



Dear Parents and Carers,

As a matter of course, we praise pupils for their achievements. The ePraise app allows you and pupils to keep a track of how many points they gain throughout a day. Each lesson allows a pupil to be awarded an ePraise point from the teacher if progress in learning has been made. There are additional points to be awarded for other reasons, and these are listed within the app too.



During half term, our Assistant Principal, Mr West, was in the USA where he was inducted into the Hall of Fame at his former university, the University of Ashland. This is because he was a very successful and proficient footballer (or in the US, 'soccer player') alongside his academic work. He led the university soccer team to three successive and significant wins and remains the person who amassed the most career points. At the special ceremony, he had to make a speech and was presented with a commemorative plaque (which he is seen holding left). We have commended Mr West in school during today's assembly as this is a significant honour (or using American spelling, 'honor').



If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.
James 1: 5

The lost property has been piling up gain. Whenever there is a named item, we can trace it back to the owner. Sadly, too many items are not named, which can cause both confusion and, occasionally, conflict, although our office staff do the best they can to connect an item with a pupil. If something has gone missing, the pupil is best to check with the front office, which they can do at break and lunch times.



Rev. C. Leach,
Principal



Remembrance Day - Friday 11th November. Two minutes' silence - 11am.
The school will be observing the national silence during which time the switchboard will not be answering calls.

**This week's theme was:
Wisdom**

Lord God, You've always cared for me as a loving Father... Help me find you in Your Holy Word so I may gain more wisdom in life, in the decisions I make, and in the path I take.
Amen

Dear Lord,
To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.
Ecclesiastes 3

Whole school Attendance

94.06%

Whole School Target

96.0%

17/10/22 to 21/10/22


Year 5 — 94.76%
Year 6 — 93.69%
Year 7 — 94.91%
Year 8 — 92.75%



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 will be:	Remembrance	‘See the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and god himself will be with them.; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.’ And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ <i>Revelation 21: 3-5</i>

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

The weekend	an end to the illegal war begun by Russia in Ukraine.	Monday	forgiveness when children use harsh words to each other.
Tuesday	our staff who arrange and accompany pupils to sports fixtures.	Wednesday	the cessation of harsh words between nations of the world.
Thursday	His Majesty, King Charles III.	Friday 	those who have lived and died during war and conflict.

Picture of the Week



From the grounds of Christchurch Priory, Dorset.

Spot the natural and metallic arches?



Maths Enrichment

On Wednesday 19th October, top maths pupils from Year 8 were invited to attend a subject enrichment session. Mr Manzur, the head of maths at St Augustine's High School, came to Walkwood to teach this lesson. First of all, the students were presented with two puzzles focussed on the number 11. The tasks demanded use of less common methods and the results were surprising!

After that, those involved were given a question sheet to complete in pairs. This involved a range of different questions and those with the highest marks were to enter a maths competition with other schools. Overall, it was a good experience and challenging for all participants.

Written by Henry Sole - AJMA

How are we doing?



If you can spare us five minutes, we would welcome your response to our 12 questions. Just scan the code:



Music Department

The Music Department would like to share the recordings we create of our students' performances and compositions.

Scan the QR Codes to take you directly to our recordings.

We hope that you enjoy listening!



Choir performing
"Believer"
Imagine Dragons



Class 5B performing
"Be Still for the
Presence of the Lord"





Homework 2022-23

The new homework timetable has been introduced this week, please see below. As you can see, the timetable covers Maths and English for Key Stage 2 and Maths, English, French and Science in Key Stage 3. The tasks set may take a variety of forms, including computer based and paper based.

Homework will be recorded on ePraise, which can be accessed at home via your child's account or your own parental account. On completion of homework, we ask the pupils mark tasks as 'done' on their ePraise accounts (via class notes). If the homework requires an 'upload' of work to ePraise, the act of doing this will mark the task as having been completed. For each homework that is completed on time, your child will receive one ePraise point and your child's teacher will acknowledge it 'complete' via ePraise. In some cases, your child may be directed to other websites such as Mymaths to complete a task but these will still be marked 'complete' on ePraise.

When homework has not been completed or is completed after the due date, your child will receive a demerit. If homework is not being completed on a regular basis you will be contacted by your child's subject teacher and/or tutor to discuss ways to help your child complete their homework.

	KS2
MONDAY	English- Reading
TUESDAY	Maths- topic based work
WEDNESDAY	
THURSDAY	English- Spellings
FRIDAY	Maths- arithmetic

	KS3
MONDAY	Maths
TUESDAY	English
WEDNESDAY	
THURSDAY	Science
FRIDAY	French (WK1)

Honour our staff

Honour is one of our school values—our Fruits of Faith. Our definition is:

We show respect to others and know that all people are God's creation.



Sadly, we have had incidences of parents or carers demanding to speak to staff immediately, and insisting that a call is returned the same day, even within a couple of hours. This is not possible due to the working arrangements of staff, and not all colleagues work each day of the week. Rudeness has been part of what our staff have been on the receiving end of, and that is **not honourable**.

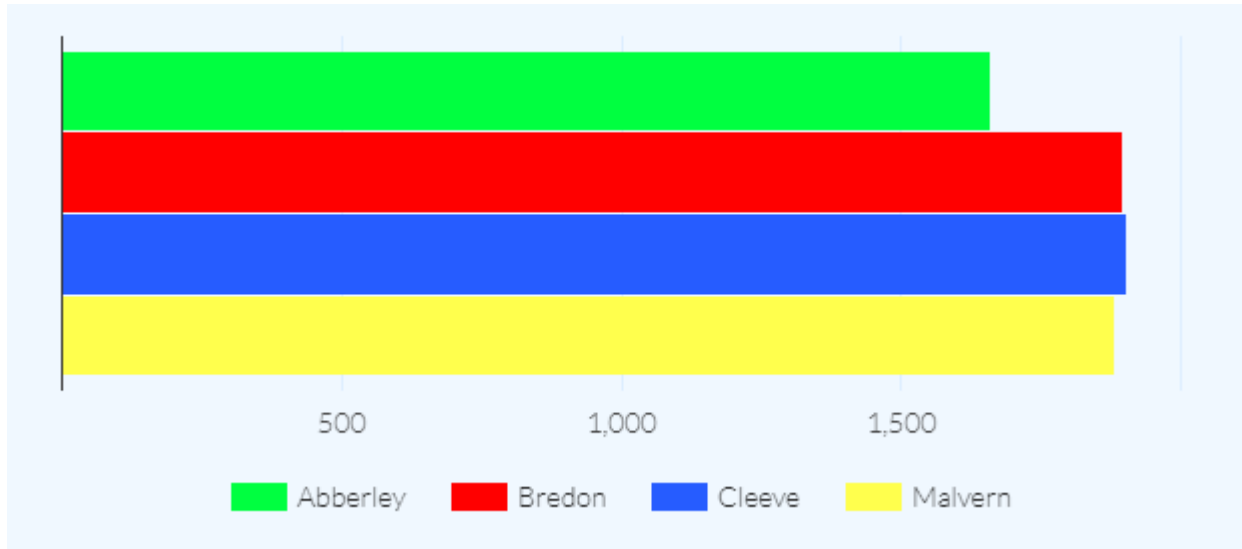
We have a [Protocol for home/school communication](#) which everyone is given as part of the 'Welcome' pack at the start of their time with us. We do not respond to threats towards the school or its staff, and these will not result in matters being dealt with more quickly.

We will always tell the truth, although we know this is not what some people want to hear.

Thankfully, the vast majority of our parents and carers are supportive, whatever social media may say.



epraise this week



Top Readers for 02.10.2022 — 02.11.2022



Congratulations to:

Top Girl

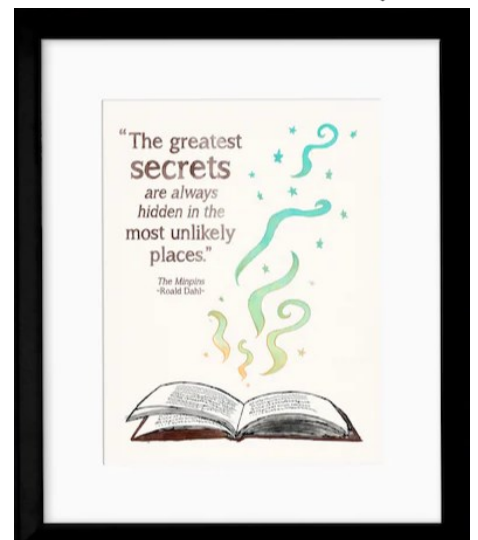
Emelia Fletcher (Year 8 ARCO) - who has read 642,436 words .

Top Boy

Luke Young (Year 7 ARCL) - who has read 302,379 words.

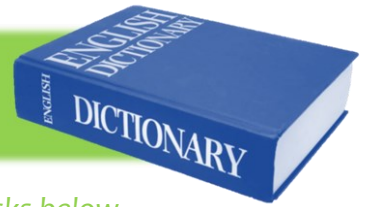
Well done - merits will be awarded to you both.

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU





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.

apparatus

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.

Please
name it

Lost Property

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Please therefore ensure that you name in full **all your child's belongings** i.e. lunch box/bag, water bottle, pencil case, etc so that we can return the items to your child.



Water bottles with no name are put out next to the drop box near Reception and lunch boxes /bags are kept in Reception for a short period, where pupils can collect these unnamed items.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

AMIGO

Amigo is a social platform which purports to connect strangers from around the world – and, with built-in translation software, it reduces the expected language barriers. Focusing heavily on one-to-one chat, video calls and live streams, Amigo encourages its users to build up online relationships and unlock exclusive features such as private video and audio calls: essentially, the more that people chat, the more functions become available to them. This is an app designed with mature users very much in mind and is therefore definitely not recommended for children.

AGE RATING

18

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONE-TO-ONE COMMUNICATION

While online chats and livestreaming are a great way to communicate with people that children can trust (such as friends and family), Amigo encourages users to connect with complete strangers and develop a friendship through private chats, calls and videos. This will be a clear red flag for most parents, due to the possibility of a child encountering inappropriate content or an online predator.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT

Within minutes of signing up for our trial of Amigo (and without using a profile photo), users of the opposite sex were messaging with suggestive statements such as "You're just my type" and "Let's have fun". While the app's stated intent is to help people build friendships, some users obviously seek to take those relationships in a more mature and amorous direction.

MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Like many apps that are free to download, Amigo's business model is centred on in-app purchases. Users are encouraged to pay for VIP membership – enabling them to send more messages each day and boosting their profile's visibility. People can also buy coins (again, for real money) which allow them to send virtual gifts and further increase the number of messages they can send daily.

LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION

Amigo makes no secret of the fact that it's for people aged 18 or above. There's no age verification, however, so a young person could simply sign up under a false date of birth. The app's algorithm claims to match users of similar ages (making them more compatible), but either the algorithm isn't very reliable, or most users have entered a fake age which doesn't correspond with their profile pic.

REWARDS FOR REPEATED USE

Amigo gifts virtual coins to users if they reply to messages within 10 seconds, while there are also daily rewards for posting comments, sharing a video, getting likes or simply opening the app. It also encourages increasing 'Intimacy Levels' with other users to unlock extra features: once someone's online 'friendship' reaches Intimacy Level 3, they can hold one-to-one video calls with each other.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MONITOR DOWNLOADS

As well as frequent catch-ups with your child about what they've enjoyed doing online, you could consider taking the additional step of physically checking their phone every so often to see which apps they've installed. The safest option could be to enable 'ask to buy' (Apple) or 'purchase approvals' (Android) on their device, meaning your authorisation is needed to download any apps.

RESPECT AGE RESTRICTIONS

Apps have age restrictions for a reason, and Amigo is very definitely a mature content platform. Given that many of Amigo's users apparently use a bogus date of birth, you might want to remind your child about the implications of setting up a fake profile – such as being exposed to messages and videos that make them feel uncomfortable or feeling pressured into chatting with strangers.

BLOCK, REPORT, DISCUSS

Many children already know that connecting with strangers online is dangerous, but it never hurts to refresh their memory. Whatever communication apps your child uses, make sure they're fully aware that if anything online makes them feel uncomfortable, scared or upset, then they can block the user responsible, report the content, take a screenshot as evidence and come to tell you straight away.

ACTIVE LISTENING

If your child *does* approach you with a concern, make time to stop what you're doing and actively listen. Let them talk without interrupting or showing any judgement, then discuss their options and the possible solutions: this empowers them and reassures them that you're there to be supportive. If the issue is one that has put your child at risk, however, you may wish to contact the police.

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



Walkwood
Church of England  Middle School

Appointment of Teaching Assistants Grade 1 or Grade 2

Walkwood Church of England Middle School are looking to recruit Teaching Assistants.

Remuneration: Scale 1 from £ 18,333 - £ 20,444 pro rata

7 hours per day, 5 days a week, 35 hours per week, term time only plus the 5 Inset days

We would welcome applications from individuals looking to explore flexible working hours.

We are looking for patient and caring teaching assistants with an understanding of the best way to support pupils in the classroom. They will enjoy working in a team environment and demonstrate the ability to establish good working relationships with pupils acting as a role model. Previous experience is desirable for this role although not essential, together with GCSE passes in Maths and English (4+) or equivalent.

Walkwood Church of England Middle School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS check.

For full details of this position and how to apply, please visit our website at www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk. The application deadline is 9am on Monday 21 November 2022. CVs will not be accepted.

TRAVELLING BOOKS

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FIND HUNDREDS
OF THE
BEST NEW BOOKS
FROM JUST
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FILL YOUR
SCHOOL WITH
FREE BOOKS
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FROM THE
BOOK FAIR*

LAST YEAR, YOUR SUPPORT HELPED TO DONATE OVER
£2.2M BOOKS TO SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE



The Book Fair is coming

Monday 7th November - Friday 11th November 2022, in the Library.

All children should have received details of payment options, cash, pay online or via the QR code.

Commission provides new resources for the Library.

Scan the QR code
to pay online!



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



Autumn Term 2

	Before School 7:45am – 8:45am	Lunchtime 12.15 – 1.00pm	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Monday		Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI Lexia Club ITA Miss Walker	KS2 Boys and Girls multi sports club RDJ/ PMI Meet in changing rooms Sign up only
Tuesday		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 8 netball club KRE Meet in changing rooms Sign up only (Last session Tuesday 8 th November) Keyboard Club, Music Room, GLA. Sign up only. 10 spaces available.
Wednesday		Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI Reading club, room 18, duration of lunch, JWa Lexia Club ITA Mrs Shanley	Year 7 netball club KRE Meet in changing rooms Sign up only (Last session Wednesday 9 th November) Year 5-8 STEM Club. (Lab 1) current group to continue until 7 th Dec FCI Year 7 boys football team training Meet in changing rooms LWO
Thursday		Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI Science Homework Drop In – Computing (Year 7 and 8)	Year 5 boys football team training Meet in the changing rooms CHU (Last session Thursday 10 th November) Year 6 boys football team training Meet in the changing rooms PMI (Last session Thursday 10 th November) All girls Football club Meet in changing rooms RMA/ PMC/ RDJ (Last session Thursday 10 th November) Year 5-8 Art Club. Puppetry and Xmas Gonks. First come first serve basis. 12 spaces available. Parental permission and sign up needed. Starts 29 th September - 8th December MGR Yr5-8 Drama club. 30 spaces available. Parental permission and sign up needed. Starts 10 th November. PAL & DDE
Friday		Lunch Club, Room 20, duration of lunch, KCR/PWE	



Trips and Visits



Date	Year group	Destination	Day trip?	Residential?	Cost
07/07 - 10/07/2023	5 •	Brecon Beacons		✓	£250
12/05/2023	6	Blackwell	✓		£38 *
30/06 - 03/07/2023	7	Osmington Bay		✓	£285
19/07/2023	8	Drayton Manor	✓		£40 *
04/02 - 11/02/2023	6,7,8 •	Obertauern,		✓	£1360

• Fully booked

* Current estimated cost

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Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2 0 2 2 2 2 0 2 3	Monday 14 November	Parents Maths KS2 Workshop 6.30-7.30pm
	Friday 16 December	End of Term
	Tuesday 3 January	Staff Development Day
	Wednesday 4 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Monday 9 January	Parents English KS2 Workshop 6.30-7.30pm
	Thursday 19 January	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00 -7.00pm
	Wednesday 25 January	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00 -7.00pm
	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 29 May - 2 June	Half Term
	Thursday 8 June	Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Wednesday 14 June	Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Friday 21 July	End of Term