

Dear Parents and Carers,

I know many of you will be aware of the proposed strike action of the National Education Union. The first scheduled date is 1st February. They, and other education unions, have grievances over the recent pay award and this is mirrored by other public service workers too.



The Department for Education has released guidance which is not binding on schools. However, some key sections which will be useful for you to know:

- ▶ “All school-registered children of compulsory school age in classes open on days when strike action is being taken are still required to attend school, regardless of parental choice or the closure of other classes in the school.”
- ▶ “Where schools must restrict attendance, they should consider, where possible, providing remote education.” [Walkwood’s home learning covers this even if it is not ‘teaching by video’, as it provides resources in other ways.](#)
- ▶ “There is no legal requirement to teach the curriculum on strike days.”
- ▶ Teaching staff “cannot be compelled to provide cover for other teachers during industrial action.”
- ▶ The school’s Health & Safety “responsibilities could be impacted on as a result of industrial action.”
- ▶ “Schools may choose to bring together groups and classes with teachers and support staff working together, as long as pupils’ health and safety is ensured.” [However, there are constraints on physical space too.](#)
- ▶ “There is no express right for a member of the public who is affected by a lawful strike to receive financial compensation.”

At the moment, we are scoping what is feasible and shall let you know on the afternoon of Tuesday 24th January. This will mean you have one week notice before the first strike day. Please be mindful that the situation in each school will be different.

I understand that this situation may be frustrating, and ask that all members of our school community continue to [honour](#) one another.

Rev. C. Leach, *Principal*

In the world you have distress. But be encouraged!

John 16: 33

**This week’s theme was:  
Philanthropy**

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

*Galatians 5:22*

Lord God, We thank you for the blessings on our lives. We praise your name and ask that we may also bless others. Let us know when is the right time to give and when is the right time to bless in other ways. Let us be aware of the welfare of others, knowing when they need support. Let others be open to the support from us and the support from you. In your name, Amen.

**Whole school Attendance**

96.25%

**Whole School Target**

95.6%

**09.01.23-13.1.23**

Year 5 97.74 %  
Year 6 94.64 %  
Year 7 97.53 %  
Year 8 95.97 %



## For the week ahead

<b>The Fruit of Faith is:</b>	<b>Inclusiveness</b>	He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. <i>Matthew 5:45</i>
<b>The assembly theme will be:</b>	<b>Our Monarchy</b>	Respect and serve the Lord! Your reward will be wealth, a long life, and honour. <i>Proverbs 22:4</i>

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

<b>The weekend</b>	Public services	<b>Monday</b>	The extreme weather spread across Europe
<b>Tuesday</b>	The Diocese of Worcester Education team	<b>Wednesday</b>	Those researching new ways to help the environment
<b>Thursday</b>	Local businesses in Redditch	<b>Friday</b>	Ongoing international wars

## Picture of the Week

Serra de São Macário,  
Portugal



Pedro De Oliveira Simões Esteves

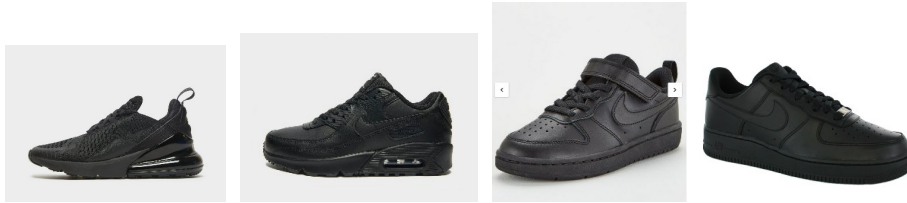


## School uniform expectations:

We are proud of the high expectations that we hold for our pupils including the expectations for school uniform.

We want all of our pupils to take pride in their appearance and to represent our school in such a smart way. We are very proud of how the majority of pupils come into school every day... jumpers on, correct uniform, ties fastened smartly and their shiny school shoes.

However, we have noticed a small minority of pupils wearing trainers over the last few months. Trainers including all black sports shoes are not permitted in school. We understand that some sport shops advertise the following as school shoes, however they are not part of our school uniform.



Please see the below document available on our website which demonstrates what is and what is not acceptable.

The images below show boys shoes that are suitable for school wear.



The images below show boys shoes which do not comply with the Walkwood uniform policy.



The images below show girls shoes that are suitable for school wear.



The images below show girls shoes which do not comply with the Walkwood uniform policy.



We have an expectation that all pupils will adhere to our school uniform policy.

We understand that post Christmas finances can be a strain so we are not expecting parents to go out and purchase new shoes immediately however we do require uniform to be rectified by Monday February 6th 2023.

We have a stock of shoes in school that pupils will be asked to change into from that date onwards if their shoes do not meet our requirements.

Please do speak with your child's Pastoral Manager or College Leader if there are any problems with gaining school shoes by this time. We will try and assist you as much as we can.

**Thank you for your support in this matter.**





# RECORDER CLUB

**MONDAY LUNCH TIME**  
12.35PM - 1PM (2ND SITTING)  
SIGN UP WITH MRS LAISHLEY TO  
GET A LUNCH PASS





# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# TWITTER

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Twitter is a social media network which allows users to post short messages ('tweets') of up to 280 characters. Tweets can consist of text, photos, videos, audio, links, polls and GIFs – often linked by hashtags if they share a common theme or message. Hashtags receiving high levels of interest are said to be 'trending'. Twitter users can engage with other people's posts by liking, retweeting (sharing) or tweeting back (commenting on). Since the entrepreneur Elon Musk acquired Twitter in October 2022 for \$44 billion, he has implemented several major changes to the platform.

## INTERACTION WITH STRANGERS

Tweets are public by default, meaning that anyone can view and interact with posts, follow someone and send direct messages. The concern here is that young people may therefore connect and communicate with strangers. Some individuals may follow a young person's Twitter account simply because they have similar interests; however, others may turn out to have more sinister intentions.

## FIXATION ON VIEW COUNT

Twitter has recently introduced a 'view count' feature – telling users how many people have seen their tweet (even if they haven't reacted to it). Previous research has found that unfavourable comparisons with other social media users can cause young people to experience feelings of insecurity, jealousy and low self-esteem – leading to an obsession with increasing their numbers.

## TROLLS AND BULLYING

The anonymity offered by fake profiles encourages some users to send tweets designed to provoke a reaction; to disrupt conversations; to spark an argument; or to harass the recipient. Such trolling and bullying can impact the mental wellbeing of both the target and anyone who witnesses it. Encourage your child to come to you if they experience such behaviour on Twitter, or if they see it taking place.

## PAID-FOR VERIFICATION

Previously, if a Twitter profile displayed a blue tick icon, it meant that the owner – usually a celebrity or a major organisation – had been verified as genuine. Now, however, anyone can pay for a Twitter Blue subscription to receive the tick, with the platform carrying out limited checks on the account's authenticity. This could easily lead to more fake accounts impersonating real people or companies.

## CONTENT MODERATION CHANGES

In late 2022, Twitter stated that their 'policy enforcement will rely more heavily on de-amplification of violative content: freedom of speech, but not freedom of reach'. No policies have changed yet, but this wording suggests they may limit who can see posts rather than removing them. While supporting free speech, this could encourage an environment where some toxic content remains online.

## HIJACKED HASHTAGS

The hashtag (#) is one of Twitter's most recognisable facets, allowing users to find specific trends or topics. But the sheer volume of tweets each hour can rapidly distort a hashtag's meaning: an initially innocent search term can quickly end up returning inappropriate results. This is common with 'trending' hashtags, as people know that using them will get their tweet seen by a larger audience.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### SET ACCOUNTS TO PRIVATE

To reduce some of the fear of your child's tweets being seen and shared by anyone, you can always make their account protected. This means that your child has to give approval for another user to view their posts. You can change Twitter's privacy settings so that your child can't be messaged directly by other people on the platform and their geographical location won't be shared.

### EXPLORE THE NEW SETTINGS

Previously, any user could reply to anyone else's tweets. However, the new conversation settings let your child determine who can reply to their posts – either by selecting everyone (the default option), people they follow or only people they mention (using the @ symbol). This improvement has given users extra control, providing them with more protection from trolls and online abuse.

### FOSTER CRITICAL THINKING

It can be difficult for anyone to ascertain if something online is real or false, but particularly for young people. Encourage your child to check several reputable sources to determine if a story they've seen is true; remind them to watch out for scams and think about the message's possible motive. Emphasise that it's not a good idea to retweet something if they aren't sure it's correct.

### PAUSE BEFORE POSTING

It's important that young people think about what they're about to post and whether they might regret it later. Twitter has developed 'nudges': little prompts which appear if someone is about to tweet using harmful or offensive language. These nudges promote more positive online behaviour by giving users an opportunity to pause and consider their words before they post something.

### ENGAGE SAFETY MODE

When Safety Mode is activated, Twitter checks for abusive or spammy behaviour such as hurtful language or repeated negative replies. The platform then flags these suspect accounts and blocks them from responding to your child's tweets. The autoblock function then prevents these accounts from interacting with your child's again for seven days.

### BLOCK, REPORT OR MUTE

If someone is upsetting your child on Twitter, you can block and report them. Blocking stops them from messaging or following your child, while reporting an account alerts Twitter to investigate possible misuse. The 'mute' feature, meanwhile, keeps tweets from a specific account (or which include certain words) out of your child's timeline. The other user won't know that they've been muted.

### BE CAREFUL WHO TO FOLLOW

As accounts are no longer being as rigorously verified under the 'blue tick' system, it's essential that young Twitter users understand what this means, in terms of people not necessarily being who they claim. Anyone who your child only knows online is still a stranger, regardless of how long they've been communicating for. Remind your child never to disclose personal information on social media.

## 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.

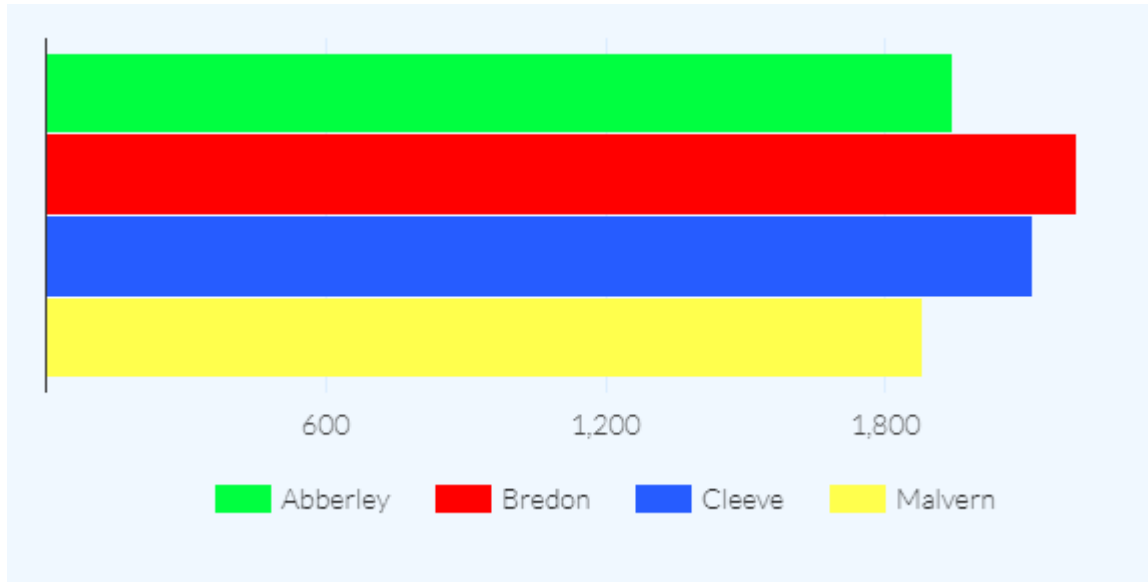


**NOS**  
National  
Online  
Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday





# epraise this week



## Top Readers for 11.12.2022 - 18.01.2023



Congratulations to:

### Top Girl

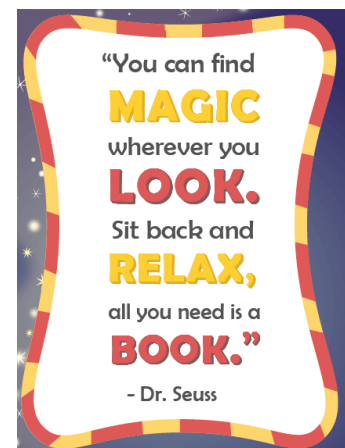
Sarah McKay (Year 6 AJMA) - who has read 630,673 words .

### Top Boy

Stanley Sole (Year 6 ARCO) - who has read 319,561 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](http://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>

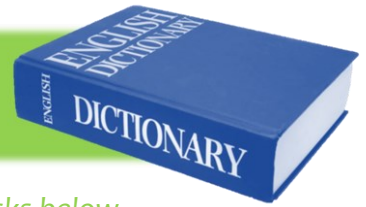
Safeguarding: <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Safeguarding-and-Child-Protection>

<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



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.

## surmise

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.*





# Clubs and Activities



## Spring Term 1

	Before School 7:45am – 8:45am	Lunchtime 12.15 – 1.00pm	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
<b>Monday</b>		Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI  Recorder Club, Music Room, GLA, 12.45pm-1pm. All welcome. We have instruments for those that need them. See Mrs Laishley to sign up.	Year 5 dodge ball Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> January – Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January.  Year 6 dodge ball Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> January – Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February.  Sign up only. Meet in changing rooms RDJ/PMC
<b>Tuesday</b>		Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI  Choir, Music Room, GLA, 12.35pm-1pm. All welcome. First sitting lunch pass required. See Mrs Laishley to sign up.	Year 6 gymnastics Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January – Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January (Max 26)  Year 5 gymnastics Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January – Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February (Max 26)  Run by gymnastics coach and KRE. Sign up only. Meet in changing rooms  Keyboard Club: 3.30pm - 4.15pm. Limited spaces. Sign up required. Priority given to those who did not gain a place last term.
<b>Wednesday</b>		Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI  Reading club, room 18, duration of lunch, JWa  Core Reading Club, Room 15, duration of lunch, Mrs Shanley - Invite only	KS3 dodgeball Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January, 18 <sup>th</sup> January, 1 <sup>st</sup> February. Sign up only. RMA/LWO  KS3 dance Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January, 18 <sup>th</sup> January, 1 <sup>st</sup> February, 8 <sup>th</sup> February. Sign up only. KRE  Ukulele Club: 3.30pm - 4.15pm. Limited spaces, sign up required.  <b>No PE Clubs Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January due to parents evening.</b>
<b>Thursday</b>		Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI  Science Homework Drop In – Computing (Year 7 and 8)	Drama Club. Sign up and parental permission needed. 30 spaces available. Sign up only PAL/DDE  Sean Paul Dance academy Year 5 Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> January – Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> January. Sign up only. Meet in changing rooms. Year 6 Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February – Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> February. Sign up only. Meet in changing rooms.  ART CLUB until February half term. Parents have been emailed for those chosen. Every Thursday apart from 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan and 9 <sup>th</sup> February in DT2 MGR
<b>Friday</b>		Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/PWE	

**No PE Clubs Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January due to parents evening.**



# Trips and Visits



Date	Year group	Destination	Day trip?	Residential?	Cost
07/07 - 10/07/2023	5 •	Brecon Beacons		✓	£250
See below	6	Blackwell	✓		£38 *
30/06 - 03/07/2023	7	Osmington Bay Activity Park		✓	£285
19/07/2023	8	Drayton Manor	✓		£40 *
04/02 - 11/02/2023	6,7,8 •	Obertauern, Austria		✓	£1360

• 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
<b>2 0 2 3</b>	Wednesday 25 January	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00 -7.00pm
	Monday 20– Friday 24 February	<b>Half Term</b>
	Friday 31 March	<b>End of Term</b>
	Monday 17 April	<b>Staff Development Day</b>
	Tuesday 18 April	<b>First day of the Summer Term</b>
	Monday 1st May	<b>Bank holiday</b>
	Monday 8th May	<b>Bank holiday</b>
	Monday 29 May - 2 June	<b>Half Term</b>
	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	<b>End of Term</b>