



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 3rd October 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:

We have had another fantastic week, enjoying the Autumnal sunshine and packing in the learning. Do take a look at the Learning Highlights for the week and ask your child to explain a bit more.. if they can remember! That said, I am conscious that the 'what did you do today in school' question can sometimes be tricky for children to answer. Within this week's newsletter, we have included some additional questions which might be helpful to open up conversation about your child's day.

At St Mark's, we care deeply about the wellbeing of each and every child. As part of this, St Mark's will be marking World Mental Health Day by taking part in **Hello Yellow on Friday 10th October** to raise awareness and funds for YoungMinds, the UK's leading charity for young people's mental health.

No young person should feel alone with their mental health and that's why Hello Yellow matters. We're taking this opportunity as a school community **to wear something yellow or brightly coloured** clothes, as a way of making the day feel special.



We will also spend some time in class building our understanding of what we mean by 'mental health' and different ways we can build resilience and cope with the ups and downs of life; part of this is also knowing how to ask for help and ways we can help each other when life gets tricky.

We will be using the learning activities and resources from the YoungMinds website, specifically designed for children at Primary School age.

If you would like to, you can also donate to support the incredible work of YoungMinds. Please do log on to ParentPay from Monday lunchtime (**6th October**) when the donation option will go live.

Most importantly, we want to share the resources which YoungMinds offer to support parents and carers if you ever need help and advice to support your children.

This includes:

- Online resources (www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/)
- A phone line, open 9.30am-4pm (0808 802 5544)
- An online chat for parents and carers to speak to trained professionals if you're concerned about your children's mental health [Parents Helpline](#) | [Mental Health Help for Your Child](#) | [YoungMinds](#)

Finally, if you are concerned about the wellbeing of your child in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us at school – we are all here to help.

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

PTA Family Bingo Night

Please see flyer attached with this week's Newsletter regarding a **Family Bingo Night**, hosted by the PTA, taking place on **Thursday 23rd October @ 18:30**.

We would love for you to join us for some family Bingo fun whilst raising money for the PTA.



Football News

Last Friday two teams from St Mark's played in home matches against St Gregory's.

This was our first league match of the session. The match was very close and we were up against very good opposition, with scores level for most of the match. In what was a very physical match, both teams demonstrated a high standard of football. The final result was late winning goal for St Mark's, winning 4-3. Well done team!

We also played in a friendly match and for the majority of the team this was their first school football match. St Mark's played brilliantly, securing an impressive 5-1 win! We played with great spirit as well as scoring some wonderful goals.

Congratulations to all the players. What a fantastic way to kick off the season!



Harvest Appeal

As mentioned last week, we have now launched our Harvest appeal in School. In our Celebration Assembly today we made up actions for each item on the list as a way of remembering what we can bring!

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.

Thank you so much for helping our school community support this appeal.

Shopping list

Soup

UHT Milk

Hot / Cold Tinned Meat

Microwave Rice

Pasta Sauce

Custard / Rice Pudding

Coffee

Sweet / Savoury Snacks

Toiletries

Teaching & Learning Owls

Bronze - Raine, Harry, Evie & Jamie

Silver - Jacob & Molly

Congratulations to our badge winners!



Learning Highlight of the Week

- Class 1:** The children enjoyed their outdoor PE lesson this week, practicing shooting skills in Netball, thinking about, balance, grip and alignment.
- Class 2:** Class two have enjoyed getting festive this week, designing their Christmas cards!
- Class 3:** In Science, the children created their own electrical circuits to turn on a lightbulb. They then carried out an experiment with different materials within their circuits, to ascertain if the materials were conductors or insulators.
- Class 4:** In PE, Miss Thom set up a mini golf course for the children to practise their putting.
- Class 5:** Class 5 have enjoyed English this week. They have been creating a hero for their legend stories, thinking about what special abilities they could have to defeat a monster. They have started to write their battle scenes, focusing on expanded noun phrases and relative clauses.
- Class 6:** The children have been using their netball skills in smaller match play situations.
- Class 7:** In Computing, the children have started to create their own codes in order to build a good verses evil game.
- Class 8:** Science was also a highlight for Year 6 this week. They investigated the shapes of shadows from different positions.

Questions to Ask After School

- How did you show kindness today?
- Who did you play with?
- How did you help someone else?
- What are you looking forward to?
- What made you smile today?
- What was the best part of today?
- What is something that challenged you?
- How did you help your teacher today?
- What's the hardest thing you're learning about?
- What are you working towards?
- Who was a good friend to you today?
- What are you thankful for?



Kickboxing Success



Last Weekend Harry in Year 3 participated in his first ever kickboxing competition. Harry did amazingly well and managed to secure a second place as well as third place in his division! Wow, what a great start to Harry's kickboxing journey. We are all very impressed Harry, well done!

Thank you for sharing your success story with us and for bringing in your medals to show everyone.



School Nursing Support - Parent Feedback

Do you have a child aged 3–11? Gloucestershire School Nursing Service would love to hear from you. The School Nursing Service is gathering parent feedback to help them provide the best possible support for children as they begin and move through primary school. Please take a few minutes to complete their short survey. As a thank you, you'll also have the chance to be entered into a prize draw for a £50 Love2Shop voucher.

https://online1.snapsurveys.com/starting_school



NHS
Gloucestershire Health and Care
NHS Foundation Trust

Rags Collection—Next Friday 10th October!

Next Friday is the Rags 2 Riches 4 Schools collection. Rags 2 Riches helps us as a school earn some much needed funds, which goes straight back to the children, so why not have that much needed clear out over the weekend. Any donations will be welcome, from clothes, to shoes and accessories. No school uniform please!

Click [here](#) for a full list of what can be collected or visit



www.rags2riches4schools.co.uk

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
-----------------------	-----------------

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 23rd 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

- Bikeability - Bike Maintenance Letter



2025-26



October

Mon 6th - Flu Immunisation day
Wed 8th - Year 5 & 6 Parents - Coffee with Mrs Fitch 2.30-3pm
Thu 9th - PTA AGM @ 7pm at the Hatherley pub
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 4 & 7 Only
Fri 17th - Y6 Bikeability—Bike Maintenance Check
Mon 20th - Thu 23rd - Bikeability Year 6
Tue 21st - Book Look 3.10pm Except Class 4 & 7
Thu 23rd - St Mark' Open Morning 11-12pm
Thu 23rd - PTA Family Bingo Night
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
Fri 7th - Non-Uniform day in exchange for a bottle/teddy for the Christmas Fair Tombola
Mon 10th - Fri 14th - Anti Bullying Week
Mon 10th - St Mark' Open Morning 11-12pm
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
Fri 21 - St Mark' Open Morning 11-12pm

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.

