



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 12th December 2025

www.stmarksjunior.com

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

Our Value in focus this term is Compassion

Headteacher's Message:

Christmas Concert—**Groovin' - The Nativity!**

We hope you and your children enjoyed Groovin' along at the Christmas Nativity at St Mark's Church as much as we did this week! The church looked truly magical, glowing with twinkling lights that set the perfect scene for a joyful Christmas celebration.

We were incredibly proud of the children, who certainly put the groove into their performances—singing and performing their hearts out, with plenty of Christmas sparkle.

There were some truly outstanding moments in the Nativity, and we could not be more proud of each and every one of them. With delightful contributions from the Choir, Recorder Groups and Orchestra, we were treated to a fantastic evening of music and festive cheer.

A huge thank you to St Mark's Church for welcoming us so beautifully and for the delicious heart-shaped biscuits shared at the end.

What a fabulous, joy-filled evening it was. Thank you, children, for your hard work, wonderful performances, and for bringing the Christmas spirit to life!

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



St Mark's 500 Words Writing Competition

A huge well done to all the children who took part in St Mark's 500 Words Writing Competition. The stories were absolutely brilliant, and it was a tough job to select the winners. We were lucky enough to have one of our long-standing Governors and Associate Member, **Mrs Lockyer**, judge the competition for us. Thank you to Mrs Lockyer for her time and for providing every child with such personal and thoughtful feedback.

And the winners are...



Year 3 & 4

Pickle's Adventure, **Seren**

The Lonely Crab, **Dexter**

Year 5 & 6

The Boy Who Saved My Life, **Tegan**

The Centre Mast, **Rex**

Luna's Lake Performance, **Ayla**



Congratulations to all our winners, you really did a fantastic job!

You will see from Mrs Lockyer's reviews below what an eclectic mix of wonderful stories we had — from a superhero crab, to a dancing shark, and even a Granny zombie! It was fantastic to see your imaginations come to life on the page.

Good luck to those of you who have entered the **BBC 500 Words Competition** as well!

Year 3 & 4 Feedback

The Lonely Crab- Dexter

The perfect super hero!...Mo the crab uses his new super powers to save his friends and give them a new home. Brilliantly thought-out, well done!

A Magical Bus Trip- Charlotte

A cleverly written portal story which takes us to Ancient Greece and back to school again. Really creative, well done!

Captain Pigeon and the Great Pizza Race- Rose

A brilliantly structured story. The descriptions help the reader to picture the bird characters really clearly and the pizza related snowboards/skis are a brilliant theme as they set off on their race! Congratulations Captain Pigeon!

The Story of the Attack- Harry

Granny Zombie is truly grotesque! Brilliant description, cleverly drawing on references to stories, games and even Greek gods. We need part 3 & 4 to find out who wins the battle for reality!

Teamwork Makes The Dream Work- Scott

What an inspiring story! A great example of teamwork and empathy, showing how individuals can work together and use their strengths so that everyone can succeed.

First School Day- Pia

The Golden Sparkly Castle sounds so exciting... a brilliant description of the nasty king being defeated before a clever ending where the narrator is invited to become king!

Super Baby- Jacob

An exciting adventure through space as the hero Super Baby defeats the villains and finds a side kick! Now we need to hear about Super Baby's diamond, ice and gold special abilities in chapter 2!

The Cautious Cacti- Eleanor

A beautifully thought-out story about a desert stink bug befriending the cautious cactus! I hope he persuades the witch to cast a good spell to help the cactus grow more flowers!

Pickles Adventure- Seren

Wow! A portal story that any published author would be proud of... I want to join Pickles on his next adventure!

The Crazy Chimera- Lola

What a brave, clever narrator you have created at the centre of your story... brilliant descriptions that show how the narrator felt when they first saw the chimera, to realising it was a threat then saving the day!

Year 5 & 6 Feedback

Charlie Peacey

A dancing shark! What a great idea for a hero who can defeat the evil Dr Poo and save the world from obliteration!

Ellie the Witch- Lyra

Great description of Ellie's rescue of Mochi the dog and defeat of the Emerald Followers, well done!

The Boy Who Saved My Life- Tegan

Great inspiration from Greek mythology and a creative use of different perspectives to help the reader empathise with two characters. Now we need to know how the hydra gets on in 2025!

Ivy's Little Secret- Margot

A lovely story where we are introduced to Ivy, a kind girl who saves the day by finding the baby meerkat and returning it to its mother.

The Miabing Quest- Honey

A great quest to find the miabings and defeat wizard long beard! The new rainbow colours sound amazing too!

The Weird Holiday- Beca

A jelly bean tree that can only be seen by the children through their binoculars- what a brilliant idea for a story! Well done!

Raccoons Love Bins!- Arthur

A brilliantly funny story about a cheeky raccoon and his rat friend getting caught stealing the leftover rice pudding... before discovering their very own rice pudding fountain!

The Black Ninja and the Masked Magpie- Naomi

A creative, action packed story about the princess becoming the Black Ninja hero and defeating the Masked Magpie!

The Centre Mast - Rex

What an amazing description of the brave hero Tavric as he saves his village from the Biclops. Now we need a second chapter to find out what lies over the mountains!

Luna's Lake Performance- Ayla

Wow! A beautifully written story about the rewards of hard work. The use of the present tense keeps the reader invested in Luna's story, celebrating with her as she achieves her dream of becoming a dancer.

Why You Shouldn't Steal From A Bank- Riana

A suspense adventure, packed with descriptive imagery to show the narrator's emotions as they try to steal from a bank... before waking up at the end of the story!

Axel's Adventure- Beau

A brilliant tale about the adventures of Axel the axolotl when he became an axodragon! Now we need part 2 to find out about the fox and the new island!

The Curse of the Gold Necklace- Joshua

An action packed pirate adventure! Great descriptions to create suspense and to bring the Squogboggler's pirate crew to life!

*A special mention to **Hugo** in Year 6, although he did not enter our school competition he has got through to the next round of the BBC 500 Words competition. **Ayla one of our Year 6 winners** has also got through to the next round!*

***Such amazing news, well done Hugo and Ayla!** Here is what Mrs Lockyer had to say about Hugo's story.*

The Sinister School - Hugo

'What a great idea for a portal story- the narrator finds himself in a school of evil aliens and is relieved to get back to his normal school which he realises isn't so boring after all! Great description of the aliens and the portal.





Congratulations again to all the children who took part in this year's writing competition. Here are the children with their participation certificates.

SO
proud
OF YOU
♥



Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1: The highlight for Class 1 was their trip to the pantomime—"Oh yes, it is!" In fact, it may well have been the highlight for the whole school. Class 1 especially enjoyed the comedy and how brilliantly the funny moments were performed. The children also learned what it means to be a good audience member: listening carefully, sitting quietly during the performance, and joining in enthusiastically when invited. It was a brilliant morning out!

Class 2: Class 2 have a daily advent calendar, which a different child gets to open each day. Inside the calendar is a "random act of kindness" along with a whole class game to play together. Yesterday's game was Snowman, Reindeer, Santa—a festive twist on Rock, Paper, Scissors. Such a brilliant idea, and great fun—well done, Class 2!

Class 3: In DT, the children constructed their own steady-hand games, building on their circuit knowledge from last term. They also designed and produced backgrounds for their games based on Greek Gods.

Class 4: In English, class 4 have enjoyed their independent writing this week, inspired by Greek Mythology.

Class 5 & 6: Both classes have been adding to their Frida Kahlo inspired self-portraits, creating bright, bold backgrounds. Frida Kahlo often used vibrant, high-contrast backdrops with bold, saturated colours, incorporating floral or natural motifs. We can't wait to see our artists' finished designs!

Class 7: In Music, Class 7 have had lots of fun playing Christmas Carols with Boomwhacker's.

Class 8: Class 8 have been writing a speech about global warming, as part of their English module.

Teaching & Learning Owls

Bronze - Millie and Ben

Congratulations to our badge winners!



Christmas Jumper Day - Save the Children

On Thursday we dusted off our Christmas jumpers and wore them in support of **Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day**.

Every December, Save the Children invites schools, work places, community groups and friends to put on a Christmas jumper and donate whatever they can. Each year, millions of people make the world better in a sweater! Money raised on Christmas Jumper Day supports children in the UK and all around the world stay safe, healthy and learning - and change their futures for good.



Although we did **not collect donations in school** this time, you are very welcome to donate by clicking [here](#).

For more information about Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day, please visit www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day. Thank you!

Ukulele Christmas Concert

Yesterday we were treated to a superb ukulele concert during Collective Worship. Mrs Kelly's Year 5 and 6 pupils performed for the whole school and their parents. Their festive programme was a real delight and the perfect way to celebrate the hard work the children have been putting in.

The pupils performed with confidence as they spread festive cheer with their Christmas repertoire. Well done to all the players—what a joy it was to hear you perform!



Extra Curricular Clubs - W/C 15/12/25



Monday

Chinese Language Y3-6 3.15pm - 4.15pm
Gymnastics Y3-6 3.10pm - 4.00pm

Tuesday

Tennis Y4-6 3.15pm - 4.10pm

All other clubs have finished for the term!

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



2025-26



December

Wed 17th - Christmas Lunch
Thu 18th - Rocksteady Concert for Rocksteady Parents 9.30am
Thu 18th - Year 3 DT Day
Thu 18th - PTA Disco - Y3 & Y4 – 6-6.45pm / Y5 & Y6 – 7-8pm
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

February

Tue 3rd - Year 6 National Measurement Check
Thu 4th - Rags Collection

Advance Notice of Some Key Dates

11th May - Y6 SATs Week
10th June - Sports Day
8th - 10th July - Y6 Residential
16th July - Y6 St Mark's School Leavers Service - 1.45pm

Letters Sent Home

- No Letter this week



Outdoor Learning - Autumn Term 2

Outdoor Learning has finished for the term and will return again after Easter.



PE - Autumn Term 2

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



Christmas Disco Reminders – Thursday 18th December

Timings:

- Years 3 & 4: 6:00–6:45pm
- Years 5 & 6: 7:00–8:00pm

Please bring:

- A water bottle
- Your entrance slip with £2 (Slips to be sent home w/c 15th Dec)
Change for sweets, glow sticks and tattoos.

Please do NOT bring:

- Mobile phones
- Your own food
- Heels or heeled shoes

Collection:

Children will be collected **under the Willow tree**.
No child will be allowed to leave **without an adult**.

