



The Insider

9th January 2026; issue 585

Our Vision

In our inclusive community,
Each valued individual is taught self-belief
We are resilient and optimistic,
Caring for ourselves and our peers.
We are Children of God, with hope,
Awe and wonder in our hearts.

Our Bible verse: *Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*
Ephesians 4:32

Our Values: Respect Friendship Honesty Kindness

Our motto: Respect. Believe. Succeed

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a restful Christmas break, and I would like to wish you a very happy New Year.

Despite a wintry start to the term, the children have returned to school positively and have settled back into their learning exceptionally well. In just a few days, they have already produced some outstanding work, which has been lovely to see.

The children have also returned looking smart in their school uniform. Thank you for your continued support with this. Our uniform policy will continue to be robustly upheld. If you have any questions regarding uniform expectations or would appreciate support, please contact your child's tutor in the first instance so that we can work together to resolve any issues.

We would also like to invite parents and carers to attend our upcoming Pastoral/SEND morning. This will be an informal event with coffee, biscuits, and an opportunity to chat with staff about how best we can work together to support your child. It will also be a chance to ask any questions you may have. Further details will be shared shortly.

Parents' Evenings: This half term, Year 6 and Year 8 parents' evenings will be held on Wednesday 4th February and Thursday 12th February. A letter with full details is being sent out this week. These evenings are an important opportunity for us to discuss your child's progress in school. If you are unable to attend on these dates, please contact your child's tutor to make alternative arrangements.

Finally, we would like to remind you of the importance of children staying hydrated throughout the school day. Please ensure your child brings a clearly labelled water bottle to school each day. Bottles can be refilled at appropriate times during the school day.

As mentioned in our communications before Christmas, the Insider newsletter will now be issued fortnightly moving forwards. Communication is very important to us, and Arbor will continue to form the main platform for updates, alongside Facebook notifications. Please continue to check these channels regularly to stay informed.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Lowe

Key Information for Parents

For information about our school: www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk





Keeping children safe

The following information regards how we continue to ensure that pupils are cared for within our school:

[Early help](#)

[E-safety](#)

[Prevent](#)

[Child Protection](#)

[Attendance](#)

[Safeguarding summary](#)

[Safeguarding policy](#)



British Values and news

In our Collective Worship this week, we took time to reflect on and discuss a current news story, considering its relevance to one of our key British Values: Mutual Respect and Tolerance.

We encourage you to take a moment to speak with your child about what was discussed and see if they can identify other examples of Mutual Respect and Tolerance in action in our everyday lives—both within school and beyond. It's a wonderful way to continue these important conversations at home and help deepen their understanding of the world around them.





Points Boosters

'Points Boosters' are designed to reward all pupils who have excellent attendance and those pupils who consistently uphold and adhere to the Walkwood Values.

How does it work?

Attendance Points Boosters

- A 20-point booster will be awarded for every time your child has 100% Attendance for the period of the 2-week timetable- Week 1 & Week 2.
- These points are awarded at the end of every Week 2

Zero Demerit Points Boosters

A reward for all pupils who continue to demonstrate excellent focus and behaviour in and out of lessons.

- Again, we are awarding a 20-point booster for every time your child has Zero Demerits during the period of the 2-week timetable- Week 1 & Week 2.
- Again, these points are awarded at the end of every Week 2

The Spring Prize Draw

@ The Walkwood Celebration Assembly



Fabulous prizes to be won

The Attendance Goldfish Bowl

You will be entered into the draw if your attendance is 100% for the term

The Zero Demerit Goldfish Bowl

You will be entered into the draw for having ZERO Demerits for the term

As a school, we continue to evolve and adapt our systems as we search to motivate our pupils to want to attend school and give their best whilst they are here. As always, your support is greatly appreciated.

The Walkwood Celebration Assembly Prize Draw Autumn Term



The Attendance Goldfish Bowl

Pupils are entered into the draw if attendance is 100% for the term.



The Zero Demerit Goldfish Bowl

Pupils are entered into the draw for having ZERO Demerits for the term

Attendance		Zero Demerits	
Olivia N (5JWA)	Archie E (6AFA)	Charlotte M (6PMI)	Thomas N (7PJE)
Connor M (6YHA)	Norah T (7LHO)	Fin A (6RCO)	Florence B (6KKH)
Pachara T (8MGR)	Archie P (5JWA)	Emilia P (5LPH)	Paisley K (8PBO)



A SHARED LETTER ACROSS REDDITCH & BROMSGROVE

Dear Parents and Carers,

A shared letter across Redditch & Bromsgrove to work in partnership with all families to support excellent school attendance.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in supporting excellent school attendance this academic year. We are writing to you at this time of year when we all see many adverts for discounted holidays. While these offers can be tempting, we want to gently remind everyone of the importance of good attendance and the impact of taking a holiday during term time. There is a national drive to make sure that no minutes of learning are lost unnecessarily, as every lesson helps children to grow and succeed. This is why it is so important that children do not take holidays during term time.

Time away from school can also:

- Result in children falling behind their peers
- Cause gaps in their learning
- Lead to children missing out on social development
- Make it harder to join in with class activities
- Mean they miss special events and shared experiences with their friends

Though taking a holiday at any time has a detrimental impact on pupils' learning and social development, this is especially important in **September** when pupils are settling into a new school year, getting to know their new teachers, building the foundations for their new learning and building friendships. It is also very important in the **summer term**, when many pupils take part in assessments that help prepare them for the next stage of their education. Missing time in either of these key periods can make it harder for children to feel confident and keep up with new work.

Please remember that the **national guidance** is clear: schools can only approve term-time leave in very rare cases. If a pupil is taken out of school without permission, parents may receive a **penalty notice (a fine)** from the local authority. As schools, we are asked to inform you that in line with Worcestershire County Council Policy and The Department for Education guidelines, unauthorised absence may be subject to a penalty notice fine, **per parent, per child**.

Trigger	Action that will be taken
1st period of 10 sessions of unauthorised absence within a 10 week period	1st penalty notice issued. £160 per parent, per child, reducing to £80 if paid within 21 days
2nd period of 10 sessions of unauthorised absence within a 10 week period; incurred within 3 years	2nd penalty notice issued. £160 per parent, per child (no reduction for early payment)
3rd period of 10 sessions of unauthorised absence within a 10 week period; incurred within 3 years	A penalty notice will not be issued. If suitable, the matter will be presented to the Magistrates' Court under S4441 of the Education Act 1996. Cases found guilty in the Magistrates Court could incur a fine of up to £1,000 per parent, per child, and a criminal record failing to secure regular attendance. Additional court costs may also be charged.

We want every child to have the best start to the year and to feel settled, happy, and ready to learn. Thank you for your support in making sure your child attends school every day that they are well enough to do so, and for continuing to work in partnership with us, sharing the ambition to maintain excellent school attendance across Redditch and Bromsgrove and the best possible educational outcomes for your child.

The Lion King Jr - Rehearsal Schedule - Spring Term

Remember, a musical is a living, breathing entity. Where it is necessary to make changes to the rehearsal schedule, we will notify you in advance. Please make sure you know your child's character or which ensemble group they are a part of.

Tuesday 3.30pm-4.45pm GLA, PAL, LHO	Thursday 3.30pm-4.45pm GLA, PAL, LTI
<u>Tuesday 6th January</u> Scene 1 and 2 (p.1-17) Rafiki, Mufasa, Zazu, Sarabi, Sarafina, Scar, Lion Pride, Pridelands Tribe, Hyena Clan.	<u>Thursday 8th January</u> Scene 3, 4 and 5 (p.18-38) Mufasa, Young Simba, Zazu, Scar, Rafiki, Young Nala, Sarabi, Sarafina, Zazu, Pridelands Tribe, Lion Pride, Hyena Clan.
<u>Tuesday 13th January</u> Scene 6 (p.38-51) Scar, Shenzi, Banzai, Ed, Young Simba, Young Nala, Mufasa, Hyena Clan.	<u>Thursday 15th January</u> Scene 7 and 8 (p.52-70) Mufasa, Zazu, Young Nala, Young Simba, Rafiki, Scar, Banzai, Shenzi, Ed, Pridelands Tribe, Lion Pride, Hyena Clan.
<u>Tuesday 20th January</u> Scene 9 and 10 (p.70-87) Young Simba, Adult Simba, Adult Nala, Timon, Pumbaa, Zazu, Scar, Banzai, Shenzi, Ed.	<u>Thursday 22nd January</u> Scene 11 and 12 (p.87-115) Adult Nala, Rafiki, Lion Pride, Timon, Pumbaa, Adult Simba, Adult Nala.
<u>Tuesday 27th January</u> Scene 13 and Finale (p.116-127) All cast required.	<u>Thursday 29th January</u> Scene 1, 2, 3 and 4 (p.1-25) All cast required.
<u>Tuesday 3rd February</u> Scene 5 6, 7 (p.26-59) All cast required.	<u>Thursday 3rd February</u> Scene 8, 9, 10 (p.59-87) All cast required.
<i>Ticket Sales will open on Monday 9th February.</i>	
<u>Tuesday 10th February</u> Scene 11, 12, 13 and Finale (p.87-127) All cast required.	<u>Thursday 12th February</u> No rehearsal due to Parent's Evening.
HALF TERM	
<u>Tuesday 24th February</u> Act 1 Scenes 1-8 All cast required.	<u>Thursday 26th February</u> Act 2 Scenes 9-13 All cast required.
<u>Tuesday 3rd March</u> Act 1 Scenes 1-8 All cast required.	<u>Thursday 5th March</u> Act 2 Scenes 9-13 All cast required.
<u>Tuesday 10th March</u> Act 1 Scenes 1-8 All cast required.	<u>Thursday 12th March</u> Act 2 Scenes 9-13 All cast required.
<u>Tuesday 17th March</u> All cast required.	<u>Thursday 19th March</u> No rehearsal due to Parent's Evening.
<u>Dress Rehearsals</u> Arrangements are currently being made for our dress rehearsals. Please be aware that it <i>may</i> be necessary to hold a dress rehearsal on either Saturday 21 st March or Sunday 22 nd March. This will be confirmed as soon as possible.	
<u>Performance Dates</u> Tuesday 24 th March Wednesday 25 th March Thursday 26 th March	

INSTRUMENT LESSONS

NEW YEAR
NEW SKILL



PIANO | DRUMS | VOCALS | WOODWIND AND VIOLIN

A NEW TERM IS A GREAT TIME
TO LEARN A NEW SKILL!
SIGN UP FOR INSTRUMENT LESSONS WITH ONE OF
OUR PRO MUSIC TUTORS!

WWW.WALKWOODMS.WORCS.SCH.UK/MUSIC

 [New Year, New Skill!](#) 

January is a great time to start learning a musical instrument at **Walkwood School**. We offer **piano, violin, vocals, drums and woodwind**, taught by our expert **Pro Music** tutors.

Find out more at  www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Music or get in touch for details.

#ProMusic



Attendance Support Officer – 3 days per week (from 10 am to 2 pm) (permanent post)

Ofsted stated (2023):

“The school’s ethos and values are central to every aspect of school life at Walkwood Church of England Middle School. Relationships between pupils and teachers are strong. Pupils enjoy their learning. Pupils achieve well, including those with special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND)”

SIAMS stated (2024):

Led by the vision, leaders are resolute in driving forward the work of the school. This ensures positive outcomes for pupils and adults.

Pastoral care is exceptional and extends from the school into the local community. As a result of this feeling of being treasured, lives are transformed.

There is a strong culture of togetherness, respect and trust between all members of the school community.

The Governors of this Church of England academy wish to appoint a part-time Attendance Support Officer who can work with all children in the school.

Remuneration:

- Scale 3 from £25,583 to £ 25,989 pro rata
 - 3 days a week, 4 hours a day 12 hours per week, term time only plus the 3 Inset Days

We are looking for an Attendance and Welfare Officer who is:

- An outstanding practitioner.
- Demonstrates the ability to monitor, analyse, and interpret whole-school attendance data, producing reports for senior leaders that highlight key statistics, reasons for absence, and emerging patterns of concern
- Support attendance admin to ensure daily attendance registers are accurate and complete.
- To work closely with pupils, staff, parents and carers to reduce levels of absence and act appropriately when persistent absence becomes a safeguarding issue
- Flexible and works effectively as part of a team
- Excellent communication skills with pupils and all stakeholders
- Committed to their own professional development
- Committed to promoting our Christian Ethos and values.

We can offer:

- A committed and supportive leadership team
- Wonderful, motivated children
- A commitment to your future professional development
- Support from the whole community of our church school
- Support from The Spire Academy Trust (currently transitioning)

Closing date for applications is **9.00am** on the **23rd January 2026**. Short-listed candidates will be contacted soon after this date and interviews will be held shortly afterwards.

Walkwood Church of England Middle School is committed to the protection and safety of children and young people. An enhanced DBS check and full references will be expected from the successful candidate.

Clubs and Activities

Spring Term 1



	Before school 8.30-8.45	Breaktime 10.20- 10.35	Lunchtime 12.55-13.15	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Monday	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books Chess club - Year 5 and 7 12:55-13:15 (during playground time) Room 2. BKI Times tables rockstars - Year 5 12:55-13:15 (during playground time) DT Hub. PMI	Dance- KS3 AU sports in the hall. Sign up required. Dodgeball – KS2 In the hall. Sign up required. PMc
Tuesday	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Choir - Year 5 and 7 12:55-13:15 (during playground time) Music Room. GLA Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	The Lion King Junior Rehearsals Students to attend according to rehearsal plan.
Wednesday	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Boogie Bounce KS2 and KS3 In the hall. Sign up required. KGr Dodgeball – KS3 In the hall. Sign up required. PMc
Thursday	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	The Lion King Junior Rehearsals Students to attend according to rehearsal plan.
Friday	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Choir - Year 6 and 8 13:15-13:35 (during playground time) Music Room. GLA Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Multi-sports – All year groups In the hall. Sign up required. PMc



Looking ahead



2026	
Wednesday 4 February	Yr6 & Yr8 Parents' Evening 4:00 – 7:00 pm
Thursday 12 February	Yr6 & yr8 Parents' Evening 4:00 – 7:00pm
Monday 16 – Friday 20 February	Half Term
Wednesday 11 March	Yr5 & Yr7 Parents' Evening 4:00 – 7:00pm
Thursday 19 March	Yr5 & Yr7 Parents' Evening 4:00 – 7:00pm
Friday 27 March	End of Term
Monday 13 April	First Day of Summer Term
Monday 4 May	Bank Holiday
Monday 18 th – Wednesday 20 th May	Yr7 Trip - The Ultimate Adventure Centre
Monday 25 – Friday 29 May	Half Term
Monday 1 June	Staff Development Day
Sunday 28 th June – Wednesday 1 st July	Yr5 Devon residential Trip
Friday 17 July	End of Term