



# St Mark's C of E Junior School

*Growing together, becoming all we are created to be*

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 17th January 2025

[www.stmarksjunior.com](http://www.stmarksjunior.com)

All enquires: [admin@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk)

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

## Headteacher's Message:

**We're very much in the swing of this term** now and the children are showing excellent attitudes to learning, as well as towards each other.

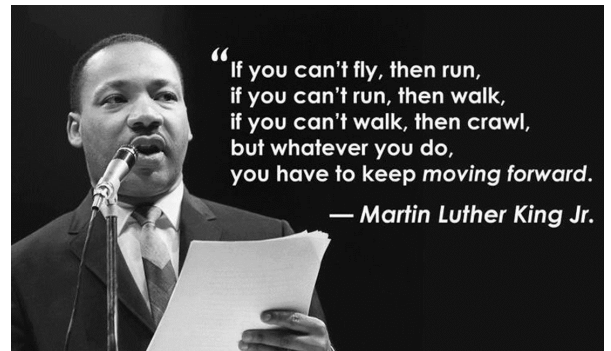


**Great fun was had yesterday, at the Owl Tea Party**—we enjoyed snacks, drinks and a few competitive games of bench-ball as a treat for the children, celebrating all of their hard work in earning their owls.

Well done to you all!

**We have continued our exploration of this term's Value of Perseverance** by reflecting on this quote and talking together about what it means to move forward in our own lives.

As a whole school, we also wrote the below acrostic poem. Each day, we will select one phrase in our classes to help us show perseverance in different ways. We are beginning to realise that, as we put this value into action, we start to see things that we once never thought possible.



**P**ush yourself, Preparation, Play your part, Practise makes perfect, Participation  
**E**ngage with your friends and your leaning, Encourage one another, Endure  
**R**each for your goals, Run to victory, Respect, Raise each other up, Resilience  
**S**ticking to your goal, Supporting each other, Stay in the game, Stand tall  
**E**nsure that everyone is included, Enjoy it even if you still lose  
**V**ictory can't be bought, Value your friendship and achievements, Victory is the aim  
**E**veryone is equal  
**R**un to your goal, Resist the urge to stop, Rise to the goal  
**A**spire, Always help others, Anything is possible, Always believe in yourself  
**N**ever give up, Nice people go a long way, Never say never  
**C**ompassion, Courage, Commitment,  
**E**ncourage one another and build each other up

***Have a super weekend,***

***Mrs A Fitch and the Staff Team***

## Learning Highlight of the Week

**Class 1:** Class 1 enjoyed their trip to the library this week. In English they are studying the book *Legend of Spud Murphy*, which is set in a library. The children got the opportunity to look at the books and were tasked with collecting nouns and verbs relating to feelings. They had a talk from the Librarian who spoke about how a library works.

**Class 2:** In Geography, Class 2 have been learning map symbols, to assist with their map reading skills.

**Class 3:** Class 3 have been developing their passing and dribbling skills in Hockey.

**Class 4:** In English, the children have enjoyed writing a diary entry this week. They imagined they were in ancient Greece and have been to watch the Olympic games, recounting what they saw in their diary entry.

**Class 5:** The children really enjoyed going for their first School swimming lesson at the Leisure Centre this week. The children who remained in school also enjoyed their Yoga lesson too.

**Class 6:** Geography was also a highlight for Class 6. They have been looking at coasts and rivers. They designed a poster with facts about different famous rivers around the World.

**Class 7:** In Computing, the Class looked at programming Apps for a mobile phone, using coding.

**Class 8:** Class 8 have been writing a complaint letter regarding a recent stay at a terrible hotel. A hotel that you would not even give 1 star to and even with a refund you still would not be content!



### Look Who's Talking Competition

We have held our 'School rounds' of the *Look Who's Talking* competition. Thank you and well done to all the children who took part. It takes a lot of confidence to stand up in front of ones peers and we were all very impressed. The class heats were fiercely competitive and the children did an amazing job. A special mention to all our class heat winners Lola, Thea, Teddy, Amelie, Lena, Lottie, Bonnie and Molly, who went on to compete in their respective KS1/KS2 School finals.

And the winners are 🥁 🥁 🥁

**KS1 Winner—Amelie**

**KS2 Winner—Molly**

Amelie and Molly will now go on to take part in the next round against children from other local schools.

**Congratulations and good luck to Amelie and Molly in the next round!**



### Rags 2 Riches 4 Schools Collection - Next Friday

Our next Rags 2 Riches 4 Schools collection is next **Friday 24th January**. It would be fantastic if you could have a sort through your wardrobe to see if you have anything you would be happy to donate to our collection. **You can drop off bags any time next week and Rags 2 Riches will collect them first thing on Friday morning.**



They can collect clothing, shoes and accessories. Please click [here](#) for a full list of what can be collected or visit [www.rags2riches4schools.co.uk](http://www.rags2riches4schools.co.uk) **Unfortunately they are unable to take school uniforms.**

**Rags 2 Riches are not supplying us with their own collection bags this term. They have said that donations can go in any bags that you have available. If you need a bag let the office know as we have a few bags left from last term's collection.**

## Cheltenham Young Artist 2025

Congratulations again to Ayla and Jess who were chosen to have their art work exhibited at the Gardens Gallery in Montpellier Gardens last weekend.

Only 50 works were chosen to be part of the exhibition, so what a fantastic achievement!

At the awards ceremony on Sunday, the girls were presented with their art work in frames.

Thank you to Ayla and Jess who brought in their framed art work to school this week to show their class. We were all very impressed!

**Cheltenham Young Artist 2025**



## Road Closure and Temporary Traffic Lights

We have been made aware of a road closure and temporary traffic lights for safety improvements and footway construction works, which are being carried out in the local area. From 27th January to 14th February there will be 24/7 operation traffic lights. The road closure will be in place on 17th to 21st February 08:00-16:30 (excluding weekends).

**Where: Hatherley Lane, Cheltenham.**

**When: Week Commencing 27th January through to 21st February.**

**Please see letter attached with this weeks newsletter for the precise location.**



# Highways

## Teaching & Learning Owls

**Gold - Penny & Elizabeth**

**Silver - Jaya**

**Bronze - Aanya & Lucy**

Congratulations to all our Owl winners!



## 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

- Waterways Museum Letter Year 5



## 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

- Fri 24th - Rags Collection
- Fri 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 - Book Look
- Tue 11th - PTA AGM 8pm (Venue tbc)
- Wed 12th - National Waterways Museum Trip Year 5
- 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
- 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.**