



# The Insider

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025; issue 574

## 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,

As another wonderful week full of achievements and accomplishments draws to a close, there is, as always, much to celebrate and to be grateful for.

A big thank you to our pupils who have volunteered to be School Librarians this year. The standard of applications was exceptionally high, reflecting your passion for reading and your commitment to sharing that love with others. We are so grateful for your generosity in offering your time to support our school community. Well done to all of you — we know you'll do a fantastic job!

If you haven't yet booked an appointment to meet your child's tutor on Monday, 6th October, there is still time. We very much look forward to welcoming you into school to share how your child has settled into the new academic year and to discuss how we can work together to ensure a positive and successful year ahead.

Wishing you a restful and enjoyable weekend!

Mrs Lowe

## Key Information for Parents

For information about our school: [www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk](http://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](#)



## This week's winners!



### Individual

Year 5 **Oliver Iduitua**  
Year 6 **Jessica Davies**  
Year 7 **Alexis Brough**  
Year 8 **Lilly Garvey**

### Top Tutor Group

Year 5 **RSH**  
Year 6 **PMI**  
Year 7 **EDU**  
Year 8 **PBO**



**Epraise**





FRIENDS OF WALKWOOD

# *PTA Meeting*

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October

6pm at Walkwood

All welcome

Virtual link also available

Microsoft Teams

Meeting ID: 393 511 508 614 4

Passcode: g2yM23v7



# Every School Day Counts



**95%**  
Our overall  
attendance this  
academic year

## Top 3 Tutors

**NWr**



Congratulations



**EDu**



**JWa**



## Weekly Attendance

Year 5	<b>96%</b>
Year 6	<b>92%</b>
Year 7	<b>90%</b>
Year 8	<b>96%</b>
Whole School	<b>94%</b>



## Year to date Attendance

Year 5	<b>97%</b>
Year 6	<b>93%</b>
Year 7	<b>93%</b>
Year 8	<b>95%</b>
Whole School	<b>95%</b>



Congratulations to NWr for returning to lead the way again this week with excellent attendance. A huge well done also to Year 8 for being the only year group to improve their attendance from the previous week - and by a whole 4%! Enough to raise the attendance of the whole school! Excellent work and an inspiration to all.



**Celebrating attendance**  
Because attendance matters...







Friends of Walkwood present...



# Christmas Fayre

Save The Date!

All the fun at the Fayre....Tombola,  
Crafts Stalls, Raffle and Festive  
Tunes!

Friday November 28<sup>th</sup>

4pm-5:30pm



We need your help!

# CHRISTMAS RAFFLE PRIZES

This season is the perfect time to give and celebrate. We need your donations for the Christmas raffle, with proceeds supporting the PTA's next school project—a

• **wellbeing garden in the school.** We are looking for raffle prizes donated by the

- local community and parents, such as hampers, vouchers for local businesses,
- beauty treatments, the list goes on and any donation would be gratefully received.

Donations can be dropped off at reception or emailed in via

[office@walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk)  
(marked for the attention of PTA).

Tickets on sale soon!





# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 26

AGE RESTRICTION  
PEGI  
3

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Our guide looks at the risks surrounding EA Sports FC 26 and our top tips to minimise them. This marks the third year since EA left the FIFA licence, and the game is mostly unchanged from last year. While Kick-Off mode is great for playing with friends and Career Mode allows players to fulfil long-term ambitions as a manager or player, Ultimate Team remains the main draw for many players – and it can get out of hand in terms of how much money players can invest.

### AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

As was the case with the last two EA Sports FC games and the FIFA series before it, the franchise rolls out once a year with updated squads and new features. This can make it expensive to keep up with, particularly when so many dedicated players are keen to get their hands on the latest edition.

### VOICE CHAT

Voice chat can be enabled across all platforms, meaning young people can speak to anyone they play with or against. While it can be switched off, some children will no doubt want to speak to their friends while they play. This also means they may encounter strangers much older than them, which can expose them to inappropriate language or behaviours.

### IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is the big draw for EA Sports FC, letting players spend real money on packs that they can open to build a squad of the world's best players. They're not always easy to obtain, and new, improved versions of players will be regularly added as limited-time offerings. Young people could feel pressured into spending money and experience fear of missing out.

### SCAMMERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is managed by EA itself, but that hasn't stopped scammers from looking to dupe players out of money and in-game coins. Some scammers sell their accounts, which is a violation of EA's terms of service, while others will 'sell' coins – something the developer is still working to crack down on. Some try to gain access to others' accounts, potentially giving them access to payment information.

### POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

While EA Sports FC is potentially addictive, thanks to its fast-paced gameplay and mirroring of the real-world skill and glamour of football, Ultimate Team's focus on limited-time rewards and the lottery of winning packs can make it feel closer to gambling than gaming, which may lead to addiction and impulsive spending of money.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR

The annual-release cadence aligns with the return of the school year, and can be a great way to incentivise good behaviour at the start of term. If children are applying themselves and preparing for a new year of school, or were particularly well behaved in the summer, EA Sports FC 26 could make a great reward.

### LIMIT SPENDING

If you're worried about children accidentally spending real money in Ultimate Team, whether in game or on the EA Sports FC companion app, don't link a payment card to their account. Reclaiming funds can be a mountain to climb, and the dopamine hit of opening flashy packs with slick animations means one purchase can lead to another very quickly. It's also worth adding a prepaid card if you'd prefer them to make their own choices with their budget.

### MONITOR VOICE CHAT

As in-game chat is open, be sure to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to call, to allow them to play without fear of outsiders.

### BE VIGILANT

As with last year, there are ways to keep scammers at bay. Ensure passwords are locked down, and consider using a password manager application to keep them secure. EA will never contact players through the game itself, so be vigilant with incoming messages, and block and report suspected spam. EA will contact players by email if needed, but they will never ask for usernames or passwords. Players should also avoid buying in-game currency from unofficial websites – doing so can lead to accounts being banned and could cost players money in the process.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/ea-sports-fc-26>

@wake\_up\_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 01.10.2025



## **Appointment of an English Class Teacher 0.8 fixed term until 31 August 2026 (Teachers' Main Scale or Upper Scale)**

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.*

We wish to appoint a part-time Class Teacher 0.8 fixed term until 31 August 2026 with preference for teaching English.

### **We are looking for a teacher who is:**

- An outstanding classroom practitioner .
- Able to establish and maintain high expectations, challenge and support for all pupils through a fully inclusive approach.
- Able to share the vision for and deliver a curriculum that links content, skills and values; building on prior knowledge.
- Responsive and proactive to enable sustained high standards of learning and teaching for their pupils.
- Able to provide effective pastoral care and understanding of all pupils.
- Flexible and works effectively as part of a team
- Excellent communication skills with pupils and all stakeholders.
- A reflective practitioner.
- Committed to their own professional development.
- Committed to promoting our Christian Ethos and values.

The post holder will be responsible for planning, delivering and assessing high quality lessons which engage and inspire all learners across KS2 and KS3. The successful candidate will demonstrate consistently high standards of teaching and excellent classroom management.

### **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)

The post is available from 1 January 2026 and is on a fixed term contract until 31 August 2026.

Closing date for applications is **9.00am on Wednesday 15 October 2025**. Short-listed candidates will be contacted soon after this date. Interviews will take place week beginning 20 October 2025.

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.





# BLACK



# HISTORY MONTH

October honors Black history, focusing on unsung heroes. Tutors will spotlight a different hero daily, sharing stories like Claudette Colvin, who defied bus segregation at 15 before Rosa Parks, or Bessie Coleman, the first African American woman pilot. Celebrating these figures inspires future generations and deepens appreciation for Black history.





10 OCTOBER

# World Mental Health day



Dear Parents,

We are thrilled to announce our upcoming event to celebrate World Mental Health Day with a special “Wear What Makes You Feel Good” non-uniform day. This initiative aims to promote self-expression and positivity among students. While we encourage creativity, please ensure that outfits are suitable for school by avoiding short shorts or belly tops.

The goal is for each student to wear something that brings them joy and comfort. Maybe their favourite football top, dance outfit, cadet uniform or even their PJs! Whatever makes them feel amazing!

# Clubs and Activities



## Autumn Term 1

	Before school 8.30-8.45	Breaktime 10.20- 10.35	Lunchtime 12.55-13.15	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
<b>Monday</b>	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	<b>Year 5 &amp; 6 boys' football</b> 3:30-4:45pm (AU Sports/ PMC) Sign-up only
<b>Tuesday</b>	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Choir Year 5 and 7 12.55-1.15 (during playground time) Music Room  Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	<b>KS2 girls' netball</b> 3:30-4:45pm (AU Sports/ KGR) Sign-up only  <b>KS3 girls' football</b> (AU sports) Sign-up only
<b>Wednesday</b>	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Lunch club (LTI) – Invite only  Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	<b>KS2 girls' football</b> (AU Sports/LWO) Sign-up only
<b>Thursday</b>	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Lunch club (LTI) – Invite only  Homework Club /Seneca Help (FCL)  Lab 1  <b>12:55 –13:30</b>  Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	<b>Year 7 &amp; 8 boys' football</b> 3:30-4:45pm (AU Sports/ PMI/PMC) Sign-up only  <b>KS3 girls' netball</b> (AU Sports/KGR) Sign-up only
<b>Friday</b>	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	Lunch club (LTI) – Invite only  Choir Year 6 and 8 1.15-1.35 (during playground time) Music Room Library is open – read, quiz or exchange books	





# Looking ahead



## 2025

Monday 6 October	Tutor Parents' Evening 4:00 – 7:00pm
Wednesday 15 October	Open Evening 5:45 – 7:45pm
Thursday 16 October	Open Day 9:15 – 10:15am & 1:45 – 2:45pm
Friday 24 October	Staff Development Day
Monday 27 – Friday 31 October	Half Term
Monday 10 November	Parents' Maths and English Workshop 6:00 – 7:00pm
Friday 28 November	Christmas Fayre 4:00 - 5:30pm
Friday 19 December	End of Term

## 2026

Monday 5 January	First Day of Spring Term
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 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Yr7 Trip - The Ultimate Adventure Centre
Monday 25 – Friday 29 May	Half Term
Monday 1 June	Staff Development Day
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> June – Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Yr5 Devon residential Trip
Friday 17 July	End of Term