



# St Mark's C of E Junior School

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

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 27th March 2026

[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 Courage

## Headteacher's Message:

WOW! What a busy week to end an action packed term - some real high-lights mentioned in this newsletter.

The children sang their hearts out in our Easter Service on Tuesday as we retold the Easter story through songs, a Lego Easter Story and some fantastic musical joy from the Choir, Orchestra and Recorder groups.

It was an extremely special moment in the week where we reflected how life is full of the unexpected (as shown through the events of the Easter story) and how in it all, we can be used for a unique purpose - to bring hope and light to others.



## Farewell to Mr Averis

*This term, we say a heartfelt goodbye to Mr Averis who is moving to a school closer to home after 14 years of outstanding service.*

*Throughout his time with us, Mr Averis has made a remarkable impact. His calm, nurturing approach has brought out the very best in countless pupils and his dedication—especially his passion for driving Maths forward—has helped shape the strong curriculum we are so proud of today.*

*Nothing has ever been too much trouble for Mr Averis. His willingness to take on any challenge, his positivity and the unwavering support he has shown to both colleagues and children have strengthened our school community in ways that will be felt for many years to come.*

*We will miss him enormously. Thank you, Mr Averis, for your professionalism, your kindness, and the lasting difference you have made. We send you our warmest thanks and very best wishes as you begin this exciting new chapter.*

*Mr Averis, pictured above as he enjoyed a Tennis themed (his favourite sport!) tea-party after school on Wednesday.*

A huge thank you to all our parents for your incredibly kind donations. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to present Mr Averis with a very generous gift voucher for a shop we know he will love along with a few other treats!

I do hope you are able to find peace and rest this Easter break and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April.

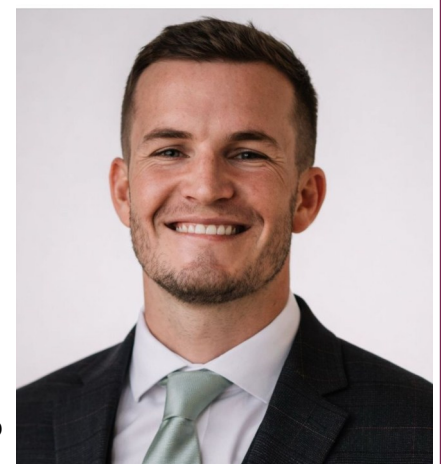
**Have a super weekend,**

**Mrs A Fitch and the Staff Team**

## Deputy Head Appointment

We are delighted to announce that, following a rigorous interview process on 12th and 13th March—during which both staff and pupils played an important part—Mr John Edwards has been appointed as Deputy Head at St Mark's from 1st September 2026. Mr Edwards is currently Assistant Head at Kingsholm C of E Primary School, recently serving as Acting Deputy. He brings a wealth of experience in both excellent leadership and in coaching and modelling high quality teaching & learning.

During the interview process, we were particularly struck by the integrity with which he conducts himself, the high expectations he models, his commitment and passion for supporting every child to flourish and the positive, inclusive ethos he actively fosters. I am confident that Mr Edwards will bring warmth and a deep commitment to children's success to St Mark's.



## School League Finals

Our competitive league football journey began in September last year. Over the course of six matches, we secured five wins and one draw, finishing top of our group and earning a place in the league finals held earlier this week.

This year's finals followed a slightly different format, using a round-robin system against three other schools. Our opening match against Leckhampton ended in a draw, meaning we needed strong performances in our remaining two games, along with plenty of goals.

The team rose to the challenge brilliantly, defeating Bishops Cleeve 4–0 and Swindon Village 5–0. These impressive results saw **St Mark's crowned league winners** for the **second consecutive year**.



Throughout the finals, the team displayed great determination and resilience. The quality of football they produced was outstanding from start to finish, and their teamwork and support for one another was exceptional. Every player contributed and represented St Mark's with pride.

The standard of football played by this team has been remarkably high. With nine dedicated players who clearly love the game and enjoy playing alongside their teammates, this group should be extremely proud of their achievements.

**One last push for the Girls League Finals on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April . Good Luck Girls .**

### Personal message from Mrs Campbell

Another excellent year of football for St Mark's, and an especially meaningful one for me personally with my daughter being part of the boys team. I am extremely proud that St Mark's has secured the league title for the second consecutive year. That said, the real recognition must go to the children, whose dedication to the sport both in and out of school has been outstanding—they truly deserve this success.

The overall standard of all our school teams is incredibly high, which is something both I and St Mark's take great pride in. It is a genuine pleasure to work with such enthusiastic and committed players, and to watch their skills and confidence continue to grow.



## Match report - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March

Our B Team took part in a football festival at Lakeside School, where they delivered an **outstanding performance** across all their matches. The team played a total of three games and achieved a perfect record, **winning all three matches!**

All of the players showed great energy and enthusiasm. Their teamwork was clear in every match, with strong communication and support between teammates helping them stay organised and confident on the field.

**Well done St Mark's.**



## Learning Highlight of the Week

**Class 1:** The children put into practice their basketball dribbling skills, by playing some fun competitive games.

**Class 2:** Class 2 enjoyed presenting their locality survey results, answering the question 'what is Benhall like?' They used pictograms, bar graphs and questionnaire data to record their results.

**Class 3:** This week the children tested their Roman Chariots which they made in DT last week. They have also made lovely mosaic tiles in Art and enjoyed designing their own patterns and using tile grout.

**Class 4:** In DT, Class 4 also designed and created Roman Chariots, which they will be testing next time.

**Class 5:** In English, Class 5 have been writing descriptive stories inspired by a literacy study video called 'The Catch'. They have been trying a new writing tool, 'drop, shift, zoom and return,' to develop their writing.

**Class 6:** Class 6 enjoyed putting all they have learnt in cricket into practise with a game of 5 bats.

**Class 7:** In Maths, the children have been learning about the properties of a circle. They used a compass to create different patterns and circular designs.

**Class 8:** Class 8 have enjoyed writing stories based on the Walt Disney short film 'Paperman'.

## Photography Competition

Yesterday we announced the winners and runners-up of our school Photography Competition. The photographs were printed and displayed in the staff room by our subject lead, Mrs Edmondson, and judged anonymously by St Mark's staff.

The standard of entries this year was incredibly high, making it very difficult for staff to choose their favourites. The photographs were wonderfully varied and of such impressive quality that selecting winners was no easy task.

**And the winners are...**

**Year 3:** Louie (Winner) / Sophia (Runner-up)

**Year 4:** Oscar (Winner) / Max (Runner-up)

**Year 5:** Nancy (Winner) / Evie (Runner-up)

**Year 6:** Amelia (Winner) / Bobby (Runner-up)

Congratulations to everyone who entered the competition. It has been a joy to see all of your fantastic entries, and we will be uploading them to our website for everyone to enjoy.

We now look forward to hearing the results from the Camera Club Competition. From past experience, we know that some photographs that may not have won this time could still be selected by the Camera Club judges, so we wish the very best of luck to all of our talented photographers!



**Louie - Blooming Lovely**



**Oscar - Along the Towpath**



**Bobby - Shard**



**Max - Podium Finish**



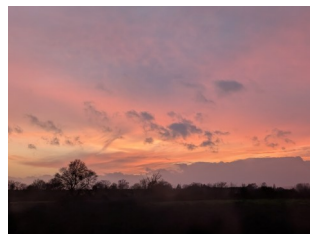
**Amelia - Reflected Sole**



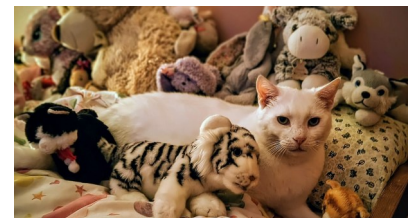
**Nancy - Walk with Water**



**Evie - Citrus Sky**



**Sophia - Soda the Cat - King of the Teddies**



## PTA Easter Bake Sale & Cake Competition

A huge thank you to everyone who entered the PTA Cake Competition, as well as to those who generously contributed additional cakes for the bake sale.

We were truly overwhelmed by the number of children who took part and the incredible effort they put into designing and baking their creations. Every single cake was a showstopper, making it difficult for our judges to choose just three winners... so they decided on four!

**And the winners are...**

**1st Place:** Scott

**Joint 2nd Place:** Toby & Lucy

**3rd Place:** Grace

**Winning House:** Red House



Congratulations to all our winners! Your cakes were not only creative but also beautifully made—the judges were absolutely blown away. It was clear from the entries just how much thought, effort, and talent went into each bake, so a big well done to everyone who took part. You are all star bakers!



A big thank you as well to our judges, Naomi (our two-time previous winner), Mrs Hicks and Mrs Steinhardt! We know you had a very difficult job and we appreciate the time and care you took to consider every bake so thoughtfully.

Finally, thank you to everyone who came along and supported the PTA disco last night. Together, the two events raised over **£800**—an amazing achievement! Thank you again for your fantastic support.



## Teaching & Learning Owls

**Star - Josh**

**Gold - Jess, Molly and Rio**

**Silver - Lottie, Kavya, Sid, Charlie and Frankie**

**Congratulations to our badge winners!**



## Design your dream home!

Would your child like to take part in an exciting Art project for the Easter Holidays? Please see flyer attached with this week's newsletter and details below!

- Prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for each category.
- Categories for Under 8 and 9-12.
- Can be drawing, painting, collage or any paper-based medium.
- Must be on A4 paper

**Please write on the back:**

- Child's name
- Age
- Sedmondson@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk
- Please hand in entries to Mrs Edmondson by **MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**



## Netball Tournament

On **Friday 20th March** we took 2 teams to compete against 27 schools from the Gloucestershire area. The weather was definitely on our side which was great as we were outside all day.

We had some losses, some draws and some amazing wins, showing a good balance of skill, courage and determination. There was an outstanding level of play and unfortunately didn't manage to go through to the finals.

What stood out most to me was the level of support and encouragement from all of the players and how they represented St. Mark's. Thank you to the parents who came along to support too. It was really lovely to spend the day with you all.



## Earth Hour

Thank you to all the children who wore green or blue today in support of Earth hour. Your £1 donations were gratefully received and the money raised will be used to implement some energy saving strategies around the school as well as creating some additional environmentally friendly and biodiverse planting areas around the school grounds.

You can also join in with **Earth hour** tomorrow, **Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> March** by **turning off your lights at home** for one hour between **8.30 and 9.30pm**.

If this does not fit in with your bedtime routine, your family can still take part by spending 60 minutes doing something positive for our planet at any time during the day. There are lots of fantastic ideas on the [WWF website](http://www.worldwildlife.org).

Since it began, Earth Hour has always been more than just an hour. It's a chance to connect with what matters most, nature and each other— together we can make a meaningful difference.



## Book Fair

Thank you again for supporting our recent Book Fair at St Mark's. You can see from the photo the fantastic range of books we were able to purchase for the children, from the commission that the school received. Please see 'Read with Robyn's' lovely message to you all below.

"Thank you so much for supporting the school's Usborne Book Fair, it was really lovely to meet so many of you and chat books. Thank you for your patience, it was super busy!

I really enjoyed talking to your children about their favourite books when they came to browse and I loved seeing all their wonderful performances in the Speaking Out Competition.

The fair was a huge success and earned the school £380 worth of free books! I hope the children enjoy reading them!

If you know a school or nursery who could benefit from free books, please ask school for my contact details.

Happy Reading!

Robyn (Read with Robyn - Usborne partner)"



## Extra Curricular Clubs Summer Term 1

### Monday

Baking Buddies Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.30pm
Chinese Language Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.15pm
Gardening Club Y3-4	3.15pm - 4.00pm
Gymnastics Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.05pm
Recorders Y3-6	Lunchtime



### Tuesday

Board Games Y3-4	12.40pm - 1.10pm
Orchestra Y3-6	12.30pm - 1.00pm
Choir Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.00pm
Tennis Y4-6	3.15pm - 4.10pm

### Wednesday

Baking Buddies Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.30pm
Cricket Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.15pm
Drama Bugs Y3-6	3.20pm - 4.20pm

### Thursday

Coding Y6	3.15pm - 4.00pm
Kids with Bricks Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.00pm
Outdoor Learning	3.15pm - 4.15pm
Science	3.15pm - 4.00pm

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

## Drama Bugs—New After School Club

Wednesdays 3.20pm - 4.20pm

Attached with this week's newsletter is a flyer for our brand new after school **Drama club**.

The club aims to **boost confidence, creativity and communication skills** through fun, imaginative drama sessions.

Each week is a magical adventure filled with **storytelling, role play, characters, games and confidence building**.



To book your child's place, email [vickielong@icloud.com](mailto:vickielong@icloud.com)

## 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



## Letters Sent Home

- GWR Letter



## 2025-26



### April

Mon 13th - Start of Term 5

### May

Mon 4th May - Bank Holiday

Wed 6th - Cadbury World Year 5

Mon 11th — Thu 14th - Y6 SATs Week

Sat 16th - Summer Fair

Tue 19th - Book Look

Wed 20th - GWR Trip Year 6

Fri 22nd - End of Term 5

### June

Mon 1st - Inset Day (no children in school)

Tue 9th - Y6 Leavers Service, Gloucester Cathedral (Pupils only)

Wed 10th - Sports Day

Mon 15th - Midsummer Concert 6.30pm

Wed 17th - Drayton Manor Y6 Trip

Fri 19th - PTA Lido Evening

Tue 23rd - Year 6 Production Matinee Performance

Tue 23rd - Piano Recital (Mrs Bennett's Pupils & Parents)

Wed 24th - Year 6 Production - Evening performance

Wed 24th - Whole Class Photos and Year 6 Leavers Photographs

Thu 25th - 'Explore our World' Day Year 5 at Bournside

Mon 29th - Fri 3rd - Bournside Transition Week

Tue 30th - Rags Collection

### Advance Notice of Some Key Dates

8th - 10th July - Y6 Residential

16th July - Y6 St Mark's School Leavers Service - 1.45pm

## Outdoor Learning - Summer Term 1



Class 1: Thursday Morning

Class 2: 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.**

## PE - Summer Term 1

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

Class 1: Friday

Class 2: Tuesday

Class 3: Monday & Tuesday

Class 4: Tuesday & Friday

Class 5: Tuesday & Thursday

Class 6: Tuesday & Thursday

Class 7: Monday & Wednesday

Class 8: Wednesday & Friday



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