



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 15th May 2026

www.stmarksjunior.com

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

Our Value in focus this term is Friendship

Headteacher's Message:

With only 1 week left of this half term, we're busy preparing for all things Summer! Sports Day and many more summer activities will be upon us very shortly not to mention our **Summer Fair tomorrow!!** See info below.

St Mark's Summer Fair



We can't wait to welcome you tomorrow, **Saturday 16th May**, from **12pm to 4pm** for a day filled with fun, laughter, and lasting memories!

What's on:

- Activity Corner – Just £12 on the day for unlimited use of the inflatables and climbing wall.
- Stalls include – tombola's, lucky envelopes, gifts and crafts, toys and games & much more!
- Delicious food, drinks & treats
- Games, raffle and entertainment for all ages

Bring your friends, family to support our school and have a great day!

Huge congratulations to our fabulous Year 6s who completed their SATs this week.

Their calm and positive approach throughout the week has been remarkable and testament to their wonderful characters. We are so proud of each and every one of you.

Many thanks to the Year 6 Team, parent helpers, SMOOSC and the PTA for providing delicious breakfasts and creating such a lovely atmosphere, helping ensure that each morning ran smoothly.

Have a super weekend,

Mrs A Fitch and the Staff Team



Teaching & Learning Owls

Silver - Oscar

Bronze - Ben

Congratulations to our badge winners!



Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1: In Outdoor Learning, the children made Egyptian Shadufs; an ancient hand-operated device used for lifting water. They constructed two A-frames, secured a pole across the top, and used another pole as a lever. On one end of the lever, they attached a basket to hold water, and on the other end they fixed a counterweight to help lift it.

Class 2: In Science, the children have been learning about the different food groups. They designed their own healthy eating plate using different art materials.

Class 3: Following on from last week's science experiment using eggs to represent tooth enamel, the children have now examined their results and recorded their conclusions. They investigated how different liquids can affect and damage enamel over time. The liquids were ranked from least to most harmful and they were fascinated by the changes — some eggs had corroded, and one had even become translucent! They were especially surprised to discover that orange juice caused the most damage, due to its high sugar content.

Class 4: In Art, the children have been studying Van Gogh's *Starry Night* and exploring the techniques he used in his work. They were given half of the painting and tasked with completing the other half, applying similar techniques.

Class 5: In PSHE, the children have begun exploring a new topic on body confidence and bullying. In their first lesson, they discussed the incredible things our bodies can do. In the second lesson, they explored appearance-based bullying, took part in a quiz, and shared ideas on how they can help prevent and challenge bullying.

Class 6: Inspired by their history topic on the Mayans, Class 6 enjoyed designing their own glyph prints. After sketching their unique designs, they carefully etched them into polystyrene before painting and printing their work.

Class 7 & 8: Year 6 enjoyed playing Danish Longball in PE this week, as well as coming in early for their SATs breakfast with their friends before school.

Reading Award



Congratulations to Felicity who was presented with her Reading Award badge today for completing the Year 3 reading list.

This is a fantastic achievement that reflects her dedication, perseverance, and love of reading. Well done, Felicity!



School Punctuality

Please be reminded that children should arrive in the school classroom between **8:35am and 8:45am**. Lessons start **promptly at 8:45am** and so any child arriving after this time will miss valuable learning time.

Should your child arrive late please can they enter the building via Reception and report to the school office as a late arrival.

They will need to give their name, class and a good reason for their lateness.

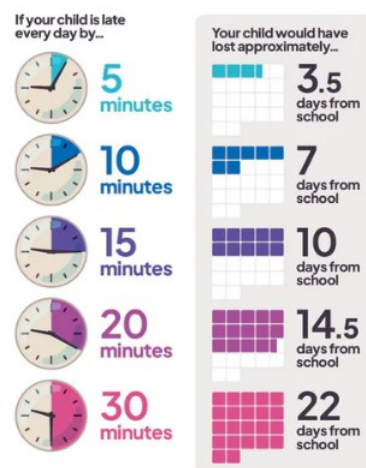
Leave of Absence—Reminder

Should you need to request leave of absence for your child, please complete an 'Absence Request' form and return to school so that your request can be considered by the Headteacher. **Any holiday-related absence taken that includes 10 sessions in 10 weeks, may result in a Penalty Notice.**

Our primary goal is to ensure that children do not miss out on their education. Every lesson is a crucial part of your child's learning journey, and frequent absences can significantly hinder their progress.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in supporting your child's education.

Did you know that in one school year...



**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

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	Finished—Club resumes on 10th June
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

Keep us up to date

If you have moved house, changed telephone numbers or set up a new email account please let the office know so that we can accurately maintain our records to ensure that we can contact you in case of an emergency and communicate with you effectively.



Thank you!

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

- Clubs Summer 2



2025-26



May

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
Fri 19th - Prince of Wales Athletics Event
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.