



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 5th September 2025

www.stmarksjunior.com

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

Our Value in focus this term is: TRUTHFULNESS

Headteacher's Message:

Three days in and we're in full swing! The children have returned to school raring to go, with excellent attitudes to their learning and in their relationships. It really has been a joy to see!

A particularly warm welcome to our new starters in Year 3 and to those in other year groups too. We have been amazed with how quickly the children have adjusted to the new routines and expectations with such a motivated and engaged approach.

Communication

We know that there is a lot to remember and get used to at this time of year so please do not hesitate to get in touch or check the **newsletter** or your **child's Year Group Page** on the school website.

The **Class Teachers** will lead the children out of school at the end of the day so, once all of the children have been dismissed, please do use this as a time to have a quick chat with the teacher. For any longer conversations, please arrange an after-school appointment via the school office or by emailing clerical@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk.

There will also be a member of the **Senior Leadership Team** on the playground at both ends of the day so this is often a good time to have a quick word. We are all here to help!

Curriculum Letters and Maps have been emailed home today to give you a flavour of what your child will be focussing on this term together with classroom routines and helpful reminders.

We are also offering an opportunity to join your child's **Class Teacher for a meeting via Teams** to hear a little more about what your child can expect in their new year group. Below are the timings for these. The link for the TEAMS meeting will be sent out nearer the time.

Meeting times:

Yr 3—Tuesday 16th September @ 4pm

Yr 4—Thursday 25th September @ 4pm

Yr 5—Thursday 18th September @ 4pm

Yr 6—Wednesday 17th September @ 4.30pm



Changes to the Behaviour and Character Development Policy

Promoting positive behaviour is crucial for children to learn, grow and flourish. We believe that children achieve best when there is a partnership between home and school and this applies particularly to behaviour. We expect parents to support the school in maintaining good discipline, which in turn ensures good learning.

We have amended our Behaviour and Character Development policy in line with current research and best practice to ensure all children continue to have the opportunity to learn in a calm, safe and positive learning environment. We will be explaining the changes to the children next week.

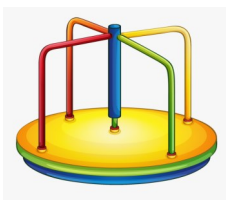
It is crucial that all parents understand the systems in place at school to ensure a joined-up approach when promoting positive behaviour for the children at St Marks. Attached is a summary of the revised policy. Please see the policy in full on our school www.stmarksjunior.com/policies. **With my best wishes for a lovely weekend, Mrs A Fitch and the Staff Team**

Play Equipment—A

reminder that the outside play equipment is not designed for children any younger than KS2 (7-11yrs). **Please refrain**

from allowing younger children to play on the equipment for health and safety reasons.

Thank you for your understanding.



School Bags—If there is an option of switching back-packs to drawstring bags in the coming weeks / months, this would ensure that coats and bags can be hung safely on hooks. As mentioned previously, we do not have space for 30 bulky back



Healthy Breaktime

Snacks – Snacks for break time need to be healthy. This can include rice cakes, crackers, breadsticks, cheese, fruit, veg sticks and cereal bars for example. **Treat Friday: crisps, chocolate bars, no sweets**



The Little Princess Trust

Heather in Year 5 has done something rather brave for charity this week. She has been growing her hair for over two years so that she could donate it to *The Little Princess Trust*.

The Little Princess Trust provides real hair wigs, free of charge, to children and young people who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or to other conditions such as Alopecia. The charity is also one of the largest funders of childhood cancer research in the UK.



This week Heather took the plunge and had her hair cut, **donating just over 16 inches/41 cm of hair** to the charity. **In addition to this she has also raised £400** for the charity via www.justgiving.com/page/heather-little-princess-trust

Wow, well done to Heather—what an incredible generous act and such a fantastic amount of money you have raised. We are all very proud of you.

Coincidentally Mrs Reilly's daughter Ava, who is a pupil at Benhall Infant School also donated her hair in the holidays to the same charity, raising close to £500.

What a star!



A bright start to the new school year!

In recent years the office team have struggled to source durable register covers so Mrs Hicks' step-mother, Elspeth Thomson, has very kindly crafted us some durable and beautifully colourful fabric covers.

We are very grateful for her generosity in creating these for the school and are already enjoying using them!

THANK YOU!
thank you!



Year 3 Parent Drop in

On **Tuesday 9th September** there will be a Year 3 parent drop in after school - an opportunity for you to see your child's class and teachers.

Please do pop in if you can.



Outdoor Learning Changes

This year we will be changing our Outdoor Learning timetable. Year 3 and 4 will have whole class lessons in the Autumn and Summer terms.

Year 5 and 6 children will be given the opportunity to have Outdoor Learning lessons in smaller groups of 6 throughout the Autumn and Summer Terms. They will not have whole class lessons.



There will be no Outdoor Learning in the Spring term.

Extra Curricular Clubs - Autumn Term 1



Monday

Baking Buddies Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.30pm
Chinese Language Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.15pm
Gymnastics Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm
Netball Y5-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm
Orchestra Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm
Recorders Y3-6	Lunchtime
Running Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm

Tuesday

Choir 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

Thursday

European Languages Y4-6	3.10pm - 4.15pm
Outdoor Learning Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.15pm

Friday

Girls Football Y4-6	12.30pm - 1.00pm
Boys Football Y4-6	1.00pm - 1.30pm

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 23rd 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



2025-26



September

Tue 9th - Year 3 Parent Drop in
Tue 16th - Y3 Curriculum Parents Meeting via Teams @ 4pm
Wed 17th - Y6 Curriculum Parents Meeting via Teams @ 4.30pm
Thu 18th - Y5 Curriculum Parents Meeting Via Teams @ 4pm
Fri 19th - Individual School Photos
Thu 25th - Y4 Curriculum Parents Meeting via Teams @ 4pm

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)
Wed 12th - Parents Evening (timings tbc)
Thu 13th - Parents Evening (timings tbc)
Fri 14th - Children in Need

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.