



Dear Parents and Carers,



We had our charity giving before half-term and the generosity of everyone was superb. That applied to the non-uniform day, the charity raffle and the donation of tinned food. Our contribution to Pudsey's fundraising will take place at the end of term with the traditional 'festive jumper day'. This is when staff and pupils are invited to replace their school jumpers with a festive version, donating £1 to Children in Need.

After school clubs have been busy this week, like so many of the weeks gone by. As the nights draw in, our staff will escort pupils to the gate at the end of the club but, for safety reasons, I ask that you keep the area around the pedestrian crossing clear when picking up youngsters.

I am aware that many of you have contact with our tutors, Pastoral Managers or College Leaders in order to "sort things out". They also take time to contact parents or carers when matters arise here. The work of our Pastoral Managers is not always mentioned, but I am always grateful for what they carry out in helping our pupils and keeping the tutors informed. Our caring approach is sustained in no small measure by our Pastoral Managers and the associated College Leaders who deal with fallings out between pupils and work to repair relationships between children. Their skills are those of patience, understanding, and active listening. They frequently stay here to complete phone calls at a day's end so that we keep you up-to-date. And so I say "thank you" for the continued work of Mrs Russell (Malvern), Mrs Hands (Bredon), Mrs Phelan and Ms Ellis (Abberley), along with Mrs Langstone and Ms Timmins (Cleeve).



Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk.

Psalm 119: 105

Rev. C. Leach, Principal

A prayer for What brings happiness

Today is a day I choose happiness and peace. I am grateful for my life that you have filled with many blessings. Please help me to go through my day with grace and love.

Amen

This week's theme was: What brings happiness?

If you obey and do right, a light will show you the way and fill you with happiness. You are the Lord's people! So celebrate and praise the only God .

Psalm 97: 11-12

Whole School Target

95.6%

Whole School Attendance

93.96%



Just checking . . .

The last day of term is **Friday 17th December**, when school will finish at our normal time.

The first day back will be **Wednesday 5th January 2022**.



School applications for September 2022



DEADLINE
15th January

Applications for places at **middle schools** must be submitted to Worcestershire County Council by **15th January 2022**. The same date applies for **first school applications** too.

[Citizen Portal - Sign in \(worcestershires.gov.uk\)](https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk)

If you wish to make a preference for a pupil to begin at a first or middle school in September of next year, please ensure that applications are submitted on time.

Home / school communications

We have a protocol for what is reasonable in regard to communications between home and school, whatever form these may take. This is to ensure matters are dealt with in a timely manner while considering the well-being and in-school commitments of teaching and support staff. It can be [viewed on our website](#) under 'Colleges and Pastoral Care'.



Festive Jumpers

On the last day of this term, Friday 17th December, pupils and staff are invited to replace their usual jumpers with a festive version. The rest of the Walkwood uniform is to be worn, please, as it is not a non-uniform day.

We ask that a donation of £1 is offered which will go to Children in Need.

This is not compulsory! There will be pupils and adults who will be in their usual attire. School will finish at the usual time of 3.30pm—ho, ho, ho!





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. <i>Ecclesiastes 5:18</i>
The assembly theme:	The future	For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. <i>Jeremiah 29:11</i>

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

The weekend	the work of Children in Need.	Monday	the staff at the School Admissions office for Worcestershire.
Tuesday	our Pastoral Managers and College Leaders.	Wednesday	charity workers in countries where there is conflict.
Thursday	democracy and the rule of law.	Friday	Y11 pupils who are preparing for 'mock' exams.

Picture of the Week



Moonrise over Jodrell Bank, Cheshire, where sits the Lovell Telescope.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

NETFLIX

Netflix is a subscription-based streaming service that allows users to watch TV shows and movies on any internet-enabled device that supports the software, such as smart TVs, phones and tablets. The pandemic saw a surge in children consuming on-demand content as many families relaxed their screen-time rules. Netflix's diverse range of programming caters for all age groups – so it's important for parents to recognise the potential risks of children using the service and the measures to help their child enjoy a safe streaming experience.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Netflix produces and curates an extensive catalogue of content that can provide hours of entertainment. If they share the same user account as an adult, this can potentially lead to children accidentally viewing all manner of inappropriate content, including nudity, profanity and extreme violence. This can happen easily on shared accounts, as Netflix cannot establish who's watching.

BINGE-WATCHING

Netflix allows users to view shows and movies quickly and easily without adverts or interruptions, making excessive screen time a concern. Binge-watching has become more common during the pandemic, due to Netflix's regularly updated content and algorithms which recommend content very similar to what's previously been enjoyed. Marathon viewing sessions can lead to children staying up too late, affecting their mood and concentration the next day.

SCREEN ADDICTION

From TVs and phones to consoles and tablets, Netflix is available on almost any device with an internet connection – making it extremely difficult to manage children's screen time. The service is now adding games to its mobile app, tempting users to spend even more time on the platform. Screen addiction can distract children from important activities like schoolwork and socialising, and can impact their health by reducing their exercise and sleep.

HACKING ATTEMPTS

With millions of users worldwide, Netflix is often targeted by hackers who try to steal usernames and passwords to gain access to people's accounts. If successful, they can then steal payment details or try to sell stolen personal data on the dark web, providing other criminals with a profitable opportunity. Netflix also doesn't provide two-factor authentication, making the hackers' task that little bit easier.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Netflix's Teleparty feature became popular during lockdown periods as it allows users from different households (friends and relatives, for example) to synchronise when they watch content. It requires an access link to be sent to the people you wish to invite: the link, however, can also be distributed to people you don't know. A text chat feature enables interaction with the other users in real-time: this represents a risk to children if a stranger gains access to the Teleparty.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP ACCOUNTS SECURE

Netflix doesn't use two-factor authentication, so a strong password is vital. Your child's Netflix password should be unique (not one they've used elsewhere) and a minimum of eight characters with a mix of letters, numbers and symbols. Emphasise not to share their login details with anyone and remind them to always log out after using the app – so their account remains inaccessible, even if their device is lost or stolen.

SET UP PROFILE PINS

Netflix account holders can lock profiles using a four-digit PIN. Doing this can prevent your child from accessing the wrong account and viewing content that isn't appropriate for their age. Try setting a PIN for each account on your Netflix app – ideally avoiding numbers that would be easily guessed, such as dates of birth. Remember not to share these PINs with anyone, including family.

CHECK MATURITY RATING

Netflix warns about content that includes violence, sex, profanity and nudity. These warnings form part of the show or movie's 'maturity rating'. Users can restrict age ratings to avoid children viewing age-inappropriate content. On their profile, open the Profile and Parental Control settings and choose the maturity level for the shows and movies you want to allow.

18
CENSORED

SWITCH OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a show or movie concludes, Netflix's algorithms select content with similar themes that it thinks your child will enjoy next. This new content starts automatically after a 10-second countdown. Disabling this auto-play feature reduces the possibility of your child being shown something inappropriate and provides a natural break to help prevent them becoming too immersed in Netflix.

CREATE A KIDS' PROFILE

Setting up a Netflix Kids experience profile means your child can only access content which is suitable for children aged up to 12 years. All other content is automatically blocked. This rating can be further restricted via the child's profile settings. Setting up a Netflix Kids experience profile will help to prevent your child from viewing age-inappropriate content.

CHECK VIEWING HABITS

Netflix has tools which enable parents and carers to monitor what their child has been watching. Selecting 'Viewing Activity' in each profile's account settings displays a list of what content has been viewed (and when). This can reassure parents that their child is watching age-appropriate content and can open avenues for discussing your child's favourite shows and movies, and why they like them.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

EARLY HELP IN WORCESTERSHIRE

Help and support for Children, Young People and their families or carers.



FOR MORE INFORMATION,
VISIT THE FAMILY HUB:
WORCESTERSHIRE.GOV.UK/FAMILYHUB

Scan me with



your smart phone

WORCESTERSHIRE
CHILDREN FIRST





“Families will save money on school uniforms from next year, following new legally-binding guidance published today (Friday 19th November) requiring schools to make uniform affordable for all.

“The Department for Education (DfE) guidance means schools in England must ensure that school uniform costs are reasonable, and parents get the best value for money.

“From next autumn, schools will be required to help keep costs down by taking steps to remove unnecessary branded items and allowing more high-street options, like supermarket own-brand uniform.

Walkwood’s uniform policy already complies with this guidance as there are many items that can be bought from high street stores. That policy is readable [here](#). We welcome this information from the Department for Education.



Secretary of State for Education Nadhim Zahawi said:

“School uniform provides a sense of identity and community for children and young people, and should be a real source of pride. But it must never be a burden for parents or a barrier to pupils accessing education.”



Walkwood
Church of England  Middle School

Appointment of Administrative Assistant

Ofsted stated (2018):

“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 whatever their background, aptitudes and experiences. It has nourished a very positive climate for learning in the school, which helps all pupils to thrive.”

Walkwood Church of England Middle School requires an Administrative Assistant.

The successful applicant will be proactive, have a positive attitude and good communication skills. They will enjoy working in a team environment and demonstrate the ability to provide efficient and effective administration support. A good telephone manner and interpersonal skills are imperative. Previous experience is desirable for this role, together with GCSE passes in Maths and English (C+) or equivalent and a RSA1/equivalent qualification in typing.

For details, please email recruitment@walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk, from where full details will be sent of the post and the school. Application deadline: **9am on Monday 22 November 2021**. 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 the successful candidate.

Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

analyse

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 October 2021 — 18th November 2021

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

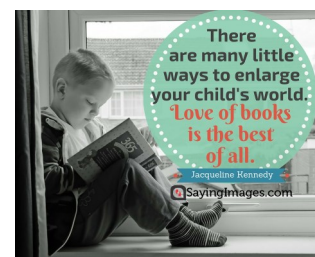
Shania Mander (Year 5 CLTH) - who has read 548,303 words

Top Boy

Henry Sole (Year 7 ASBK) - who has read 339,357 words

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

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU



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>



New household account feature for parents reporting test results

NHS Test and Trace are continuing to develop and improve the process for self-test reporting. Currently, if a parent is submitting results through their account on behalf of a child, they have to enter the child's details every time they report a result.

As a result of feedback from parents, NHS Test and Trace have introduced household accounts. This allows parents to save their children's details to their own user accounts so parents can report results for multiple members in the household more quickly and easily.

When reporting self-test results parents will now be offered the opportunity to create a household account, which should take no more than 2 minutes. Parents can then add all household members to their account, enabling them to save time when reporting all future self-test results.



Clubs and Activities

Autumn Term 2 2021

	Before School 7:45am – 8:45am	Lunchtime 12.35 – 1.20PM	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Monday			KS2 Fitness Club (3.30-4.45) RDJ/PMC
Tuesday	Orchestra CGR 8.45am – 9.25am Music Room		KS3 Boogie Bounce (3.30-4.45) Sign up only KRE Year 8 Maths Club Room 4 LCU (3.30-4.45) Sign up only Outdoor Activities Club (3.30-4.45) Meet in the changing rooms Parents will be emailed.
Wednesday			KS3 Fitness Club (3.30-4.45) Sign up only KRE/RMA/CIU
Thursday		Choir CGR 12.55 – 1.20 Music Room All Year Groups	KS2 Boogie Bounce (3.30-4.45) Sign up only KRE Year 6 Art Club, DT2 <u>MGr</u> (names already submitted before summer) Year 7 Science Club (3.30-4.45) ***Starts 7 th October*** Sign up only JHD
Friday			



Trips and Visits 2021-23



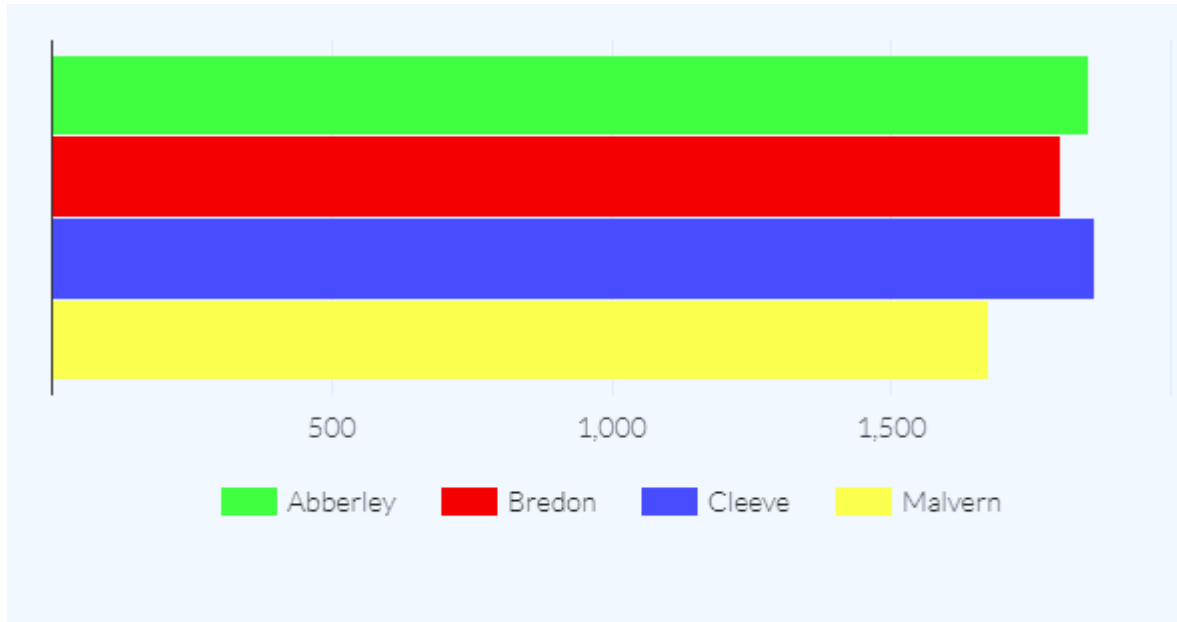
Date	Activity	Location	Open To	Cost	Leader
May 2022					
Fri 13 – Mon 16	Outward Bound	Yorkshire	Y6	£ 324	Rev Leach
June 2022					
Wed 22 – Fri 24	Arts and Theatres	London	Y8	£ 300	Rev Leach
Fri 24 – Mon 27	Outward Bound	Yorkshire	Y7	£ 324	Rev Leach
Fri 24 - Mon 27	Outward Bound	Brecon Beacons	Y5	£ 220	Mr Macdonald / Mrs Cull
February 2023					
Sat 4 – Sat 11	Ski Trip	Obertauern, Austria	Y5-Y7	£ 1360	Mrs Cull



Epraise Update



Points This Week: By College





Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2 0 2 1 2 0 2 2	Monday 22 November	Parents' KS2 Workshop 6.30—7.30 pm
	Wednesday 15 December	Christmas Concert 7.30 pm
	Friday 17 December	End of Term
	Tuesday 4 January	Staff Development Day
	Wednesday 5 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Monday 10 January	Parent English KS2 Workshop 6.30—7.30 pm
	Thursday 27 January	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00—7.00 pm
	Wednesday 2 February	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00—7.00 pm
	Monday 21 to Friday 25 February	Half Term
	Wednesday 30 March	Y6 Yorkshire information evening 6.30 pm
	Friday 8 April	End of Term
	Monday 25 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 26 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Wednesday 18 May	Y5 residential information evening 6.30 pm
	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