



# St Mark's C of E Junior School

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

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 13th September 2024

[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: Respect

## Headteacher's Message:

We're really excited to be having iSingPop coming in to work with the children next week.

The children will have sessions each day to learn some fabulous new songs (complete with actions) which will culminate in recording our very own album! We will be using these songs in our daily Collective Worship for months and years to come.

The children will also be performing these songs to parents (extended family and friends are also welcome) in, quite literally, an 'all singing, all dancing' pop-style concert on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September**.

The concerts will take place at **St Mark's Church, Church Road, Cheltenham** and will last approximately 45 minutes.

It's going to be fantastic!

Key reminders:

- **Red and Blue House, together with the Choir** will be performing to parents at **2pm**. Doors open at **1.45pm**, for a prompt start
- **Yellow and Green House, together with the Choir** will be performing to parents at **6pm**. Doors open at **5.45pm**, for a prompt start
- Those in **Red and Blue house are also welcome back at 6pm** for another dose of singing and dancing if you would like!
- There will be plenty of space so do bring family and friends.
- All children must bring a **packed lunch on concert day (Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September)**. *Those in receipt of Pupil Premium are eligible for a school packed lunch – please contact the school office to order one.*
- **Children to wear a brightly coloured top for the concert** with black / school uniform leggings / trousers / skirts
- iSingPop t-shirts / hoodies are available to buy online using the [www.isingpop.org/shop](http://www.isingpop.org/shop). These can be worn on concert day
- Personal copies of the album will be able to be purchased [here](#) once the album has been released.
- **On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September, iSingPop merchandise will be on sale** under the Willow Tree for those who would like to purchase goods

We really hope you can come along to one of the concerts – otherwise the children be performing to an empty church!!

***Parents of children in Red & Blue House and choir – please see the email regarding collection arrangements from the concert at 2pm.***

We look forward to seeing you to seeing as many of you as possible at the Church, for our pop concerts, next Friday!

***Have a super weekend***

***Mrs A Fitch and the Staff Team***



## Homework Diaries

This week, your child will have brought home their **Homework Diary** home.

As outlined in the Curriculum Letter last week, please use the Reading Record as a Home/School Communication tool.



### Inside you will find:

- Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) Login – use this to practise multiplication tables facts
- Spelling Shed Login – use this to practise the spellings in focus
- Owl Tracker (children work towards collecting Owls to put on our Teaching and Learning Tree, when excellent learning behaviours are being shown)
- Year Group Book List (recommended list of age appropriate books for your child's year group)
- Times tables list (weekly)
- Spelling list (weekly)



### How to support Home Learning:

- Please sign each time your child reads / uses TTRS / SpellingShed etc, indicating what has been completed each day e.g:  
'TTRS 3 mins', *signature*  
'Reading 10 mins Pg 13 next' *signature*  
'Spelling Shed 3 mins' *signature*
- If your child has had a tricky morning / you would like to get a message to school, note it down in the diary; in this instance, your child needs to give their reading diary to their child's class teacher
- All reading diaries will be checked at least once a week to monitor Home Learning, in case more support needs to be given

### *Learning Highlight of the Week*

**Class 1:** In computing class 1 really enjoyed learning how to use Time Table Rock Stars! [www.ttrockstars.com](http://www.ttrockstars.com)

**Class 2:** The children have been learning how to follow a set of instructions to make a Woolly Mammoth as part of their English lesson.

**Class 3:** Class 3 have been rounding up to 10 and 100 in Maths.

**Class 4:** In Science the children worked with electric circuits to make a bulb light up.

**Class 5:** The children really enjoyed making Power Points based around a poem.

**Class 6:** In Art, the children have been learning about Freda Carlo's self portraits.

**Class 7 & 8:** The highlight for year 6 had to be their trip to London. Find out more about what they got up to on page 3!

## London Trip—Year 6

On Tuesday, Year 6 visited London as part of a PSHE focus on British Values and the role of the UK Parliament.

We started our trip with a ride on the London Eye where the children were treated to spectacular views across London on a - thankfully - clear and dry day.



This was followed by a walk along the River Thames and past both the Cenotaph and Downing Street. The children were excited to be passed by a motorcade that was taking the Prime Minister into Parliament, just before our tour of the House of Commons!



We then saw more politics in action as the MPs were debating the winter fuel allowance during our tour, as well as witnessing the House of Lords and lots of golden furniture! Some children even tried to get on TV in the background of on-site reporters. Our "buzz" of excitement amongst all the action continued with a workshop about the

workings of government and we were even treated to a visit from Alex Wilkinson, the MP for Cheltenham. An amazing day and the children were fantastic representatives of our school in both their behaviour, enthusiasm and demonstration of their knowledge.



## Asda—Cashpot for Schools initiative

Do you shop at Asda? Sign up to their Asda Rewards app and opt in to cashpot for schools. Then every time you shop they will donate to the school of your choice (St Mark's is on the list!).

**Purchase between 2 Sept - 30 November 2024.**

<https://www.asda.com/cashpotforschools>



## Celebrating St Mark's PTA

I wanted to take this opportunity to give a big shout out to our **fabulous PTA** and team of additional volunteers for the incredible fundraising efforts through last year.

Amongst a whole range of events and experiences put on through the year, the work of the PTA resulted in the children benefitting significantly this year, through two key ways:

**The Musical Theatre sessions**, taking place from 25<sup>th</sup> Sept – 25<sup>th</sup> November, this term, has been funded completely by the PTA fundraising. *My thanks to Olivia Knight (Chair of PTA) who has also helped considerably with the organisation of this project.* This is a super opportunity for all children to benefit from this extremely worthwhile experience.

**Save the date: 29<sup>th</sup> November (Musical Performance day) Performance times TBC very shortly**

In addition, **30 new iPads** were delivered to school last week, with the PTA contributing significantly to the cost of these. Without the PTA's contribution, we simply would not have been able to afford them. This now means that the children are able to access a whole range of learning activities, enhancing the quality of learning in the classroom (our previous iPads were so outdated that current software was not compatible!)

We couldn't give the children of St Mark's these additional experiences and learning resources without the dedication of the PTA and all those who have helped at various events through the last year. Thank you to all who have given your time so generously.

If you would be interested in lending hand in future fundraising events for the children, please do contact the school office or search for St Mark's PTA Facebook page, for more info.



## Holiday Free School Meal (FSM) Voucher Scheme

The holiday vouchers are designed to support eligible children in reception to year 11 who receive Pupil Premium (income-related) free school meals and attend a school in Gloucestershire, and families where no other support is available.

**Gloucestershire County Council are committed to supporting families with 1 week of vouchers at £15 per child, per week for the October 2024 holiday.** This is funded through grant funding they have received, and is separate to that of term time free school meals and the HAF programme. The offer complements the Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF) taking place through the longer holidays which can provide a meal for children attending events. Vouchers are not available as an alternative to HAF.

**Applications for holiday FSM vouchers for October 2024 holiday will be open from midday 2 September 2024 until midday on 20 September 2024. They will be unable to accept any applications after this date. Vouchers will be distributed to families the week commencing 30 September 2024.**

If you have not received your their voucher by 7 October 2024, please check your spam/junk mailboxes for an email from [selectcode@select-your-reward.co.uk](mailto:selectcode@select-your-reward.co.uk), as well as ensuring that your mailbox settings allow junk mail.

Families who have signed up previously do not need to re-register for October 2024 half-term holiday vouchers - you will already have been included.

**For any parents wishing to update details of an existing application, please email [childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk) by 13 October 2024, so they can update your account, as details are not automatically updated.**

## Teaching & Learning Owls

Children work extremely hard throughout the year to gain a bronze, silver and then by the time they leave, we hope to award children with the **gold owl** or **prestigious gold star badge!**

Children earn their Owls by showing outstanding attitude to learning.

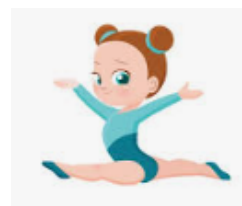
**Congratulations to Stan** who gained his **Bronze Owl** and **Edward** who gained his **Silver Owl**.



## Clubs



We are delighted that we have so many extra-curricular activities running this term. A real mix of clubs from sport to language, baking and music to name a few. Please see a full list of clubs on page 4.



Clubs starting next week include boys and girls football, running, netball, recorders and orchestra.



*If there are any year 5 or 6 girls who play competitively with boys in a team on a regular basis outside of school and would like to join the boys' football club, please email [clerical.@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:clerical.@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk)*



## Guitar

Mr Meade has a few spaces available. He can offer individual or group guitar lessons.

If you are interested in learning to play guitar please email [guitar@davidmeade.plus.com](mailto:guitar@ davidmeade.plus.com)



## Rags 2 Riches 4 Schools Collection - Thursday 3rd October

Rags 2 Riches 4 Schools is an easy, efficient way for our school to earn some extra funds for resources and projects.

A collection for St Mark's is scheduled for **Thursday 3rd October** so why not have that much needed clear out of any unwanted clothing and shoes.

Rags 4 Riches have supplied us with their own collection bags which will be coming home with the children.

Click [here](#) for a full list of what can be collected or visit [www.rags2riches4schools.co.uk](http://www.rags2riches4schools.co.uk)



school uniform



**Unfortunately they are unable to take school uniforms.**

## 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

- Flu Letter Reminder



## 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.**

## 2024 - 25



### September

Tue 17th - Flu Immunisations All Day  
Thu 19th - iSingPop Recording Day  
Fri 20th - iSingPop Concerts - 2pm for Red, Blue and Choir, 6pm for Yellow, Green and Choir  
Mon 23rd - Cycle to School Week

### October

Tue 1st - Year 6 2023-24 cohort reunion  
Wed 2nd - Coffee with Mrs Fitch - Year 3 & 4 Parents  
Thu 3rd - Rags Collection  
Wed 9th - Coffee with Mrs Fitch - Year 5 & 6 Parents  
Thu 10th - World Mental Health Day  
**Mon 21st - Book Look Class 1 (Note change of date)**  
Tue 22nd - Book Look Classes 2 - 8  
Thu 24th - Harvest Festival (Just children)

### November

Mon 11th - Anti-Bullying Week  
Tue 12th - Odd Socks Day  
Fri 19th 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)

## Outdoor Learning - Autumn Term 1

**Outdoor Learning will start week commencing 30th September. The Outdoor Learning timetable will be shared with you in due course.**

*For Outdoor Learning children are required to come to school wearing their own clothing they do not mind getting dirty. In addition to this and as we approach the winter months they must have warm clothing and waterproof coats.*

**Please note: all children must wear long trousers for safety reasons.**

