



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 7th March 2025

www.stmarksjunior.com

All enquires: admin@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk

Our Value in focus this term is: **JUSTICE**

Headteacher's Message:

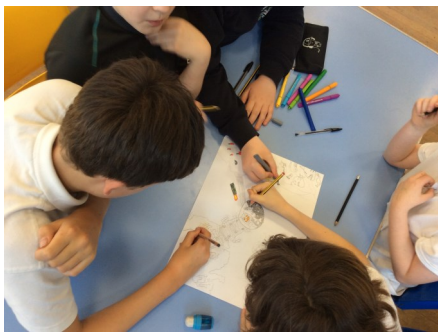
We have had a fantastic week, **celebrating reading, writing, poetry and performance!** Our week has included fabulous, interactive workshops, led by two brilliant authors where the children had to chance to write their own stories or create their own fantasy Island.

We all gathered together for our annual and much loved **Speaking Out Competition** where children performed poems brilliantly, both individually and as classes – absolutely outstanding from start to finish! *Congratulations to our winners Jesse (Year 3) Rex (Year 4), Ruby (Year 5) and Amelia (Year 6), Class 1 and Class 6!*



World Book Day on Thursday was loved by all, where we enjoyed lots of opportunities for children to share their favourite books with each other, spending some extended time reading both individually and together and being inspired to try new books and authors.

So another busy week, full of fun and rich opportunities to grow and flourish!



Our Value in focus this term is Justice. This week has seen the beginning of the **Lent Season** in the Christian Calendar and, recently, **Ramadan** for Muslims, we turn our thoughts to exploring ways in which these seasons are marked and how we can be part of bringing justice and hope to those in our local and global communities.

Attached is a 40 Acts of Kindness Wall Chart that you might like to use in your family. We are also using something similar in school, during Lent and the run up to Easter. I hope you enjoy using it if you can.



**Have a super weekend,
Mrs A Fitch and the Staff Team**

Young Voices

After months of rehearsals and lots of hard work behind the scenes, last Friday culminated in what has to be the School Choir's highlight of the year, *Young Voices*. The *Young Voices* concerts take place each year in arenas across the country and is the largest Children's Choir concert in the World!

The children and staff spent the afternoon in the World Resorts Arena in Birmingham rehearsing for the concert. At 7pm it was show time! The 5000 strong children's choir were ready to wow their friends and families, who had kindly travelled up to watch them.



Specials guests included the multi-award-winning teacher turned rapper **MC Grammar**, **Tommy Blaize** who is the lead

singer of the **BBC Strictly Come Dancing** band, **Souparnika Nair** who rose to popularity after her show stopping audition on Britain's Got Talent at the age of 10, plus the sensational Street dance act **Urban Strides**, who set the arena alight with their energy and talent.

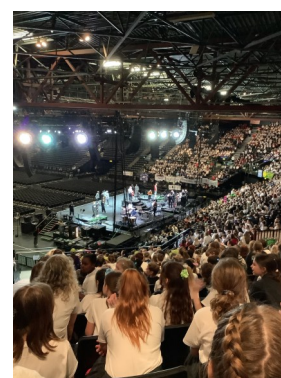


It was an incredible experience for the children to perform in an arena alongside some extremely talented musicians. The choir performed songs from Hairspray and Footloose, as well as lots of popular music from artists such as Bob Marley, David Bowie, Katie Perry and Benson Boone, just to name a few.

The children were wonderful throughout the day, from listening brilliantly during the rehearsal to performing their hearts out in the concert. They were an absolute credit to St Mark's, so well done children.



A huge thankyou to Mrs Bennett who has been working tirelessly on this project, as well as staff who gave up their time to give the children a chance to shine, creating lifelong memories for them to treasure.



Red Nose Day— Friday 21st March

This Red Nose Day is celebrating and impressive 40 years. We will be joining in the fun and fundraising by inviting the children to wear their own clothes with the addition of crazy hair styles. The crazier the better!

We will be setting up a donations page on Parent Pay, with a suggested donation of £1, but you are welcome to donate what you can. We will let you know once this goes live nearer to the day.



Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1: Inspired by World Book Day and our Festival of Literature, Class one took part in an orienteering activity. They had to decode letters laid out on stones to work out the title of a book. They of course also loved the Speaking Out Competition, winning the lower school class poem competition.

Class 2: Class 2 enjoyed everything World Book Day related this week, including valuable time spent reading for pleasure, wearing their own clothes and bringing in a teddy, the Speaking Out Competition and meeting the famous author!

Class 3: In Outdoor Learning Class 3 enjoyed building a ladder for a treehouse, digging a trench, cleaning up the outdoor learning area to create a habitat they want to learn in, planting sunflower seeds and of course toasting marshmallows.

Class 4: In English, the children created a fact file about Bee's as they are studying the book 'Bee and Me'. Fun fact: Did you know Bee's have 5 eyes?

Class 5: Art was the highlight for class 5 this week. The whole year group went to the brook again and looked at how to make the community a better area. They painted what they imagine it could look like. The children are very excited to be showing their work and ideas to some of the Year 3 children today.

Class 6: The highlight for Class 6 had to be performing their class poem and taking first place. They were also very excited to see their classmate Arthur on TV this week, whose photo for pancake day appeared on BBC Breakfast with Arthur proudly sporting his blue house PE top!

Class 7: As part of their Geography lesson Class 7 played a Fair Trade game, where they had to trade items in exchange for money for their counties.

Class 8: In Art, the children made stencil portraits, as the artist they are currently studying (Banksy) uses them.



Save the Date!

We will be holding this year's Spring Fayre straight after school on **Wednesday 21st May**.

This is our main annual fundraising event so please do pop it in your diary so that you don't miss out on fun for all the family!

Teaching & Learning Owls

Bronze - Charlie

Star - Abigail

Congratulations to our owl badge winners!



Nature Themed Wallpaper

Miss Thom is looking for some nature themed wallpaper e.g forest, leaves, birds, gardens for gardening club. If you have anything like this and would like to donate it, please call into the office. Thanks!



Cross Country

Yesterday children from St Mark's took part in the boys Cross Country racing at Ashley Manor. We knew the course would be tough due to the hilly terrain, but the boys pushed through giving some incredible performances. We had numerous children who finished in the top 30 out of approximately 100 children. A special mention to Leo who came in 8th place, a fantastic effort!

Well done to all the children who took part you were absolutely brilliant.



Also a huge thank you to our St Mark's parents for all you do in supporting the children at numerous sporting events, quizzes and competitions. We could not enter so many events without your help!

Good luck to the girls who are racing after school today!

Cheltenham Town Football Academy— Fit25 Promises Tour

Sam in class 8 plays for Cheltenham Town Football Academy, his age group went on an international tour: the Fit25 Promises tour which was held in the Barcelona/Lloret de Mar area. Teams from all over the world travelled to play including some huge clubs such as Roma, Valencia, Barcelona, Villarreal and some premier league sides, Everton and Brighton.

It was the most amazing experience for Sam. He was named Captain for his team and they did brilliantly. They played Italian giants Roma and showed amazing drive and resilience to make it to the knockout stages where they lost to a very good Brighton side. Sam scored a goal, put in some crunching tackles and made several off the line blocks!

Sam, we are so proud of you! Well done for all you did to make this a truly incredible experience.



Extra Curricular Clubs - SPRING TERM 2

Monday

Boys Football Y5-6	Lunchtime
Baking Buddies Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.30pm
Gardening Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm
Gym Club Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm
Chinese Language Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.15pm
Hockey Y5-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm
Netball Y5- 6	3.10pm - 4.15pm
Rugby Y5-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm
Recorders Y3-6	Lunchtime

Tuesday

Orchestra Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm
Tennis Y4-6	3.15pm - 4.15pm

Wednesday

Baking Buddies Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.30pm
Cyclestars Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.15pm
French Club Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.15pm

Thursday

Girls Football Y4-6	Lunchtime
Coding Club Y5-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm
Choir Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm
Outdoor Learning Y5-6	3.15pm - 4.15pm



Letters Sent Home

- GWR Year 6 Trip
- Roman Museum trio Year 4



Parents' Evening - Next Week

Parents' Evenings will be taking place next Tuesday and Thursday from 3.30-6.30pm.

Please book your meeting via the link sent out to you earlier this week.

School Term Dates

2024-25

Term 3: Mon 6th Jan - Fri 14th Feb 2025

Term 4: Mon 24th Feb – Fri 11th Apr 2025

Term 5: Mon 28th April – Fri 23rd May 2025

Term 6: Tue 3rd June – Fri 18th July 2025



Inset Days: 2nd June, 21st July

2024 - 25



March

Tue 11th - Parents' Evening 3.30-6.30pm
Wed 12th - Mock trial at Magistrates' Court
Thu 13th - Parents' Evening 3.30-6.30pm
Fri 21st - Red Nose Day—Comic Relief
Tue 25th - 2nd Charity Fair after school
Mon 31st - Pioneer Year 6 Residential

April

Tue 1st - Pioneer Year 6 Residential
Wed 2nd - Pioneer Year 6 Residential
Tue 8th - Easter Service 9.45am
Tue 8th - Book Look Year 4
Wed 9th - PTA Bake Sale
Thu 10th - Book Look Year 3, 5 & 6
Thu 10th - PTA Discos
Thu 10th - Year 4 Roman Experience Trip
Fri 11th - End of Term 4
Mon 28th - Start of Summer Term

May

Mon 12th - Rags Collection
Mon 12th - 14th - SATs Week
Tue 20th - School Beat Session
Tue 20th - Swimming Gala
Wed 21st - GWR Trip Year 6
Wed 21st - Spring Fayre
Thu 22nd - Book Look
Fri 23rd - End of Term 5

Advance Notice of a Few Dates

Tue 10th June - Sports Day

Outdoor Learning - Spring Term 2

Class 3: Thursday Afternoon

Class 4: Thursday Morning

Please ensure your child wears suitable outdoor learning clothes to school and brings wellies and a warm waterproof coat every Thursday

Please note: all children must wear long trousers for safety reasons.



PE - Spring Term 2

Children should come to school in their PE kit on PE days.



Class 1: Monday and Thursday

Class 2: Wednesday and Friday

Class 3: Wednesday

Class 4: Friday

Class 5: Tuesday and Thursday for non-swimmers

Class 6: Tuesday and Thursday for non-swimmers

Class 7: Tuesday and Friday for non-swimmers

Class 8: Tuesday and Friday for non-swimmers

Remember: tracksuit tops should be plain navy only. A school sweatshirt is absolutely fine.