



# St Mark's C of E Junior School

*Growing together, becoming all we are created to be*

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 26th September 2025

[www.stmarksjunior.com](http://www.stmarksjunior.com)

All enquires: [admin@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk)

Our Value in focus this term are our FACE Values

## Headteacher's Message:



This year, both Benhall Infants and St Mark's are collecting donations of food in support of the **Cheltenham Foodbank Harvest Appeal**.

Our 'one-liner' for our value of **Compassion** is **'Be kind—Notice the Need'**.

This is a powerful way of putting our Value of **Compassion** into action, as we **Notice the Need** of the many people in our community who could do with help at this time.

If you feel able to donate, please see the list of essential items on Foodbank Shopping List that are most needed by the foodbank—but any non-perishable items are welcome!

Donations can be brought to the school **any time from now until Monday 13th October** in readiness for our **Harvest Festival** for the children is on **Tuesday 14th October**.

We will be launching the appeal in school next week and we are excited to welcome a member of the **Foodbank Staff Team to St Mark's** for our **Harvest Festival** to explain about the impact that our collections will have on the lives of others—we really can change lives! Thank you so much for helping our school community support this appeal.

**We have had another excellent week, fully immersing ourselves into learning**, showing perseverance and aspiration as we courageously step out of our comfort zone. I could not be prouder of the children as they continue to settle in to their new Year Groups.

**As always, please do not hesitate to contact us at school, via the school office: [clerical@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:clerical@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk)** with any queries or concerns. I would ask that **parents do not email Class Teachers directly** as this is part of school policy in managing the wellbeing of staff; these email addresses should not be in circulation. Teachers will be very happy to reply to messages / arrange meetings etc via the school office.

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

## Shopping list

Soup

UHT Milk

Hot / Cold Tinned Meat

Microwave Rice

Pasta Sauce

Custard / Rice Pudding

Coffee

Sweet / Savoury Snacks

Toiletries

## Smartphone Free at KS1, 2 & 3

If you were not able to attend the Smartphone Free meeting at Bournside this week, you will find the full set of slides from the event on their website. Please use this link:

[www.bournside.com/school-information/smartphone-free-at-ks1-2-and-3](http://www.bournside.com/school-information/smartphone-free-at-ks1-2-and-3)



## Learning Highlight of the Week

**Class 1:** In PE, the children played Netball matches, putting into practice the skills they have learnt so far.

**Class 2:** Class 2 also enjoyed PE this week. They played teams games to help build a level of trust.

**Class 3:** The children enjoyed practising their chipping and putting Golf skills.

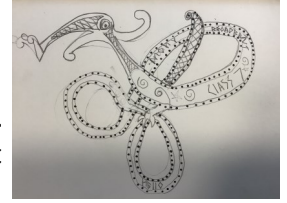
**Class 4:** In Art, the children have been creating hand artwork, whilst studying the artist Sandra Silberzweig.

**Class 5:** Class 5 learnt to play a piece of Jazz music on the Glockenspiel. They focused on improvisation using 5 different notes.

**Class 6:** In English the children have started to write stories based on characters they have created themselves, inspired by the work they have been doing on Myths and Legends.

**Class 7:** The children have been creating some fabulous Viking inspired Artwork this week.

**Class 8:** Class 8 have enjoyed writing stories about a shark and a kayaker, using dual point of view.



## House Captains

Huge congratulations to the year 6 children who were chosen to be House Captains and Vice House Captains today. It was a very difficult decision to choose just four children per house and so thank you to all the children who took the time to apply. Your letters were really wonderful and we could have given the roles to any one of you.

### Green

House Captains - Emily, Freddie

Vice House Captains - Oliver, Evie

### Yellow

House Captains - Livvy, Eshaal

Vice House Captains - Riana, Beau

### Red

House Captains - Amelia, Dolly-May

Vice House Captains - Archie, Leo

### Blue

House Captains - Molly, Abi

Vice House Captains - Jess, Jack



### School Prefects

Due to the high calibre of students and impressive applications we received this year, we will be introducing a new role for school prefects. Over the coming weeks, selected pupils will be appointed with specific roles across various areas of school life. We look forward to sharing more details soon and celebrating the contribution the pupils make to school life.

## Teaching & Learning Owls

**Bronze - Max, Harry, Harry & Florence**

**Silver - Ayla**

**Congratulations to our badge winners!**



## Play equipment—younger siblings

**Please ensure younger siblings remain with parents / carers during pick up and keep off school play equipment and forest area.**

The site is not designed for children younger than 7 yrs old and we would hate for an accident to happen.

## Smartwatches



We ask for Smartwatches not to be worn. If it is a necessity, they will be treated in the same way as mobile phones: handed in at the start of the day and given out at home time.

## 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
Recorders Y3-6	Lunchtime
Running Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm

### Tuesday

Choir Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm
Orchestra Y3-6	12.30pm - 1.00pm
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

## 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**



## Letters Sent Home

- We the Curious Year 4 Trip



## 2025-26



### September

Mon 29th - Year 6 reunion happening 3.45 - 4.30pm

### October

Wed 1st - Year 3 & 4 Parents - Coffee with Mrs Fitch 2.30-3pm

Mon 6th - Flu Immunisation day

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)

Tue 14th - Book look 3.10pm Class 7 Only

Mon 20th - Thu 23rd - Bikeability Year 6

Tue 21st - Book Look 3.10pm Except Class 7

Thu 23rd - St Mark' Open Morning 11-12pm

Fri 24th INSET DAY - No children in School

Fri 24th End of Term 1

### November

Mon 3rd - Start of Term 2

Fri 7th - Stone Age Day Year 3

Mon 10th - Fri 14th - Anti Bullying Week

Tue 11th - We the Curious Year 4 Trip

Wed 12th - Parents Evening (timings tbc)

Thu 13th - Parents Evening (timings tbc)

Thu 13th - Greystones Farm Class 1 Trip

Fri 14th - Children in Need

Thu 20th - Greystones Farm Class 2 Trip

## 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**

**Class 7: Monday & Friday**

**Class 8: Wednesday & Friday**

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

