



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 17th October 2025

www.stmarksjunior.com

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

Our Value in focus this term are our FACE Values

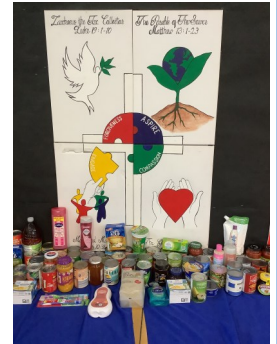
Headteacher's Message:

On Thursday, children and staff including the Year 2 children from Benhall gathered together in the hall for our Harvest Festival. We were delighted to be joined by Rod Paterson from St Mark's Church who spoke with the children about the significance of harvest. We were also thrilled to welcome a representative from the Foodbank team, who explained the impact that our collection will have on the lives of others. Thank you to both Rod and Sarah for



joining our Harvest celebration.

Also, a huge thank you has to go to you, our wonderful school community for supporting the appeal. You can see from the photos just how much was donated! Such a staggering amount—thank you!



Well done to the House Captains and Vice Captains who helped organised the donations into the house colours and also were instrumental in loading the donations onto the van ready to go to the Foodbank.



We also visited Benhall to help load their collection onto the van too. It was such a great opportunity to combine our collections this year, working closely with Benhall and together making this year's Harvest collection the best it can be. A great team effort!



With my best wishes

Mrs A Fitch and the Staff Team

Teaching & Learning Owls

Silver - Amelia

Bronze - Memphis, Sasha, Lois, Lexi & Liberty

Congratulations to our badge winners!



Football Tournament

Last Friday the girls football team played in a local tournament against other similar sized schools.

The group stages took place at Holy Apostles, with victories over Warden Hill, Holy Apostles, and Prestbury St. Mary's, with not a single goal conceded the girls won their group in style!

This meant that they travelled to Ashley Manor for the finals. In the semi-final, they faced tough opposition from Swindon Village. Playing 7-a-side on a large pitch, the girls gave everything they had but were defeated 3–1.

In the 3rd/4th place playoff, they showed incredible resilience — coming back from 3–0 down to draw level and win on penalties!

Finishing 3rd out of 21 schools is such an amazing achievement. The girls played with courage, determination, and team-work from start to finish. We could not be more proud of every single one of them!

Well done team! We look forward to following all of your matches this season.



Drumming Assembly

On Wednesday we were treated to a fantastic drumming Assembly led by *Let's Play Music's* drum teacher, Chris. It was brilliant to start the day off with a bang and the children loved watching and listening to Chris's superb playing. Drumming students Seb and Molly also joined Chris at the front, showing off their fantastic skills to their peers. Well done Seb and Molly for performing impromptu, you were both fantastic.



If you are interested in learning to play the drums, flyers from *Let's Play Music* should have come home in your child's school bag. We also have some spare flyers in the office too.

Exploring rhythm and music is such fun and beneficial in so many ways and so we hope that this assembly has inspired the next generation of budding drummers out there.

Pay it Forward

We have been overwhelmed with the generosity of many parents who have offered to contribute / pay for another child's place on a school trip or educational experience. With this in mind, we are setting up a new 'Pay It Forward' option on Parent Pay for this academic year, where a donation towards a school trip can be made for anyone who is struggling to pay the full amount. We are so proud that this is such a clear reflection of the generosity and compassion of our school community. Please look out for this option on ParentPay.

Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1: In outdoor PE, the children learnt how to intercept the ball. They also played a game of ball tag.

Class 2: The children enjoyed indoor PE, where they were challenged with following the route of a compass direction in order to find the correct answer.

Class 3: Class 3 have finished off their Mythical Creature Posters, on how to look after their creature. They included the following subheadings: Introduction, Diet, Habitat, How to Keep Calm and Happy, Special Powers, Strengths/Weaknesses, Interesting Facts and Warnings. In Outdoor learning they also made their creatures out of clay.

Class 4: In PE, the children thoroughly enjoyed their golf lesson. They were lucky enough to receive some coaching from Thea's Dad. They learnt how to keep their eye on the ball, as well chipping techniques. He even showed the children what the inside of a golf ball looks like and brought in a scoring card for them to see. Thank you so much to Tom for his generosity and for giving up his time to share his Golf knowledge and experience with the children.

Class 5: The children have been learning about the different phases of the moon in Science. They took part in an investigation using a hockey ball as the moon, a torch as the sun and their heads as the Earth and using rotation explored the shadows on the hockey ball to replicate the phases of the moon.

Class 6: In English, the children have been producing their final plot points for their mythical character stories.

Class 7: Class 7 enjoyed the visit from Bournside's Assistant Headteacher Mrs Lees and their school dog Lottie. Mrs Lees spoke with the children about life at secondary school.

Class 8: In Science, the child have been making colour wheels and learning about refraction.

Cross Country

We took a small team of children, Evie and Summer, to a cross country meeting at Ashley Manor yesterday. Despite being a small team we were mighty in effort, with the girls finishing in the middle of the table out of a large field of approximately 120 runners.

It was a particularly hilly course which is always challenging for the runners, but Evie and Summer put in super performances, and represented St Mark's brilliantly. Well done girls!



DSA UK's Boccia Tournament.



At the beginning of the month Bea took part in the DSA UK's annual Boccia tournament.

Boccia is a Paralympic sport and is a target sport played indoors with soft leather balls. It is a sport of intriguing tactics, incredible skill and nail biting tension.

Well, Bea only went and won a silver medal in the singles under 10s category!

What a fantastic result! Well done Bea, we are all super proud of your achievement.

Our Local Libraries

Did you know that it is completely FREE to join your local library? Just pop in to your local library (Hatherley, Hesters Way) and ask to join.

Once you have joined, you have access to thousands of books all over the county; including fact, fiction, e-books and more.

You can either search for books in the library or use the app to reserve books to be collected. The app notifies you when they are ready for collection in your local library. It really is that easy to access an endless supply of books!

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 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

- Clubs Autumn Term 2



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.



2025-26



October

Mon 20th - Thu 23rd - Bikeability Year 6
Tue 21st - Book Look 3.10pm Except Class 4 & 7
Thu 23rd - St Mark's 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 21st - St Mark' Open Morning 11-12pm
Tue 25th - Hindu Centre Year 4 Trip
Thu 27th - PTA Movie/Popcorn Night

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.