



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 29th November 2024

www.stmarksjunior.com

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

Our Value in focus this term is: TRUST

Headteacher's Message:

We have had such a fabulous week: quite literally 'all singing, all dancing'!

The children have blown us all away with their sheer enthusiasm and total commitment to making the Musical Theatre Productions the magnificent spectacles that they were.

It has been so heartwarming to hear from you as parents, and to see with our own eyes, how this experience has profoundly inspired and injected such confidence into many children in ways that, for some, has been quite unexpected! A wonderful testament to the benefits trying something new, even if it takes you completely out of your comfort zone!

Well done children - you are inspirational!



Our huge thanks to Emma Ward and her super sidekicks, Emma and Jaya, for their incredible expertise and relentless energy in pulling this all together - we have loved every minute. Our thanks also to Liv Knight and our PTA for securing this opportunity for the children and for funding it through the valuable contributions from our whole school community. It's been truly memorable.

If your child has enjoyed these sessions and would like to continue to hone their theatrical talent, please do get in touch with Emma Ward on emma@emmawarddance.co.uk

or visit [Emma Ward Dance and Performing Arts](http://EmmaWardDanceandPerformingArts.com)



As we lead-up to Christmas, it's getting particularly busy! Please do take time to check dates and information for upcoming events. Christmas is coming!

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





Christmas Calendar Dates

It's going to be a busy few weeks as we head towards the end of term.

Here is list of Christmas and other activities that are happening before the end of term.

Next Week

Mon 2nd - Thu 5th - Bikeability Year 6

Tue 3rd - PTA Christmas Movie Night
3.10-5.00pm

Wed 4th - Year 5 Anglo-Saxon Day



W/C 9th December

Wed 11th - Panto 2pm. Collection at 4.30pm in the playground

Thu 12th - Carol Services:

5.30 – 6.15 *Yellow & Green house, choir, orchestra & recorders*
6.45 – 7.30 *Red & Blue house, choir, orchestra & recorders*

Thu 12th - Christmas Jumper Day (Save the Children)

W/C 16th December

Mon 16th - Year 6 Making day

Tue 17th - Rocksteady concert for Rocksteady Parents 9.30am

Tue 17th - Christmas Fair from 3.15pm (Children to bring in change)

Wed 18th - PTA Discos Y3 & Y4 – 6-6.45pm / Y5 & Y6 – 7-8pm

Wed 18th - Thursday Lunch Menu

Thu 19th - Caterlink Christmas Lunch (Festive Menu Only)

Fri 20th - End of Term - School Finishes Normal Time 3.10pm

We the Curious—Year 4 Trip

Last Friday our Year 4 children visited We the Curious in Bristol. We The Curious is a science and arts centre, which features over 250 interactive exhibits.

As part of the visit, the children took part in a water cycle workshop. They created their own clouds in a model water cycle and explored how evaporation and condensation makes the rivers flow and provide us with fresh water. They also got to see amazing cloud made from dry ice.

The children thoroughly enjoyed all of the interactive activities, which as well as being a lot of fun, created opportunities for some valuable learning.

As always the children were an absolute delight to take out for the day and represented St Mark's wonderfully.



Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1: In Science, the children have been looking at the formation of fossils. They are making fossils out of clay and this week made the animal imprint. Next week they will be adding the Plaster of Paris to their fossils.

Class 2: Class 2 have enjoyed learning about Stonehenge, they even made a model of Stonehenge out of Bourbon biscuits!

Class 3: In English, the children have been busy writing a story on the Computer about Medusa or Pandora.

Class 4: The children have really enjoyed team building games in PE this week.

Class 5: It was Class 5s turn to take on the TT Rock Stars challenge, battling with class 4. Class 5 were victorious.

Class 6: In PE the children have been working on communication and teamwork, making up their own version of Bench ball.

Class 7: Class 7 have started to brainstorm ideas for the Christmas Fair, thinking about resources they may need.

Class 8: Despite the cold weather Class 8 enjoyed their PE lesson of Tag Rugby.

Popcorn Night - Organised by the PTA

Please come along next week to the PTA's popcorn and movie Night

FILM: Arthur Christmas

MOVIE ENTRY: £2 *(Please give to class teacher at the start of the day with your return slip in an envelope)*

WHEN: TUESDAY DECEMBER 3rd

TIME: 3:10 PM TO 5:00 PM



Bikeability - Year 6

Bikeability is taking place **next week**.

If your child has signed up to do the Bikeability course please remember bikes and helmets.

Please wear school uniform, but bring in extra layers, gloves and waterproofs as it can get cold and wet. We would also advise bringing in spare socks and trousers. **Enjoy the course!**



WE RAISED

£236.50

TO MAKE LIFE LIGHTER FOR CHILDREN



Football News

Last Friday both of our boys football teams played in a home game against Charlton Kings.

The boys played some fantastic football winning 4-2 and 5-3.

A great result—well done boys! As always you played with true sportsmanship and commitment, representing St Mark's brilliantly.

We are so proud of you!



Christmas Cards

Our festive Christmas Post Box is up in the foyer and ready to receive your Class Christmas cards throughout the rest of term.



Cheltenham Young Artists 2025: WINTER MOMENTS

We have received information regarding an exciting art competition for school children in the Cheltenham area. If your child is a budding artist please see details below and attached with this week's Newsletter.

Cheltenham Young artist 2025

As the country has turned into the winter season and seasonal festivities started, what a great opportunity to celebrate your talents by entering the '**WINTER MOMENTS**' competition.

Thanks to generous sponsorship there are cash prizes and every work displayed will be framed with the young artists receiving this at the end of the exhibition.

The competition is very simple, each pupil can enter **ONE** art work, **A4** in size on the theme, **WINTER MOMENTS**. Medium 2D: Paint, pencil, crayon, pastels, inks (no oil, collage or photography).

On the back, please print: Title, Pupil's name, Age, School name, Teacher's contact, School email.

Fifty works from the two sections will be shown at an exhibition in the Gardens Gallery, Montpellier Gardens, Cheltenham over the weekend of January 11th / 12th 2025. Other selected work will be projected in the Gallery. We will be sent a presentation of all those selected.

Winners will be contacted immediately after the school break and invited to an awards ceremony at the gallery on Sunday 12th January at 3pm. Awards will be presented by The Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, Edward Gillespie.

Completed entries should be put in a large envelope titled **CYA 25** and, on the back, printed with the **SCHOOL NAME**.

They can be delivered to collection boxes at local libraries **BISHOP'S CLEEVE, CHARLTON KINGS, CHURCHDOWN, HESTER'S WAY, PRESTBURY & UP HATHERLEY** and also Coffee 1# Montpellier & Gardens Gallery.

Or posted to: **CYA 25, co/ Churchdown Village Junior School, Station Road, Churchdown, GL3 2JX**

Please see the accompanying rules attached with the newsletter this week for further information. Please direct any queries to email address chelya25@gmail.com.

Entries close FRIDAY DECEMBER 13TH

Good luck!



Move More Camp @ St Mark's

We are excited to announce that *Move More* will be running an activity camp in the holidays at St Mark's on 2nd and 3rd of January.

They offer an award winning delivery and a huge range of activities.

Please see flyer attached with this weeks newsletter.



Extra Curricular Clubs - Autumn Term 2

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
Netball Y6	3.10pm - 4.15pm
Recorders Y3-6	Lunchtime
Running Club Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm

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 Y6	3.10pm - 4.00pm
Choir Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm



Year 6 Class 7 Request

If you have any **glass jars** or **kitchen roll tubes** (not toilet roll) please can you bring them into school for class 7.

Many thanks!



Letters Sent Home

- Anglo Saxon Day Year 5



School Term Dates

2024-25

Term 2: Mon 4th Nov – Fri 20th Dec 2024

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



November

Tue 26th - National Child Measurement check for Year 6

Fri 29th - Musical Theatre Performance

Class 1 & 3	9:30-10:30
Class 2 & 4	10:45-11:45
Class 5 & 7	1:30-2:20
Class 6 & 8	2:20-3:10

December

W/C 2nd - Bikeability Week Year 6

Tue 3rd - PTA Christmas film Night after school until 5.00pm

Wed 4th - Year 5 Anglo-Saxon Day

Wed 11th - Panto 2pm performance

Thu 12th - Carol Services: 5.30 – 6.15 (Yellow & Green house plus choir, orchestra and recorders) 6.45 – 7.30 (Red & Blue house plus choir, orchestra and recorders)

Thu 12th - Christmas Jumper Day (Save the Children)

Mon 16th - Year 6 Making day

Tue 17th - Rocksteady concert for Rocksteady Parents 9.30am

Tue 17th - Christmas Fair

Wed 18th - PTA Discos Y3 & Y4 – 6-6.45pm / Y5 & Y6 – 7-8pm

Wed 18th - Thursday Lunch Menu

Thu 19th - Caterlink Christmas Lunch (Festive Menu Only)

Fri 20th - End of Term 2

January

Mon 6th - Start of Term 3

Thu 16th - Year 5 First Swimming Lesson

Fri 17th - Year 6 First Swimming Lesson

Fri 24th - Rags Collection

PE - Autumn 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 and Thursday

Class 6: Tuesday and Thursday

Class 7: Tuesday and Friday

Class 8: Monday and Tuesday

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



Holiday Free School Meal (FSM) Voucher Scheme

We would like to make you aware of the holiday Free School Meal (FSM) voucher scheme that Gloucestershire County Council is currently offering to families in Gloucestershire.



Applications for holiday FSM vouchers for December 2024 Winter holiday will be open from midday 25 November until midday on 6 December.

Voucher emails will be sent from week commencing 16 December. Please check your junk/spam folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there.

If you have not received their vouchers by 23 December, please submit a query via the Microsoft Form [HERE](#).

This Winter holiday period, Gloucestershire County Council will provide families in receipt of Free School Meals, who sign up to this offer, with vouchers to assist with food costs during the school holidays. The vouchers are funded through grant funding we have received, and they are separate to that of term time free school meals.

The scheme is for children in reception to year 11 who receive Pupil Premium (benefits-related) **free school meals** and attend a school in Gloucestershire.

Families who have signed up to the scheme or who are already registered will receive a total of £15 per child.

To find out more about the scheme and to apply, please visit [FAQs | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Families who have signed up previously do not need to re-register for December 2024 holiday vouchers - they will already have been included. Families that have previously signed up will need to contact Gloucestershire County Council with any changes to their circumstances (e.g. if the number of children eligible increases or decreases). To ensure they reach all those who are eligible Gloucestershire County Council are encouraging parents that have not previously signed up, to sign up as soon as they can.

Please note Gloucestershire County Council will check eligibility for the scheme by cross-referencing with the term-time free school meal register. You can register by visiting the [apply for free school meals](#) page.

Using vouchers – vouchers will only be awarded once the parent has registered for the scheme and cannot be backdated. Vouchers are valid for 6 months, although should be used in the holiday period in which they are awarded. If vouchers are not claimed and have expired, they cannot be re-issued. Vouchers not received should be queried via the Microsoft Form [HERE](#) by the end of the holiday period.

For any parents wishing to update details of an existing application, please submit an update existing details request via the Microsoft Form [HERE](#) so your account can be updated, as details are not automatically updated.

