

Dear Parents and Carers,

Unlike some supermarkets, the Christmas decorations only went up this week! Advent (the season of preparation before Christmas) officially begins this Sunday, although those who have an Advent calendar would have started on Thursday, I suspect. The colour for Advent is purple, to show we are preparing for an event.



The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. *John 1: 9*



At school, we have our own Advent calendar, where some of our Year 5 pupils come down each day when they do not have assembly. We open up a window as it tells the Christmas story, and have a prayer before sharing some chocolate! As we get closer to Christmas, more of the nativity story is uncovered.

Year 5 are also looking at Advent in their Spiritual and Social Education lessons. The Advent wreath is made up of four coloured candles, standing for peace, love, joy and hope. There is a white candle that is lit at Christmas-time, with the third candle being pink, while the others are purple.



The daytime, however, is less and less, so please encourage your youngster to be sensible to and from school. Equally, if you drive along Feckenham Road or Tennyson Road, please reduce your speed still further as the street lights may be 'on' during darker days.

With two weeks of school left this term, we shall keep lessons going until the Deep Days of the final week, when the learning takes on a different form. 'Keeping things going' means that the routines continue and pupils feel calmer. We'd hate for them to be bored!

Rev. C. Leach

This week's theme was: Calming the storm

One day Jesus and his disciples got in a boat. "Let's cross the lake," he said. And off they went. It was smooth sailing, and he fell asleep. A terrific storm came up suddenly on the lake. Water poured in, and they were about to capsize. They woke Jesus: "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" Getting to his feet, he told the wind, "Silence!" and the waves, "Quiet down!". They did it. The lake became smooth as glass.

Luke 8:23-25 The Message

God,
All things are in your control. You even showed us that the wind and the waves obey you. Let your almighty power show us that you are all we need. We go through storms in our lives, difficulties and times that feel unending. But you remind us to trust in you, that you will not overwhelm us to more than our capabilities. You know our strengths and ask us to turn to you. let us remember that you will guide us through this times.

Amen.

Whole school Attendance

95.45%

Whole School Target

96.0%

20.11.2022 to 25.11.2022

Year 5 — 95.83%

Year 6 — 92.38%

Year 7 — 96.42%

Year 8 — 93.27%



For the week ahead

<p>The Fruit of Faith is:</p>	<p>Achievement</p>	<p>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. Ecclesiastes 5:18</p>
<p>The assembly theme will be:</p>	<p>Advent - waiting</p>	<p>Joseph had a dream. God's angel spoke in the dream: "Joseph, son of David, don't hesitate to get married. Mary's pregnancy is Spirit-conceived. God's Holy Spirit has made her pregnant. She will bring a son to birth, and when she does, you, Joseph, will name him Jesus – 'God saves' – because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:20-22</p>

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

<p>The weekend</p>	<p>The reminder of what Advent is all about.</p>	<p>Monday</p>	<p>Parents and carers who are preparing for the festive season.</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>Reception and Admin staff at our school.</p>	<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>Staff in Worcestershire's Social Care teams.</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>Those helping the effort to reduce global warming.</p>	<p>Friday</p>	<p>For those who have experienced bullying online and offline.</p>

Picture of the Week

Aurora in Murmansk, Russia.





Renaissance Home Connect

Dear Parent or Carer,

Your child uses a software program called Renaissance Place at school. This program has a special feature called Renaissance Home Connect, which your child and you can access outside of school from any computer with an Internet connection. Renaissance Home Connect is fun and easy to use. It allows the teacher, you and your child to share information about your child's progress in Accelerated Reader.

You can log in to Renaissance Home Connect from any computer with an Internet connection and compatible browser. For a list of compatible browsers, type the following URL in any browser: <http://support.renlearn.com/techkb/techkb/10624292e.asp>

To log in to Renaissance Home Connect Website: <https://Ukhosted23.renlearn.co.uk/2250823/HomeConnect>

Your child has been given their username and password.

If you'd like to receive emails showing your student's quiz or test results, click the Email Setup link in Renaissance Home Connect and follow the directions. To be sure these emails reach your inbox, add homeconnectautodelivery@renlearnrp.com to your address book. If you have questions about Renaissance Home Connect, please contact your child's English teacher.

Thank you

Mrs R Shanley

Linguascope Games



www.linguascope.com

Username: walkwood

Password: maison2000

Linguascope Football Themed Games
Log into linguascope to access the 'Lingua League' section to play a range of football themed games.

I have marked suggested areas linked to your class learning but this is just for fun so you can access any section. I hope you enjoy developing your understanding!

Mme Hughes

The screenshot shows the 'LINGUA LEAGUE' main menu with the following topics and suggested year groups:

- Y5: Les numéros
- Y6: Les couleurs
- Y8: Les pays
- Y8: Les nationalités
- Y8: Quelle heure est-il ?
- Y8: Les souvenirs
- Y8: C'est combien ?
- Y8: Les boissons et les casse-croûtes
- Y8: Bien manger
- Y8: Je voudrais acheter...
- Y7: Les vêtements
- Y7: Les activités
- Y7: La maison
- Y7: Ma chambre
- Y7: J'ai mal !
- Y7: La routine
- Y7: Le match
- Y7: Dans le stade
- Y7: Les postes au foot
- Y7: Les prépositions



Reading



Reading remains a huge priority at our school and as part of that, we would like to share with you recommended reading lists for each year group – all of them considered to be high quality reading books. With Christmas approaching, you may wish to purchase these as gifts for your children or you may wish to visit a local library to explore these titles, many of which are in our own school library also -

Year 5 recommended reading list:

[Books for Year 5 children aged 9-10 | School Reading List](#)

Year 6 recommended reading list:

[Books for Year 6 children aged 10-11 | School Reading List](#)

Year 7 recommended reading list:

[Year 7 books for pupils aged 11-12 in KS3 - our suggested reads \(schoolreadinglist.co.uk\)](#)

Year 8 recommended reading list:

[Suggested reading book list for Year 8 pupils | KS3 | Age 12-13 \(schoolreadinglist.co.uk\)](#)

You may also find these tips useful to help motivate with reading at home:

- **Make reading part of daily life.** Children copy the adults in their lives so set an example by treating yourself to a quick read when you get a quiet moment. It is worth looking at where the reading material is in your home. Can books be stored – or displayed – in places where your family relaxes? Bedtime is a traditional reading time, but if it doesn't work for you think about other slots. If you know you will have to wait while a sibling does a class or for an appointment, you could bring something to read.
- **It all counts.** So let them read what they enjoy. It doesn't have to be a novel. It doesn't have to be fiction. Cereal packets, joke books and Top Trumps all count for beginners. For more advanced readers, consider non-fiction, comics and graphic novels. The novelty factor of an e-reader could jump-start an interest in reading, and teenagers might enjoy story-telling apps too.
- **Integrate interests.** A book about football might entice someone who prefers pitches to pages – or a cartoon universe encyclopaedia could tempt a TV fan. Current affairs might appeal, too: [First News](#) bills itself as a weekly newspaper for young people. Or there's [Whizz Pop Bang](#), a magazine for junior scientists. It's worth researching favourite authors: some offer freebies like exclusive stories and sneak previews to online fans. [The Words for Life author interviews](#) are a good place to begin.
- **What a treat.** Second-hand book shops are stocked with affordable treats, so bring a new (to your child, anyway) book on holiday. Or buy a magazine on the journey. Subscriptions make great gifts – and charities with children's branches often publish a magazine – RNLI, for instance. Other magazines that might be of interest are [Phoenix](#) and [Aquila](#).
- **Talk about it.** Discussing what you are reading will give you some fascinating insights. Questions like, "Where did we get to?" and "What do you think happens next?" send a message that you care about your child's opinions. Older children might be interested in what you are reading yourself – treasure these conversations and follow up anything they recommend. It's very satisfying to pass on your childhood favourites: even share your own copies – but be ready for some challenging questions about the values of previous generations.



**REDDITCH LIBRARY'S
ENGLISH CONNECT CAFE**

PRACTICE YOUR ENGLISH FOR FREE IN AN INFORMAL
AND WELCOMING GROUP!
EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 2:30PM

ਇੱਕ ਹੀਰ ਰਸਮੀ ਅਤੇ ਸੁਆਗਤ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲੇ ਸਮੂਹ ਵਿੱਚ ਮੁੜ ਵਿੱਚ ਆਪਣੀ
ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਦਾ ਅਭਿਆਸ ਕਰੋ!

Practicați-vă engleza gratuit într-un grup informal și
primitor!

Практикуйте свою англійську безкоштовно в
неформальній та привітній групі!

ایک غیر رسمی اور استقبال کرنے والے گروپ میں اپنی انگریزی کی
مفت مشق کریں!

在一個非正式且熱情的小組中免費練習您的英語!

Practica tu ingles gratis en un grupo informal y acogedor!

For latest updates visit Worcestershire Libraries at:
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/libraries

 worcestershire
county council



Festive Jumpers

On the last day of this term, Friday 16th December, pupils and staff are invited to replace their usual jumpers with a Christmas version. The rest of the Walkwood uniform is to be worn, please, as it is not a non-uniform day.

This is not compulsory! There will be pupils and adults who will be in their usual attire. School will finish at the usual time: ho, ho, ho!

We ask for a donation of £ 1 which will go to

Children in Need.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION

13+

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-16 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

18

CENSORED

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app; it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social networking platforms, TikTok can be addictive: figures show that young people are investing increasing amounts of time in it. In the UK, children with TikTok spend an average of 102 minutes per day on the app, versus 53 minutes on YouTube. This compulsive repeated use can interfere with their sleep patterns – leading to irritability – and distract them from other activities.

TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the 'TikTok Now' feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-16s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

Meet Our Expert

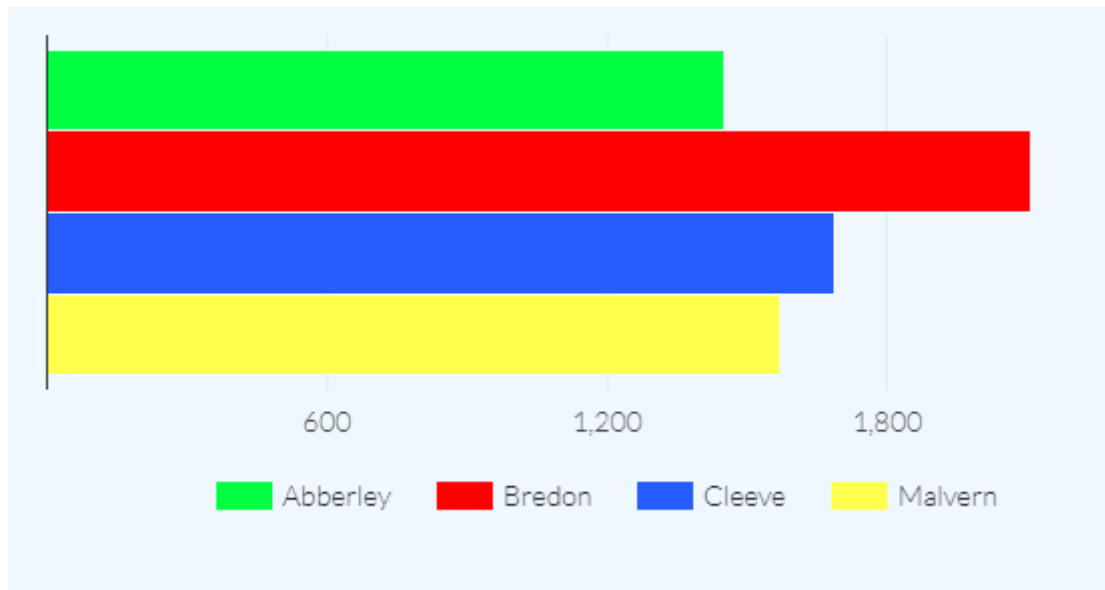
Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



NOS
National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday



epraise this week



Top Readers for 30.10.2022 — 30.11.2022

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

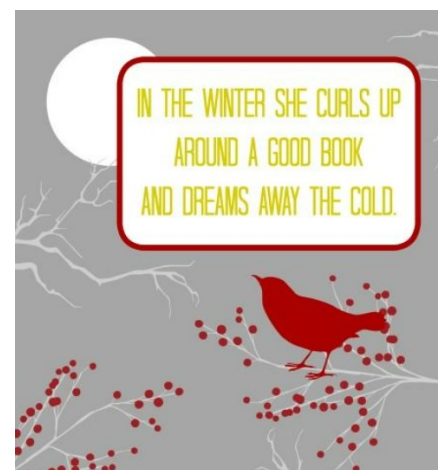
Alice Parker (Year 7 BDDE) - who has read 1,088,117 words .

Top Boy

Jackson Kirby (Year 7 ALWO) - who has read 377,822 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>

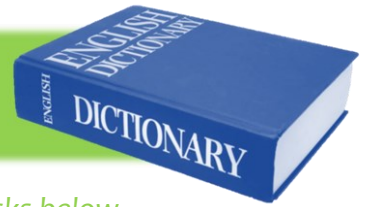
Safeguarding: <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Safeguarding-and-Child-Protection>

<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>



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.

perpetuate

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.



Clubs and Activities



Autumn Term 2

	Before School 7:45am – 8:45am	Lunchtime 12.15 – 1.00pm	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Monday		Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI Lexia Club ITA Miss Walker	
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 Lashley to sign up.	Keyboard Club, Music Room, GLA. Sign up only. 10 spaces available.
Wednesday		Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI Reading club, room 18, duration of lunch, JWa Lexia Club ITA Mrs Shanley	Year 7 & 8 fitness club. Parental permission and sign up needed Meet in the changing rooms RMA & LWO Last session Wednesday 7 th December KS2 boogie bounce Sign up only Meet in changing rooms KRE Last session Wednesday 7 th December Year 5-8 STEM Club. (Lab 1) current group to continue until 7 th Dec FCI
Thursday		Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI Science Homework Drop In – Computing (Year 7 and 8)	Year 5 & 6 fitness club. Parental permission and sign up needed Meet in the changing rooms CHU & PMI Last session Thursday 8 th December Ks3 Boogie Bounce club Sign up only Meet in changing rooms KRE Last session Thursday 8 th December Year 5-8 Art Club. Puppetry and Xmas Gongs. First come first serve basis. 12 spaces available. Parental permission and sign up needed. Starts 29 th September - 8th December MGR Yr5-8 Drama club. 30 spaces available. Parental permission and sign up needed. Starts 10 th November. PAL & DDE
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		✓	£250
12/05/2023	6	Blackwell	✓		£38 *
30/06 - 03/07/2023	7	Osmington Bay Activity Park		✓	£285
19/07/2023	8	Drayton Manor	✓		£40 *
04/02 - 11/02/2023	6,7,8 •	Obertauern, Austria		✓	£1360

• Fully booked

* Current estimated cost



Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2022	Friday 16 December	End of Term
	Tuesday 3 January	Staff Development Day
	Wednesday 4 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Monday 9 January	Parents English KS2 Workshop 6.30-7.30pm
	Thursday 19 January	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00 -7.00pm
	Wednesday 25 January	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00 -7.00pm
	Monday 20– Friday 24 February	Half Term
	Friday 31 March	End of Term
	Monday 17 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 18 April	First day of the Summer Term
2023	Monday 29 May - 2 June	Half Term
	Thursday 8 June	Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Wednesday 14 June	Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Friday 21 July	End of Term