



# St Mark's C of E Junior School

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

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 4th October 2024

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

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

## Headteacher's Message:

***Our Vision: Growing together,  
becoming all we are created to be***

***One body, many parts. 1 Corinthians 12***

At the start of this new school year, we have reminded ourselves about what our school Vision and FACE values look like in action; it should be happening all around us when we are in our school: **our vision is the FACE of St Mark's.**

**Our vision and associated values** are at the very heart of all that we do at St Mark's, from our Teaching and Learning approach and curriculum content to our expectations of behaviour and the way in which we relate to others in our school community and in the wider world.

As a Church of England school, the Biblical verse that underpins our vision is: **'One Body, Many Parts'** (1 Corinthians 12): We are one community, bringing our own unique differences so that our school community can grow and flourish. We need everyone to play their part!

One of the main ways we can put our **vision into action** is through our **FACE values**. When we show these values in our learning and in our relationships, ***we grow as people and enabling ourselves and others to become more of who they are created to be.*** The images below were designed by the children to show how each of the values can be represented through an image, linking the key Bible story for each of our FACE values to every day life.



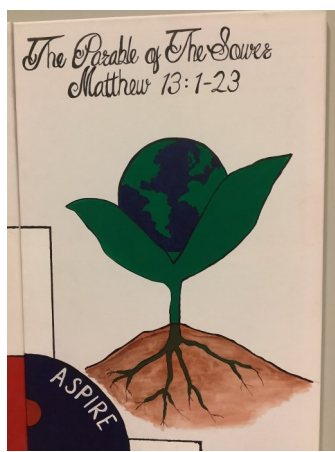
### Forgiveness



#### Zacchaeus & the Tax Collector

When Zacchaeus was forgiven by Jesus, he felt peace and acceptance. When we offer **forgiveness**, we can bring peace to others which strengthens relationships. The dove is a sign of peace.

### Aspire



#### The Parable of the Sower

The seed planted in good soil is healthy and strong. If we root ourselves in knowledge and values for life, we are enabled to grow and **aspire** to achieve great things, in school and beyond.

### Compassion



#### The Good Samaritan

The Good Samaritan didn't ignore the man who was suffering. He noticed the need and acted with love and **compassion**. People and our environment need our help, locally and globally.

### Engage



#### Mary and Martha

In the story of Mary and Martha, Martha was distracted and 'missed the moment'. We all need to **engage**, to play our unique part, to make our school community the best it can be.

***It is wonderful to see how the St Mark's vision and values are truly embedded into school life, genuinely informing the choices we make on a daily basis. I wonder if you can see these values in action at home too?***

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

## Our School Vision..

*But what IS a school 'Vision'?*

Our thoughts: **'Vision'** being what you **see, as well as being aspirational**. So, when people walk into our school, they should see us all **growing in our learning** to become the best version of our unique selves and enabling others to do this too.

To help deepen their understanding of our vision, the Year 3 children have all made a clay thumb pot. The children used their hands to shape and mould the pot and as we did this, we reminded ourselves that we all have **unique** fingerprints, so each of our pots have been made in a completely unique way. **So it is with us, we have been created to be unique and we are here on this earth for a special purpose**. When we all play our unique part in our school community, we enable ourselves and each other grow and flourish.



Each child in the school has made a unique pot—these are displayed in the entrance area as a way of symbolising that we are all together, one community.

***At the end of the children's time here, they will take their pot home, as a reminder that we can continue to play our unique part in life beyond St Mark's.***



## Learning Highlight of the Week

**Class 1:** In PE the children took part in a team building exercise. They had a map which contained lots of objects and equipment and they had to put the objects in the correct places using the map.

**Class 2:** Class 2 have been learning to touch type using dance mat typing.

**Class 3:** The children enjoyed playing golf this week and in particular practising their swing. They were awarded with points depending on the distance of their shot.

**Class 4:** In Art, the children have been studying Sandra Silberzweig. They have started to create their own abstract portraits.

**Class 5:** Class 5 really enjoyed learning more of their dance routine and are starting to learn their songs in their Musical Theatre lesson.

**Class 6:** In PSHE, the children have been thinking about looking after their own hearts as well as the hearts of others. They were tasked with writing a letter to a grown up of their choice, who do not always get the thanks they deserve.

**Class 7:** Using Scratch, the children have been coding their own version of the Pong game.

**Class 8:** The children have enjoyed the challenge of drawing a Viking Dragon in Art.

## Christmas Card Templates



Today the Christmas card/product order forms are coming home. Please visit [www.sforders.co.uk](http://www.sforders.co.uk) to order. Your unique pin code to access your child's artwork is on the form. Once logged in you can view the products available and place any orders. Your order will be sent to school free of charge. You can also scan the QR code on the form which will take you directly to the online shop.

**The Online shop will close on 20th October.**



The children have worked extremely hard on their wonderful designs and we hope that we can raise some valuable funds for the PTA.

## Hello Yellow - Non-Uniform and Wear Something Yellow Day—Thursday

Reminder—We will be taking part in Hello Yellow in support of YoungMinds **on Thursday 10 October** (World Mental Health Day).

Children are invited to wear non-uniform and if possible something yellow for the day. Our suggested donation is £1 (but feel free to give more if you would like to). This is now live on Parent Pay ready for next week.



## Coffee with Mrs Fitch

A chance for an informal get together to share 'New Year Group experiences' to hear from Mrs Fitch and SLT about the school's priorities for this year and to talk through any questions / concerns.

**Year 5 & 6:** Wednesday 9th Oct: 2.30pm-3pm

*Come to the main entrance and we'll get you a cuppa!*



## Teaching & Learning Owls

**Silver** - Phoebe

**Bronze** - Hugo and Frankie

**Congratulations to all our Owl winners!**



## Five Valleys Walk

Rory (class 4) completed the Five Valleys Walk last Sunday, walking a total of 25 miles!

We wanted to share his achievement with you all.

Now in its 37th year, the Five Valleys Walk is a Stroud institution. Not

only is it a fabulous day out for all the family, but the walk helps to raise money in the fight against meningitis every step of the way.

**Well done Rory and we hope this may inspire some of you to follow in his footsteps.**



## MOVE MORE Holiday Activity Camps are BACK this October Half Term!

**Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November**

- Award Winning Delivery
- No Screens Policy
- Run By School PE Specialists
- Early Drop-Off & Late Collection Options
- All Income Reinvested Into The Charity



### Selection of the activities on offer:

Football, Tennis, Lacrosse, Hockey, Cricket, Tri-Golf, Net-ball, Frisbee, Curling, Kin-Ball, Badminton, Archery, Tag Rugby, Multi-skills, Balance Bikes, Orienteering, Speed Stacking, Dodgeball, Board Games, Arts and Crafts

### Locations:

Balcarras Sports Centre (Charlton Kings) Ages 6 - 12  
Charlton Kings Infants' (Charlton Kings) Ages Rec - Age 7  
Lakeside Primary (Hatherley) Ages 5 - 12  
Cleeve School (Bishops Cleeve) Ages 5 - 12  
Chosen Hill School (Churchdown) Ages 5 - 12

## Christmas Card Competition

Our local MP is running a Christmas Card Competition. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase your child's creativity and spread some festive cheer through the community. The deadline for submissions will be 18th October and they ask that all entries are submitted to Max Wilkinson MP by post in A4 hard copy;

**15 Hewlett Road, Cheltenham, GL52 6AA.**



Wishing you the very best of luck to all those who take part and we hope you enjoy the challenge!

## 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 |



## 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**



## Letters Sent Home

- Year 3 Immersive Experience Stone Age Themed Day
- School Parking Letter
- Space Dome Bournside Visit Class 6



## 2024 - 25



### October

Wed 9th - Coffee with Mrs Fitch - Year 5 & 6 Parents 2.30 - 3pm  
 Thu 10th - World Mental Health Day (Hello Yellow non uniform day)  
 Mon 21st - Book Look Class 1  
 Tue 22nd - Book Look Classes 2 - 8  
 Thu 24th - Harvest Festival (Just children)

### November

Thu 7th - Greystones Farm Class 1  
 Fri 8th - Greystones Farm Class 2  
 Mon 11th - Anti-Bullying Week  
 Tue 12th - Odd Socks Day  
 Fri 15th Children in Need  
 Tue 26th - National Child Measurement check for Year 6

### Fri 29th - Musical Theatre Performance

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Class 1 &amp; 3</b> | <b>9:30-10:30</b>  |
| <b>Class 2 &amp; 4</b> | <b>10:45-11:45</b> |
| <b>Class 5 &amp; 7</b> | <b>1:30-2:20</b>   |
| <b>Class 6 &amp; 8</b> | <b>2:20-3:10</b>   |

### December

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)

## 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.**

