

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been blessed with decent weather for most of this week, albeit a bit 'fresh' in the mornings. However, as spring is now in the air (and those of you with hayfever will be aware of the rising pollen), we have been considering what the summer may bring.



Looking closely at the current government guidance has given us some scope for developments for next term. With the (hopefully) warmer weather, it will mean that PE can take place outside. Some of you will be aware that our school field, being at the bottom of the hill, can become overly swampy in the months of more frequent rain, and that has certainly been the case this winter. One change for the summer will therefore be additional opportunity for PE,

which will need to be outdoors given the physical constraints of our indoor space during the staggered lunch times. You will be able to see the timetable for your child using ePraise which will show when PE will take place, with pupils wearing PE kit to school when they have this subject, and the time allocated will be doubled. No changing facilities are yet possible.



We are also developing some extra-curricular activities which will cover both school subjects as well as sport. To ensure we are Covid-secure, these clubs must be booked in advance, and we reserve the right to cap the numbers taking part. Sporting clubs will need PE kits to be worn.

These arrangements are being planned for but will only be possible **IF** government guidance permits. Once we have the full information from the Department for Education we will publish a Q&A booklet as we have before, so please hold fire with additional questions for now.

Those who stand firm during testing are blessed. They are tried and true. They will receive the life God has promised to those who love him as their reward.

*James 1: 12*

Next Thursday we shall be bidding farewell to Ms Tomes who has been at Walkwood for nearly 10 years. She moves to another school to become part of their senior leadership team, and we congratulate her on the promotion. Year 8 pupils will be co-ordinated by Mr West and Mrs McKenna, ably supported by Mrs Russell, for their remaining time with us.

Rev. C. Leach, Principal

A prayer for Book of Proverbs  
Heavenly Father,

Thank You for loving me and convicting me of sin and righteousness and judgement and thank You that by faith in Christ I have been brought into Your kingdom and placed into His body. To You alone belongs my reverential fear, humble worship and eternal devotion, through time and into eternity - in Jesus' name I pray,  
Amen

This week's theme was:  
Book of Proverbs

These are the proverbs of King Solomon, David's son:  
He wrote them to teach his people how to live—how to act in every circumstance, for he wanted them to be understanding, just, and fair in everything they did.

Proverbs 1:1-3

**Whole School Attendance**

**96.48%**

**Whole School Target**

**95.6%**

**Congratulations to the following tutor groups 99%+ for the week commencing 15.03.21:**

5E1

6e2, 6e3

7c2, 7e2

8e2

MAB



# For the week ahead

<b>The Fruit of Faith is:</b>	<b>Thankfulness</b>	You are my God, and I will give thanks to you. <i>Psalm 118:28</i>
<b>The assembly theme:</b>	<b>Holy Week—death and resurrection</b>	<p>Standing close to Jesus' cross were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas, and Mary Magdalene. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there; so he said to his mother, "He is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "She is your mother." From that time the disciple took her to live in his home.</p> <p>Jesus knew that by now everything had been completed; and in order to make the scripture come true, he said, "I am thirsty." A bowl was there, full of cheap wine; so a sponge was soaked in the wine, put on a stalk of hyssop, and lifted up to his lips. Jesus drank the wine and said, "It is finished!"</p> <p><i>John 19:25-30</i></p>

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

<b>The weekend</b>	resilience for ourselves and for our nation	<b>Monday</b>	our teaching assistants
<b>Tuesday</b>	Year 8 pupils as they contemplate their final term at Walkwood	<b>Wednesday</b>	geologists and other scientists who study the Earth
<b>Thursday</b>	Those in unemployment, looking for work	<b>Friday</b>	UK Parliament and the choices they make for the country

## Picture of the Week



Lava at Fagradalsfjall burst through a crack in the Earth's crust hundreds of metres long. Icelanders had been bracing themselves for an eruption for several weeks, after the island nation recorded more than 50,000 recent earthquakes. Meteorologists said the eruption was small and no-one was in danger. The last eruption there was some 800 years ago.

# Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

**mellifluous**

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 24th February 2021 - 24th March 2021

Congratulations to:

### Top Girl

Lauren Carrington (8E1 Malvern) - who has read 596,704 words

### Top Boy

Marshall Glenn (7C2 Bredon) - who has read 861,931 words

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

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







# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about REC ROOM



Rec Room is a social hangout game, where users meet up with friends to explore and create rooms, each containing a different experience. One room might be a game of laser tag or dodgeball, while another could be a parkour course or virtual boxing. Available on iOS devices, PlayStation, Xbox, Oculus and PC/Mac, Rec Room is kidSAFE COPPA Certified and carries an age rating of 9+. Nonetheless, parents and carers should remain mindful that gaming online with strangers always carries a potential risk.



## Intimidating Interactions

Rec Room is a huge online environment, with more than 10 million users worldwide. Before heading into the individual rooms, players usually mingle in the Rec Centre. Users can move their avatar around this social space and audio chat using their microphone. While most people just want to have fun and make friends, some may say and do things that others find uncomfortable, threatening or harmful.

## Online Bullying

As cliques can form naturally during a gaming session, situations could easily arise where some children feel left out or even bullied. Gamers can victimise other players for no reason at all, and many hide behind an online persona which offers a sense of immunity from their actions. Even when players are banned, those determined enough can simply make another account and re-enter the game.

## Sexual Content

Some rooms have adult themes and absolutely should not be entered by children. The game's code of conduct stipulates that players must be warned about anything of this nature before entering a room, but users who don't have a junior account could still potentially gain access. The major worry is that a young person could be lured into these rooms before realising what goes on inside.

## Questionable Connections

Adding someone as a friend is a good way to connect with a person you had fun with online. However, not everybody is who they seem, and some might have more sinister ideas once a friendship has been established. When two players (who don't have junior accounts) accept each other as friends in Rec Room, they're able to chat privately, track each other in-game, and plan to go into rooms together on their own.

## Violent or Scary Themes

Rec Room contains mild violent or scary themes, including weapons like swords and paintball guns. It is quite tame compared with many other games but might still leave an impression on younger children. This applies even more when playing in virtual reality: VR significantly enhances an experience – whether exciting or frightening – and can have a lasting impact on young ones who may be upset by adult themes.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### Junior Accounts

Junior users can't send or receive audio and private messages, or create their own room. Anybody under 13 is required to have a junior account, and those accounts are linked to (and moderated by) a parent or guardian account. To create one, start a new game of Rec Room, go to 'Create an Account' and follow the instructions. Be sure to explain the restrictions to your children before letting them play.

### Block and Report

To help moderate problem users, select the player (click the right thumbstick on a PS4, press 'T' on PC, point in VR, etc). The 'Comfort and Moderation' screen presents options including block, unblock, vtekick and report. Players you block will not be allowed in the same room as you. The Rec Room website's code of conduct can help you decide whether a player has violated the terms and should be reported.

### Tailor the Experience

In the settings (within the 'Watch Menu'), you can tweak individual parts of the Rec Room experience. Everything from muting other players' audio, muting your mic and tweaking voice pitch, through to selecting how close other players can get to you can be found here. This is ideal for people who prefer to avoid social interactions or simply want to enjoy the game without worrying about other players.

### Disable Payment Methods

Rec Room is free to download and play, but there are in-game purchases – items like cosmetics and costumes – that users pay for with real money. If you have a card attached to any platform accounts (like a PlayStation or Steam account), be aware that children might therefore incur costs on these without meaning to. It's safest to unlink any payment methods before you download the game.

### Get Involved

As it's such a popular game, there are lots of content creators on YouTube and Twitch whose output focuses on Rec Room. Most of this content is tailored to a younger audience. Talking to your child about their favourite creators – and watching their videos together – is a good way of opening a dialogue about your child's experiences in Rec Room and understanding which aspects of the game they enjoy.

## Meet Our Expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for several years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

SOURCES: <https://recroom.com/faq/standardsafety> <https://recroom.com/parents-guide> [https://www.edutopia.org/article/parents-please-keep-your-kids-out-of-rec-room/](https://www.commonsensemedia.org/apps-reviews/rec-room/#:~:text=Some%20rooms%20have%20moderators,posts%20and%20%20chat%20rooms,https://www.edutopia.org/article/parents-please-keep-your-kids-out-of-rec-room/) <https://kidsafesed.com/about-us/news.html>



# Family Learning Courses

Family Learning Courses are **FREE** for everyone

**April - July 2021**

Please tick "**course free because of Covid plan**" box to book on **FREE**

Please book onto each course by searching for the course title at:

**www.worcestershire.gov.uk/courses** or call **01905 728537**



## Courses just for parents to support their child with school

Phonics in the Early Years for Parents  
Literacy in the Early Years for Parents  
English in Key Stage 1 for Parents  
English in Key Stage 2 & 3 for Parents

Maths in the Early Years for Parents  
Maths in Key Stage 1 for Parents  
Maths in Key Stage 2 & 3 for Parents

Transition Support for Parents  
to help their child

## Courses for parents to enjoy with their child

Science for Dads and their Children  
STEM course for Parents and their child  
(Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths)

Cook with your Family Course  
Cook with your Teenager course

Yoga for Baby and Me Family Learning Course  
Sign-a-story for Families

## Courses just for parents to support their child at home

Shape - Improving Health and Exercise for  
your Family

Art Introduction course for Parents  
Family Memories COVID-19 Time Capsule  
E- Safety Family Course for Parents  
Cooking on a low budget course for Parents

## Supporting you with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

Signalong Foundation Course for Parents

SEND - Understanding Autism

SEND - Strategies for Positive Behaviour

SEND - Managing Mindfulness for Parents

## Online Learning

Our friendly Family Learning courses are currently online using 'Zoom' on your mobile phone, ipad, tablet or laptop. We will ring you before your course starts to **help you get online** for your course and can support you to access Zoom, help you check that you can use it ok and offer you any help you need.



# Family Learning Courses

Family Learning Courses are now ready for families to book on for FREE for April – July 2021. As usual, the courses are currently FREE for any parent or carer regardless of their income. Professionals are able to signpost or book families on directly themselves too - to support the family. All courses are still online only and are all 8 weeks in length with 1.5 hour sessions per week. We support families to join our Zoom courses using their phones, tablets, ipads or laptops before the course starts.

## Courses Just for Parents to Support their Child with School:

Phonics in Early Years for Parents

<https://rebrand.ly/PhonicsEarlyYears>

Literacy in Early Years for Parents

<https://rebrand.ly/EnglishEarlyYears>

English in Key Stage 1 for Parents

<https://rebrand.ly/EnglishKeyStage1>

English in Key Stage 2 & 3 for Parents

<https://rebrand.ly/EnglishKeyStage2and3>

Maths in the Early Years for Parents

<https://rebrand.ly/MagnificentMaths>

Maths in Key Stage 1 for Parents

<https://rebrand.ly/MathsKeyStage1-FL>

Maths in Key Stage 2 & 3 for Parents

<https://rebrand.ly/MathsSecondarySchool-FL>

Transition Support for Parents

<https://rebrand.ly/Transition-Support>

## Courses for Parents to do with their Child:

Science for Dads and their Lads

<https://rebrand.ly/ScienceForDadandLads>

STEM course for Parents and their Child

<https://rebrand.ly/STEMCourse>

Cook with your Family Course

<https://rebrand.ly/CookWithFamily>

Cook with your Teenager Course

<https://rebrand.ly/CookWithTeen>

Yoga for Baby and Me Course

<https://rebrand.ly/YogaforBabyandMe>

Sign-a-story for Families

<https://rebrand.ly/Sign-a-story>

## Courses Just for Parents to Support their Child at Home:

SHAPE – Improving Health & Exercise for your Family

<https://rebrand.ly/FamilyShape>

Art Introduction Course for Parents

<https://rebrand.ly/ArtIntroductionFamily>

Family Memories COVID-19 Time Capsule Course

<https://rebrand.ly/FamilyMemories-covid19-timecapsule>

E-Safety Family Course for Parents

<https://rebrand.ly/ESafetyFamilyCourse>

Cooking on a Low Budget Course for Parents

<https://rebrand.ly/CookWithBudget>

## Supporting you with Special Needs & Disabilities:

Signalong Foundation Course for Parents

<https://rebrand.ly/SignalongFoundationA>

SEND – Understanding Autism

<https://rebrand.ly/SEND-UnderstandingAutism>

SEND – Strategies for Positive Behaviour

<https://rebrand.ly/SEND-PositiveBehaviour>

SEND – Managing Mindfulness for Parents

<https://rebrand.ly/ManagingMindfulnessSEND>



**ADULT LEARNING**  
WORCESTERSHIRE



Department  
for Education

## Years 7 and 8 pupils:

Testing at home throughout the Easter holidays for schools and colleges

Following the success of the asymptomatic testing programme on the return to school and college, it is vital to keep testing at home throughout the Easter holidays and into the summer term. Please:

- test twice a week at home from now on (all those who are able to)
- report results [online](#) as positive, negative or void. This information is critical in helping us to understand the prevalence of the virus across the country
- continue to test twice weekly over the Easter holidays
- test before returning to school or college for the summer term, either the night before, or morning of, the first day back, to find and isolate any positive cases

**Further home testing kits will be given to pupils towards the end of next week.**

Reporting a test result to Walkwood Church of England Middle School [here](#).

Families and households can also access [home test kits for adults](#). **These are available for families who have children in any school year group.**

### Parent Governor

The Governing Body has vacancies for parents of current Walkwood pupils to serve as school Governors.

The Full Board meets once a term, and each Governor also serves on one of the three sub-committees which also meet once in each term.

For an initial conversation, please contact the PA's Office at school, or email [office@walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@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>



[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.



[Self-isolation guide](#)

[Self isolation for families](#)

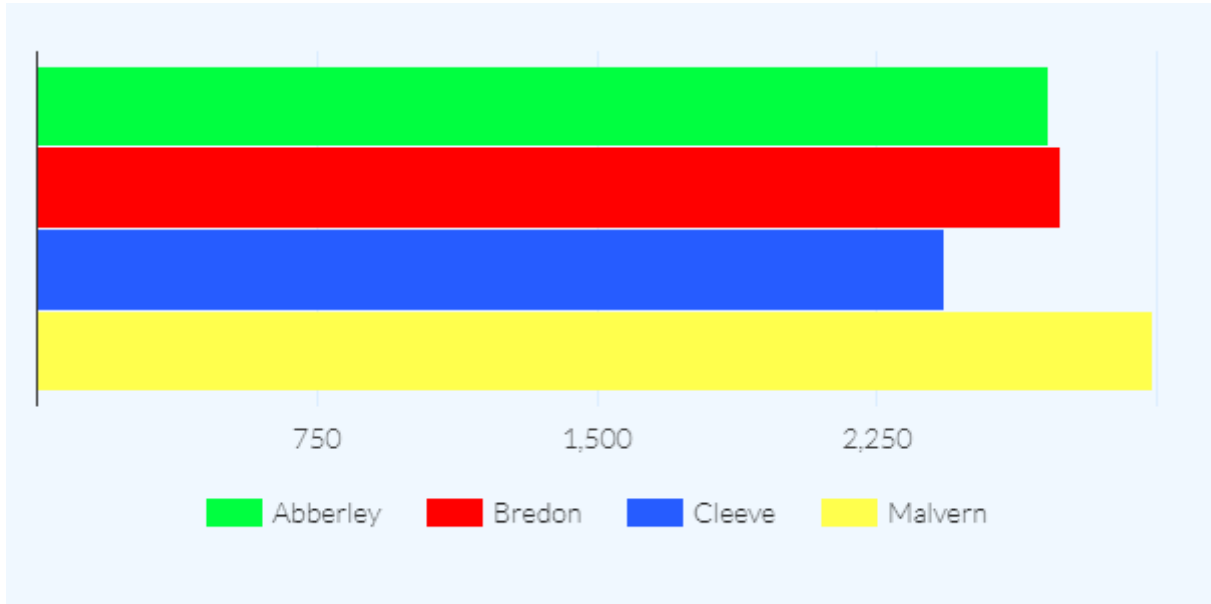




# Epraise Update



## Points This Week: By College





# Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2021	Thursday 1 April	<b>End of Term</b>
	Monday 19 April	Staff Development Day
	Monday 19 April	Virtual Parents' Day (all year groups) 12.45 - 6.45 pm
	Tuesday 20 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Monday 3rd May	<b>May Day Bank Holiday</b>
	Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June	<b>Half Term</b>
	Wednesday 21 July	<b>End of Term</b>
	Thursday 2 September	Staff Development Day
	Friday 3 September	Staff Development Day
	Monday 6 September	First day of the Autumn Term
	Friday 22 October	Staff Development Day
	Monday 25 to Friday 29 October	<b>Half Term</b>
Friday 17 December	<b>End of Term</b>	
2022	Tuesday 4 January	Staff Development Day
	Wednesday 5 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Monday 21 to Friday 25 February	<b>Half Term</b>
	Friday 8 April	<b>End of Term</b>
	Monday 25 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 26 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June	<b>Half Term</b>
	Friday 22 July	<b>End of Term</b>