



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 18th July 2025

www.stmarksjunior.com

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

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

Headteacher's Message:

As we arrive at the end of another memorable year, we can reflect and be thankful for all that we have achieved together. There have been so many moments to celebrate and be proud of this year, from individual accomplishments to the overall success as a school.



We could not be where we are today without you, our families. Thank you for your continued support and engagement in all aspects of school life once again this year. A public 'Thank you' from me, to our wonderful staff team who have poured so much into making St Mark's the excellent school that it is; for your unwavering commitment, your skilful work and fabulous sense of humour! Thank you.



Today, we say a fond farewell to our Y6s. We could not be prouder of how much you have grown and flourished during your time at St Mark's. You have shown resilience and shone out in your unique ways, embracing our school values, and growing together as a community of learners. Thank you and enormous congratulations! What feels like the end is often the beginning and so we would like to wish you all the best as you journey on. Enjoy celebrating together at your Leavers' Fest!

We must also say farewell to 2 wonderful members of the St Mark's Team. Our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Chamberlain and Mrs Hallewell for their dedication and commitment to St Mark's over many years. Mrs Chamberlain is taking early retirement to enjoy slightly slower pace of life and to enjoy some travelling! She has given an impressive 32 years to the teaching profession in total – I think it's fair that she takes a little break!



Mrs Hallewell will be continuing her career in the National Star Collage, Cheltenham, working with young people with learning and physical disabilities. This is a very exciting prospect for Mrs Hallewell and one which is suited perfectly to her gifts and talents.

Thank you, Mrs Chamberlain and Mrs Hallewell for all you have given to the life of the school and for making a marked difference in the lives of so many individuals.

Please do take some time to read the messages in this newsletter in readiness for September.

Lastly, I would like to wish you all the best for a super summer. Let's hope we see more of this sunshine but above all, enjoy spending time together as families and we look forward to welcoming you back on Wednesday 3rd September 2025.

With our very best wishes to you all,
Mrs A Fitch and the Staff Team



(The children loved seeing Mrs Hallewell in one of her leaving gift outfits!)

Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1: Class 1 enjoyed choosing from selection of previously learnt PE topics such as cricket, football, tennis and basketball to play in their PE lesson.

Class 2: Class 2 enjoyed free computer time this week. They chose to work with either Scratch, PowerPoint or Word.

Class 3: The children enjoyed playing competitive games of Cricket in PE.

Class 4: In Art, the children recreated iconic parts of Cheltenham in the style of Van Gogh.

Class 5 & 6: Year 5 also enjoyed Art this week. They explored the work of Cornish Artist Jon Tremain whose unique animal art pictures contain smaller drawings of other animals within the main drawing. The children recreated his artwork using Rainforest animals.

Class 7 & 8: The children enjoyed creating their memory photo frames in readiness for their leavers Assembly which took place on Thursday.

Thank You

The disco on Thursday night was the final event arranged by our outgoing PTA Chair and Treasurer. We have been truly blessed to have such dedicated, energetic people leading our PTA for so many years.

The donations for them from the St Mark's community were greatly appreciated – **Sarah Welch, Treasurer**, said "I just wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone for my lovely thoughtful gifts, I will look forward to buying something special for my garden over the summer. Being part of the PTA has been a pleasure and I have enjoyed seeing the children enjoying themselves at all the different events. I'm really going to miss being part of St Mark's".

Chair, Liv Knight was also delighted: "I am blown away by my very generous, very lovely gift. It has been an absolute pleasure being Chair over the past 10 school years and I have loved seeing the children having fun. I wish all the children the very best in their futures, they are all amazing! It is going to take some time to get used to not being a part of the St Mark's family. The super memory card will stay on the shelf reminding us of the amazing times we have had".

Thank you both so much, and welcome to the new team who will be coming on board from September!



Disco

Thank you to everyone who came to the school Disco yesterday. We hope the children had an amazing time, making memories with their friends.

We will let you know how much we raised in September.



Talent Show

On Tuesday we hosted the final of St Mark's Talent Show. Last week four children were selected from each year group to compete in the final. There was such an amazing array of talent on show. We had dancers, singers, gymnasts and musicians take to the stage. There was also a Tom Gates monologue, soloists who played the Violin and Harp and an act involving a Pogo Stick and juggling balls. We even had a comedy routine inspired by the music 'Under the Sea' from 'The Little Mermaid'. Needless to say there was something for everyone which made choosing a winner from each year group extremely difficult in need.

In order to judge the competition we decided to look at our schools value of 'Engage'. We looked at how well the children engaged with the audience and committed to their performances. We were after energy, entertainment and of course talent. Today the winners were announced in our Celebration Assembly.

The winners are



Year 3 Hannah

Year 4 Louisa & Beca

Year 5 Molly, Annabelle & Abi

(thanks also to Darcie who helped with the choreography)

Year 6 Amber & Katie

Well done to our winners and to all the children who took part. It takes



a tremendous amount of courage to take to the stage and perform in front of your peers, so huge congratulations to you all!

Well done also has to go to Tia and Maisy in Year 6 who not only came up with the idea of having a talent show but also helped to organise the event. They introduced the final show brilliantly, as well as helping to judge the finalists. **Thank you girls for giving your fellow pupils a chance to shine and for all your hard work.**

Parent Governor Vacancy

We are blessed with a very friendly and knowledgeable team of Governors from all sorts of backgrounds. The main meetings take place 5-6 times a year and are lively and informative. These meetings benefit hugely from the presence of different stakeholders and their perspectives, including the Staff Governor and the Parent Governors.

We asked one of our current Parent Governors how they have found the role and they said :



"Being a parent governor is a great way to be involved with and contribute to the school. The board is made up of a really supportive group from a range of backgrounds and skills, all coming together with the same aim of making St Mark's the best it can possibly be for all its staff and pupils."

We are looking for parents who have great qualities and skills who would enhance our school governing body as a Parent Governor. Skills in either business, finance, HR, Health and Safety, IT or premises management would all be useful but certainly not essential.

We would love to hear from you if you are interested in this opportunity and for more information please email admin@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk.

Teaching & Learning Owls

Star - Isla, James & Thea

**Gold - Phoebe, Molly, Freddie,
Isaac, Isabella**

**Silver - Michalina, Indie, Leo,
Eshaal, Willow, Beau, Oliver,
Lola, Ethan, Archie, Jack, Maisy,
Henry, Wilbur, Dolly, Riana,
Livy, Bobby**

Bronze - Blessing

**Congratulations to our badge
winners!**



Reading Award

Lyra and Aanya in Year 4 have both completed the Year 4 reading list. What a fantastic achievement!

**Well done to
you both!!**



Owl Tea Party

What a lot of Owls we have awarded this term! This week we had a tea party for all the children who have received an Owl or Star badge this term as a way of celebrating their achievements. It was a lovely afternoon treat for the children.



Football News

A few weeks ago Tommy, Freddie, Ethan and Joshua in Year 5 were put forward to take part in trials for the Cheltenham Primary Schools Football Association. Unfortunately, Ethan was not able to make the trials so will be assessed in the Autumn Term. There were eighty five children to begin with at the trial, which after three very competitive trial sessions was narrowed down to a final fourteen. We are thrilled to say Tommy made the final team! This means that he will be representing our school in the Cheltenham Primary Schools Football Association Under 11s team for the coming season.

Tommy will be playing throughout all of next year at a number of matches, starting with Oxford Utd Academy on July 23rd. This is an exceptionally rare opportunity to represent St Mark's and we are so proud of Tommy's achievement. We look forward to hearing from Tommy and the team next year.



Extra Curricular Clubs - Autumn Term 1

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



Parent Pay

Please can you check you child's Parent Pay and ensure any outstanding arrears have been paid.

Many Thanks.



School Term Dates

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 2026, 20th July 2026



Diary Dates

2025-26

September

Mon 1st - INSET Day (No children in school)

Tue 2nd - INSET Day (No children in school)

Wed 3rd - First Day Back for Children

Tue 9th - Year 3 Parent Drop in

Fri 19th - Individual School Photos

October

Wed 1st - Year 3 & 4 Parents - Coffee with Mrs Fitch 2.30-3pm

Wed 8th - Year 5 & 6 Parents - Coffee with Mrs Fitch 2.30-3pm

Fri 10th - Rags Collection

Fri 10th - World Mental Health Day (Hello Yellow)

Mon 13th - Fri 17th - Cycle to School Week

Tue 14th - Harvest Festival (Children Only)

Mon 20th - Thu 23rd - Bikeability Year 6

Tue 21st - Book Look 3.10pm

Fri 24th INSET DAY

Fri 24th End of Term 1

November

Mon 3rd - Start of Term 2

Mon 10th - Fri 14th - Anti Bullying Week

Tue 11th - We the Curious Year 4 Trip (details to follow)

Fri 14th - Children in Need

Tue 18th - Parents Evening (timings tbc)

Thu 20th - Parents Evening (timings tbc)

Outdoor Learning - Autumn Term 1

Class 3: Thursday Morning

Class 4: 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.



PE - Autumn Term 1

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

Class 1: Tuesday & Thursday

Class 2: Tuesday & Thursday

Class 3: Monday

Class 4: Friday

Class 5: Tuesday & Friday

Class 6: Tuesday & Thursday

Class 7: Monday & Friday

Class 8: Wednesday & Friday



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