



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 17th April 2026

www.stmarksjunior.com

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

Our Value in focus this term is Friendship

Headteacher's Message:

A very warm welcome back to you all after the Easter break. I hope that our children have had time to rest, spend precious moments with family and friends, and enjoy a little of the much-needed sunshine along the way.

We have begun the Summer term in excellent spirits. It has been a pleasure to see how quickly the children have settled back into school routines, returning with a superb attitude to learning and a real enthusiasm for the weeks ahead. This final term in our current year groups offers a wonderful opportunity for children to continue to excel and truly flourish – both in their learning and in their friendships.

We are also very much looking forward to a packed and exciting Summer term, with lots of events planned for the weeks ahead. Please do keep an eye on the *Dates for Your Diary* section, which you'll always find on the final page of each week's newsletter.



Our value in focus this term is **Friendship**, and this week we have taken time to reflect together on how our **FACE values** strengthen the way we put friendship into action every day. As a reminder, here are our 'one-liners' that help us to live out our FACE values:

- **Forgiveness:** Be a peacemaker – don't rub it in, rub it out
- **Aspire:** Keep growing - dig deep, aim high
- **Compassion:** Be kind, notice the need
- **Engage:** Be here now, play your part

These are phrases you might like to use at home too, as they support our shared language and expectations.

Please do take time to enjoy some of the highlights from our first week back in school – it's certainly been a busy one already!

Have a super weekend,

Mrs A Fitch and the Staff Team



Teaching & Learning Owls

Silver - Rose & Freddie

Bronze - Sophia

Congratulations to our badge winners!



Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1: In Outdoor Learning, the children got the opportunity to try fire lighting and clay making.

Class 2: Class 2 have begun their unit on fractions in Maths. The children thoroughly enjoyed a practical lesson where they explored fractions by folding paper and building cube towers.

Class 3 & 4: English has been a highlight for both Classes this week. Inspired by their Class text *The Spiderwick Chronicles*, the children explored the magical world of boggarts and fairies by creating habitats for their own creatures using natural materials found around the school grounds. Back in the classroom, they developed their ideas further using reading VIPERS and Word Banks to describe their creatures and deepen their understanding of the text.

Class 5: In PE, the children have started their Athletics unit, focusing on sprinting techniques and learning how to adjust their pace depending on the distance.

Class 6: Class 6 have been introduced to their new History topic on the Mayans. They learnt about where and how the Mayan civilisation lived and were particularly interested by the traditional ball game Pok-ta-Pok, where players could only strike the rubber ball using their hips, elbows, or knees.

Class 7: Class 7 have also been enjoying History. They have been learning about the legacy of World War II.

Class 8: The children have been developing their writing skills in English. Inspired by the short film Alma, set in an enchanted toy shop in Barcelona, they have been learning how to incorporate speech to bring their stories to life.

PTA Lido Evening

We are delighted to share with you that the PTA have booked the **Lido** for a fun evening of swimming and we would love for you to join us!

We have exclusive use of the Lido (main pool and children's pool), on **Friday 19th June 7.45 - 10pm**, so come along, bring your inflatables and enjoy some fun. The pool's café will not be open so please do bring along your picnics with food, snacks and drinks.

Tickets are £6 per person. Please note that tickets are limited and will be issued on a first come first served basis. **Children must be accompanied by adults.**

As this is a 'PTA' event Lido annual passes cannot be accepted.

To reserve your tickets, please complete this form by clicking [here](#). The form must be filled out and payment received within 48hrs to hold your place.

The ticket deadline 15th June.

Due to the Lido's health & safety numbers and lifeguard ratios we are not able to sell tickets on the night, so please ensure you buy tickets beforehand. Lido rules require that everyone coming needs a ticket, even if not swimming.



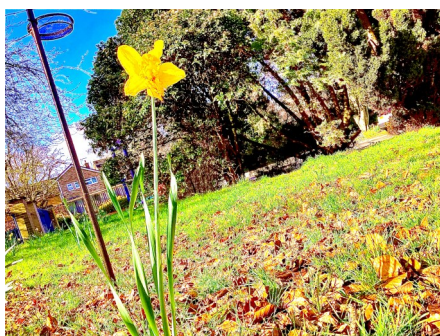
Photography Competition

We are delighted to announce that 3 St Mark's children have been chosen to receive award for their photos entered into Gloucestershire's Young Photographer of the Year competition. Congratulations to Amelia, Lilly and Rex. The awards ceremony will be taking place in a couple of weeks time and we wish the children the very best of luck!

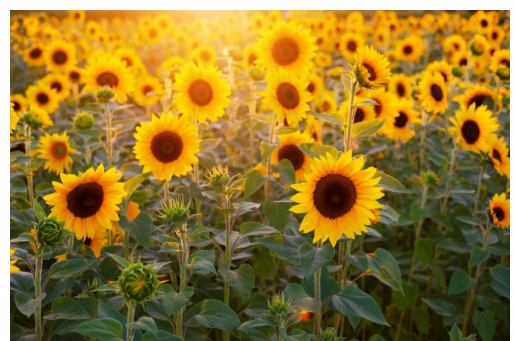
Amelia - Reflected Sole



Rex - Spring is near



Lilly - Sunflowers



Girls Football Friendly

In preparation for the league finals, our girls football team played a friendly match against **St James School**. After a bit of a slow start they improved as the match went on. They grew in confidence, took control, and went on to **win 4-0** with a strong second-half performance.

Good luck to the girls in the league finals today .



Leavers Hoodies

The Year 6 leavers' hoodies arrived on the final day of term and were met with great excitement from the children.



We are all extremely grateful to the PTA for purchasing and organising these special hoodies, which they are already wearing with pride!



Tweedy's Massive Circus

Tweedy's Massive Circus: The Big Number Two is currently touring in Gloucestershire. From the star of Gifford's Circus, Tweedy brings a gloriously silly, laugh-out-loud circus spectacular for everyone aged 3 to 103. Beloved by families across Gloucestershire and beyond, this is the perfect show for kids and parents alike.

Tweedy will be heading to Dunkertons, Cheltenham from 23rd-10th May.

We have been asked to share with our families, Tweedy's MASSIVE schools discount, with **20%** off bookings to week-day shows! Just use code **LOCAL20** for 20% off any stalls tickets on week-day shows at either location, T&Cs apply.



Bike Theft

We have recently been made aware that, unfortunately, a bike was stolen from Benhall this week. As a community, we want to do all we can to prevent such thefts.

Please ensure your child has a bike lock, which they can use, to securely lock their bikes to one of our bike racks while at school. Even a simple lock can act as a deterrent.

As you know, we recently installed CCTV and cameras are positioned in this area. While this adds an extra layer of security, staying vigilant remains essential. By working together we can help keep bikes safe both in school and in the wider community.

Below are some additional measures that you could do to keep your bikes additionally secure within our local community:

1. Double lock it

Using two locks slows thieves down and makes your bike less of a target. Use two quality locks, at least one of which is a D-lock. Thieves are less likely to carry multiple tools, so use two different types of lock if possible.

2. Register it

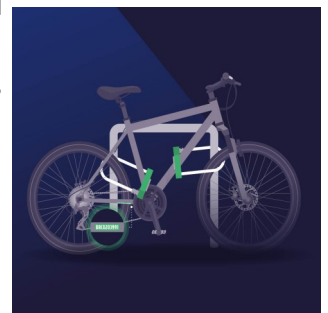
Register your frame number on a national bike registration database. The frame number is usually found underneath the bike between the pedals or where the back wheel slots in. If your bike is ever stolen and recovered by the police, it can be traced back to you.

3. Mark it

Get your bike security marked. It's a highly effective, visible deterrent to bike thieves. They know that if they are caught with a registered bike, the owner can be traced and they will be arrested.

4. Act fast

If your bike has been stolen, contact the police as soon as possible by reporting online. Give them your frame number, cycle database number, a photo and any other details and make sure you update the status on the cycle database where you registered it. The sooner the police know, the sooner they can act!



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
Netball Y5-6	3.15pm - 4.00pm
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

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!

PTA Uniform Sale

The PTA will be holding a uniform sale next **Friday 24th April** after school.

You can purchase pre-loved uniform via cash or bank transfer.



School Term Dates - 2025-26

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



Letters Sent Home

- Curriculum Maps and Letters



2025-26



April

Fri 24th - PTA Pre-loved Uniform Sale

May

Mon 4th May - Bank Holiday

Wed 6th - Cadbury World Year 5

Fri 8th - PTA non-school uniform day for bottle/ teddy for Fair

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.