

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has seen us learning a new worship song during assembly - [House of the Lord](#) by Phil Wickham. The chorus has the following words within it:

There's joy in the house of the Lord today, and we won't be quiet, we shout out Your praise.

Thankfully, the 'shouting' is not literal but, with our Head of Music, Mrs Laishley, explaining what that means in singing terms, the pupils have gained in confidence. One of the after-effects of the pandemic is that our collective singing could not be practised and used, so we are having to learn, or relearn, what that means. It will take time and a combination of new worship songs and more traditional hymns, but we shall return to enjoying singing together.



Speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs; sing and make music to the Lord in your hearts.
Ephesians 5: 19



This week has seen President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visit Parliament where he thanked the people and government of the UK for the support of the country he serves. It is one week to go until we have our 'yellow and blue' day in support of Ukraine. We ask for a donation of £1 towards the work of UNICEF as they support relief efforts for children in that country. We also ask the pupils to wear appropriate clothing for a day at school, but to avoid any party costumes.



A group of children and staff have been skiing in Austria. Our Twitter account has a collection of photographs and videos showing very happy pupils (the staff look energetic still, although I know only too well how demanding school residential are). There is even some karaoke with our school anthem of [Bless the Lord oh my soul!](#) My thanks to the staff who have given up their time to give these pupils a memorable experience.



**This week's theme was:
The Trinity**

Now that we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts. And his Spirit tells us that God is our Father.

Galatians 4:6

Lord God,
We thank you for the Father, the Son and the Spirit. Knowing that all three work in our lives and communicate with us. We pray thanks for the different areas in our lives when we need each one of you. We pray for those that don't know all three of you, that they will come to know you more and understand how each of you can work differently. Thank you for your unfailing support and love in our lives. Amen.

Whole school Attendance

94.09%

Whole School Target

95.6%

30.01.2023 - 03.02.2023

Year 5 94.19%

Year 6 93.38%

Year 7 96.16%

Year 8 92.48%



For the week ahead

The Fruit of Faith is:	Inclusiveness	He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. Matthew 5:45
The assembly theme will be:	Being thankful	O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever. Psalm 118:1

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

The weekend	Rest for our staff who have been on the ski trip with our pupils	Monday	Single-parent families
Tuesday	Those we know that are unwell	Wednesday	Public services
Thursday	Those preparing for high school	Friday	Those who struggle with their mental health

Picture of the Week



In Ivory Coast, children help clean up plastic debris strewn on Vridi



Final reminder - Author visit!

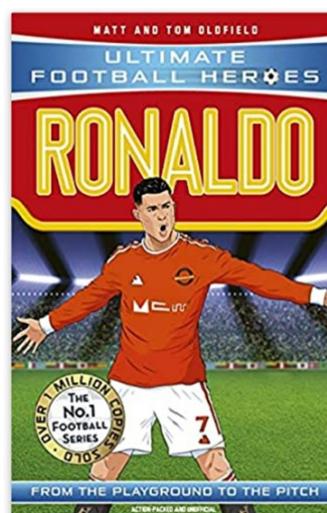
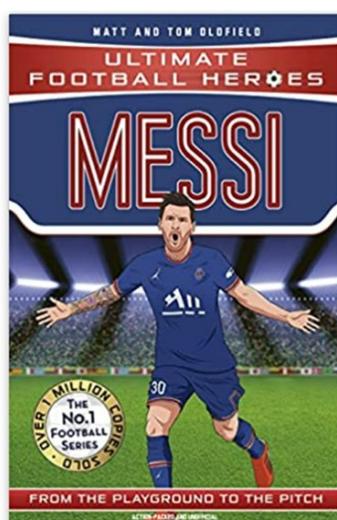
On Monday 13th February, author of the very popular *Ultimate Football Series* books, Matt Oldfield, will join us in school for the day. He will present to each of the four year groups in turn and take their questions during a discussion time at the end of each lesson.

Also Matt will be selling some of his titles on the day, for £5 each (cash only). He will bring some of his most popular titles with him plus a few of his other titles, such as *Unbelievable Football*, *Johnny Ball: Accidental Football Genius* and *Ultimate Cricket Superstars*. If your child would like to purchase a book, please remind them to bring cash with them on the day.

Pupils and staff alike are very much looking forward to this special visit!

Mrs Johnson

Assistant Principal



Supporting Ukraine

The 24th February 2023 marks one year since the president of Russia launched an unwarranted invasion of Ukraine. Many countries remain defiant of this act and in support of [Ukraine](#).

This date falls during our half term. However, on the final Friday before the break, **Friday 17th February**, we shall have a non-uniform day when we shall urge pupils to come dressed in blue and yellow—the colours of the flag [Ukraine](#).

In return, we ask those who come in non-uniform to donate the minimum of £1. This will be sent to the relief work of UNICEF. This organisation is working around the clock with partners to scale up life-saving programmes for children, including healthcare and welfare.



£1

Each tutor group will have a raffle for those within it who come dressed sensibly in blue and yellow, the prize being a pin badge of the flag of [Ukraine](#).

10 WAYS GAMING CAN SUPPORT POSITIVE OUTCOMES in Children and Young People

Gaming, of course, is phenomenally popular with children and young people. In 2021, for instance, more than three-quarters of teenagers played online games, with almost 70% of primary school aged children doing likewise. If enjoyed in moderation and supported by a healthy routine (staying hydrated, good sleep habits, taking breaks and so on), gaming can actually benefit a person's mental health. As long as we stay alert for potential risks, games can be much more than what we see on the surface: they can be a way to socialise, an avenue for creativity and a route to solving problems. Check out our top ten tips on how gaming online can sometimes work to your child's advantage ...

THE FEEL-GOOD FACTOR

Gaming is so popular because at the base level, it's enjoyable for the player. Succeeding in any game or contest releases dopamine in our brains: the 'feel-good' chemical that makes us happy or excited. Those emotions can be incredibly beneficial for mental wellbeing – as long as young players don't become reliant solely on playing video games to make themselves feel happy.

ACHIEVEMENT & PRIDE

A sense of achievement is incredibly important to all of us and can be particularly valuable to someone who's feeling unhappy or distracted. It's easy to get caught up in our thoughts, which can sometimes take a negative turn. So even achieving something small – like finishing a difficult level in a Mario or Sonic game – can feel like conquering Everest and give us renewed optimism.

SOCIAL SALVATION

Gaming can be an incredibly social activity. When playing online with trusted friends, what usually start out as chats specifically about the game can often develop into conversations about school and life. Even if they've had a bad day, simply knowing that a friend is there, on the other end of their headset, can provide young gamers with a sense of security and some welcome laughs.

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

In many online games, teamwork is crucial to winning. Often, people who are struggling with their mood tend to feel like they fail or let others down a lot. Working as a team with trusted friends or family in a game can reinforce a young person's self-importance: striving for a common goal and succeeding together can remind them that they're an integral part of something bigger.

REAL-WORLD RELATABILITY

Because many major releases are shooting or action games, when some people hear "gaming" they think of guns, explosions and violence. What's less recognised is how many titles explore relatable issues such as overcoming anxiety or coping with grief. These games allow young players to understand their emotions more deeply and realise they aren't alone in how they might be feeling.

A DIGITAL COMFORT

Video games can provide a reliable constant. No matter what happens in school or between friends, playing a favourite game is something that youngsters can look forward to all day and can help them de-stress. Let's not forget, games are fun – and, when approached safely, an interactive activity in which the player has a degree of control over what happens next can feel immensely reassuring.

PROBLEM-SOLVING PRACTICE

It can be difficult for young people to handle the feeling that nothing is going right or that their problems are insurmountable. Gaming can help alleviate that by presenting challenges to be overcome, either solo or alongside trusted friends. Defeating a powerful monster or solving a tricky puzzle reminds young gamers that even the most daunting obstacles can be faced and conquered.

THE GREAT ESCAPISM

A certain amount of escapism is fabulous – allowing us to temporarily park some stress while exploring a world other than our own. For children, gaming can be like reading a novel or watching a film: a moment in the day when the fantastical becomes real, firing their imagination and immersing them in a story. Who wouldn't want to venture to the stars? Or battle monsters to save the planet?

TRIED & TRUSTED

There can be reassurance in repeating tasks. It often promotes a controlled outcome, which is ideal when life feels overwhelming or out of control. Replicating an experience, such as playing the same level of a game over and over to perfection, gives the player a sense of control and familiarity: it's like listening to a favourite song that always makes you feel happy or confident.

ENCOURAGING CREATIVITY

Inventiveness is a huge part of many modern games: in Minecraft and Roblox, for example, players regularly dream up amazing structures or new ways to play. Using our imagination to create something (whether digitally or physically) is massively beneficial for the brain; that's why Lego is sometimes used in the medical sector as both a stress reliever and a brain injury rehabilitation tool.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer who specialises in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. Author of 15 guidebooks for children on games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft, his work has also been published in the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday



Reading matters



Reading remains a key priority at our school and as part of that, we would like to remind you of recommended reading lists for each year group – all of them considered to be high quality reading books. You may wish to visit a local library to explore these titles, many of which are in our own school library also. You will see the lists are organised by year group, one for each:

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

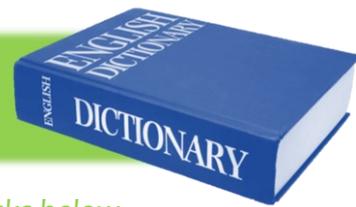
[Books for Year 6 children aged 10-11 | School Reading List](#)

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

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



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.

discriminate

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.

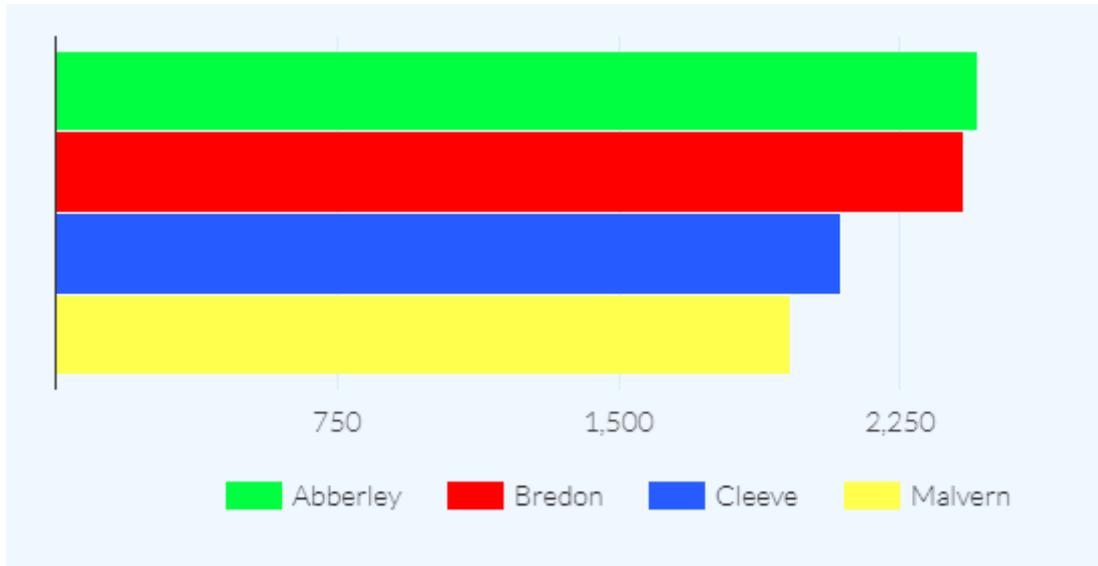
Vary the type of sentence each time: write one as a statement; one as a question; one as a command and one as an exclamation sentence.

For example, if the *Word of the Week* were *exhilarated*:

Statement: *Sam is feeling exhilarated this morning.*



epraise this week



Top Readers for 08.01.2023— 08.02.2023

Congratulations to:

Top Girl

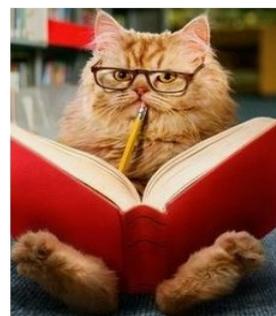
Sarah McKay (Year 6 AJMA) - who has read 633,815 words .

Top Boy

Henry Sole (Year 8 ARCO) - who has read 545,188 words. .

Well done 3 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>



Clubs and Activities



Spring Term 1

	Before School 7:45am – 8:45am	Lunchtime 12.15 – 1.00pm	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Monday		<p>Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI</p> <p>Recorder Club, Music Room, GLA, 12.45pm -1pm. All welcome. We have instruments for those that need them. See Mrs Laishley to sign up.</p>	<p>Year 6 dodge ball Monday 30th January – Monday 13th February.</p> <p>Sign up only. Meet in changing rooms RDJ/ PMC</p>
Tuesday		<p>Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI</p> <p>Choir, Music Room, GLA, 12.35pm-1pm. All welcome. First sitting lunch pass required. See Mrs Laishley to sign up.</p>	<p>Year 5 gymnastics Tuesday 31st January – Tuesday 14th February (Max 26)</p> <p>Run by gymnastics coach and KRE. Sign up only. Meet in changing rooms</p> <p>Keyboard Club: 3.30pm - 4.15pm. Limited spaces. Sign up required. Priority given to those who did not gain a place last term.</p>
Wednesday		<p>Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI</p> <p>Reading club, room 18, duration of lunch, JWa</p> <p>Core Reading Club, Room 15, duration of lunch, Mrs Shanley - Invite only</p>	<p>Year 8 netball trials 3.30-4.45 KRE</p> <p>Ukulele Club: 3.30pm - 4.15pm. Limited spaces, sign up required.</p>
Thursday		<p>Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI</p> <p>Science Homework Drop In – Computing (Year 7 and 8)</p>	<p>Drama Club. Sign up and parental permission needed. 30 spaces available. Sign up only PAL/DDE</p> <p>Sean Paul Dance academy Year 6 Thursday 2nd February – Thursday 16th February. Sign up only. Meet in changing rooms.</p> <p>ART CLUB until February half term. Parents have been emailed for those chosen. Every Thursday apart from 19th Jan and 9th February in DT2 MGR</p> <p>Year 7 netball trials 3.30-4.45</p>
Friday		<p>Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/PWE</p>	



Trips and Visits



Date	Year group	Destination	Day trip?	Residential?	Cost
07/07 - 10/07/2023	5 [•]	Brecon Beacons		✓	£250
June	6	Blackwell Adventure	✓		£38 *
30/06 - 03/07/2023	7	Osmington Bay Activity Park		✓	£285
19/07/2023	8	Drayton Manor	✓		£40 *

[•] Fully booked

* Current estimated cost

For the Year 6 trips, these will go out on the following days:

Wed June 7 6c1 & 6c2

Thu June 8 6c3 & 6e1

Fri June 9 6e2 & 6e3



Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2 0 2 3	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 1st May	Bank holiday
	Monday 8th May	Bank holiday
	Monday 29 May - 2 June	Half Term
	Wednesday 14 June	Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Thursday 22 June	Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Friday 21 July	End of Term