



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 19th June 2026

www.stmarksjunior.com

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

Our Value in focus this term is Respect

Headteacher's Message:

On Tuesday, some of our wonderful St Mark's musicians came together for our annual Midsummer Concert. With performances from the school choir, orchestra, recorder, ukulele and guitar groups, we knew we were in for a treat.

The children and their teachers had clearly worked very hard to prepare their pieces for the evening, and their performances delighted the audience. We were also treated to a number of solo performances on the piano, guitar and flute.

A huge thank you to Nia Bennett for all her hard work in organising the concert, and to our peripatetic teachers, David Meade, Sarah Kelly and Phoebe Wilson, for preparing the children so brilliantly for their performances. Their dedication, encouragement and support helped to make the concert a real success.

Well done to all the children who took part in what was a truly wonderful evening as we celebrated the musical talents of our school.

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



Teaching & Learning Owls

Gold - Ethan

Silver - Florrie

Congratulations to our badge winners!



Rocksteady Concert

Yesterday afternoon, we were treated to a fantastic concert delivered by our Rocksteady students and their band leader, Trinity.

Rocksteady encourages children to learn a musical instrument in a fun, creative and inclusive environment, helping them develop musical skills while boosting their confidence, social skills and overall wellbeing. By learning and performing in as a band, children develop teamwork skills, learn to listen to one another and experience the importance of working together as part of a group.



It takes a great deal of courage to stand up and perform in front of your peers, and all of the children did a fantastic job, showcasing both confidence and musical talent.

We currently have three bands: Astroford, who performed *No Roots* by Alice Merton; The Blue Ice Dragons, who delivered their rendition of *Counting Stars* by OneRepublic; and The Candy Crunchers, who performed *Human* by Rag'n'Bone Man.



Well done to all the children who took part—you were absolutely fantastic! We are all very much looking forward to your next concert.



Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1: This week Class 1 enjoyed playing tennis in PE. They focused on developing their forehand skills. Working in pairs, the children practised bouncing the ball to each other and gently returning it with their rackets.

Class 2: PE was also a highlight for Class 2. During their cricket lesson, the children worked on developing their batting and catching skills.

Class 3: In PSHE, the children have been learning about the importance of kindness and respect by creating anti-bullying posters.

Class 4: In Maths, Class 4 have been learning how to interpret bar graphs and pictograms. They are developing their understanding of how data can be presented and answered questions relating to the graphs shown.

Class 5: Class 5 enjoyed Geography this week, where they compared the climate of Leticia in South America with the climate in Cheltenham. The children drew line graphs to compare the two climates and answered questions based on their findings.

Class 6: In History, Class 6 explored a range of Mayan artifacts, they then had to use the artefacts to answer questions about life in the ancient civilisation.

Class 7: In Science, the children have been learning about inherited features and how certain characteristics can be passed down through families. They also enjoyed their trip to Drayton Manor!

Class 8: Class 8 have been learning how to face their fears during their exciting trip to Drayton Manor this week. See page 3 for more!

Class Messages

Class 1 - Please wear school uniform on Wednesday and not PE kits. Children should bring trainers for PE, and girls are asked to wear shorts underneath their uniform.

Class 7 - Please wear old clothes on Tuesday as we will be sculpting.

Class 7 & 8 - There will be no PE on Wednesday due to school photographs, so please wear school uniform. PE for Classes 7 and 8 will take place on Thursday instead, and children should come to school wearing their PE kits.

Year 6 PE Days Next Week:

Class 7: Monday and Thursday

Class 8: Thursday and Friday

Class Photos — Next Wednesday 24th June

Freedom Photography will be visiting school next Wednesday to take class photographs, as well as individual leavers' photographs for Year 6 children.

Please ensure that your child comes to school smartly dressed and brings their school jumper or cardigan to wear for their photograph.



Drayton Manor Trip

This week, our Year 6 children enjoyed a fun-filled and thrilling day out at Drayton Manor Resort. The theme park features over 50 rides and attractions and even has a 15-acre zoo that is home to more than 100 animals.

The trip provided a wonderful opportunity for the children to have fun with their friends and celebrate all their hard work as they reach the end of their primary school journey before moving on to the next exciting chapter at secondary school.



The children had a fantastic time creating lasting memories with their friends, making this a truly special end-of-year experience.

County Cup Success

Last weekend, Archie in Year 6 represented Gloucestershire Under-11s in the County Cup in Malvern. The team played some wonderful tennis, beating Wiltshire and Shropshire on Saturday, and Hereford & Worcestershire on Sunday. They narrowly lost to Hampshire in their final match, meaning they finished an impressive second overall.

Archie and his teammates usually compete as individual sports, so having the opportunity to play as part of a team and cheer each other on was a refreshing change and a lot of fun.

Well done, Archie! Finishing second in the County Cup is a fantastic achievement. We are all incredibly impressed by both your success and your team spirit.



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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School Lunch Payments –

Please Keep Your Account in Credit

We kindly ask all parents to ensure their Parent Pay account for school lunches remains in credit.



If you have any outstanding balance, please arrange to clear it over the **weekend**.

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.

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

- No Letters this week.



2025-26



June

Tue 23rd - Year 6 Production 1.40pm Performance
 Tue 23rd - Piano Recital (Mrs Bennett's Pupils & Parents)
 Wed 24th - Year 6 Production - 7pm 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

Mon 6th - Year 3 Visiting Benhall to Watch Year 2 Play (morning)
 Tue 7th - Burnham-on-Sea Trip Year 3
 Wed 8th - Fri 10th July - Y6 Residential
 Thu 9th - Cheltenham Music Festival Year 5 Trip
 Fri 10th - Annual Reports Distributed to Parents
 Mon 13th - Talent show 1.30pm
 Tue 14th - Year 3 Egyptian Day
 Thu 16th - Y6 St Mark's School Leavers Service - 1.45pm
 Thu 16th - PTA Disco
Fri 17th - Last day of term—2pm finish

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: W/C 22/06 Monday & Thursday

Class 8: W/C 22/06 Thursday & Friday

Remember: tracksuit tops should be plain navy only. A school sweatshirt is absolutely fine.