



# St Mark's C of E Junior School

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

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 7th November 2025

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

All enquires: [admin@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk)

Our Value in focus this term is Compassion

## Headteacher's Message:

### Anti-Bullying Week & Odd Socks Day

Next week, we will be joining schools across the country to mark Anti-Bullying Week 2025. The theme is '**Power for Good**' - focusing on ways in which we can use the power of **compassion** to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes.

We'll empower children and young people to use their Power for Good to speak out, support others, and build a world where kindness wins.

The week will kick off with **Odd Socks Day on November 10th**. Children and staff alike are welcome to come to school on Monday wearing odd socks to celebrate our individuality and our unique part we have to play in our community.

The children will be taking part in numerous activities throughout the week to explore how they can use their **Power for Good** and stand up for what is right.



### Children in Need

At the end of the week, on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November**, we will be joining in with Pudsey and friends raising life-changing funds for Children in Need - a very fitting way to celebrate the **Power for Good** as we continue to put this term's value of **Compassion in Action**

Everyone is invited to get involved by wearing their own **feel good clothes for the day**, this can include fancy dress/Pudsey theme too - **please make sure clothes are practical and will not be distracting.**

We will be opening a donations page on Parent Pay for you to donate what you can and we will let you know once this is live! Together we can **Notice the Need** and help make a difference to the lives of children and young people in communities across the UK.

Mrs James (Benhall) and I were very lucky to meet Pudsey on his travels to another fundraising activity. We can't wait to join in the fun on Friday!

*With my best wishes for a lovely weekend,  
Mrs A Fitch and the Staff Team*



### Remembrance Day & The Poppy Appeal



On Tuesday we will be holding a remembrance service in school for the children and staff. If your child is a member of an organisation such as the Beavers, Brownies, Guides, Cubs, or Scouts they can wear their uniform to school on Tuesday 11th November. If they have PE, please remember to bring in their PE kit & trainers too!

Poppies are still available! If your child would like a Poppy, please send them in with some change to make a donation. The Poppy Appeal continues to be a symbol of remembrance for those who have served for our country, as well helping to raise important funds and so thank you to everyone who has donated so far.



### *Learning Highlight of the Week*

**Class 1:** Year 3 had their first whole class ukulele music lesson with ukulele teacher Mrs Kelly. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning to play the instrument and are looking forward to the next few weeks with Mrs Kelly.

**Class 2:** Year 3 have also had their first Outdoor Learning lesson this week. They particularly enjoyed an activity where they had to protect a little caveman and keep them dry. The children also loved their Stone Age day today with Mr Oakey; see below for photos!

**Class 3 & 4:** The learning highlight for Year 4 was their maths lesson with Mr Ede, where the children were tasked with solving geometric puzzles. *See page 3 for more!*

**Class 5:** In PE, the children enjoyed their Dance unit. They played 'dance by chance', where the rolling of a dice decided what kind of move they had to do, such as a spin, jump, lean, slide and ripple to name a few. They put these moves into a sequence depending on the outcome of the roll of the dice.

**Class 6:** The children enjoyed computing this week. They used *Tinkercad*, a web app for design, electronics and coding to design their dream home.

**Class 7:** In English, the children engaged in a debate about fireworks, discussing whether they should be banned or altered. Each student was assigned a position, either in favour of or against fireworks, and had to present their arguments to their classmates.

**Class 8:** Class 8 enjoyed getting out all the Gymnastic equipment this week. They focused on counter balances, jumps and rolls.

### **Year 3 Stone Age Day**

Outdoor Learning teacher Mr Oakey led the children in an immersive Stone Age Day today. They took part in a fantastic range of activities, including fire lighting, gathering berries in hidden boxes, cooking a berry stew, hunting using spears, and shelter building. The children thoroughly enjoyed every moment of the sessions and were fully engaged throughout.

A huge thank you to Mr Oakey for returning to St Mark's to deliver these brilliant experiences. It was a wonderful way to bring the Stone Age topic to life for the children



### **Parents Evening Help from Year 6s**

Could you help for even half an hour to direct parents to classes during Parents' Evening 3.30-6pm Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November?

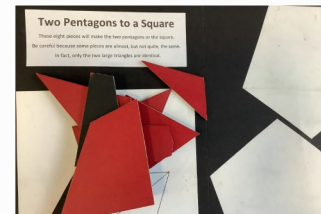
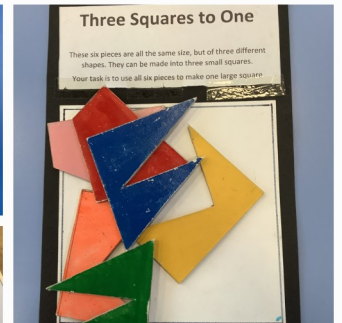
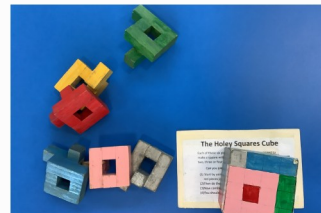
If so, please get in touch with the school office either by phone / email: [clerical@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:clerical@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk).

## Maths Challenges

This week, our Year 4 and 5 children had the fantastic opportunity to take part in a series of Maths challenges led by Mr Ede, a visiting Maths specialist.

The sessions focused on a variety of geometric puzzles that stretched the children's problem solving skills and encouraged them to think creatively. The activities were not only challenging but also highly engaging, showing the children just how enjoyable Maths can be.

**A huge thankyou to Mr Ede, it was a wonderful reminder that Maths is more than numbers on a page; it's about curiosity, discovery, and fun.**



## Teaching & Learning Owls

*Silver - Aanya, Charlie, Lyra*

*Bronze - Teddy, Louisa, Harvey, Remi and Phoebe*

**Congratulations to our badge winners!**



## School Nursing Survey Support

*Do you have a child aged 3–11? We'd love to hear from you.*

*Gloucestershire School Nursing Service is gathering parent feedback to help provide the best possible support for children as they begin and move through primary school.*

*Please take a few minutes to complete a short survey (closing date 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025). 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](https://online1.snapsurveys.com/starting_school)



## Volunteer Panel Members Needed

Gloucestershire County Council are in the process of recruiting volunteer Panel Members to assist with virtual School Admission Appeals. They are particularly in need of Parent Members (those with children currently in education).



To learn more about the volunteer role and how to apply, please visit the below page on Gloucestershire County Council website:

[Apply to become a volunteer school appeals panel member | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

## Annual Parent Carer Survey for SEND families

Alongside our “You Said, We Did” Local Offer Report, the SEND and Inclusion Partnership (SILAP) have launched an Annual Survey for parents and carers.

If you are a parent carer of a child or young person aged between 0 to 25 years old with special educational needs and/ or disabilities (SEND) who is receiving education or support in Gloucestershire then this survey is for you.

The Annual Parent Carer Survey is our way of hearing from SEND families. It is an anonymous questionnaire that asks for feedback about the Education, Health and Care services and support available for children and young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

### How do I complete the survey?

The survey is open and remain open until Friday, 5 December 2025, at 5pm.

By clicking the following link, you can complete the [Annual Parent Carer Survey 2025](#)

### Who do I contact if I would like a physical copy of the survey or have any queries?

The survey can also be made available as a hard copy. To request a hard copy of the survey please contact [localoffer@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:localoffer@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

### Who can I speak to if I need help with completing my survey?

If you need additional support in completing this survey, you can contact Gloucestershire Parent Carer Forum at [info@glosparentcarerforum.org.uk](mailto:info@glosparentcarerforum.org.uk) or by messaging their [Facebook page](#).

There are other organisations who are also able to support - you can find their details on '[Support for Families with SEND](#)', [Gloucestershire's Local Offer part of Glos Families Directory](#)

Read more about the survey in the October's edition of the Families in Partnership newsletter

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/families-in-partnership-newsletters/families-in-partnership-newsletter-october-2025/?pageNumber=1>



## Extra Curricular Clubs - Autumn Term 2



### 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

### Tuesday

Orchestra Y3-6	12.30pm - 1.00pm
Choir Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm
Tennis Y4-6	3.15pm - 4.10pm

### Wednesday

Baking Buddies Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.30pm
Cyclestars Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.15pm

### Thursday

Coding Y6	3.10pm - 4.00pm
Kids with Bricks (Lego) Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm
Outdoor Learning Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.15pm

### Friday

Girls Football Y4-6	12.30pm - 1.00pm
Boys Football Y5-6	1.00pm - 1.30pm

*Please see club selections [table](#) for club dates!*

## School Term Dates

### 2025-26

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

- We the Curious Letter Y4



## Outdoor Learning - Autumn Term 2

**Class 2: Thursday Morning**

**Class 1: 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



### November

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 3.30-6pm  
Thu 13th - Parents Evening 3.30-6pm  
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

### December

Thu 3rd - Christmas Fair  
Tue 9th - **Carol Services:**  
5.30 – 6.15pm – Red & Blue  
6.45 – 7.30pm – Yellow & Green  
Wed 10th - Whole School Panto Trip 9.15am – 12.30pm  
Thu 11th - Christmas Jumper Day (Save the Children)  
Wed 17th - Christmas Lunch  
Thu 18th - Rocksteady Concert for Rocksteady Parents 9.30am  
Thu 18th - PTA Disco  
Fri 19th - End of Term 2

## PE - Autumn Term 2

**Children should come to school in their PE kit on PE days.**

**Class 1: Tuesday**

**Class 2: Monday**

**Class 3: Monday & Friday**

**Class 4: Monday & Friday**

**Class 5: Tuesday & Friday**

**Class 6: Tuesday & Thursday**

**Class 7: Monday & Friday**

**Class 8: Wednesday & Friday**



**Remember: tracksuit tops should be plain navy only. A school sweatshirt is absolutely fine.**