



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 8th May 2026

www.stmarksjunior.com

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

Our Value in focus this term is Friendship

Headteacher's Message:

Having enjoyed the Bank Holiday weekend, we have packed in our learning this week. We are certainly making the most of every moment, as the term is already whizzing by!

We have another success to celebrate:

In March, a team of Year 6 pupils represented the school at the Mock Trial held at the University of Gloucestershire. After weeks of dedicated preparation for the prosecution case, the children delivered their roles with impressive confidence and skill. *We are thrilled to announce that they were awarded the Mock Trial trophy on Wednesday, having won the entire competition.*



Congratulations to all the pupils who took part. Your commitment and the extra practice you put in were clear to see, and the organisers praised how well each member of the team performed on the day. It was a true team effort—one you should all be incredibly proud of.

A special mention, ahead of next week:

Next week, our wonderful Year 6s will be sitting SATs (Statutory Assessment Tests). This is an opportunity for the children to celebrate their hard work and fantastic attitude to their learning, drawing on their knowledge built up across Year 3, 4, 5 and 6.

The children and Year 6 team have been working particularly hard recently to ensure they are in the best position to tackle the tests with confidence. *We could not be prouder of you all. Go for it—and remember there is not, and shall never be, a way to test all of the amazing things that makes you who you really are.*

Do your very best, give it your all; but also know this is a very small reflection of *wonderful you!*

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

Teaching & Learning Owls

**Gold - Bobby,
Michalina &
Eshaal**

Silver - Albert

**Bronze - Archie,
Dorothy & Toby**



Congratulations to our badge winners!

Reading Award

Well done to Isaac, who has completed the Year 3 Reading list! Your dedication to reading and love of books is wonderful to see. Congratulations!





Cadbury World

On Wednesday, Year 5 pupils enjoyed an exciting visit to Cadbury World. The children took part in a fantastic tour, exploring a range of deliciously themed and immersive zones.

The day also included an engaging interactive workshop led by the education team. This term, the children have been learning about the ancient Maya Civilisation.

They were fascinated to discover more about how cacao, the primary ingredient of chocolate was cultivated extensively by the Mayan people. They learnt that chocolate was considered a sacred and highly valued substance in the Maya Civilisation, used in rituals, social ceremonies and as a form of currency.

The children especially loved dressing up in traditional Mayan clothing and discovering how chocolate is made. They even had the chance to write their names in melted chocolate. The best bit, of course, was being able to sample some chocolate!



One of the highlights of the day was the 4D Chocolate Adventure—a thrilling 4D cinema experience enhanced with dynamic motion seats!

It was such a fantastic trip and the children were excellent ambassadors for our School.

Well done Year 5!



Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1 & 2: Inspired by this term's topic, Ancient Egypt, the children created Egyptian mummies using sticks and pipe cleaners. They enjoyed discovering the fascinating process of embalming and mummification.

Class 3: In Science, Class 3 carried out an experiment using eggs to represent tooth enamel. They placed eggs in different liquids—milk, coke, water, orange juice, and vinegar, to observe how each liquid affected the eggshell. They also tested the effect of toothpaste by coating one egg with it before placing it in coke, to see how the reaction would differ.

Class 4: In Maths, the children have been learning to tell the time.

Class 5: As well as their fantastic trip to Cadbury World, Class 5 also enjoyed music this week. They are exploring South and West African music, practising 8-beat breaks on drums. The class created their own ostinatos and used word phrases to support their rhythms.

Class 6: Inspired by their wonderful Cadbury World trip, the children have been designing posters all about chocolate! They could choose to focus on either the history of chocolate or the history of Cadbury World.

Class 7: In Art, the children have been learning about the WW2 shelter drawings of Henry Moore. They created their own pencil sketches, capturing body shapes in a similar style.

Class 8: The children explored how a healthy human heart responds to exercise. They conducted an experiment by recording their resting heart rate, then measuring it again after performing jumping jacks.

St Mark's Girls performed at a West End Theatre!

Honey, Nancy and Evie from class 5 were selected from **My Stage School** to perform at **His Majesty's Theatre** in London last weekend. As part of the **Take a Bow** productions, the girls performed 2 dance pieces inspired by **'Wednesday'** as well as a **'School of Rock'** Musical Theatre number.

It was such a fantastic experience, to perform in one of London's prestigious West End Theatres and the girls were absolutely incredible!

Well done to Honey, Nancy and Evie; such an exciting moment for you all and what a beautiful Theatre to make your West End debut in! We are all extremely proud of your achievement.



Dexter's Fundraising Success

On Sunday, Dexter, who is part of our School Council and Gardening Club raised an amazing £120 by selling some home grown tomato plants that he grew from seed.

Dexter and his brother spent the day talking to people and selling their beautiful plants in order to raise money for St Mark's Gardening Club so that we are able to buy equipment for the club and some plants and bulbs for our Sensory Garden and mini allotment.

Out heartfelt thanks go out to Dexter and his family for their fantastic support!



SEND Holiday Activities and Food (HAF)

As part of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme in Gloucestershire, the *Parent and Carer Alliance C.I.C.*, are committed to supporting families of children with disabilities to access enriching activities and nutritious meals during school holidays.

They can support families with:

- Access to holiday activities tailored to children with SEND
- Provision of healthy meals during sessions
- Transport arrangements where required
- 1:1 support for children who need additional assistance

There will be exciting opportunities in the summer, including their Summer SEND Celebration on 20th August. Lunch will be provided for every child that books via HAF.

You can find out more and register by using this link

<https://www.parentandcareralliance.org.uk/haf>



Parent & Carer
Alliance C.I.C.

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
Rounders Y5-6	3.15pm - 4.00pm



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



School Term Dates - 2025-26

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



Letter Sent Home

- Explore our World Year 5 Letter
- Year 3 Burnham-on-Sea Trip
- Year 6 SATs Letter
- Collaboration Letter for Families



2025-26



May

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)

Thu 4th - Transition Evening Year 2 Parents 6.30pm @ St Mark's

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

Thu 18th - Rocksteady concert for Rocksteady parents (pm)

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

Thu 25th - Year 4 Cheltenham Trip

Mon 29th - Fri 3rd - Bournside Transition Week

Tue 30th - Rags Collection

July

Tue 7th - Burnham-on-Sea Trip Year 3

Wed 8th - Fri 10th July - Y6 Residential

Tue 14th - Year 3 Egyptian Day

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

Thu 16th - PTA Disco

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.