secure as you can, there's still a possibility of your child seeing something that bothers them, or someone they don't know attempting to contact them. If this happens, listen to their concerns, empathise and reassure them. Once they've explained what happened, you can decide if you should take further action like blocking or reporting another user.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



# Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

## vie

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 16th November 2020 - 16th December 2020

Congratulations to:

### Top Boy

Ethan Skinner (6C1 - Malvern) - who has read 1,559,906 words

### Top Girl

Lauren Carrington (8E1 - Abberley) - who has read 506,440 words

Awesome reading - well done - 3 merits will be awarded to you both.

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



# 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>



[Check if you or your child has coronavirus symptoms](#)

[Track and trace](#)

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.



Public Health  
England

[Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)

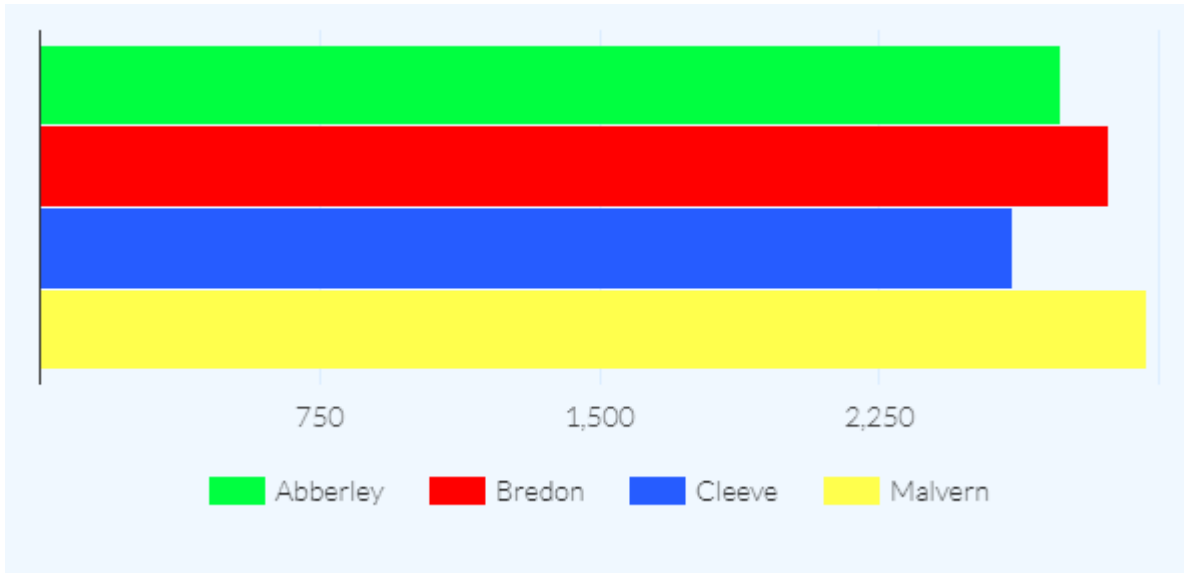
[Guidance for households with grandparents, parents and children living together where someone is at increased risk or has possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)



# Epraise Update



## Points This Week: By College





# Looking ahead



	Date	Event
<b>2</b> <b>0</b> <b>2</b> <b>1</b>	Monday 4 January	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 5 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Monday 15 to Friday 19 February	<b>Half Term</b>
	Thursday 1 April	<b>End of Term</b>
	Monday 19 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 20 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June	<b>Half Term</b>
Wednesday 21 July	<b>End of Term</b>	