



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 22nd May 2026

www.stmarksjunior.com

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

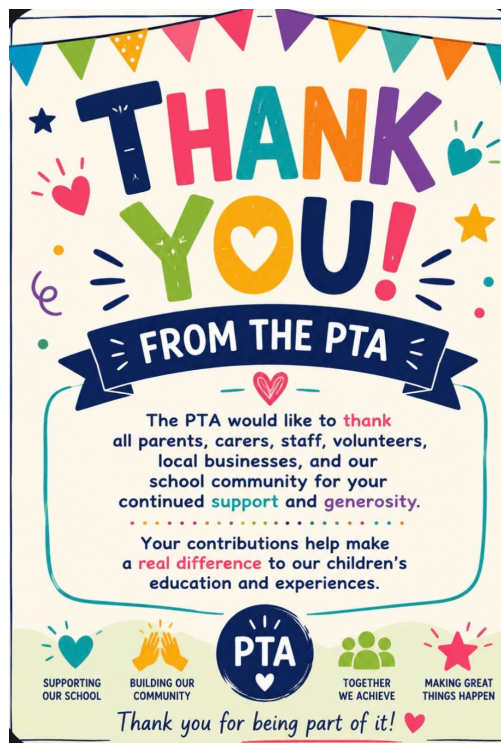
Our Value in focus this term is Friendship

Headteacher's Message:

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Summer Fair. Events like this simply wouldn't be possible without the continued support from our wonderful school community.

A huge thank you to the PTA for organising such a spectacular event – your hard work and creativity made this Fair such a triumph!

We are so grateful to all the volunteers, stallholders, and families who gave their time, energy, and enthusiasm to make the day such a success. We are delighted to share that we have raised close to £1000. Well, done to the whole team and school community!



We're looking forward to all that Summer Term 2 has in store; it's always a packed one, so please do keep an eye on the diary dates section at the end of each weekly newsletter.

Have a fantastic half term—and don't forget that we have an Inset Day on Monday 1st June so we look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Tuesday 2nd June.

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

Teaching & Learning Owls

Gold - Leo, Lexi, Ava & Tegan

Silver - Honey, Sienna, Lilly & Lucy

Bronze - Harlie, Carys & Autumn

Congratulations to our badge winners!



Swimming Gala

What a fantastic evening at the Cheltenham & District Primary Schools Swimming Gala! The children showed such effort and determination. It was wonderful to see them persevere in their races, especially when competing against club swimmers. They showed real courage, teamwork and spirit throughout the event. We are so proud of everyone who took part and represented the school so brilliantly.

A special shout-out to **Chris** for securing **silver** in the boys' open individual champion category – an outstanding achievement!

Thank you also has to go to our parents. We are so privileged to take part in multiple sporting events at St Mark's, and without your support, encouragement, and cheering from the side-lines, none of this would be possible.

Congratulations once again to all the children who took part, and a special thank you to Mrs Bonser for her invaluable support on the night!



Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1: This week, Class 1 had a fantastic time tackling Maths puzzles with Mr Ede. Their determination and "can-do" spirit was fantastic to see. They worked independently, stayed focused, and didn't give up, even when the challenges got tricky.

Class 2: In Outdoor Learning, the children enjoyed making Pharaoh hats, lighting fires and bug hunting.

Class 3: Class 3 had two highlights this week. In Maths, the children have been learning to tell the time on both analogue and digital clocks. They have also enjoyed Art, exploring the work of Vincent van Gogh and in particular studying his distinctive brushstroke techniques. Using a cut-out of half of his famous artwork 'The Starry Night', the children completed the other half in Van Gogh's style.

Class 4: In RE, the children working in small groups have been exploring the meaning of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit, and the Kingdom of Heaven, and their importance within Christianity.

Class 5: During PSHE, the children worked in small groups to act out various scenarios. They role-played different strategies for dealing with bullying. The rest of the class tried to identify which strategy was being shown.

Class 6: Class 6 enjoyed Athletics this week, focusing on the triple jump, javelin and shotput.

Class 7 & 8: Year 6 had a fantastic time on their GWR trip. See page 3 for the full write-up and highlights from the trip!

Year 6 GWR Trip

On **Wednesday**, Year 6 visited **GWR Winchcombe**. Dressed as evacuees from World War II, the children were given the opportunity to step back in time and become evacuees for the day.

From the moment they arrived, the children were transported back to the 1940s. Throughout the day, they took part in a variety of immersive activities, including firefighting, a stream train ride and an air raid shelter re-enactment, which gave the children a real insight into what it might have been like to take shelter during an air bombing raid. There was also a presentation by the experienced Museum staff, who showed the children a range of wartime artifacts and played recordings of 1940s refugees sharing their personal stories.

As always, the staff at Winchcombe made us feel incredibly welcome. **Thank you for a truly memorable day out!**



Sports Day

Sports day is taking place on **Wednesday 10th June 2026** (weather permitting)!

Please note all children will need a packed lunch on Sports Day. There will be no school dinners.

There will be some inter-house activities happening in the morning and races in the afternoon with a picnic over lunch.

Timings

9.10am - 11.50pm - Inter-house class activities such as Long Jump, Hit the Wickets and Long Distance Throw. (Parents are invited to this session too!)

12.00pm - 12:45pm - Picnic lunch on the field

12.55pm - Children to meet in the hall & parents to find a spot by the track. House captains will lead each house out and around the track.

1.15pm - 2.55pm - Races

Parents can choose to come to all or part of the day. If you are coming for the morning session you will need to sign in at Reception



Maths Puzzles



Earlier in the year, you may remember that we were visited by Mr Ede, who delivered a Maths puzzle workshop for our Year 4 and 5 children. This week, he returned to work with Years 3 and 6. Within these sessions, the pupils are encouraged to tackle a series of geometric puzzles.

The children approached the challenges with great enthusiasm.

They loved cracking the puzzles, developing their reasoning and problem solving skills, whilst discovering how enjoyable Maths can be.

We are grateful to Mr Ede for once again visiting St Mark's and inspiring the children with his series thought provoking puzzles.



Online Safety Video

This month's Online Safety video theme is **Online Scams & Digital Footprints**.

This video provides a quick overview on online scams targeting young people and the importance of digital footprints.

Please click [here](#) to view the video on our website.



School Lunch Payments – Please Keep Your Account in Credit



We kindly ask all parents to ensure their ParentPay account for school lunches remains in credit. If you have any outstanding balance, please arrange to clear it over the holiday period.

Did you know? On ParentPay, you can set up your account to receive an automatic email alert if your balance falls below a set amount (suggested amount £5) — helping you stay on top of payments with ease.



Extra Curricular Clubs Summer Term 2

Monday

Baking Buddies Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.30pm	
Chinese Language Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.15pm	
Gardening Club Y3-5	3.15pm - 4.00pm	
Gymnastics Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.05pm	
Netball Y5-6	3.15pm - 4.00pm	
Recorders Y3-6	Lunchtime (last club 15th June)	
Rounders Y5-6	3.15pm - 4.00pm (last club 22nd June)	

Tuesday

Orchestra Y3-6	12.30pm - 1.00pm (last club 9th June)
Choir Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.00pm (last club 9th June)
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

Friday

Athletics (With the Ball)	3.15pm - 4.15pm
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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

- Midsummer Concert Letter
- Egyptian Topic Day Y3
- Year 4 Cheltenham Trip



2025-26



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 2

Class 4: Thursday Morning

Class 3: 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 2

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



Class 1: Wednesday & Friday

Class 2: Tuesday & Friday

Class 3: Monday

Class 4: 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.