



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 27th June 2025

www.stmarksjunior.com

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

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

Headteacher's Message:

We have been in complete awe of the Year 6s this week as they performed consecutive showings of their musical production: **Cinderella and Rockafella**. Each and every one of them played their part brilliantly, entering into the magic of the show, stepping right out of their comfort zone and giving it everything they had... and you can see from the photos, having lots of fun along the way!

These are moments to be treasured and an inspirational example of how children grow and flourish through their time here at St Mark's.

Thank you, Yr 6s, for making it a truly magnificent occasion.

Enjoy reading about all of the other wonderful successes this week and key dates as we head into the latter part of the school year.

With my best wishes for a lovely weekend

Mrs A Fitch and the Staff Team



Prince of Wales Athletics Meet

Last Friday, children from St Mark's took part in an Athletics meet against 11 local schools including Bishops Cleeve, Berkhamstead, Christ Church, Glenfall, Grangefield Greatfield Park, Holy Apostles, Oakwood, Rowanfield, Swindon Village and Woodmancote.

The sun shone down on us, but the children were well prepared with sun cream, hats, lots of water and a gazebo for shade. The atmosphere in the stadium was electric and the support and cheers of encouragement that the children gave one another was fantastic. We saw our FACE values in action and were really proud of the St Mark's team spirit, demonstrating what sport is all about!

On the track and field the St Mark's children definitely rose to the occasion. They showed great perseverance, grit and determination and were just outstanding! Special mention to our medal winners. **Every one of our individual sprint competitors made it through their heats to race in the finals, with Thea in Year 3 winning Gold!** Our relay teams also did exceptionally well. **Year 3 girls took home Bronze, Year 4 girls and boys won Gold, Year 5 & 6 girls took home the Silver and Year 6 boys won the Gold! What an amazing set of results!**



Well done to all the children who took part, we were so proud of you all! We also wanted to thank the families who came to watch the children. You all deserve medals for supporting the children on such a hot day!



Piano Recital

On Tuesday Mrs Bennett's pupils performed to their parents in a wonderful a piano and violin recital.

The children played with great poise and confidence and it was lovely to see how much they have improved over the year.

Thank you to all the children who participated in the recital. Your hard work and practice really did pay off. Well done!



Cheltenham Walking and Wilson Gallery Year 4 Trip



This week Year 4 went on a Geography field trip around Cheltenham. Starting in Montpellier, they observed the architectural features of the buildings and land use in order to find out more about the geographical historical development of the town.

They also visited Wilson Art Gallery, where the children found out more about Wilson the explorer and the Antarctic landscape. They were given the opportunity to participate in a drawing activity, play a game based on Wilson's expedition and try on replica clothes worn by members of the expedition.

It was a fantastic day which culminated in a picnic at Pittville Park. The children were delight to take out for the day. Well done Year 4!

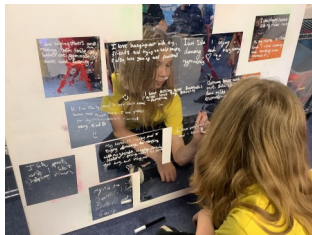


Reflective Spaces

This week, *Reflection spaces* were set up in school for year 5 and 6 children to explore. Here are some of the questions the children reflected on...

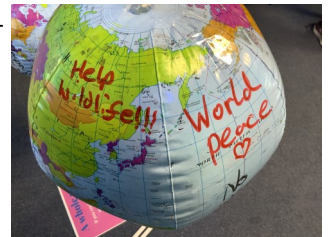
Who's in the Mirror –

You are amazing and unique with skills, talents and characteristics that only you have. There is no one in the world the same as you. Take one of the pens and write on the mirror something special about you. It could be a special skill you have or a talent. It could be a characteristic like you're kind or funny...



A Whole New World –

If you could change one thing about the World, what would it be? Grab a whiteboard pen and write it onto the globe



Goals!!!! – What are your goals for your life? What do you want to achieve? Write one of your goals on a label and tie it to the net.



Top of the Mountain –

Think of the achievement you are most proud of in the last year, write it down on a piece of paper and pin it on the mountain. If you want you can say thank you to God for helping you achieve that.



Big Question – Everyone has a big question about life. What are your big questions? Whether you believe in God or not, if you could ask God one question right now, what would you ask?

Write it down and peg it onto the tree.



Explore our World—Cheltenham Bournside

This week Year 5 children got to experience a day at a Secondary School. Following the success of previous years, Cheltenham Bournside invited St Mark's children to take part in a variety of interactive lessons and activities. It was such a fun day and importantly gave the children a taste of what secondary school life is all about.

In Maths, they had to try and solve a murder mystery, in English they wrote an acrostic poem, they looked at samples under a microscope in Science and got the opportunity to learn some Mandarin and Spanish. In a 'Learning to Learn' lesson, they were tasked with making origami. They had limited instructions and to test their resilience had to do this in silence!

The teachers were blown away by the high standard of work from the St Mark's children. Their engagement in the lessons was brilliant and the children's behaviour was impeccable. They were a joy to take and a real credit to St Mark's. A glowing report, well done Year 5!



CHELTEHAM BOURNSIDE SCHOOL

Thank you to all the staff and pupils at Cheltenham Bournside for letting us spend the day with you and for making us feel so welcome.

Free Trees!

Some years ago a number of tiny tree saplings were planted on Benhall's wildflower meadow, not expecting that many of them would survive. In fact about 30 are still in place and as they get bigger the area will become overcrowded. So, if you would like to re-home a medium sized rowan, birch or cherry tree please do let us know.



New Website Coming Soon...

We are excited to announce that we are in the process of transferring over to a brand new website!

Whilst this process is happening you may notice that certain aspects of our current website may not be as up to date as it can be. For calendar dates please use the diary dates section of this newsletter.



We will of course let you know once our new website goes live so that you can check it out!!!

Graduation Day!

This week, we celebrated Mrs Whale's Graduation Day!

Over the past year, Mrs Whale has been working extremely hard (on top of her demanding role in school) to achieve the National SENCO Qualification - which is equivalent to a Masters Degree. She passed with flying colours, of course - a real testament to the high quality SEN provision that we offer here at St Mark's.

A very proud moment for her family and for her St Mark's 'extended family'!

Well done Mrs Whale!



Teaching & Learning Owls

Bronze - Christopher

Congratulations to our badge winner!



National Medal Success



Last weekend Jaxon in Year 4 took a trip to Great Yarmouth for the **GB Skate Artistic National championships**. Jaxon did amazingly in his three routines and was crowned Great Britain Mini Men Vice-Champion 2025!

What a fantastic achievement, well done Jaxon!



Year 4 Success

The Year 4 boys have had a great few weeks of sporting achievements. Boys from class 3 and 4 play for Lakeside under 9s football team and took home the Plate in the Southside football tournament.

Oscar Buckland also won silver at Cheltenham Harriers local open for throwing 25 metres. A busy month of sporting achievements for the boys and not to mention Prince of Wales Athletics meet! Well done Year 4!



Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1: The children were torn between Science and Computing as their learning highlight this week, so we decided to go with both! Whilst using 'Scratch' the children learnt how to change their Sprite's costume. They used coding to make the costume change automatically. In Science, the children did an experiment to see which colours reflected light the most.

Class 2: The highlight of the week for Class 2 was watching the Year 6 production.

Class 3 & 4: Year 4 really enjoyed their Geography field trip exploring Cheltenham.

Class 5 & 6: Both classes thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Bournside this week.

Class 7 & 8: The highlight for Year 6 had to be performing in their production of *Cinderella and Rockerfella*.

Extra Curricular Clubs - SUMMER TERM 2

Monday

Baking Buddies Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.30pm
Gym Club Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm
Chinese Language Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.15pm
Recorders Y3-6	FINISHED

Tuesday

Board Games Y5-6	12.40pm - 1.10pm
Orchestra Y3-6	FINISHED
Tennis Y4-6	3.15pm - 4.15pm

Wednesday

Baking Buddies Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.30pm
Cyclestars Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.15pm
European Languages Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.15pm
Magical Maths Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.15pm

Thursday

Coding Club Y5-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm
Choir Y3-6	FINISHED
Outdoor Learning Y5-6	3.15pm - 4.15pm
Reading & Times Tables Y3-6	FINISHED



School Term Dates

2024-25

Term 6: Tue 3rd June – Fri 18th

July 2025

Inset Days: 21st July



Outdoor Learning - Summer Term 2

Class 5: Thursday Morning

Class 6: Thursday Afternoon

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.



Diary Dates

June 2024 - 25

Mon 30th - 4th July - Bournside Transition Week

July

Wed 2nd - Transition Day Year 2
 Tue 8th - Rocksteady Concert 9:30 Rocksteady parents invited
 Tue 8th - Class 7 Book Look after School
 Wed 9th - Burnham on Sea Trip Year 3
 Thu 10th - Book Look after School (Excluding Class 7)
 Fri 11th - PTA AGM 3.15pm
 Thu 17th - St Mark's Year 6 Leavers Service - 1.45pm
 Thu 17th School Disco - Y3 & Y4 6-6:45, Y5 7-8:00, Y6 7-8:30
 Fri 18th - Last Day of Term - **School Finish Time 2.15pm**

PE - Summer Term 2

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

Class 1: Monday and Thursday

Class 2: Wednesday and Friday

Class 3: Tuesday and Wednesday

Class 4: Tuesday and Friday

Class 5: Tuesday

Class 6: Tuesday

Class 7: Tuesday and Friday

Class 8: Tuesday and Friday



Remember: tracksuit tops should be plain navy only. A school sweatshirt is absolutely fine.