



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 28th February 2025

www.stmarksjunior.com

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

Our Value in focus this term is: JUSTICE

Headteacher's Message:

The children have embraced the new half term as they always do – with enthusiasm to learn, and super keen to involve themselves in all of the other activities on offer!

Next week will be filled with lots of wonderful activities to celebrate **World Book Day**. **Learning activities will be based on children sharing and enjoying favourite books**, meeting visiting authors and creating contributions to their class libraries. Children are also invited to bring in one of their favourite books.

Here are a few reminders:

- **Monday 3rd March and Tuesday 4th March - Author Visits**
- **Tuesday 4th March - Book Fair** - World Book Day tokens will be handed out to the children which they can use to receive £1 off any Usborne book
- **Wednesday 5th March - Speaking Out Competition** - Parents are invited to join us in the school hall, starting at 1.30pm. Children have been very busy practising and it promises to be a wonderful afternoon. We are also delighted that Emma Ward, who worked with the children last year on their Musical Theatre performances, has agreed to be one of our judges this year!
- **Thursday 6th March - World Book Day** - Children can come to school wearing pyjamas or cosy clothes & bring pillow or blanket for cosy reading time.
- **Thursday 6th March - World book Day themed lunch menu**

If you haven't done so already, and to cover the cost of the visiting authors, we are asking for contribution of £4.75 per child. So far we have received this contribution from 60% of our families. Please make this payment on Parent Pay, if you are able to.

We hope the children have a wonderful week celebrating the love of reading!

Have a super weekend,

Mrs A Fitch and the Staff Team



Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1: In Science, the children have been looking at friction. They sent toy cars down a ramp with different textures, such as carpet, wood, sand and foam. They discovered that the further the cars went the less friction there was.

Class 2: Class 2 have two learning highlight's this week as their vote was a tie! They tasted a variety of fruit in order to find descriptive words for the Shape Poems they are writing. Their second highlight was PE, where they have been learning different ball skills such as dribbling.

Class 3: In Maths, class 3 enjoyed adding and subtracting fractions this week.

Class 4: In Outdoor Learning, the children were each given an animal. They discussed what sort of habitat it would have, what it would eat and where in the World they live. They then explored the Outdoor Learning area thinking about how, over the coming weeks, they could improve their own environment.

Class 5: The children went to Skill Zone this week. See page 3 for a full write up.

Class 6: Class 6 enjoyed starting Rugby in PE. They looked at developing their passing and trying skills.

Class 7: In Computing, the children programmed Micro bits. They were able to programme an LED display to light up and play music.

Class 8: The children wrote their own stories based on DreamGiver, focusing on setting and character description.

British Schools Cyclocross Championships.



On 16th February children from St Mark's took part in the British Schools Cyclocross Championships, hosted by Cycle Stars at Evesham Velopark.

There were 40 children representing 16 schools participating in the racing. The event started with some coaching and allowing children to test out the course. They then got the opportunity to watch the Cycle Stars Academy do a showcase race, showing off their skills, this included an ex pupil of St Mark's, Izzy.

St Mark's had riders competing in all three races. Each team member was focused and determined to the finish. It was a great morning of camaraderie and racing despite the cold weather and mud which made for an increasingly difficult course with each lap.

The team from St Mark's put up a superb performance coming 3rd place overall. William from Year 5 also took 2nd place in the year 5 & 6 category.

Well done to Joseph, Nancy, Samuel, Freddie, Teddy, Dexter, Christopher, Isaac, Max and William. You are all superstars and we are incredibly proud and impressed with your achievement.



Teaching & Learning Owls

Silver - Isla, Isaac, Melissa & Katie

Gold - Isla R & Henry

Congratulation to all our owl badge winners!



Reading List

A huge congratulations to Harry who completed the Year 3 Reading List a couple of weeks ago. Here is a photo of Harry with his reading badge which was presented in the Celebration Assembly this morning. We are extremely impressed Harry and well done!



Skill Zone - Class 5 Trip

You may remember from the newsletter a few weeks ago that Class 5 visited Skill Zone in Gloucester. This week class 6 visited the life skills village. At Skill Zone there are 15 zones inside a village which allows the children to learn about making safer life choices.

The children started their visit with a safety quiz and then moved on to the interactive experiences. We chose to take part in these different scenarios: Bus, dark alley, park, railway/level crossing, road crossing safety and house fire safety.

The children had an amazing time and really enjoyed taking part in the activities as well as learning lots of safety skills.



They were a joy to take out for the morning and we were very impressed with how well they listened, whilst having fun and learning valuable skills at the same time.



Look Who's Talking Competition

On Wednesday Amelie and Molly went to the Ladies College for the Cheltenham finals of the *Look Who's Talking* competition.

The girls were absolutely fantastic, performing with such confidence and expression.

Amelie achieved 2nd place/highly commended, which was an amazing achievement.

The girls faced some tough competition and so a huge congratulations to you both.



Cross Country

A super (sunny) run from all the children again, in the Cheltenham Inter-School Cross Country held at Cheltenham College Prep School.

It was a tough flat course, raced at a very fast pace, but our children held their own, ran hard and did absolutely brilliantly. It was wonderful to see them cross the finishing line with a sense of achievement having conquered the course.

Congratulations to: Abigail, Nicole, Thea, Molly, Penny, Evie, Stella, Chris, Josh, Charlie, Oliver, Ethan, George, Edward, Henry

Out of approx 100 children in each race we had children in the top, 50s, 40s and 30s!

A special shout out to Indi (Yr 4) who finished in the top 20 and Leo (yr 5) finishing in the top 10, both children competing against Year 3, 4s and 5s!

Leo will now progress to the County Champs next week!

Well done to all of you for representing the school superbly.



Football Friendly - High School Leckhampton

On Friday 14th February, children from St Mark's played in a football friendly at High School Leckhampton. It was great to be able to open up the match invite to children who do not normally play in matches. We had a boys and mixed team playing in the matches against Leckhampton School.

B team gave their best performance so far, playing some amazing football and made it very hard for our opposition. It was a wonderful football match for anyone to watch. The standard of football was very high with some spectacular team goals. 7-2 win for St Mark's



For our C team this was the first time they had played together, they did very well and improved as the game went on. Every player tried their best throughout. The Final result was a loss for St Mark's, however we scored 3 very good goals which more than made up for the defeat. You can be very proud of your performance!

In the Net Performance

Year 4 joined some other local schools to watch a performance 'In the Net' at Lakeside Primary School.

The play was a useful reminder for the children on how to be safe online raising awareness of potential dangers. With characters such as Spam, Password and Virus, the children were entertained whilst also being reminded about e-safety and the impact of bullying online.

As always the children represented St Mark's brilliantly.



Hartpury College Sports Trip

Some of our children were invited to take part in different sports events at Hartpury College this week. We travelled up to the College with children from Lakeside, which added to the excitement.

We enjoyed a great session working with the coaches and students from the College, taking part in lots of different sports and activities such as bench ball, end ball, throwing games and movement.

Well done to the children who took part in what was a really fun and active morning.



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

- Gym Club Summer Term Letter
- Parents Evening Letter



Red Nose Day

We will be taking part in Red Nose Day on Friday **21st March 2025**. More info to follow.



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

Diary Dates

March

Mon 3rd - St Mark's Festival of Literature
 Mon 3rd - Author Visit Year 5-6
 Tue 4th - Author Visit Year 3-4
 Wed 5th - Speaking Out Competition 1.30pm
 Thu 6th - World Book Day
 Tue 11th - Parents' Evening 3.30-6.30pm
 Wed 12th - Mock trial at Magistrates' Court
 Thu 13th - Parents' Evening 3.30-6.30pm
 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

Advance Notice of a Few Dates

Tue 20th May - Swimming Gala
 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.