



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 8th November 2024

www.stmarksjunior.com

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

Our Value in focus this term is: TRUST

Headteacher's Message:

Although the Half Term break seems a rather dim and distant memory now (!), I hope you were able to enjoy some time together with family and friends.

We've been getting straight back into the swing of things this week and are looking forward to all that this busy Christmas Term brings. Please do keep an eye on the school calendar and dates for your diary section each week.

A quick reminder of our Musical Theatre Performance Day of The Nativity (Yr 3 & 4) and High School Music (Yr 5 & 6). 29th November—please do save the date—the children are in full throws of rehearsals now—you are in for a spectacular treat! Timings in *Dates for your Diary* section at the end of the newsletter

Our Value in Focus this term is Trust. We will be thinking together about:

- *Who we trust when our lives feel stormy and what we can do that will help us feel more peaceful*
- *How we show we are trustworthy in a range of different situations*
- *What happens when we feel let down by others?*
- *How do we know who is ok to trust and when we might be cautious?*



The children will spend time in classes as well as in whole school Collective Worship, thinking about how we can put our Value into action

Finally a note on our ongoing parking concerns.

The danger to children and adults walking to and from school remains a real concern. Once again, there have been several 'near-misses' this week, due to ill-judged driving behaviours, both on the road as well as in our school carpark. **Please drive responsibly.**

A reminder that Mrs Sutton, our Crossing Patrol Staff Member is employed and trained by Gloucestershire County Council to fulfil this role in a particular designated part of the road. ***Cars should not be parked to obstruct this crossing.***

In addition, in order to keep children safe on our school site, from Monday 11th November, please note that the school car park will be closed to all parental parking after school until 4.30pm each day.

Mrs A Fitch and the Staff Team

Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1 and 2: The children visited Greystones Farm this week, where they really enjoyed the Iron Age experience and in particular making bread. They also built with wattle and daub and were quite excited to know that the secret ingredients in the mud was cow pat! Please look out for a full write up in next week's newsletter.

Class 3: Inspired by the artist Sandra Silberzweig, the children enjoyed creating portraits.

Class 4: Class 4 have been researching different Greek Gods and writing about them.

Class 5: In English, the children played the part of a reporter and eyewitness and enjoyed filming themselves using the school iPads as part of the interactive lesson.

Class 6: The children in class 6 also enjoyed their English lesson. They produced a fact file on Robin Hood, which they plan to use to write a newspaper article about him.

Class 7: In computing, the children inputted data into Excel, then formatted the data to make different patterns.

Class 8: Art was also a highlight for class 8. They have been silk painting Viking knots.

Football Success

Both of our boy's teams played in home matches against Warden Hill on the last Thursday before half term.

As always they played with fantastic team spirit, as well as demonstrating superb skills and sportsmanship.

Well done to both teams for winning 4-3 and 4-1. A great result!



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal—Thank You



Thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal again this year. Our House captains have been very busy at break and lunch times selling poppies to the children, as well as creating posters (in their own free time at lunch) to remind everyone about the appeal.

For the 2023 Poppy Appeal a new plastic-free poppy was introduced, made entirely from paper. After Remembrance Sunday the plastic-free poppy can be easily recycled at home via ordinary paper recycling collections.

On Monday the children and staff will meet together to mark Remembrance Day and, through the week will take time to discuss and reflect on the significance of the event, in their own classes. **Children who belong to uniformed organisation are invited to wear their uniforms on Monday** as we unite together to remember the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces community from United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. **We will remember them.**



Events Next Week

Anti-Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day

Next week is **Anti-Bullying Week** and **Odd Socks Day**. Anti-Bullying Week 2024 will take place from Monday to Friday, with the theme: **Choose Respect**.

Odd Socks Day is will be on **Tuesday 12th November**, with adults and children being encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.

Following the success of the campaign in 2023 – when 80% of schools marked the week – this year the aim is to empower children and young people to choose **respect**.



The children will be taking part in numerous activities throughout the week. Year 3 will design an anti-bullying super hero, Year 4 plan to make an acrostic poem, Year 5 will produce anti-bullying posters and year 6 will design a hand art piece exploring how they can show respect.

Children in Need - Friday 15th November

Children can come to school in clothes of their choice. This can include fancy dress/Pudsey theme too.



We will be selling Pudsey badges from Monday. If your child would like one please can they bring £1 in cash. The badges are limited and subject to availability!



Throughout the day the children will have the opportunity to learn about the importance of fundraising and for this particular event including the impact that our donations will have.

There will be information on Parent Pay for you to make a donation in due course. We will message you when live.

Caterlink Survey

Caterlink are carrying out an annual pupil survey to assist them in improving catering service to their customers.

They would be grateful if you could complete the survey by clicking on the link below or by scanning the QR Code.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RLKQLHJ>



Please can all responses be completed by 30th November.



Cake International

Lottie in year 5 entered ***Cake International*** last weekend, which is a world-leading competition for sugarcraft artists, with hundreds of cakes on display and elite judges, people enter from all over the world!



Lottie created a makeup bag cake in the junior category (10-16yrs). The cake took hours of practise and attempts to make it to competition standard but it was worth all the effort as she walked away with a silver award!

Congratulations Lottie, your cake looks amazing and what a fantastic achievement! We are all super proud of you!

Chosen Hill Open Afternoon

To support parents of prospective students in Yr. 5 making a decision about their secondary school preference, Chosen Hill will be holding an **Open Afternoon on Tuesday 17th December**, timings are noted below:

12:30pm - 1:15pm: Tour of the school

1:15pm - 1:30pm: Refreshments and meet some of the team.

1:30pm - 2pm: Presentation from SENDCo

2pm - 2:30pm: Q+A

Chosen Hill will not be able to offer individual tours outside of this day aside from in exceptional circumstances or until year 6.

If your child has an EHCP or in the process of applying for an EHCP please contact Ms Danni Richards (drc@chosen-hill.gloucs.sch.uk) directly to confirm your attendance and provide your child's name and our school name. Please respond by Friday 29th November.



Teaching & Learning Owls

Congratulations to the children for achieving their bronze owl!

Bronze - Beau and Tegan



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



Pudding Pots / Yoghurt Pots

If you have any rice pudding pots / yoghurt pots, could you bring them into school on Monday, washed out for Mrs Hunt and Year 3.

Many thanks!



Letters Sent Home

- Gloucester Mosque Workshop Y5
- Parents' Evening Letter
- Hindu Community Centre Nov 2024
- Pioneer Residential Second Letter Y6
- Christmas Lunch Menu



2024 - 25

Diary Dates

November

Mon 11th - Anti-Bullying Week
 Tue 12th - Odd Socks Day
 Tue 12th - School Beat session Internet Safety Year 6
 Fri 15th - Children in Need
 Mon 18th - St Mark's Open Day 10.50-11.50am
 Mon 18th - Gloucester Mosque Workshop @ St Mark's Year 5
 Mon 18th - Hindu Community Centre Visit Year 4
 Tue 19th - Parents' Evening
 Wed 20th - St Mark's Open Day 10.50-11.50am
 Thu 21st - Parents' Evening
 Fri 22nd - We the Curious trip Year 4
 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 5.15pm
 Wed 11th - Panto 2pm performance
 Thu 12th - Carol Services: 5.30 - 6.15 (Yellow & Green house plus choir) 6.45 - 7.30 (Red & Blue house plus choir)
 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 Fayre
 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

School Term Dates

2024-25

Term 1: Wed 4th Sept - Thu 24th Oct 2024
 Term 2: Mon 4th Nov - Fri 20th Dec 2024
 Term 3: on 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 & 3rd September, 25th October, 2nd June, 21st July



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.