



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 7th 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 week, I would like to draw special attention to an important piece of news for the whole school community. **After 9 years of incredible service to the school, Liv Knight will be stepping down as Chair of the PTA, along with her right-hand woman, Sarah Welch as Treasurer.** Both Liv and Sarah have played a crucial role in facilitating wonderful events for the children (and adults!) to enjoy, raising vital funds for the school. We are so thankful to all who have helped make these events happen, but every team needs a leader (or two!). **On behalf of the whole school community, a huge thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for all you have done for St Mark's.**

We are so grateful.

We are, therefore, looking for a **new Chair** and a **new Treasurer** so there can be a gentle handover over the next few months.

The PTA AGM is on Tuesday 12th Feb from 8pm at the Hatherley pub

where we hope to be able to appoint or even tentatively put feelers out for anyone who might be interested in having further conversations around exploring possibilities ..!

A note from Liv and Sarah:

Both the Chair and Treasurer roles are lovely because you get to see first hand the children benefitting from activities and fun experiences. The Chair role is about making sure everyone on the committee or who comes to meetings is heard, that ideas are considered, money is fairly spent with a vote by the committee and the constitution is upheld. The Treasurer role is all about the important stuff, making sure floats are ready, lottery licences are paid, cheques are signed (yes we still work with cheques!) etc.... The whole committee comes together to make sure the children get the most benefit when money is spent and how it is raised.

The St Mark's PTA is a great bunch of people who are enthusiastic about making sure the children get to experience and enjoy activities they may not otherwise get the chance to do. We are not "just" a PTA we are also friends and give each other support, it is a friendship group too! We are both sad to be stepping down but want to make sure the transition is smooth for the next Chair and Treasurer before we finish our St Mark's journeys in July.

We hope you will come along to the AGM, if not to become Chair or Treasurer to join a lovely group.

Liv Knight and Sarah Welch

If you are interested in finding out more, please do not hesitate to contact us at school or get in touch with Liv and Sarah through the St Mark's PTA Facebook page.

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



Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1: In Computing, the children have been using Word to make fact files on the *Five pillars of Islam*. They had to include a picture, text box, bullet points and colour. This also links to what they are studying in RE.

Class 2: The children drew a birds eye view plan of their classroom in Geography.

Class 3: Class 3 also enjoyed Geography this week, learning about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

Class 4: In English the children have been chotting out their stories which will be based on a volcanic eruption. Chotting is a sharing of ideas where they jot down their ideas at the same time, to help with their own individual story writing.

Class 5 & 6: Year 5 enjoyed visiting Bournside this week to watch their production of *Beauty and the Beast*.

Class 7: In Art, the children designed a bank note in the style of Banksy.

Class 8: The children were tasked with writing a balanced argument on Climate Change this week.

Gloucestershire's Young Photographer of Year 2025

We have been invited to take part in Gloucestershire's Young Photographer of Year Competition again. Having done so well last year with individual winners and winning the overall school award, we hope you are up for the challenge again!



Each pupil may submit one digital image on any subject, in colour or monochrome with resolution of 1920px wide x 1200px high. The whole picture must have been photographed by the entrant. **All entries must include the name of pupil and the title of the image.** Please see the full competition rules attached with this weeks' Newsletter.

Winners will be notified early April and prizes will be award to 1st, 2nd & 3rd placed photographs. Other photographs may receive Highly Commended and Commended Certificates. The Winning entries, and all the other photographs selected by the judges, will be projected in an Audio-Visual Presentation at the **Awards Evening at Cheltenham Playhouse on Tuesday 29th April.**

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.

We will also be hosting our own in house photographic competition again in which all of the photographs will be entered. We will divide the competition into lower and upper school. Prizes will be awarded to 1st place and runners up photographs, to be announced in collective worship on **Friday 14th March.**

We can't wait to see your entries, good luck and happy snapping!



Netball

On Tuesday two teams played away at Lakeside. The weather was not our friend but both teams battled through.

Blue Team won 11-1 and the Red Team won 7-0.

A great display of sportsmanship was displayed by both teams.

Thank you for representing our school to the highest level.



Teaching & Learning Owls

Gold - Dylan, Sam, Tia, Nicole

Silver - Jake, Izzie & Ethan

Bronze - Freddie, Evelyn, Eva & Luke

Congratulation to all our owl badge winners!



Skill Zone - Class 6 Trip

Last Friday Class 6 went on a trip to Skill Zone in Gloucester. At Skill Zone there are 15 zones inside the life skills village which allows the children to learn about making safer choices in different scenarios whether that is at home, while travelling or taking part in activities.

We chose to experience the following zones - bus, dark alley, park, railway/level crossing, road crossing safety and house fire safety. The children had a fantastic morning and engaged well within the different scenarios. It was a great opportunity to learn valuable safety skills in a captivating and practical way within the Skills Zone village.

As always the children were a delight to take out and represented our school superbly.

Class 5 will be going to Skill Zone in a couple of weeks and we look forward to hearing all about their trip.



Geography Field Trip

As part of their geography topic on rivers, Class 6 went down to Benhall stream. They made observational drawings of the river's meanders, erosion and deposition areas and landscape surrounding the river. They looked at the quality of the water and also whether there was much litter/pollution.

It was a lovely way to start the week and the class earned a marble for their Marble Jar for their enthusiasm and geography knowledge.



Football News

The girls team played in an away match against Lakeside last Friday. It was another very tough physical match, in which Lakeside were very determined and gave us a good challenge.

Final result was a 7-2 win for St Mark's.

The team are progressing really well and have **won their league!** They will now progress to the league finals in April.

A fantastic achievement and huge congratulations to the team and thanks to Mrs Campbell for all her support and expertise.



Safer Internet Day 2025

Safer Internet Day 2025 will take place next week on the 11th of February 2025, with learning based around the theme 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'. Created with young people across the UK, this year Safer Internet Day will be focusing on the issue of scams online and for young people, how to protect themselves and others, as well as what support is available.



This year Safer Internet day will be answering questions such as:

- How is changing technology like generative AI going to impact the approach of scammers?
- What role can the government and internet industry take to tackle this threat?
- And what changes would young people like to see to help protect themselves moving forward?

In school we will be exploring some of these issues in Collective Worship and in class to help equip the children with the skills they need to keep safe online.

Beauty and the Beast - Bournside School

Year 5 were lucky enough to be invited to watch a selection of scenes and songs from Bournside's production of *Beauty and the Beast*. On Wednesday the children were treated to a wonderful afternoon of Theatre, where they were wowed by the very talented students.

Thank you to Bournside School and we wish you the very best of luck with your remaining performances this week.

Bournside Theatre Ensemble presents:



Outdoor Learning Friday 14th

Next week w/c 10th February, Outdoor Learning will be on Friday 14th Feb and not Thursday.

Please wear school uniform on Thursday and Outdoor Learning clothes on Friday. Don't forget your wellies!



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Pizza and PANCAKE DAY

Ham and Pineapple Pizza
or
Rainbow Pizza

Served with
Wedges
Sweetcorn
Baked beans

Pancake with Berries

13th February 2025

Extra Curricular Clubs - SPRING TERM 1

Monday

Boys Football Y5-6	Lunchtime
Baking Buddies Y3-6	Finished for half term
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
Science Y3-4	3.10pm - 4.00pm



Letters Sent Home

- Pizza and Pancake Day Menu 13/02/25
- World Book Day Menu 06/03/25
- Swimming Gala 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

- Tue 11th - Safer Internet Day
- Tue 11th - Year 6 School Beat Session
- Tue 11th - Charity Fair after school
- Tue 11th - Book Look (**Class 8 only**)
- Tue 11th - PTA AGM 8pm (Hatherley Pub)
- Wed 12th - National Waterways Museum Trip Year 5
- Thu 13th - Pizza and Pancake Day Menu
- Thu 13th - Book Look (**Classes 1-7**)
- 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 1

Class 1: Thursday Afternoon

Class 2: 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 - Autumn Term 2

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



Class 1: Monday

Class 2: Wednesday

Class 3: Tuesday and Wednesday

Class 4: Tuesday and 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.