



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 11th July 2025

www.stmarksjunior.com

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

Our Value in focus this term is: TRUTHFULNESS

Headteacher's Message:

We are delighted that your child will be bringing home their annual School Report today.

This reports will reflect a summary of the way in which your child has **engaged with their learning** over the course of the year.

Please do find some time to sit quietly and read the report together, with your child; these are really special moments to share.

We hope it is a real **celebration of both achievement and progress**, not just in academic learning, but also in the way your child has **grown and flourished as a person** since September. The comments will also indicate some 'Next Steps' to focus on in the year to come, again, highlighting our high expectations that we have for each and every child at St Mark's.

Year 6 reports will include their child's SATs results and **Year 4s** will include their Multiplication Tables Check results. Huge congratulations to you all!

Progress / Attainment marks:

Within your child's report, in some instances, you will see that the attainment / progress mark sometimes sit nearer to one side of the box than the other.

This shows that your child's progress or attainment is on the borderline of the two adjacent bandings.

If the mark sits centrally, your child is securely operating within this band.

Below is a link to a form if you would like to provide any feedback about your child's report and / or if you would like to arrange a further meeting. **Please click [here](#) to be taken to the form, where you can leave your responses until Wednesday 16th July 1pm.**

My thanks to you all for your ongoing support to the school and in your child's education. We are extremely proud of every single child here at St Mark's - I'm sure you are too. Enjoy celebrating with your wonderful children this weekend!

**Get excited for
NEW CLASSES!**

With one more week left until the end of the school year, we are busy finishing our units of learning and preparing for change that September will bring.

On Monday, the children will spend time with their new Class Teacher, in their new classroom. This will be an opportunity to get a feel for what to expect in their prospective year group and we very much hope it will help to settle any nerves and get the children excited for all the lies ahead! **Please be reassured that thorough transition meetings** are held between current and prospective teachers to ensure all information is shared regarding academic progress as well as personal development / pastoral detail.

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

Absence Requests

Parents wishing to apply for time off school should complete the '**Request for Pupil Leave of Absence**' form. Please complete this request in plenty of time and as a **minimum 2 weeks** prior to being absent. Parents are informed of the outcome within 7 days.

A reminder that time off school for family holidays is not a legal right. Taking your child out of school during term time will be detrimental to his/her education. However, you may apply for leave of absence if you feel your circumstances are exceptional and necessary.

Requests need to be approved before children can be taken away or booking any leave from employment. If a request is refused and the child does not attend school, or if any days in excess of granted leave are taken without permission, such absences will be classed as 'unauthorised'.

Move More – Mini Red Tennis

Last Friday a team of Year 4 children played in Move More's Mini Red Tennis Tournament. It was a brilliant afternoon of tennis, with perfect weather to top it off.

Honey, Nancy, Charlie and Leo played some outstanding tennis and were thrilled to come third place and are now the very proud owners of bronze medals.

Huge congratulations to the children and what a fantastic result— well done!



Inter-house Games

This week the children took part in Inter-House activities planned and run by the House and Vice Captains. Games included Cup Towers, with points awarded for the tallest tower, travelling 100m as a team, with points awarded for the fastest team to get to finish line, a teamwork drawing game as well as a paper aeroplane throwing competition.

It was great opportunity for the Year 6 House and Vice Captains to inspire the younger year groups, and in doing so bringing the school community together as well as encouraging our value of **Engage** through teamwork and sportsmanship. The Year 6 children did a fantastic job and we hope they enjoyed the opportunity to create and run these activities.



Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1: Year 3 enjoyed a fabulous trip to Burnham-on Sea on Wednesday. Yesterday, as part of their Geography unit, they spent the day thinking about tourism, designing fact files and posters to encourage visitors to go to Burnham-on-Sea.

Class 3: In Computing, the children have been using PowerPoint to design Online Safety Posters.

Class 4: Class 4 enjoyed their French lesson this week. They used technology to translate French into English and vice versa.

Class 5: In Outdoor Learning, the children made clay models. They also loved toasting marshmallows over the fire to make S'mores and were able to cool off with a water fight!

Class 6: In English, the children wrote their own stories of 'The Curse of the Maya'.

Class 7: Class 7 also enjoyed their French lesson this week. They played 'Clued In', which is a version of Cluedo. The idea of 'Clued In' is to move from room to room to eliminate characters, objects and places. The player who correctly accuses 'Qui ?' (Who?), 'Quoi ?' (What?) and 'Où ?' (Where?) wins.

Class 8: The children have been creating Blitz pictures. Using a silhouette of London landmarks they painted the background of their pictures in orange, yellow and red using watercolours to create what the sky may have looked like during the Blitz.

Rocksteady Concert

Every Tuesday we are visited by Rocksteady who give in school band lessons. Children can learn to play an instrument in their very own band with no experience necessary! They learn songs in a fun and supportive way, building self-confidence and making friendships along the way.



This week our Rocksteady students showcased the songs they have been working on this term. Performing to the whole school, plus their parents, the children certainly rose to the occasion.

There were four bands in total. **Run Wild** kicked off the concert with their rendition of *Dance Monkey*. The band have not been together long, however that did not stop them giving it their all. Next up was **Astroford**, who performed *Since You've been Gone* with great energy. **Fire Red** then took the stage with their confident performance of *Still Into You*. Closing the concert was **Rocking Rollers** who showed off their skills performing an instrumental version of *Feeling Good*.

Well done to all the bands. We were blown away by your confident performances and hope that this has inspired some more budding musicians out there to give it a go!



Thank You

Thank you to The Barnett family for their generous donation of books, donated in loving memory of Alice Barnett. These books will take pride of place in our school library for the whole School to enjoy.



School Disco

Next Thursday 17th July is the summer disco!

Year 3 & 4 6pm-6:45pm

Year 5 7pm-8pm

Year 6 7pm-8.30pm

Please drop off with disco slip at the front door. Children to be picked up by an adult under the willow tree after the disco.

Disco slips will be sent home next week.

We will have some things for the children to buy, such as sweets and tattoos, so please bring in some change.



Burnham-on-Sea Year 3 Trip

This week Year 3 took an end of term trip to the seaside. To support the work they have been doing in class on coastal features, the children travelled down to Burnham-on-Sea. Of course, no trip to the seaside would be complete without going to the beach, where the children had lots of fun playing in the sand and building sandcastles.

The children had a brilliant day, and the staff and parent volunteers were very impressed with how well they represented St Mark's.



2025 British Schools Grass Track Championships

On Wednesday St Mark's hosted the 2025 British Schools Grass Track Championships. We were blessed with fine weather and enthusiastic children ready to race.

40 children attended this year's Championship and it was such a close battle with St Mark's leading until the last Italian Pursuit Challenge where Leckhampton Primary pipped us to the post to take the win.

The final result was in 1st place Leckhampton Primary, 2nd place St Mark's, 3rd Quinton Primary.

Competing for St Mark's were Beau, William & Amelia from Year 5, Freddie, Charlie & Teddy from Year 4, Max, Isaac, Dexter & Jamie from Year 3 and also some Year 2 Benhall children.



A special thanks to our riders who rode their hearts out and were true ambassadors for our school.

In three weeks time, riders from Cycle Stars are traveling to Assen in the Netherlands to compete in the European Youth Championships, these children are from local schools and started competing in school racing and are now representing their country. It just shows what you can achieve by attending an after school club!

Teaching & Learning Owls

Star - Penny, Holly, Hannah & Iestyn

Gold - Jake, Melissa, Izzie, Isaac, Rosie, Katie, Isla & Dexter

Silver - Lena, Seb, Grace

Bronze - Jeremiah, Jackson,

Congratulations to our badge winners!



Talent Show

Thank you to the children who auditioned for the St Mark's talent show. We were blown away by the standard and variety of talent on show. It was great to see the children step out of their comfort zone and take to the stage to perform in front of their peers and teachers. What was even more lovely to see was the children cheering on their classmates, showing such encouragement and support. It made the auditions even more special.

It was such a tough decision to select the finalists from this very talented bunch, so well done to you all!

We look forward to seeing the finalists next Tuesday afternoon. **If you are a parent of a child who has got through to the final, you are invited to come to watch the show at St Mark's—1.30pm in the School Hall.**



Football Success Story

We would like to share with you more football success from some of our children who play for Lakeside FC.

During their recent trophy presentation day Reece in Year 6 and Archie in Year 5 both received the club person of the year from Lakeside for their respective year groups in 24/25. Reece plays for lakeside under 11 blues and Archie plays for Lakeside under 10s .

To top it off Reece's team also won the 2024/25 sportsmanship shield as voted for by all the other Managers in their league. Members of that team also include Dylan, Ethan and James all from Year 6.

What an incredible achievement! Well done boys and congratulations to the whole team, we are super proud of your achievements.



Reading Books

Please return all school reading books. **This includes library, class library and school schemed reading books.**



Summer Holiday Birthdays

If your child has a birthday in the school holidays they are welcome to wear their own clothes in the last week of term.



Parent Pay

As we approach the end of the academic year, please can we ask that you check your child's Parent Pay account to ensure that they remain in credit.

Any outstanding arrears should be cleared as soon as possible.

Thank you!



Extra Curricular Clubs - Autumn Term 1

Information for all clubs both external and teacher led will be sent out in September.



Extra Curricular Clubs - SUMMER TERM 2

Monday

Baking Buddies Y3-6	FINISHED
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	FINISHED
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	FINISHED
Magical Maths Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.15pm

Thursday

Coding Club Y5-6	FINISHED
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



2025-26

Term 1: Mon 1st Sept – Fri 24th Oct 2025

Term 2: Mon 3rd Nov – Fri 19th Dec 2025

Term 3: Mon 5th Jan - Fri 13th Feb 2026

Term 4: Mon 23th Feb – Fri 27th Mar 2026

Term 5: Mon 13th April – Fri 22nd May 2026

Term 6: Mon 1st June – Mon 20th July 2026

Inset Days: 1st Sept, 2nd Sept, 24th Oct, 1st June, 20th 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

Diary Dates

2024 - 25

July

Tue 15th - Talent Show Finals 1.30pm

Thu 17th - St Mark's Year 6 Leavers Service - 1.45pm Year 6 Parents Invited to join us in the School Hall.

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

