

Dear Parents and Carers,



Half term is here already, which you will know because our pupils are not in school today. We began the school week with flu vaccinations for Years 5 to 7, and we navigated the demands of Wednesday's rain showers, while continuing to re-engage the pupils in learning. Despite the incredible challenges we have faced this term, we have found moments of satisfaction and joy in being back with our pupils.


The Police and borough council have been giving attention over the last two weeks to parking on the roads around the school. I have been promoted to lollypop person on the pedestrian crossing in the afternoon, and we will continue the vigilance in the mornings by being at the school gate. It has helped by using the three gates as this allows us to welcome pupils in the mornings and disperses them promptly at a day's end.



As the winter draws in, there are two things I must ask. If it looks like rain, it would be helpful for pupils to wear a coat. However, I am aware of the challenges that trying to get children to put on such garments can bring, and they can prefer to carry them instead. We can but try! The second matter is that if your child is unwell, please think very carefully about if they should be in school. Colds and sniffles will occur much more in the coming months, and we shall understand any caution that you apply given the Covid-circumstances. Emphatically, **you must not send in a pupil who is displaying any of the coronavirus symptoms**. A reminder of current NHS information is given inside.

If the Covid-status of your family changes during the half term, please let us know. There is an email address on through which you can do this on page 3.



 We will be selling poppies after the holidays, so if you wish to give your pupil a 20p for the collecting box, that would be welcomed. Naturally, we shall commemorate Remembrance Day on November 11th, recalling the end of World War II seventy five years ago.

Rev. C. Leach, Principal

Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. *Psalm 90:16*

A prayer for Harvest

Creator God,
you made the goodness of the
land, the riches of the sea and the
rhythm of the seasons;
as we thank you for the harvest,
may we cherish and respect this
planet and its people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

This week's theme was: Harvest

As long as the earth continues, plant-
ing and harvest, cold and hot, sum-
mer and winter, day and night will
not stop.

Genesis 8:22

Whole School Attendance

96.73%

Whole School Target

95.6%

Congratulations to the following
tutor groups 99%+ for the week
commencing 12.10.2020:-

5E1 and 5E3

6E3

8E3



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. Ecclesiastes 5:18
The assembly theme:	Remembrance (WW2)	‘See the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.’ And the one who was seated on the throne said , ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Revelation 21: 3-5

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

The weekend	People facing storms and bad weather	Monday	Safety of the pupils throughout this week
Tuesday	The Commonwealth of Nations	Wednesday	Work of the local foodbank
Thursday	Police and road traffic services	Friday	Those suffering from the corona-virus

Picture of the Week



For more than 200 years, the lighthouse at Orford Ness has warned mariners they are nearing Europe's longest shingle spit. But as the sea steadily reclaims the land on which it is built, its owner has decided the time is right for the lighthouse to come down, changing forever the skyline of the Suffolk coast.

© Mike Page



College Cup



Autumn—first half term



Malvern 18,564

Abberley 18,213

Bredon 18,088

Cleeve 17,555

Messages to school during half term



The school office will be closed during half term. However, if you need to pass information to us, such as you will be self-isolating as your family's Covid-status has changed, then it is easy to let us know.

office@walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk

We shall not be in a position to respond until school reopens on Monday 2nd November, we thank you for 'keeping us in the loop'.

Music News

It's fabulous to see our instrumental lessons up and running again this term, back to 'as near normal as possible' and following all the rules. It's also fabulous that we have had lots of Year 5 pupils starting to learn to play an instrument. They are full of enthusiasm and have got themselves well-organised about getting to their lessons.

Practice For Points.

Please encourage your child to do some regular music practice at home to ensure good progress. This is the only way to improve and 10 minutes of practice daily is ideal for beginners.

Please sign their practice diary – 5 x 10-minute signed practices in any week can be exchanged for an Independent Learning point from me. I have provided Year 5 pupils with a small notebook to use as a practice diary. They will be able to show me these diaries during our classroom lessons and I will then award points. Pupils in Years 6, 7 and 8 could send me a photo of their signed diary, perhaps several weeks' worth of practices at a time.

Thank you and well done to all pupils and their families who are already achieving this – I'm sure you will have noticed some significant musical improvements, as will your child's delighted instrumental teacher!





Applying for high school

For children who are currently in Year 8 the closing date for applying for a High School place is

31 October 2020.

This needs to be completed using the online system:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

The importance of making an application on time cannot be stressed enough. A late application can only be considered after all those received on time, this places those children at a disadvantage .

Applying for middle school

For children who are currently in Year 4 and intend to be in a middle school for Year 5, it is time to apply for a place. This needs to be completed using the online system:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Walkwood Church of England Middle School is part of the Worcestershire County Council's coordinated scheme, which is administered by Worcestershire Children First.

The closing date for both first and middle school places is 15th January 2021 .

Select for Walkwood's [Admissions](#)



[Prospectus](#)

[Virtual Open Evening](#)



The public consultation on the proposed admission arrangements for the 2022/23 academic year for Worcestershire schools is now open:

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20632/school_admissions_policies_and_appeals/2292/admissions_policies_2022_to_2023_consultation

Walkwood Church of England Middle School is proposing that we name specific schools within our admissions policy, which is available from [here](#). If you would like to provide feedback on the proposal, please use the form provided on the Worcestershire Children First [website](#).





Walkwood

Church of England  Middle School

Love to Learn;

Learn to Live;

Live to Love.



Admissions

In the current circumstances,
we have a virtual tour and full
information is available

September 2021



Take a look at our website:

www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk

for the Virtual Open Evening and Prospectus



Our Church of England inspection said: **Outstanding**

- ✓ The inclusive vision of the school ensures that all children are supported in their personal well-being and academic achievement.
- ✓ Key to the school's vision is that every individual is created in the image of God, and from this belief springs the school's outstanding attention to individual needs, both academic and pastoral.



- ✓ 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. It has nourished a very positive climate for learning in the school which helps all pupils to thrive.
- ✓ During their time at the school, pupils develop into confident, articulate pupils. They acquire good social skills, develop tolerance of others and are resilient.



A reminder to check you all have access to EPrise. Not only is this how you can monitor your child's homework, points, awards and demerits but it is also where you will book parent's evenings.

There is an Epraise app available for Android and Apple phones or you can visit www.epraise.co.uk, ensuring you select Walkwood Church of England Middle School from the list of schools.

If you have forgotten your password, or have never logged into Epraise before, then click on the parent tab and enter your email address, leave the password field blank, press submit and a password will be sent to your email.

If you do not have an email address registered with us then you will be unable to login so you will need to contact the school reception to add an email address to your contact details.

Reminder

All being well and there are no change in local or national circumstances, pupils return to school on **Monday 2nd November**.

Appointment of Cleaner



The Governors of this Church of England Academy require a Cleaner. The post holder will be responsible for the cleaning of the school site along with other members of our dedicated cleaning team. The successful candidate will be expected to carry out assigned duties with a minimum of supervision, have the ability to follow cleaning schedules, job and safety instructions and use their own initiative and work to deadlines.

For details, please visit our website www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk or email recruitment@walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk, from where full details will be sent of the post and the school. The application deadline is 9am on Friday 6 November 2020. CV's will not be accepted. 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





Parent's Evening- Thursday 12th November 2020 4-7.00pm

You will have received a letter by email this week offering you the opportunity to speak with your child's tutor teacher on the above date. This will provide you with the chance to see how they have generally settled into school during the first half term.

This year, due to current circumstances, parent's evening will be held remotely using Teams but you must still book your appointment using Epraise.

There is an Epraise app available for Android and Apple phones or you can visit www.epraise.co.uk, ensuring you select Walkwood Church of England Middle School from the list of schools.

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The booking system for this Parents' Evening will go live on Epraise on Friday the 23rd October. Once in Epraise please:

- select [Community](#)
- then choose Parents' Evenings.
- Now click on the **Parents' Evening** and you will be given the option to book in with your child's tutor teacher.

Before the 12th of November a link to a Teams meeting will be issued to you via your Parents' Evening booking in Epraise. The link will show in the column called 'Room'. When clicking on this link you will be given three options, you can select the one saying 'Continue with browser' meaning you don't have to download anything. You can use this link on a computer, smart phone or tablet but you must have a camera and microphone to enable parent's evening to run.

On the Parents' Evening, please follow the link at least five minutes before your appointment time. Ensure you join the meeting when asked as this means you will be held in the virtual lobby until your time slot. The teacher will admit you to the meeting when they are ready for you. When following the link to the meeting you will be asked to enter a name, can you **please use your child's name**, this will enable staff to invite parents into the meeting in the correct order.

At a later date, during this academic year, you will have the opportunity to speak to your child's subject teachers and you will also receive academic reports.

What parents & carers need to know about...

LEAGUE OF LEGENDS

LEAGUE OF LEGENDS

PEGI 12

League of Legends, commonly referred to as "LoL", is one of the most popular video games in the world, with millions of monthly players. It is available on Android, macOS and Windows, and Apple recently announced during its iPhone 12 launch event that it will soon be coming to iOS too. LoL is an esports game in which two teams of five face-off in order to destroy the other's base. In the UK and Europe, PEGI rates League of Legends as PEGI 12. However, in order to play the game, the user has to accept the Terms of Use, which state that the proper age to play is 13+.

Suggestive innuendo

As a game itself, League of Legends is child-friendly and the character animations are not graphically violent. However, as it is a game designed for a male-centric userbase, some of the female costumes can be quite revealing and could be considered somewhat sexually suggestive. Sexual innuendo can also be observed in some character chat.



Contact with strangers

Unless your child is playing League of Legends with a large group of friends, they will end up playing and communicating with people they don't know due to the multiplayer nature of the game. This means it's almost impossible to predict who and what they could encounter, making them vulnerable to online bullying, harassment, hate speech or even online grooming tactics.



Inappropriate chat

During gameplay, your child will be able to type messages to each teammate via the built-in chat or the accompanying mobile app, and there is also a voice chat which activates when players are part of a pre-made team. Although there's a built-in chat filter that censors any bad language, this is easily switched-off so it's possible your child could be exposed to inappropriate content.



Addictive nature

League of Legends, like many modern online multiplayer games, is addictive by nature and can require a lot of time in order for players to be successful; a typical game can be as short as 20 minutes or as long as an hour and a half, and cannot be paused mid-way through. Signs of addiction can include irritability when not playing, lying about the amount of time playing, and preoccupation with thoughts about the next gaming session.



In-game spending

Although League of Legends is entirely free to play, Riot Games lets players spend real currency in order to purchase Riot Points that allows players to purchase special costumes for their characters, or skins. These can be quite addictive. Indeed, in a US survey conducted in 2019, the average gamer on LoL spent \$119 on downloadable content and microtransactions.



NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Safety Tips

Monitor gameplay

While it would be impossible to constantly keep an eye on your child, it's important you check-in and monitor the time they spend playing League of Legends. It might be a good idea to keep gaming consoles in the living room, for example, so you can supervise how long they're playing and whether they're in contact with others via voice chat.



Mute chat and report players

If your child is receiving negative or offensive messages, League of Legends has the ability to mute the chat. If they have been the victim of harassment, insulting or offensive language, you can report the behaviour to LoL who will review the game and impose penalties on the other player accordingly.



Limit spending

As League of Legends lets gamers spend real money in order to purchase add-on items, it's important you keep an eye on their spending. Disable in-game spending on consoles or mobiles if you're worried or make sure they don't have access to a credit card in order to spend in the first place.



Spot the signs

If you're concerned that your child may be spending too much time on League of Legends, and are worried it could be having a poor effect on their mental health, keep an eye out for the warning signs. They may be prioritising gaming over more important everyday tasks, such as schoolwork or sleep, or could be showing signs of irritability and a lack of concentration if they've spent too long playing.



Talk about the risks

Before you allow your child to play League of Legends, it's important you have a conversation about it first to make them aware of the potential dangers. Make sure your child is aware of the fact that they could be playing with strangers, that the game has a poor reputation for its often toxic community of players, and that it allows for in-game payments that should be avoided.



Meet our expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist, editor and consultant. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The INQUIRER, Carly now works as the news editor for Computer Shopper and IT Pro and writes for a number of publications including Forbes, TechRadar, Tes, The Metro, uSwitch and WIRED.

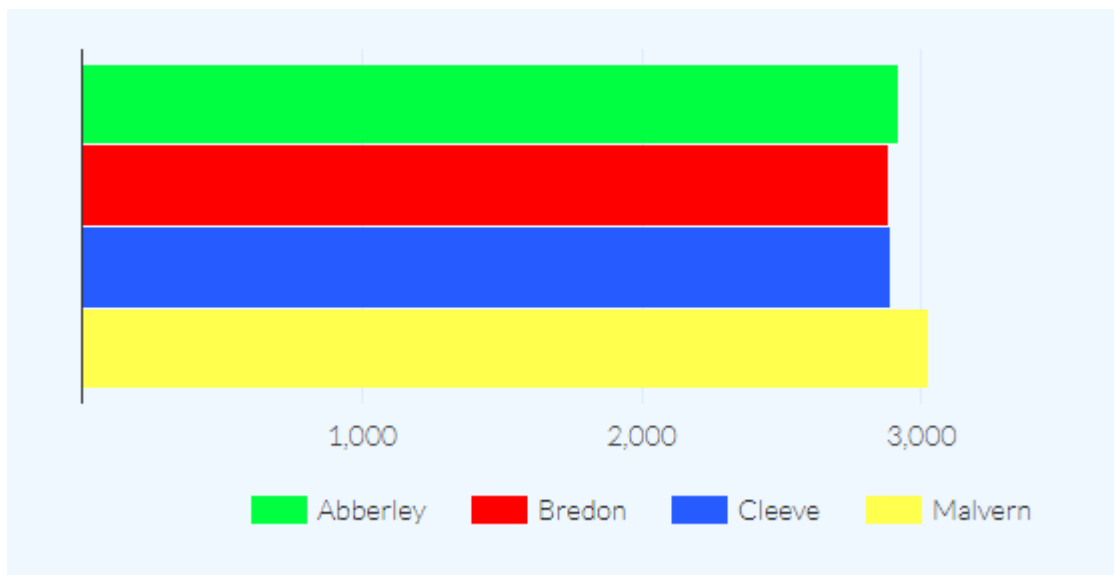




Epraise Update



Points This Week: By College



Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

myriad

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 21st September 2020 - 21st October 2020

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

Evie Morgan 5E1 - who has read 829,419 words

Top Boy

Aston Slater 7E3 - who has read 975,758 words

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

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU



HAPPINESS IS



...finding
the first good book in a series,
& knowing there are more to follow.

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](#)



Looking ahead



	Date	Event
	Monday 26 to Friday 30 October	Half term
	Friday 18 December	End of Term
2 0 2 1	Monday 4 January	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 5 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Monday 15 to Friday 19 February	Half Term
	Thursday 1 April	End of Term
	Monday 19 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 20 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June	Half Term
	Wednesday 21 July	End of Term