



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 12th September 2025

www.stmarksjunior.com

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

Our Value in focus this term are our FACE Values

Headteacher's Message: **Our Vision:**
Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

One body, many parts. 1 Corinthians 12

At the start of this new school year, we have reminded ourselves about what our school Vision and FACE values look like in action; it should be happening all around us when we are in our school: **our vision is the FACE of St Mark's.**

Our vision and associated values are at the very heart of all that we do at St Mark's, from our Teaching and Learning approach and curriculum content to our expectations of behaviour and the way in which we relate to others in our school community and in the wider world.

The Biblical verse that underpins our vision is: **'One Body, Many Parts'** (1 Corinthians 12): We are one community, bringing our own unique differences so that our school community can grow and flourish. We need everyone to play their part!

One of the main ways we can put our **vision into action is through our FACE values.** When we show these values in our learning and in our relationships, ***we grow as people and enabling ourselves and others to become more of who we are created to be.*** The images below were designed by the children to show how each of the values can be represented through an image, linking the key Bible story for each of our FACE values to every day life.



Forgiveness

*Be a peacemaker—
don't rub it in, rub it out*



Zacchaeus & the Tax Collector

When Zacchaeus was forgiven by Jesus, he felt peace and acceptance. When we offer **forgiveness**, we can bring peace to others which strengthens relationships. The dove is a sign of peace.

Aspire

*Keep growing—
dig deep, aim high*

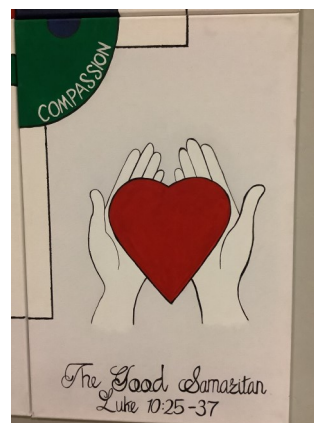


The Parable of the Sower

The seed planted in good soil is healthy and strong. If we root ourselves in knowledge and values for life, we are enabled to grow and **aspire** to achieve great things, in school and beyond.

Compassion

*Be kind—
notice the need*

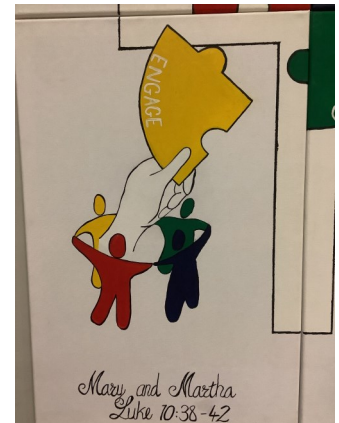


The Good Samaritan

The Good Samaritan didn't ignore the man who was suffering. He noticed the need and acted with love and **compassion**. People and our environment need our help, locally and globally.

Engage

*Be here now—
play your part*



Mary and Martha

In the story of Mary and Martha, Martha was distracted and 'missed the moment'. We all need to **engage**, to play our unique part to make our school community the best it can be.

It is wonderful to see how the St Mark's vision and values are truly embedded into school life, genuinely informing the choices we make on a daily basis. I wonder if you can see these values in action at home too?

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

Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1 & 2: Year 3 were tasked with following a set of instructions in English, learning how to make a Woolley Mammoth. The children also completed a Slow Write using the book 'How to Wash a Woolley Mammoth.'

Class 3 & 4: In Outdoor Learning, Year 4 children made waterproof stone age dwellings using material that they could find in the Outdoor Learning area, such as wood, stone, leaves and grass. They tested how waterproof the dwellings were, by pouring water over them and seeing if a rag inside the construction remained dry.

Class 5: In PE, the children enjoyed Netball. They focused on chest, bounce and shoulder passes, and in particular concentrated on their footwork and how to land when you receive a ball. They then used these skills in mini matches.

Class 6: Computing was the highlight for class 6. They have been designing their dream room from a birds eye view. Next week they will be using a programme called Tinkercad to bring their designs to life.

Class 7: In English, class 7 looked at different scenarios that refugees face. They explored difficult decisions refugees have to make to survive.

Class 8: In Science, the children used torches to explore light beams and how light travels.

Curriculum Meetings

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, we are 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 and links for these meetings.

Year 3—Tuesday 16th September @ 4pm

Meeting Link: [Year 3 Curriculum Meeting](#) | [Meeting-Join](#) | [Microsoft Teams](#)

Yr 4—Thursday 25th September @ 4pm

Meeting Link: [Year 4 Curriculum Meeting](#) | [Meeting-Join](#) | [Microsoft Teams](#)

Yr 5—Thursday 18th September @ 4pm

Meeting Link: [Year 5 Curriculum Meeting](#) | [Meeting-Join](#) | [Microsoft Teams](#)

Yr 6—Wednesday 17th September @ 4.30pm

Meeting Link: [Year 6 Curriculum Meeting](#) | [Meeting-Join](#) | [Microsoft Teams](#)



We will be recording the sessions and will send the links out following the meeting dates, so if you're not able to make it at the times specified above, please don't worry.

If you are able to join us live, please ensure the **mute button remains on** for the duration of the meeting.

We would love to put names to faces so if you're able to **keep your camera on** and you are happy for this to be visible during the recorded session, please do. We understand though, if it's a busy time of day and you would prefer just to listen!

Teaching & Learning Owls

Bronze - Rory, Rose, Beca & Lola

Congratulations to our badge winners!



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.



Music Clubs

Orchestra—BIG NEWS

Orchestra is moving to a **Tuesday lunchtime** to allow more children to come along! Please sign up via Parent Pay. Orchestra will start Tuesday 23rd September 12.30-1pm.

Music Clubs Special Offer

We are now running a 3 for 2 offer. So if you sign up for Orchestra, Choir and Record clubs, please contact the school office so that we can give you one of those clubs for free!



If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals, please contact Mrs Hicks our Business Manager and we will look at how we can fund a place for you.

You still have time to book your child a place in choir, recorder and/or orchestra club. Please sign up via Parent Pay.

If you need assistance please contact the school office clerical@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk



Max Wilkinson's Christmas Card Competition 2025

This week we received a letter from the House of Commons inviting the children of St Mark's to take part in our local MP's Christmas Card Competition. You may remember last year, Honey in Year 5 won the competition and was presented with her prize by Max Wilkinson during Collective Worship.



Every pupil who submits a design will receive a certificate. The winner and runners-up will receive prizes, and the winning design will be used for Max Wilkinson's official Christmas card design, which is sent out to thousands of homes across Cheltenham!!!

Competition details:

- Designs should be on A4 paper in **landscape** format
- Please send the original design, not a photocopy
- Everything fun, creative, and vibrant is encouraged (please avoid glitter, glue, cotton wool and other stick on items)
- Please write your full name, school year, school name and age on the back of your design—otherwise they will not know who the winner is!

Please note that your name, age, year group and school name will be shown on the winning card.

Entries must be received by Friday 19th September.

Please send entries to Max Wilkinson MP, 16 Hewlett Road, Cheltenham.GL52 6AA.

Road Safety

I regret to inform you that there have been some incidents of dangerous driving on Robert Burns Avenue this week. This is obviously of significant concern to our school community as it puts the safety of our children and families at high risk. I know that most people reading this behave very well on the roads, but our plea to all whose circumstances require them to arrive by car is to arrive in good time safely and legally. **Please see below 'Rules for Pedestrians' taken from the 'Highway Code' which you might find useful. (Rule 8 - Highway Code)**

'At a junction. When you are crossing or waiting to cross the road, other traffic should give way. Look out for traffic turning into the road, especially from behind you, and cross at a place where drivers can see you. If you have started crossing and traffic wants to turn into the road, you have priority and they should give way.'

We remain fully committed to doing all we can to safeguard our children and families. We understand that school drop-off and pick-up times are very busy and rushed for many people. However, the safety of our children and wider school community is paramount and cannot be compromised.



Flu Vaccination

A reminder that the Immunisation team are due to visit St Mark's on **Monday 6th October 2025** to deliver the flu vaccinations, to all consented students.



Please use this link to give consent for your child to have the flu vaccination.

Online Consent form link: www.ghcimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu

- St Mark's C of E Junior School Unique Code: GC115712

The link will close at midday on the working day before our schools scheduled session date, all forms will need to be submitted prior to this date.

If you are unable to access the consent form online then please call the immunisation team for assistance on 0300 421 8140.

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

Outdoor Learning Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.15pm
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Friday

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

Whole School Individual & Sibling Photos

Freedom photography are coming in next Friday 19th September to take individual and sibling school photos.

Please ensure your child comes to school smartly dressed and brings in their school jumper/ cardigan for their photo.



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



2025-26



September

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
Thu 9th - PTA AGM (location & time tbc)
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 - No children in School
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: **Thursday & Friday (note change of days)**

Class 7: Monday & Friday

Class 8: Wednesday & Friday

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

