



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 24th January 2025

www.stmarksjunior.com

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

Our Value in focus this term is: PERSEVERANCE

Headteacher's Message:

Today has been a particularly poignant day for the school community, as we have gathered together to give thanks for the truly inspirational life of Miss Matthews. This, the day of her funeral, marks a desperately sad time for all those who knew and loved Lovely Laura.



We have each decorated a heart today, to symbolise the infectious love that Miss Matthews radiated to us all every day. The hearts, which we will put together to create a montage, will be framed and hung in a place of Sid and Penny's choice as a reminder that love is stronger than all things and that Laura's kind heart will continue to be an inspiration to us all.

It is lovely to see the carpet of daffodils, that were planted last term in memory of Miss Matthews, already starting to poke through. We look forward to seeing these bloom, bringing colour and hope to our school grounds, as Spring edges nearer; another reminder that memories of our wonderful Miss Matthews live on and that we all have a chance now to reach out to others, to spread this love and joy that shone, so brightly, from our beloved friend and colleague.



Our thoughts and prayers are very much with the whole family, particularly today, at this extremely difficult time. As the entire school community learns to navigate these early days and weeks with a deep sense of grief, I have been struck by the way in which everyone continues to uphold each other in love as we begin look to the future. My deepest thanks to you all for your ongoing support.

As a school, we are using some really helpful resources and advice from Winston's Wish when talking with the children about grief.

It may be that, after today, children feel they want to talk a little more. The following link and related content provides helpful guidance [Do children grieve differently to adults? | Winston's Wish](#)

I do hope you are able to enjoy special moments with your families, this weekend.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Fitch'.

Mrs A Fitch and the Staff Team

Football - Girls won 10-1



The girls football team played in a match against St James's last Friday. The girls played some formidable football. We had players whose first match it was as well as more experience players. They all pulled together working really well as a team, playing well defensively and up front.

The end result was a St Mark's win 10 —1.

Another amazing result. Well done team!



The boys team are playing away today, so good luck boys, you've got this!

Good Luck Christopher!

Christopher in year 4 has qualified to swim in the County Championships in 50m backstroke. We wanted to give a big shout out to Christopher for this amazing achievement and wish him lots of luck in his race on Saturday!



Move More Holiday Camps

Move More are delivering their popular Holiday Camps across Cheltenham and surrounding area this February Half Term including one at St Mark's!

They are non-profit holiday camps which provide children with lots of opportunities to be active, have fun, make friends and try lots of new and different activities.

You can find out more and book online at <https://www.move-more.org/camps/>.



Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1: In Outdoor Learning the children have been busy spending time at different activity stations, including fire making, toasting marshmallows, making clay animals, chopping fruit and making bird feeders.

Class 2: Class 2 also enjoyed Outdoor Learning and in particular having the responsibility to rearrange and tidy up the Outdoor Learning area.

Class 3: In Maths, the children have been finding the area of a 2D shape.

Class 4: The children have been making posters in Geography with famous landmarks from Italian Cities. They will be presenting their posters to the rest of the class.

Class 5: Class 5 have enjoyed comparing improper and mixed fractions in Maths this week.

Class 6: In Science, the children have been planning an investigation based on dissolving sugar.

Class 7: Class 7 have been creating their own Graffiti tags inspired by the works of Banksy.

Class 8: A representative from the Magistrates Court visited year 6 this week. They talked about how a Magistrates Court works, in preparation for the Mock Trial in March.

Netball News

Two teams went to play netball at St. James' School on Tuesday. This was the first game out against other schools for both teams. Nerves were high but teams played exceptionally well, especially as the court conditions were poor and the temperature was very cold.

The Red Team (B) were a little unlucky as the goals were not going in but huge positives to be taken as they had great passing through court, really strong defending turning over the ball and fabulous team work throughout.

The Blue Team (A) had a nervous start but settled and started to play together well. Ball movement through court was good and defending was amazing. They began to get into their flow and then the goals started to come. A very close game but they managed to come out on top, winning by 1 goal.

This is a great start and good experience gained by all. All players represented our school brilliantly. Well Done!



Clothing

Please can you check your child's school clothes are clearly labelled (hand written is absolutely fine).



We have a team of Year 6 office helpers who look through the lost property every day. It would be great if they could reunite more items of clothing with their owners, as well as stopping the lost property pile from mounting up!

Many thanks!



Rags 2 Riches 4 Schools Collection - THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who donated items to our *Rags 2 Riches 4 Schools* collection this week, allowing us to raise valuable funds for the School.



THANK YOU!

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



Letters Sent Home

- In the Net—Year 4 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



January

Fir 31st - Skill Zone Trip Class 6

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.