



# St Mark's C of E Junior School

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

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 14th 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:

We have had another packed week, with Parents Evenings, Open Days, trips out and visitors in!

Thank you for making the time to attend your child's Parents Evening in the busy family life schedule. We hope it was informative and useful for you; if you have any comments / requests for a follow up meeting, please do complete the slip on the bottom of your child's interim report to be given to your child's class teacher or contact the school office: [clerical@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:clerical@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk) and we can get in touch to respond accordingly.

As a school community, we gathered together on Tuesday this week to give thanks for and remember those who have lost their lives through war and conflict and also to remember those who are still serving.

We talked together about the significance of this time, the Last Post was played and the children observed a minute's silence with utmost respect and sensitivity. We then reflected on how we can be people who bring peace to others, wherever we go. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who are suffering at this time; may we bring peace, hope and love to others.

Thank you to all those who were able to make models and pictures of poppies to mark this special time. Many of them were used as a visual focus for the children during our act of Remembrance and are now on display in our entrance area.

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



## *Learning Highlight of the Week*

**Class 1:** The highlight for class 1 had to be their school trip to Greystones Farm - see page 4 for more!

**Class 2:** In Ukulele this week the children learnt 5 chords and really enjoyed singing and playing along to George Ezra's 'Shotgun' and 'Rockin' all over the World' by Status Quo.

**Class 3 & 4:** Year 4 enjoyed a fabulous trip to *We the Curious*. Hear all about it on page 3!

**Class 5:** In Computing, the children used 'Tinkercad' to build rooms and houses. They learnt how to resize different blocks, duplicate objects, animate, as well as orientate and position items.

**Class 6:** In Golf, the children have enjoyed learning how to chip and putt.

**Class 7:** Class 7 have been silk painting Viking knots. They used a cutter parker to create the outline of the shape, which stops the paint from leaking out into the silk. Once dried they painted the silks, using precision to ensure the paint did not bleed into other areas.

**Class 8:** Class 8 have been writing a letter of complaint about the appalling state of a hotel they recently stayed in.



## Children in Need

We have had lots of fun in our feel good clothes today, to raise money for Children in Need.

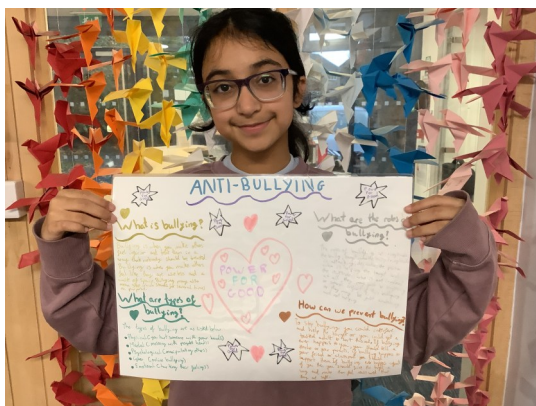
Today, the children have been finding more out about how our money will be used to make a difference to others. We know that there are children in our own school community whose lives are enhanced significantly by Children in Need funding. Our donations really do change lives!

**We can reveal that so far, through your generous donations on Parent Pay, we have raised over £300. A heartfelt thank you to you all!**



## Antibullying Week

We started the week with odd socks day, where children wore odd socks to celebrate our individuality.



In class the theme is 'Power for Good' was explored, 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. In class today, Year 6 children enjoyed making iMovie trailers based on the theme Power for Good.

Mya, from Year 6 also made this fabulous antibullying poster in her own time. Thank you Mya, for sharing this with us!



## Year 6 Parents Evening Helpers

A huge THANK YOU and WELL DONE to our wonderful Year 6s who gave their time to welcome and direct parents to classes during Parents Evening with our School Governors whilst we were all involved in meeting with parents.

We must also thank those who have led tours for groups of parents for our Open Days so far. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive with parents commenting on how impressed they were by the children's ability to speak about all aspects of school life with such confidence and clarity. A joy to see and we're extremely proud of them all!

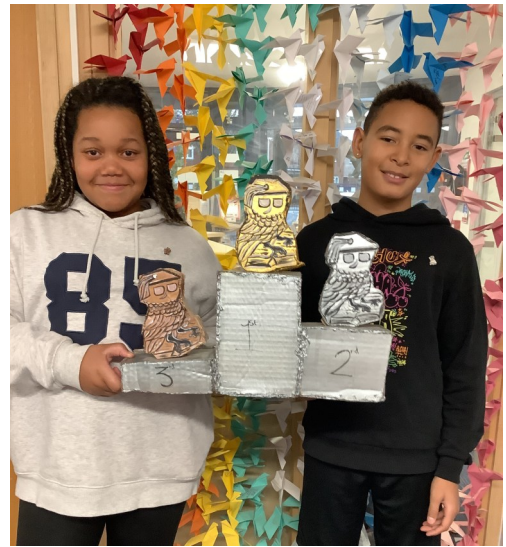


## Teaching & Learning Owls

*Silver - Rio*

*Bronze - Kiara*

Congratulations to our badge winners!



## We the Curious—Year 4 Trip

After an early start, Year 4 made the most of an incredible day at *We The Curious*! The children had the chance to explore two exciting floors packed with hands-on scientific activities that sparked curiosity and creativity.

A highlight of the day was a workshop focused on the water cycle, where the children not only learned about the process but also created their own models to visualize how it works.



Throughout the visit, the children demonstrated outstanding behaviour and were commended by several people for their enthusiasm and respect. It was truly a super day filled with learning, discovery, and fun!



## Prayer group leader needed!

We are hoping to restart a Parent Prayer Group as part of the Cheltenham Prayer for Schools network, where parents and carers can come together to pray for our school community.

We're looking for someone who feels called to lead or help coordinate the group — someone with a heart for prayer. You don't need to be an expert — just someone who has a faith and enjoys connecting with others.

### What's involved:

- Helping to organize short, friendly prayer times (weekly, fortnightly or monthly — whatever works best!)
- Liaising with the school if needed for space or scheduling

If this sounds like something you'd enjoy, or if you'd just like to chat about what's involved, please get in touch with [clerical@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:clerical@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk) who will put you in touch with the previous coordinator.



## Greystones Farm

Class 1 enjoyed a fantastic trip to Greystones Farm on Thursday. This nature reserve is the site of the Salmonsbury Camp, which was an important meeting place during Neolithic and Iron Age periods.

The children had a great time learning about the history of Salmonsbury and what life was like for its inhabitants. They especially enjoyed exploring a picturesque roundhouse, which was constructed using traditional tools and materials.

The experience allowed them to try lighting fires and cooking, as well as experimenting with the traditional building technique of "wattle and daub". This involved using woven lattice of wooden strips called "wattle" and applying a sticky mixture of wet soil, clay, sand, and straw (the "daub") which they would have used to form the walls.

A huge thank you to Ros at the centre for keeping the children engaged throughout the trip. We had a wonderful day and are excited to explore further the fascinating facts we discovered, as we continue our Stone Age topic this term.



## 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

- Christmas Lunch Menu



## 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

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 4th - 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

### January

Mon 5th - Term 3 starts  
Tue 6th - Skillzone Trip Class 6  
Wed 7th - Skillzone Trip Class 5  
Wed 14th - Year 5/6 Swimming Lessons Start

## 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.**