



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 14th February 2025

www.stmarksjunior.com

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

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

Headteacher's Message:

This term the children were given the opportunity to take part in one of our Charity Fairs and this week saw the first of those Fairs.

The children selected which charities they wanted to support as well as coming up with their own ideas for the stalls. Lots of time and effort was put in and I hope those of you who were able to attend agree that they did a fantastic job.

There were lots of cakes, biscuits, games and jewellery (to name a few) that were brought in from home which the children sold on their stalls. We know that this would not have been possible without the support of their parents, so a huge thank you to you too!

The children raised an amazing £463.85 and the money will be going to RSPCA, WWF, Guide Dogs, RSPB, Dog Trust and Four Paws.

Well done to the children involved and thank you to Miss Thom for organising the event. We are very much looking forward to the next Charity event on **25th March**. Miss Thom will be handing out letters to those children who have been selected to take part.

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



Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1: In Geography the children drew pictures of their bedrooms and classroom from a birds eye view and then labelled them. They have also been learning about different map symbols and grid references.

Class 2: Class 2 enjoyed using various tools in Outdoor Learning. They made heart shaped bird feeders for Valentines Day.

Class 3: The children have enjoyed creating mosaic style artwork in the style of Gaudi.

Class 4: Class 4 have been learning about Louis Braille, as part of our learning about ways in which perseverance has been put into action. Using the Braille alphabet they were tasked with having to crack an actual code.

Class 5 & 6: The learning highlight for Year 5 was their trip to the Waterways Museum. See page 2 for more.

Class 7: Class 7 have been writing up their stories based on the animation *Dreamgiver*, they also illustrated their stories.

Class 8: The children enjoyed their visit from our local PC, who came in to talk about Online Safety.

Waterways Museum Trip—Year 5



Year 5 went on a trip to Gloucester to the National Waterways Museum. Housed in the old Llanthony Warehouse in the heart of Gloucester Docks, the Museum charts the 200-year history of the docks and the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal.

The children were split into 3 groups to take part in 3 different activities. One group learnt about water safety and even re-enacted how to save someone's life with a Lifebuoy. Another activity was to explore the museum. The children took particular interest in the models of different ships and also got the opportunity to dress up. The third activity was to correctly label

different sections of a model of a river. The children's Geography vocabulary was fantastic and they really showed the staff how knowledgeable they were. We were super proud of them all, well done Year 5!



iSingPOP Songs

In the Autumn term, children learned some fantastic songs (along with all of the dance moves!) that we sing regularly in Collective Worship.

Many parents were able to join us to hear the children perform these in our iSingPop concerts.

Apologies for the delay: please follow this link to access the videos.

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=OLAK5uy_n137FF5UMfAq2iqrFZwB1sQxkug7rWTc4&si=XEho0h1yPXLTHoDr

They can also be found on Spotify, searching for *iSingPop 7 songs for schools*.



Gloucestershire's Young Photographer of Year 2025

Fancy a half term photography project? If so a reminder for any budding photographers out there, that your child can enter the Camera Club and St Mark's photography competitions. Details can be found in last weeks' newsletter.



Please can you send us your entries by **Monday 24th February** to allow time for your photograph to be uploaded by the competition deadline. Please send your entries to clerical@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk in JPEG format.

Music Monday



This week saw the return of Music Monday, although technically it took place on Wednesday...

We had two children who played the piano for us, sharing with the whole school what they have been working so hard on.

Scarlett performed a lovely piece called 'Melody in F'. It had a beautifully melody and was performed superbly. Maddie then performed 'Jinx', a piece where the hands have to cross over and the flat notes conjure up the 'jinx' of the title. A fun piece, brilliantly performed.

It was wonderful for see how much Maddie and Scarlett have both grown as pianists, performing with such confidence and with lovely expression. Clearly hard work and practice pays off! Well done Maddie and Scarlett!



Geography Field Trip

It was the turn of class 5 to visit Benhall stream this week as part of their Geography field work. Similarly to class 6 they enjoyed spending time out of the class room making observational drawings of the stream and landscape surrounding it, as well as looking at the water quality and any pollution. The children were a pleasure to take out and it was lovely to see how engaged they were in the lesson.



Teaching & Learning Owls

Silver - Bella

Bronze - Oscar

Congratulation to all our owl badge winners!



Gymnastics Competition

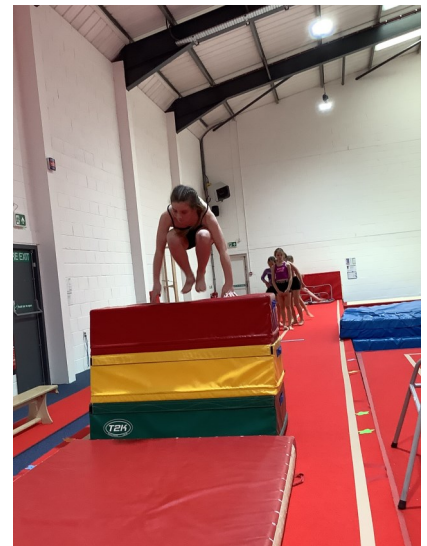
Yesterday 2 teams of children took part in the Key Steps Gymnastics Competition at Rowan Gymnastic Club. Years 3 & 4 competed in the morning and Years 5 & 6 took part in the afternoon, competing against other local schools in our area.

They all performed brilliantly and absolutely smashed it, performing their routines with a high level of execution. It was a fantastic day which saw both teams coming away with 4th place. It takes a lot of courage to get up on stage and perform in front of an audience and for that alone they are winners!



Well done to the children for training so hard to perfect their vault and floor routines. We are all very proud of each and every one of you. Thank you to Naomi from Checkers Gym Club for coaching the children and for all her support, as well as Mrs Reilly who also accompanied the children to the event yesterday.

A great team effort from all!



Lunch Arrears

Please can you ensure that your ParentPay account for school lunches remains in credit and if you have any arrears you clear them over the holiday.



On ParentPay, you can set up your account to receive an automatic email if it falls below a certain amount (suggested amount £5), to ensure your account does not fall into arrears.

Reminder—Please be Nut Aware

A reminder that we are a nut free school. Please do not provide any food for your child containing nuts. This includes products such as Nutella, which contains Hazelnuts.

Thank you for your understanding.



No Nuts

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	tbc



Letters Sent Home

- Year 3 DT Letter



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



February

- Fri 14th - End of Term 3
- Mon 24th - Skill Zone Trip Class 5
- Fri 28th - Young Voices

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
- 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
- Wed 9th - PTA Bake Sale
- Thu 10th - PTA Discos

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: Monday and Friday

Class 3: TBC

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.