



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 11th 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:

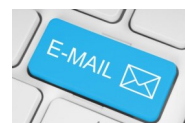
Communication

Now that term is in full swing, we know that life is busy, with lots going on.

All teachers are on the playground at the end of the day. If you need to touch base with your child's class teacher, once all of the children have been handed over to parents, please do use this as a time to have a quick chat. **Feel free to email the school office ahead of time** to give the teacher the heads-up to look out for you at the end of the day.

Unfortunately, due to safeguarding reasons, we are unable to facilitate the class teachers being on the playground to speak with parents at the beginning of the day.

For longer conversations, all teachers are more than happy to meet with you at a mutually convenient time; please arrange an after-school appointment via the school office or by emailing clerical@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk. **If a phone call works better**, we can arrange this too.



There will also be a member of the Senior Leadership Team on the playground at both ends of the day or do get in touch and we can make an appointment at a time to suit you. We are all here to help!



A note of clarification that parents are welcome to walk their children on to the playground at drop off.

For safeguarding reasons, we would ask for parents to go as far as the Willow Tree and for children to walk in from there.

As a Junior School, part of our role is to equip the children to become increasingly independent. We know that levels of independence are developed at different rates so if it is helpful for children, particularly in Lower School, to be accompanied on to the playground, this is absolutely fine.

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

Harvest Food Bank Collection

This year we will be collecting donations of food for Cheltenham Foodbank. We would be grateful for any donations - please see the list of essential items that are most needed by the foodbank.

Donations can be brought to the school **week commencing 21st October** as our **Harvest Festival** for the children is on **Thursday 24th October**. A member from the Foodbank team will be coming in to talk to the children during the Harvest Festival so that they can learn about where their donations go. **THANK YOU!**

Food Donation - Essential Items

Pasta, Pasta sauce
Tinned soup / cuppa soups
Tinned meat (hot and cold)
Instant noodles,
Microwave rice
Cereal
Biscuits
Coffee
UHT milk



Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1: In computing, the children enjoyed leaning 'Dance Mat Typing' to improve their typing skills.

Class 2: As part of *Hello Yellow*, *World Mental Health Awareness* day class 2 practiced doodling with 'Doodle Boy'.

Class 3: In Maths, the children have been enjoying column addition and subtraction this week.

Class 4: Having spent time planning, they are now writing their own independent stories based on the *Beast of Olympus*.

Class 5: Class 5 enjoyed the *Hello Yellow* activities. They created a page of doddles, whilst listening to calming music.

Class 6: The highlight for class 6 had to be their Space Dome visit. They enjoyed all the interactive elements, including the big bang and special effects when the constellations appeared to be spinning around them. They also learnt some interesting facts about how signs of water on other planets could indicate the existence of alien life.

Class 7: In Art, the children enjoyed silk Viking knot drawing.

Class 8: The children have been writing about having to escape from their homes due to a disaster that has happened.

Football Success

We have had a fantastic start to the school Football season!

Last Friday both boys football teams won their fixtures against Leckhampton Primary 6-5 & 3-1 .

The teams played with excellent attitudes and represented the school extremely well. They played some amazing football and deserved the wins.

The girls football team did us equally proud on Monday playing against Leckhampton Primary. Despite conceding 2 early goals, the team rallied



and demonstrated some great football, winning 5-3. For some of the girls this was their first ever football match and they demonstrated some great football alongside some of our more experienced players.

Well done to all three teams, you should be very proud of your achievements.

Cross Country

On Tuesday children from St Mark's took part in our first cross country race of the season. The conditions were extremely tough, with constant rain and muddy terrain. The children were truly amazing and despite the poor conditions ran brilliantly and conquered the course with true grit and determination. **Well done to the children who took part!**



Hello Yellow—World Mental Health Day

Yesterday St Mark's joined thousands of schools across the UK in taking part in Hello Yellow in support of YoungMinds where we held a non-school uniform day involving wearing something yellow.

Thank you to the children for embracing the yellow theme and for your kind contributions to the charity. So far we have raised an impressive

£182.50! Thank you so much!

YoungMinds have resources for parents and carers to find help and advice, to support young peoples mental health if you're ever concerned about a child or young person – you can find this on their website:

www.youngminds.org.uk/parent



Space Dome

Class 6 were invited to Bournside to visit the Space Dome. The Space Dome is an immersive mobile planetarium. Crawling into the Dome the children were met with images of the solar system projected onto it. It was truly captivating.



The show was led by fantastic presenters whose knowledge about space was amazing. Our children asked some really intelligent questions, which impressed the Space Dome team. It was a truly unforgettable experience for the children and thank you to the team for inviting us.



Teaching & Learning Owls

Silver - Chelsea and Molly

Bronze - Adan

Congratulations to all our Owl winners!



Extra Curricular Clubs - Autumn Term 1

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
Choir Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm
Dynamos Cricket Y4-6	3.10pm - 4.10pm



Contact Details

Have you recently moved house, changed your phone number or email address? If so please email clerical@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk so that we can update your records.

Thank you!



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



2024 - 25

Diary Dates

October

- Mon 21st - Book Look Class 1
- Mon 21st - Stone Aged Day Year 3
- Tue 22nd - Book Look Classes 2 - 8
- Wed 23rd - PTA Magic Show 6.15-7.15pm
- Thu 24th - Harvest Festival (Just children)
- Fri 25th - Inset Day - School closed to children

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 4th - Year 6 Making day
- Thu 5th - Christmas Fayre
- 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)
- Wed 18th - PTA Discos Y3 & Y4 – 6-6.45pm / Y5 & Y6 – 7-8pm

PE - Autumn Term 1

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.