



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 31st January 2025

www.stmarksjunior.com

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

Our Value in focus this term is: PERSEVERANCE

Headteacher's Message:

We have lots of wonderful activities planned to celebrate **World Book Day** this year, with a whole week of fantastic opportunities for the children. **St Mark's World Book Week (from 3rd March)** - will creep up on us soon after half term, so below is a sneak preview to what's in store!

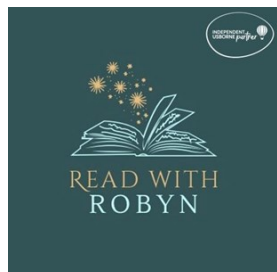
Please see below the key points you need to know.

We will be marking **World Book Day on Thursday 6th March** - Children to come wearing pyjamas or cosy clothes & bring pillow or blanket for cosy reading time, particularly during our '**Drop everything and read**' sessions.

Learning activities will be based on children sharing and enjoying favourite books and authors and creating contributions to their class libraries. Children are invited to bring in one of their favourite books.

On **Tuesday 4th March**, a travelling Book Fayre will be joining us after school. Children will have a chance to browse the books on Tuesday morning. The school receives 60% commission, raising valuable funds for new books for all children to enjoy.

On **Wednesday 5th March**, we will be holding our **Speaking Out Competition** to celebrate the wonderful world of Poetry. Children have been busy practising and it promises to be a wonderful afternoon. Parents are invited to join us in the school hall, starting at 1.30pm.



We have arranged for two children's authors, to run bespoke and engaging workshops with the children. On **Monday 3rd March** Year 5-6 will be visited by **Darren Simpson** and on **Tuesday 4th March**, Year 3-4 will be visited by **Serena Patel**. There will be an opportunity to pre-order books and have them signed by the author. Please see the attached letter with more information about this exciting opportunity.

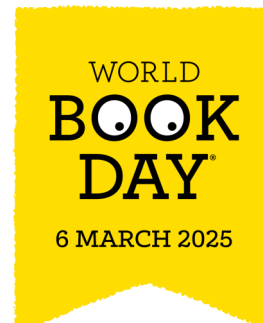
This is the pre-order link <https://read-with-robyn.sumupstore.com/>

In order to cover the cost of the visiting authors, we are asking for **contribution of £4.75 per child**. Please make **this payment on Parent Pay, if you are able to, by Friday 28th February**. For those able to 'Pay it Forward', this can be done through the **Pay it Forward - Trip Donations** item on Parent Pay.

It's been another packed week this week—please read on to find out about some of the highlights and important information for upcoming weeks.

Have a super weekend,

Mrs A Fitch and the Staff Team



Miss Matthews

Last week, many gathered to give thanks for the life of our much loved Miss Matthews.

The link below will take you to a donations page that has been set up, in memory of Laura, to support the work of Gloucestershire Counselling Service and The Listening Post.

With love and thanks.



<https://www.funeralguide.co.uk/obituaries/130821>

Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1: Class 1 have been learning about the pentatonic scale in Music. They played different arrangements of the 5 note scale on the Glockenspiel.

Class 2: In Geography, class 2 have been looking at where in the World is Benhall? The children drew a Geographical sketch map of their route to school.

Class 3: Computing was the highlight for class 3 this week. They used repetitious machine learning to enable the computer to follow visual commands.

Class 4: The classroom was turned into a Roman Market this week, inspired by the book they are studying in English, *Escape from Pompeii*. The children were at the market to buy goods from the stall owners (aka their teacher). The items included herbs, spices, fruit, bread, oils, fabrics and jewellery. They were encourage to explore the items, using touch and smell and were tasked with trying to work out what some of the herbs and spices were.

Class 5: The children have been doing an investigation in Science to see how best sugar dissolves in water.

Class 6: Class 6 have been to skill zone today. Please see next week's Newsletter for a full write up.

Class 7: As part of their PE unit on fitness, the children had fun circuit training this week.

Class 8: In Science, class 8 have been classifying invertebrates and creating their own information leaflet.

Swimming Competition - Shout Out!

We wanted to give another shout out this week: Isla in Class 8 swims for Tewksbury swim club and has been selected to attend the Gloucester County Championships team event 2025! She will be swimming in her age group in the 4x50m medley relay and 4x50m free-style relay on 16th February. We want to wish Isla the best of luck in her races and also a massive congratulations for being selected to take part. Go for it Isla!



Reading Award

Congratulations to Lola in Year 3 who last week finished the Year 3 book list. We are all very impressed with her commitment and love of reading.

To recognise her achievement Lola was presented with our Reading Award badge in the Celebration Assembly toady.

Well done Lola!



Football News

The boys team played in a tough match against Warden Hill on Monday. Coming from 3 – 0 down they showed great resilience scoring 3 back. Warden Hill won the match this time, but having beaten them previously the boys had lots of positives to take away from the match. Well done to all the players, for showing great team spirit and commitment.



Yesterday our second boys team played in a friendly match against Greatfield Park. The boys played brilliantly, showing great skill as well as sportsmanship. The final result was a 2– 0 win for St Mark's.

Well done to all the players!

Good luck to the girls team who are playing away at Lakeside today.

Teaching & Learning Owls

Star - Asa

Gold - Holly and Jos

Last year we introduced a new Teaching and Learning award for children who have achieved their gold owls and are continuing to show sustained excellent attitudes to learning.

Congratulation to our first star award winner of the year and a huge congratulations to all our owl badge winners!



"I never thought I would need to use a Foodbank."

Last year more than 900 households in Cheltenham needed to use the Foodbank for the first time and this was something people said to us over and over again as they came in. Life has been incredibly tough for many people, leaving them struggling to put food on the table.



We want to make sure as a community in Cheltenham that no-one is having to go without food. It could be any of us who unexpectedly find ourselves needing help. We really understand that asking for help can be incredibly hard sometimes and we also know that those who find it hard to ask for help would also be some of the first to offer to help others if they were able to. People often feel apprehensive about using a foodbank for the first time so we try and make it as easy as we possibly can and we are a friendly bunch!

If you are struggling to have enough to feed your family there are some easy options to get some help:

- Speak to the pastoral lead or family liaison lead in your school
- contact Citizens Advice on 0808 1896280 or email info@gloscab.org.uk
- Call the national helpline Help Through Hardship on 0808 2082 138

Both the Help Through Hardship and Citizens Advice are really helpful and maybe able to offer other support as well as issuing food vouchers.

We have shared this on behalf of the Referral Agencies Support team at Cheltenham Foodbank.

Extra Curricular Clubs - SPRING TERM 1

Monday

Boys Football Y5-6	Lunchtime
Baking Buddies Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.30pm
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



Class 6 Reminder



Please can all Class 6 children have wellies and a coat in school for Monday 3rd Feb (next Monday).

Class 6 will be doing some field work as part of their geography lesson and going to Benhall stream.



Letters Sent Home

- Lost Property Letter
- CATs Assessment Letter Year3



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

Wed 5th - *Beauty and the Beast* @ Bournside Year 5
 Tue 11th - Safer Internet Day
 Tue 11th - Year 6 School Beat Session
 Tue 11th - Charity Fair after school
 Tue 11th - PTA AGM 8pm (Venue tbc)
 Wed 12th - National Waterways Museum Trip Year 5
 Thu 13th - Book Look (Please note change of day)
 Fri 14th - End of Term 3
 Mon 24th - Skill Zone Trip Class 5
 Fri 28th - Young Voices

March

Mon 3rd - Book Week
 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 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.