



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Thursday 24th October 2024

www.stmarksjunior.com

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

Our Value in focus this term is: **FACE VALUES**

Headteacher's Message:

What a fantastic way to end Autumn Term 1. You will see from this week's Learning Highlights that it has been another packed week: giving our all, right to the end of term! This is testament to the children's outstanding attitudes to learning whilst also negotiating the new rhythms and routines of a new year group.



A big shout out to our wonderful Year 3s, in particular! Well done, Year 3s—you have adjusted brilliantly to life in St Mark's, we can't imagine life without you now!

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's Harvest Collection such a success. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity in donating to **The Cheltenham Foodbank and West Cheltenham Food Pantry.** It was a real privilege to be able to present these gifts to Sarah and Linda who head-up the teams of volunteers—they joined us for our Harvest Festival at school today.

The children learned how our donations would be making such a huge difference to the lives of those who really need this help. This is one of our core FACE Values **Compassion** in action! **Thank you all so much.**

We have all certainly earned a break. I do hope you are able to take some time to rest and recharge, ready for another busy term!

Have a super half term and we look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday 4th November

Mrs A Fitch and the Staff Team



Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1: In Geography, the children used the iPads to explore Google maps and locate famous landmarks in the UK.

Class 2: The highlight for class 2 was Stone Age Day on Monday. See page 2 for more details!

Class 3: Class 3 have been learning how to play Golf. They played mini competitions with the skills they have learnt.

Class 4: The children could not choose between Musical Theatre and Geography this week! In Musical Theatre they enjoyed learning their scripts and in Geography they have made fact files on the country Greece.

Class 5: The children have enjoyed painting their Frida Kahlo inspired watercolour pictures this week.

Class 6: Class 6 have finished writing their legends set hundreds of years ago. They really enjoyed writing about the battle between the hero and the creature!

Class 7: Technically this happened last Friday afternoon - however, the children really loved their gym lesson and wanted to share that they used all the gymnastic apparatus in the hall to experiment with different types of balances.

Class 8: PE was also a favourite lesson for Class 8. The children learnt about the different positions in Netball. They then put their new skills into action by playing matches.

Football - Boys Albert Dix Tournament

Last Friday was another fantastic day for St Mark's football teams.

The team had 3 group matches that were all won comfortably scoring a total of **19 goals!** We won our group taking us through to the finals at Charlton Kings Junior school. In the semi finals we **beat Warden Hill 3-0** and went on to play the hosts Charlton Kings, **winning 3-1 in the final.**

We are now through to the district finals at Oxstalls in December.

The boys played so well in every match and worked brilliantly as a team, representing St Mark's immaculately.



A huge congratulations to all the players, we are super proud of you all!

Stone Age Day—Year 3

To start of their units of work in English, year 3 had an immersive experience Stone Age themed day this week. The children will be studying the book *Stone Age Boy* and will be writing stories with familiar settings.

The day was so much fun and involved making jewellery from Modroc, baking flat breads & making butter which they then dipped into Stone Age Stew. They also did some creative cave painting.



Some of the children dressed up for the day and everyone immersed themselves into the experience, which we hope will ignite their interest in their topic.



Cross Country

Last Friday the girls took part in a cross country race at Ashley Manor, which was the same course the boys tackled last week.

The weather was not as kind for the girls, however the rain was nowhere near as torrential as their first race of the season, which we were all pleased about!

The children ran with great attitudes and they really blew our socks off with their fantastic performances!

Well done to all our competitors for challenging themselves and tackling the notoriously difficult, yet beautiful course.



Staff Bake Sale

On Wednesday there was a cake sale in the staffroom to raise money for Crohn's and Colitis UK. Several members of staff have family members who are seriously impacted by these conditions and so it was great to take part in the "Cake and a Cuppa" campaign, both to increase awareness and to raise money for the charity.



Hedgehog Rescue

On Wednesday Miss Thom rescued a baby hedgehog who was trying to cross the road outside school. We looked after it in school for the day until Mrs Hopkinson was able to take it to the animal hospital.

The children were so excited to see the hedgehog, as many of them had never seen a hedgehog before.



Teaching & Learning Owls

Congratulations to Asa for achieving his gold owl!

Gold - Asa



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 - 4.10pm
Choir Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm



Children in Need

Friday 15th November -

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



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

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.

Letters Sent Home

- Bikeability Year 6
- Y5&6 Swimming Lesson Letter



2024 - 25



October

Fri 25th - Inset Day - School closed to children

Thu 31st - Secondary School Application Deadline

November

Thu 7th - Greystones Farm Class 1
 Fri 8th - Greystones Farm Class 2
 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
 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
 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)
Mon 16th - Year 6 Making day *Change of Date*
Tue 17th - Christmas Fayre *Change of Date*
 Wed 18th - PTA Discos Y3 & Y4 – 6-6.45pm / Y5 & Y6 – 7-8pm

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.