



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 27th February 2026

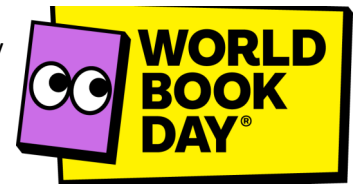
www.stmarksjunior.com

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Our Value in focus this term is Courage

Headteacher's Message:

We have lots of wonderful activities planned next week to celebrate World Book Day and St Mark's week-long festival of reading! Please see a summary of the key events happening during the week:

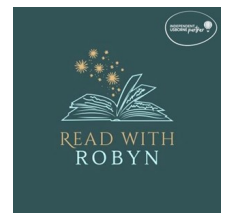


World Book Day Celebrations – Week Commencing 2nd March

Readathon—Monday 23rd February to Friday 6th March. Don't forget to return your completed reading tracker and sponsorship forms on **Monday 9th March.**

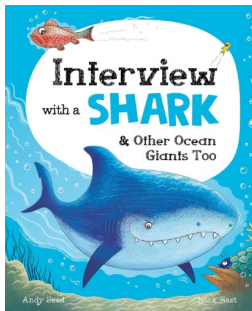
Speaking Out Competition—Wednesday 4th March 9-10.30am (Approximate finish time)

Book Fair - Wednesday 4th March after school. Please bring along your **£1 World Book Day tokens** to use at the fair .



World Book Day –Thursday 5th March. Children are invited to come to school wearing pyjamas or cosy clothes and may bring a pillow or blanket for cosy reading time, along with their favourite book to read.

We will also be meeting with Benhall children to celebrate the children's book activity work from both schools.



Andy Seed Author Visit - Friday 6th March. After an exciting day of workshops and an assembly with Andy Seed, he will be running a book signing stall for families who would like to browse and purchase books. Andy will bring a wider selection of titles, and **contactless payments** will be available.

Contribution

In order to cover the cost of the visiting author, we are asking for a **contribution of £2.52** per child. Please make this payment on Parent Pay, if you are able to, by **Friday 27th February.**

We hope the children have a fantastic week discovering the fun and enjoyment of reading.

Have a super weekend,

Mrs A Fitch and the Staff Team

Teaching & Learning Owls

Gold - Dolly and Riana

Silver - Heather, Joshie & Leo

Bronze - Scott & Jack

Congratulations to our badge winners!



Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1: Class 1 enjoyed two learning highlights this week! In their dance unit on machines, the children explored movement using counts of eight and developed their understanding of timing. In Maths, the class has been studying statistics, learning how to collect data and represent it in the form of a graph.

Class 2: The children enjoyed learning to draw a bird's-eye view plan of St Mark's, as part of their Geography lesson.

Class 3: In English, Class 3 have been learning about the key features of a newspaper article. They were given four images to choose from as inspiration for their own report and were tasked with creating an engaging headline and opening paragraph. The class discussed the importance of both the headline and the introductory paragraph in capturing the reader's attention.

Class 4: In Art, the children have been planning their Roman mosaics themed around nature.

Class 5: This week, Class 5 took part in a Geography field trip to Benhall Stream. During their visit, the children carried out a range of investigations, including examining pollution levels, testing water quality, measuring water depth and observing local wildlife. Whilst labelling their fieldwork sheets, the children applied key vocabulary they have been learning in class, such as erosion, deposition and meandering.

Class 6: In Music, Class 6 have been creating a piece inspired by South and West African music. They used their voices and glockenspiels and will later be adding drums and dance moves.

Class 7: In PE, the children have started their cricket unit. They have been learning and practising batting and bowling techniques, which they then applied to a game of five bats.

Class 8: The children have been conducting their own science experiment into the growth of mould. They were able to select their own materials, choosing between different types of bread, or a combination of bread, cheese and apple.

Netball News

On Tuesday, two Netball teams from St Mark's played in a friendly against Warden Hill Primary School. Both teams played brilliantly, showcasing skilful shooting, accurate passing, strong defence and excellent teamwork throughout. In one match we secured a 7-4 win, while our other team earned a well-deserved 4-4 draw.

A huge well done to all the players for their positivity and enthusiasm. The visiting teachers were full of praise for the St Mark's teams attitude and spirit, which could not make us prouder. Thank you for being such fantastic ambassadors for our school — you represented St Mark's brilliantly.



GB Gymnast visit



On Tuesday, we welcomed GB gymnast Remell Robinson-Bailey to school. Remell gave an inspirational assembly where he spoke about his journey from starting gymnastics at the age of 6 to competing and medalling at the 2024 Senior World Cup, as well as his aspirations to compete in the LA Summer Olympics 2028.

Remell wowed the children with his incredible tumbling skills, even inviting some of them to have a go themselves. Look how awesome the children's frog balances are in the photo below!

He also held a Q&A session, where the children asked thoughtful, enthusiastic questions that showed just how inspired they were by his visit.

After the assembly, Remell worked with different classes, challenging the children to a fitness circuit, which they threw themselves into with great energy and enthusiasm.

A huge thank you to everyone who sponsored this event. Sports For Champions UK aims to educate and empower the next generation through the power of sports. The money raised will help to support current and future athletes. A portion will also be donated to the PTA, and we hope the children will help us choose how to spend these funds.



Cross Country

On Thursday, a team of cross country runners travelled to Cheltenham Prep to compete against other local schools in the area. It was a fast and furious course, which the St Mark's children approached with great enthusiasm, resilience and competitive spirit throughout.

We were delighted to achieve mid- to high-level placings in both the boys' and girls' races. These results are testament to the children's hard work and determination.



Congratulations to all the children who took part. You represented St Mark's with pride and we wish you every success in your races next week.

Football Round-Robin Tournament

On Tuesday children from Year 4 took part in their very first match for St Mark's. It was a friendly mini round robin tournament against **Lakeside, Charlton Kings & Naunton Park.**

Although it was their first time playing together, they worked very well as a team. The children showed excellent passing of the ball and supported their teammates throughout each game. They played with great determination and scored some excellent goals.

Well done to all the players for representing our school in such a wonderful manner.



Young Artist Exhibition

Charlie in Year 5 entered the Nature in Art Young Artist competition. The theme was: 'Our Great Outdoors: Art Inspired by the Natural World' and the children were free to interpret the theme in their own creative way.

We are delighted to share that Charlie's artwork was selected for exhibition over half term. His beautiful Kingfisher was proudly displayed at the Nature in Art Museum in Twigworth, Gloucestershire.

Congratulations, Charlie — what a fantastic piece of work.

You should feel incredibly proud of your achievement.



School Council Update

The School Council would like to say a huge **thank you** to all the children who took part in our recent non-uniform day. Pupils were invited to wear colourful clothes on the last Friday of term as part of **Children's Mental Health Week**, and it was wonderful to see so many bright and cheerful outfits around school.

We are delighted to reveal that an incredible **£233.50** was raised through your generous donations. This fantastic total will go towards developing our new **sensory garden**, which will provide a calm and supportive space for everyone to enjoy.

The School Council will now meet to discuss what to purchase for the sensory garden to make the biggest positive difference.

Their work on this project also contributes to the school's efforts towards achieving the **Eco-Schools Green Flag Award.**



Clothing



Please can you check your child's school clothes are clearly labelled? Handwritten labels are absolutely fine.

We have a dedicated team of Year 6 office helpers who check the lost property every day. Clearly labelled items make it much easier for them to return belongings to their owners and help prevent the lost property pile from growing!

Many thanks for your help!



Extra Curricular Clubs Spring 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
Hockey Y5-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm (Ends 23/02/26)
Netball Y5-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm (Ends 23/02/26)
Recorders Y3-6	Lunchtime

Tuesday

Orchestra Y3-6	12.30pm - 1.00pm
Book Club Y5-6	1.00pm - 1.30pm
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

Brass Club Y4	3.10pm - 4.00pm
Coding Y6	3.10pm - 4.00pm
Kids with Bricks Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm

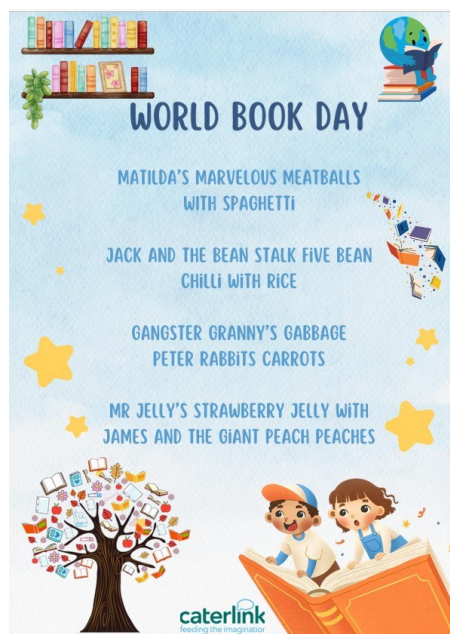
Friday

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

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

World Book Day Menu—Thursday 5th March

Jacket Potatoes will also be available on the day.



School Term Dates

2025-26

Term 3: Mon 5th Jan - Fri 13th Feb 2026

Term 4: Mon 23th 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 June 2026, 20th July 2026



2025-26



March

- Mon 2nd—Fri 6th - Book Week
- Wed 4th - Speaking Out Competition 9am
- Wed 4th - Book Fair after School
- Thu 5th - World Book Day
- Fri 6th - Andy Seed Author Visit
- Tue 17th - Parents Evening
- Wed 18th Parents Evening
- Wed 18th - PTA Meeting the Hatherley
- Thus 19th - Y4 National Roman Legion Museum Trip
- Thus 19th - Y5 Waterways Trip
- Fri 20th - Red Nose Day
- Wed 25th - In the Net Production Year 4 at Lakeside
- Thu 26th - PTA School Discos

Advance Notice of Some Key Dates

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

Letters Sent Home

- Parents' Evening Letter



PE - Spring Term 2

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

All swimmers to wear PE Kit on a Wednesday

Class 1: Tuesday & Thursday

Class 2: Tuesday & Friday

Class 3: Monday & Friday

Class 4: Thursday & Friday

Class 5: Tuesday & Wednesday

Class 6: Wednesday & Thursday

Class 7: Wednesday & Friday (Excluding 6/3/26)

Class 8: Wednesday & Friday

