



# St Mark's C of E Junior School

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

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 10th 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:

A very Happy New Year to you all. I do hope that you have managed to have a special time with family and friends over the Christmas break. An enormous 'thank you' from us all for your generous Christmas gifts as well as the incredibly kind words of comfort and support at the end of term.

It has been lovely to welcome the children back this week; they have settled brilliantly, once again, despite being quite tired after a busy holiday for many! ***Please can I encourage children to have as much rest and sleep as possible over this weekend?*** It really is crucial that children come to school ready and able to learn well.

I have been extremely pleased to see so many families making a big effort to ensure children are in school between 8.35 - 8.50am. Please can I urge **everyone** to make sure the arrival time is **no later than 8.50**. Being in school, ready to learn by 8.50 is critical to the quality of the children's learning and general wellbeing at the start of the day.



Our value in focus this term is 'Perseverance' so we have begun to explore different ways that Perseverance can be shown.

As we thought about our New Year's Resolutions, we have been reflecting on how Perseverance really does help us to grow into more of who we have been created to be. The perseverance we show often encourages others to keep moving forward too.

We used this quote as this week's inspiration.

## Curriculum Information

Today, you will receive a Curriculum Map and termly letter from your child's Year Group Teaching Team. Please do have a read to get a flavour of what your child will be learning this term with also reminder of the homework routines.

**A quick plea to ensure your child reads aloud to another adult / older sibling at least 4 times per week and remember to indicate each day's reading in your child's Reading Record.** It is absolutely vital that your child's reading progresses well to secure success in other areas of the curriculum.

If you have any queries at all (however big or small) please do not hesitate to have a quick word with your child's class teacher at the end of the day or with a member of SLT on the playground at pick up and drop off. For a longer meeting, please make an appointment with the school office. We're all here to help!

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

## School Gardener—Can you help?

The school is looking for recommendations for a gardener, who could visit monthly to help with maintenance of the school grounds as well as quoting for larger projects as they arise.

If you know of somebody who would be interested in this, please do let us know either by email : [admin@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk), or by calling us on 01242 702280, option 3. Thank you!



### *Learning Highlight of the Week*

**Class 1 & 2:** The learning highlight for Year 3 had to be Outdoor Learning, which started back this week. The children thoroughly enjoyed the session in which they made habitats for different animals.

**Class 3:** Class 3 are excited to start their new topic for the term. They will be learning all about the Romans.

**Class 4:** In computing, the children have been using AI as a suggestion tool to auto draw. They investigated whether using auto draw, AI can guess what we are drawing.

**Class 5:** Class 5 have been learning all about the different countries on the Meridian line. They looked at how the climate and culture of these countries compares to Britain.

**Class 6:** In Art, the children have been looking at Pointillism and in particular the work of George Seurat.

**Class 7:** The children enjoyed their hockey lesson this week. They worked on their dribbling and passing skills until the lesson was cut short by a hail storm!

**Class 8:** Class 8 had a debate on Banksy this week, looking at whether the work is Art or Graffiti.

### Cheltenham Young Artist 2025

Thank you and well done to all the children who entered the Cheltenham Young Artist 2025 competition. The judges had a very difficult time to choose work for exhibiting at the Gardens Gallery this coming weekend. 50 works have been selected which celebrate the creativity of children in the area. **We are delighted to share with you that Ayla and Jess from St. Mark's Junior have been chosen to have their work in the exhibition.**

The exhibition will be at the Gardens Gallery, Montpellier Gardens, Cheltenham GL50 1SW over the weekend of Saturday January 11th and Sunday January 12th, daily 10am to 4pm. Entry is free.

Please see attached flyer with this weeks newsletter. We hope some of you will be able to go along and enjoy exhibition.

Congratulations to Ayla and Jess, we are so proud of you.



## Cheltenham Young Artist 2025

### Teaching & Learning Owls

#### *Silver - Joshua*

Congratulations to Joshua for achieving his silver owl!



## Happy New Year from the PTA

The Christmas disco made over £400 which is a fantastic amount along with over £900 from the Christmas cards and the Asda fundraiser so thank you. We have been able to give the thumbs up to a request boot scrappers from the School Council and have funds for the Year 6 leavers hoodies.

**The date for our AGM is Tuesday 11th of February at 8pm, venue TBC. We are hoping to find a new Chair and a new Treasurer to make smooth transition, because it is both the Treasurer and Chairs last year at St Mark's.**



## British Schools Cyclocross Championships 2025

Cycle Stars have asked us to share this event with all our pupils regardless of whether you go to the Cycle Stars after school club or not. If you are interested please contact [cyclestars001@gmail.com](mailto:cyclestars001@gmail.com)



## Snacks

A reminder that all children need to bring a healthy mid-morning snack **everyday**. This can include rice cakes, crackers, breadsticks, cheese, fruit, veg sticks and cereal bars. No crisps, sweets or chocolate please.

Friday is treat day so snacks can include chocolate or crisps but no sweets.



**Tuck shop will also be available on a Friday and items are priced at 20p.**

Please may we also remind you that we are a nut and shellfish free school as we do have children and staff with allergies.



**Thank you!**

## Rags 2 Riches 4 Schools Collection - Thursday 3rd October

Our next Rags 2 Riches 4 Schools collection is on **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.



Rags to Riches is a great way for us to raise a bit of extra money for the school and so any donations no matter how big or small will be gratefully received.

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

**Rags 4 Riches will supply us with their own collection bags which we will hand out once they arrive.**

## 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

- Beauty and the Beast Letter Year 5
- Curriculum Letters and Maps



## 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

- Thu 16th - Year 5 First Swimming Lesson
- Fri 17th - Year 6 First Swimming Lesson
- 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.**