



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 12th June 2026

www.stmarksjunior.com

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

Our Value in focus this term is Respect

Headteacher's Message:

What a super week it has been at school—well done to all of our children for another excellent effort in their learning, attitudes and for 'playing their part' so brilliantly. It has been lovely to see the children making the most of these last weeks in their current year group, showing our school values with such commitment.



Our school value this term is Respect, and we have been exploring the positive difference that showing respect can make in all aspects of school life. The children have been reflecting on qualities in others that we respect—such as compassion, honesty, courage, perseverance and engaged listening—and considering which of these they might like to develop further in their own lives. This could be a lovely conversation to continue at home together!

I am very sorry that we had to make the difficult decision to cancel Sports Day on Wednesday due to the very changeable weather. We know how much the children were looking forward to it, but we are hopeful for much finer, sunnier conditions when we hold our rescheduled event on **Friday 26th June**.

On Wednesday, our Year 6 children visited Gloucester Cathedral to take part in the annual Leavers' Service. This special event is a massive annual celebration held every June for thousands of Year 6 (and Year 2) pupils across the Diocese of Gloucester. The service marks an important milestone as children prepare to move from primary to secondary school. It included collective worship, uplifting music, and moments for reflection.



The children from St Mark's participated with great enthusiasm, showcasing their excellent singing and demonstrating what a credit they are to our school. ***We were even given a special mention in the service by the Bishop, who specifically congratulated St Mark's children on their fabulous singing and engagement!*** We are incredibly proud of them. A special well done also goes to the children who took part in the readings—they represented the school beautifully.

During the service the children were presented with holding crosses, hand-carved in Bethlehem. The children learnt that each cross is unique, just like each one of them. The holding cross serves as a reminder that, as they move on and face new challenges, they are never alone—God is always with them.

It was a truly beautiful service and a proud moment for both the children and their teachers.



Have a super weekend,

Mrs A Fitch and the Staff Team

Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1: In History, the children have been learning about Howard Carter and his discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb, exploring why it was such an important archaeological find and how it was the first largely untouched royal tomb to be discovered.

Class 2: Class 2 also enjoyed their lesson on Howard Carter and Tutankhamun. They used mystery source evidence to piece together clues about how Tutankhamun's tomb was discovered, which they then used to produce a piece of work.

Class 3: Class 3 enjoyed Outdoor Learning again this week. As part of their learning about the Cheltenham explorer Edward Wilson, they had a go at building their own shelters, developing their teamwork and problem-solving skills.

Class 4: In English, the children are learning how to write an explanation text on the topic of volcanoes. To inspire their writing, they created a volcanic eruption in the classroom using bicarbonate of soda.

Class 5: In PE, the children applied the skills they have learnt over the past few weeks in a whole-class game of rounders, helping them to develop their understanding of the rules and gameplay in a real match situation.

Class 6: In Art, Class 6 have been creating Mayan glyphs. They began by carving their designs into lino before applying red paint to the surface. They then used their lino prints to transfer their designs onto fabric.

Class 7: The children have been drawing pie charts with chalk in the playground this week. Back in the classroom, they recreated their pie charts using protractors and compasses.

Class 8: Class 8 have been enjoying rehearsing for their production of *Pirates of the Curry Bean*. The children are now officially off-script and are growing in confidence with every rehearsal.

Reading Award

Byron, Tegan, Owen and Misha have all completed their Year group reading lists – a fantastic achievement! Well done to you all on your dedication and enthusiasm for reading!

An extra special mention goes to Tegan, who has completed a hat-trick by successfully finishing the reading list for the third year in a row! What an incredible accomplishment. We hope you can make it four in a row next year!



Teaching & Learning Owls

Gold - Esther & Livvy

Silver - Luke, Sienna, Olivia, Ollie,

Bronze - Pia, Kieran, Ezra & Aisha

Congratulations to our badge winners!



St Mark's has got talent

Based on its success last year, this term, we will be holding another Talent Show!

For children who would like to take part, auditions should be no longer than 2-3 minutes and will be held during the **week starting 6th July**. If your child (children) requires music please can you ensure that they let their teacher know by Wednesday 1st July so that we have time to make sure it is ready for their auditions.



Successful acts (judged by staff) will go through to the Whole School Talent Show on Monday **13th July at 1.40pm**. Parents of children in these acts will be invited to be part of the audience and a limited number of tickets will go on sale at £2 per person on **Friday 10th July**.

This year our show will be organised by our **FAB-U-LOUS** School Council and is designed to be a fun way of celebrating some of the amazing talent we have here at St Mark's!

We can't wait to see what your talented children have to show us.

Bea's Outstanding Success at the DAS Games

Bea in Year 5 recently took part in the DAS games, an annual multi-sport national event featuring track and field, swimming, football, powerlifting, and new age curling on an even playing field.

Bea performed amazingly well, returning home with an incredible 7 medals!!!

She achieved Gold in 60m sprint, 40m Sprint, Shotput and Hockey. Silver in Javelin and Football and Bronze in Basketball!

She also tried out powerlifting and lifted an incredible 38kg!

At the closing ceremony, the Chairman of the DSA Games said:

"The Games are not about results; they're about identity, about being in a space where no one has to explain. Where everyone knows who you are, and the sense of belonging stays with you."

What a wonderful reflection of this fantastic event.

Well done, Bea! We are incredibly proud of your achievements and your remarkable medal success at the Games. We look forward to hearing about your future sporting accomplishments.



Teaching Assistant Vacancies

We currently have two Teaching Assistant vacancies advertised on our [website](#). Please do take a look and share the details with anyone who may be interested.

Completed application forms should be emailed to admin@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk marked for the attention of Mrs Fitch.



Gloucestershire County Council

We have been asked to share with our families that Gloucestershire County Council is in the process of recruiting volunteer Panel Members to assist with virtual School Admission Appeals for Gloucestershire Schools.

Here's the link to the relevant page on the Gloucestershire County Council website:

[Apply to become a volunteer school appeals panel member | Gloucestershire County Council](#)



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 - 4.00pm	
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

Second-Hand Uniform Donations Needed

As families prepare for the summer holidays and uniform purchases for next year, we'd be grateful for donations of any good-quality school uniform your child has outgrown, particularly larger sizes.

Please send donations to the school office over the next couple of weeks.

Second-hand Uniform Sale

After school on **Friday 10th July**

Thank you for your support.



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

- Cheltenham Music Festival Year 5 Trip
- Year 6 Residential Pioneer Kit List



2025-26



June

Mon 15th - Midsummer Concert 6.30pm
Wed 17th - Drayton Manor Y6 Trip
Thu 18th - Rocksteady concert for Rocksteady parents (**2.30pm**)
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
Fri 26th - Sports Day
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
Thu 9th - Cheltenham Music Festival Year 5 Trip
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.