

Dear Parents and Carers,

98 members of Year 6 departed for Yorkshire last week, and we had a splendid time. There were 9 activity groups that were created from the friendship preferences that pupils expressed in a survey. These then took part in four main activities over the weekend—bushcraft (working in the woods), orienteering, rockpool exploration and a beck scramble (a 'beck' is a stream in parts of northern England). The group leaders from East Barnby were, as ever, excellent, and the catering team there did us proud. Most pupils had not encountered 'arctic roll' as a pudding before, but when I explained that it was ice cream surrounded by cake, they were all ready to give it a try!



Given the large numbers of pupils, we took up almost all the activity centre accommodation. Each of the dormitory rooms that were used had pupils in them with due consideration to friendships. Organising 98 pupils into 9 activity groups, 19 dormitory rooms and across two coaches is no easy task. I extend my sincere thanks to the other members of Walkwood staff who gave up their weekend to be with the children, for without their time generosity the trip would not go ahead.

Let those who favour my cause rejoice and be glad; let them say always, 'Great is the Lord, who delights in his servant's well-being.'

Psalm 35:26-27

Later this term, the residentials for Year 5, 7 and 8 take place, the destinations being respectively the Brecon Beacons, Yorkshire and London. Staff are getting geared up for taking pupils away, with due regard to organisational requirements.



As the temperatures have been creeping up (at last!), we have had days when pupils are not required to wear a jumper. For different reasons, not all pupils wish to take up this, which we respect. If they do not have their jumper on, we require them to have their shirt tucked in and their tie at a suitable length. That said, Monday 23rd May will be our first whole-school photograph for some years. If the weather holds, and the forecast seems to be positive, we hope our pupils will be as smart and sparky as ever! Therefore, all pupils need to have their jumpers with them for the photograph.



Rev. C. Leach, *Principal*

A prayer about The Psalms

Dear God, Thank you for the Psalms and what they give to us, a way of communicating, worshipping, and praising you. O God, we are blessed by the knowledge of your greatness and your love. The psalms show how so many others have felt your love and presence in the past, just as we do now. Humble us Lord, to know the truth written behind the Psalms and bless us on this day to share this truth with others.

Amen.

This week's theme was: The Psalms

Happy are those who don't listen to the wicked, who don't go where sinners go, who don't do what evil people do. They love the Lord's teachings, and they think about those teachings day and night.

Psalm 1:1-2

Whole School Target

95.6%

Whole School Attendance

93.6%



For the week ahead

The Fruit of Faith is:	Honour	Be devoted to one another with mutual love, showing eagerness in honouring one another. Romans 12:10
The assembly theme:	Queen Elizabeth II	I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service. Princess Elizabeth, 21st April 1947

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

The weekend	Those we know that are unwell	Monday	The School Photographers
Tuesday	The homeless community in Red-ditch	Wednesday	Children who don't have access to school
Thursday	Public services	Friday	The staff, pupils and parents as they start half term

Picture of the Week



The Festival of Britain, which ran from May to September 1951, was centred on London's South Bank.

The festival helped to popularise modernist styles of architecture and design.

The event was predominately based beside the Thames where buildings like the Dome of Discovery and the Skylon explored British ingenuity and creativity at a time when the country was struggling after World War Two.

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

This week's Word of the Week:

embody

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 18th April 2022 — 18th May 2022

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

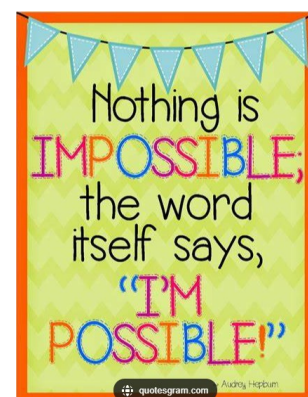
Hope Ivers (BKKH) - who has read 621,382 words

Top Boy

Rowan Campbell (CPJE) - who has read 321,960 words

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

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU





Trips and Visits 2021 - 23



Date	Activity	Location	Open To	Cost	Leader
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

As we progress into Summer term, there may be bouts of warm weather. We encourage pupils to make use of our water dispensers by filling up their water bottles.

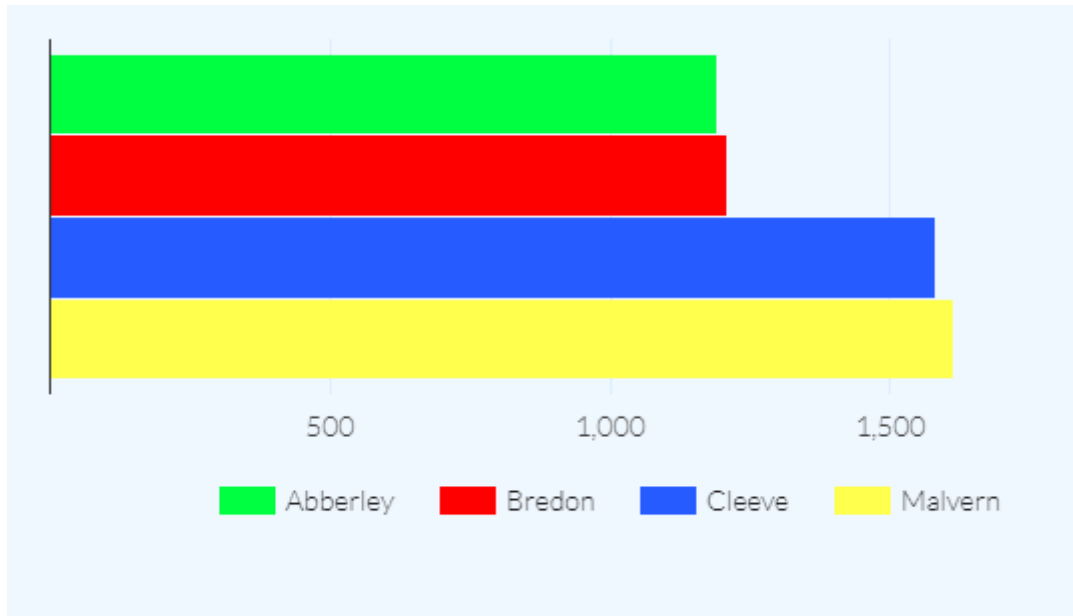
Please remember to clearly name the bottles in case they get lost as we often have lots in Lost Property.





Epraise Update

Points This Week: By College



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISCORD

AGE RATING
13+

Servers and channels marked as 'NSFW' require users to be 18 or older to join.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CYBERBULLYING

Discord's easy accessibility and connectivity, unfortunately, makes it an ideal place for cyberbullying to occur – especially as audio and video streams disappear once they've ended, meaning that bullying could take place without leaving any evidence. Closed groups can also be created, giving young people the opportunity to exclude their peers or send cruel messages without adult oversight.

DIFFICULT TO MODERATE

Like many private communication apps, Discord's real-time messaging can be difficult to control. The system enables content moderation through each individual server – so different groups can set their own rules for what's acceptable, and some groups may not monitor for unsuitable content. Anything that happens in an audio or video stream is also virtually untraceable once the stream has concluded.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Discord mainly hosts private groups, making it easier for unsuitable or explicit content to be shared on channels. Pornography, racism and inappropriate language can be found in some groups. Server owners are required to add an age-restriction gate to channels where 18+ content is being shared – but this solution isn't foolproof, as the platform doesn't always verify users' ages when they sign up.

ACCESSIBLE TO PREDATORS

On many chat platforms, users can lie about their age or true identity – and Discord is no exception. Predators have attempted to abuse the platform by using it to contact and communicate with underage users – by initially chatting with a child on an age-appropriate channel, for example. While Discord has improved its safety settings, some users will still try to bypass them for malicious reasons.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Discord does have strict Terms of Service and Community Guidelines to protect its users – but, sadly, not everyone adheres to them. Criminal activity including grooming, hate speech, harassment, exploitative content, doxing and extremist or violent material have all been found on Discord servers over the last two years. In 2020, Discord received almost 27,000 reports of illegal activity on the platform.

Advice for Parents & Carers

REVIEW SAFETY SETTINGS

Discord has a series of safety settings, enabling users to choose who can direct message them or send them friend requests. Your child's experience on Discord will be much safer if the app's privacy and safety settings are configured to only allow messages or friend requests from server members. This will minimise the chances of potential predators from outside the group contacting them.

EXPLAIN AGE FILTERING

While Discord requires users to be at least 13 to sign up, many servers geared towards older users are flagged as NSFW (not safe for work), which indicates they probably contain material that's inappropriate for children. It can be easy to click through settings without properly reviewing them, so ensure your child understands why age filtering is important and that it's there to protect them.

SCREEN OUT EXPLICIT CONTENT

In the privacy and safety settings, Discord users are offered the ability to filter direct messages for inappropriate content: a setting that should be enabled if your child uses the platform. Discord automatically tries to flag images that are explicit, but the setting must be manually enabled for text. If a young user is sent explicit content in a direct message, Discord will scan and (if necessary) delete it.

MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY

It's wise to regularly review your child's activity on Discord. This can include checking their safety settings to ensure they're correctly enabled, talking about which servers they've joined and reviewing some of their friends and direct messages. Ask if anything has made them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Things can change quickly online, so plan routine check-ins and follow up frequently.

DISCUSS GOOD ONLINE BEHAVIOUR

The anonymity offered by the internet often leads people to communicate more openly online and behave differently than they would at school or home. It's crucial to bear in mind, though, that every internet user is still a real person. Talk to your child about the severe and lasting consequences that cyberbullying or exchanging inappropriate material online can have in the real world.

HAVE CANDID CONVERSATIONS

It can sometimes be awkward to discuss topics like grooming, pornography, racism or explicit content with your child – but it's important to ensure they're aware of the harms these things can pose. Talking openly about these subjects is a great way to help your child feel more comfortable about coming to you if they experience an unwanted encounter on Discord (or anywhere else online).

Meet Our Expert

Coral Cripps is a Canadian-born, London-based tech journalist at gmw3.com: a website specialising in all things Web3, gaming and XR (extended reality). With a focus on brands and culture, she researches and writes about the ways that our current innovations – including the metaverse and Web3 – are impacting people, places and things.



National
Online
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.defendingyoungminds.com/blog/dangers-of-discord-5-steps- safeguarding-teens-on-popular-chat-app/> <https://support.discord.com> <https://endsexualexploitation.org/articles/discord-is-a-haven-for-gamers-and-sexual-exploitation/> <https://kotaku.com/discord-deleted-thousands-of-violent-extremist-and-crim-1849623264>



Clubs and Activities

Summer term 1 2022

	Before School 7:45am – 8:45am	Lunchtime 12.35 – 1.20PM	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Monday		Lexia LMo in ITA	Homework Club
Tuesday	Orchestra CGR 8.45am - 9.25am Music Room	Lexia ZBi in ITA	Homework Club
Wednesday			Homework Club
Thursday		Choir CGR 12.55pm - 1.20pm Music Room All Year Groups	Homework Club
Friday			



Looking ahead



Date

Event

2

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2

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Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June

Half Term

Thursday 9 June

Y5 Y7 Parent's evening 4.00 —7.00 pm

Wednesday 15 June

Y5 Y7 Parent's evening 4.00 —7.00 pm

Thursday 21 July

End of Term

Monday 5 September

Staff Development Day

Tuesday 6 September

First Day of the Autumn Term

Monday 24 - Friday 28 October

Half Term

Friday 16 December

End of Term

Tuesday 3 January

Staff Development Day

Wednesday 4 January

First day of the Spring Term

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

Monday 29 May - 2 June

Half Term

Friday 21 July

End of Term