



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 27th September 2024

www.stmarksjunior.com

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

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

Headteacher's Message:

We have received information from the **Department for Education** regarding the new statutory **attendance guidance**. The guidance is summarised below; attached is a letter explaining these changes in more detail.

Please take time to read and understand this guidance and how this may affect you if:

- Your child is late to school (arrives after the registers have closed)
- Your child misses days of school for unexplained absence
- If you take a term time holiday.

The school day is split into morning and afternoon sessions. If your child is absent for 1 day, this counts as 2 sessions of absence.

If a pupil has **10 or more sessions of unauthorised absence** (equivalent to 5 school days) within 10 school weeks, the following action will be taken:

- A '**Notice to Improve**' notification may be sent via email on behalf of the school and issued by the local authority(LA).
- Should the expectations not be met in the improvement period, then a **Penalty Notice** may then be requested by the school and issued by the LA to each parent/carer responsible for the child.
- The penalty fee has increased £160.

Any holiday-related absence taken that includes 10 sessions in 10 weeks, may result in an immediate Penalty Notice.

The Department for Education clearly states: '*Nationally, Headteachers are not permitted to approve term-time holidays except in genuinely exceptional circumstances and are to consider each application for a leave of absence individually before making a decision. The law clearly expects Headteachers to enforce these penalties strictly.*'

At St Mark's, we are fully committed to supporting all of our families in ensuring children are in school for every possible session; every lesson is a crucial part of your child's learning journey. If you have concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at school.

Have a super weekend,

Mrs A Fitch and the Staff Team

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1: As well as the Musical Theatre lesson, which started this week, the children in class one enjoyed Art. They are investigating colour mixing using only primary colours in readiness for their Kandinsky inspired artworks.

Class 2: The children really enjoyed the Musical Theatre class this week and in particular the card game.

Class 3: This week the children have been looking at scientific images zoomed in. They then had to use their knowledge to decipher what the image was.

Class 4: In English, class 4 have been planning their own stories based on the book they are studying 'The Beast of Olympus.'

Class 5 & 6: The overwhelming highlight for year 6 this week was Science. They have been learning about different forces and really enjoyed the practical lesson.

Class 7: In Art, the children drew Viking Dragons using Viking Runes.

Class 8: Class 8 really enjoyed getting out all of the equipment in Gymnastics. They had to create a sequence of balance, jumps, rolls, as well as incorporating travelling.

House Captains and Vice Captains

Congratulations to the year 6 children who were chosen to be House Captains and Vice House Captains today. Also a huge thank you to all the children who took the time to apply for the positions. Your letters were truly wonderful and we could have given the roles to any one of you. Well done year 6!



Green

House Captains - Rosie, Sam

Vice House Captains - Poppy, Holly, Isla



Yellow

House Captains - Asa, Emily

Vice House Captains - Dylan, Abigail



Red

House Captains - Henry, Maisy

Vice House Captains - Edward, Elizabeth, Melissa



Blue

House Captains - Samuel, Amber

Vice House Captains - Jos, Amelia

iSingPop

We were so thrilled to have iSingPop with us last week and so impressed with the way the children embraced the whole experience. Thank you to those of you who were able to come along and watch the concerts. I'm sure you will agree that the children were absolutely AMAZING!!! Huge congratulations, we are so proud of you all.



Hello Yellow - Non-Uniform and Wear Something Yellow Day

We will be taking part in Hello Yellow in support of Young-Minds on Thursday 10 October (World Mental Health Day).

Please see letter attached with this week's Newsletter for full details.

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). You will be able to donate on Parent Pay closer to the day.



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 3 & 4: Wednesday 2nd Oct: 2.30pm-3pm

Year 4 & 6: Wednesday 9th Oct: 2.30pm-3pm

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



Teaching & Learning Owls

Gold - Amelia and Poppy

Bronze - William

Congratulations to all our Owl winners!



Class 1 Message

Class 1 please bring in (plug in) headphones for your computing lesson on Tuesday.



School Photos

A reminder that the school photos are taking place on Monday. Please remember to bring in your logo cardigans and jumpers. Neat, tidy hair and smart uniform.

Class 8 - No PE

Class 1 - Please wear school uniform and bring in trainers. No PE clothes required.



Census Day Menu—Thursday 3rd October

Reminder—Caterlink are having a special Census Day Menu which will replace school dinners on Thursday 3rd October.



Option 1 (red) Burger

Option 2 (Green) Vegan Burger

Option 3 (Yellow) Jacket potato

For more information please see email sent out this week.

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

- New Statutory DFE Attendance Guidance
- Pioneer Residential Year 6 Letter 1
- Hello Yellow Letter



2024 - 25



September

Mon 30th - School Photos

October

Tue 1st - Year 6 2023-24 cohort reunion
Wed 2nd - Coffee with Mrs Fitch - Year 3 & 4 Parents 2.30 - 3pm
Thu 3rd - Rags Collection
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
Fri 29th - Musical Theatre Performance Timings tbc

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.

