



# St Mark's C of E Junior School

*Growing together, becoming all we are created to be*

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 26th June 2026

[www.stmarksjunior.com](http://www.stmarksjunior.com)

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Our Value in focus this term is Respect

## Headteacher's Message:

I would like to take a moment to thank all parents, staff and children for your cooperation and understanding, this week, during the spell of extreme heat.

Your patience and flexibility have been hugely appreciated as we have done our very best to keep both children and staff safe and well, whilst also remaining mindful of the realities for working families. It has certainly been quite a juggling act! We are incredibly grateful for your ongoing support.



The children have been fantastic throughout, showing excellent attitudes and resilience—we truly could not have asked for more. It has been lovely to see them making the most of outdoor learning in the shade and breeze, as well as enjoying a range of alternative activities in the hall for those who remained in school. Another experience of uncharted territory for us all to navigate! Many thanks to you all.

I do hope you are able to enjoy a slightly cooler weekend and we look forward to a return to more 'normal' British weather next week.

**Best wishes for a lovely weekend, Mrs A Fitch**

## *Learning Highlight of the Week*

**Class 1:** In Art, the children have enjoyed drawing silhouettes of African animals.

**Class 2:** Class 2 have been learning about hieroglyphics and have designed their own cartouches to decorate the top of a sarcophagus.

**Class 3:** In English, the children have been looking at the features of an explanation text, in preparation for writing their own.

**Class 4:** As part of our Oracy focus, the children have been creating their own comic strips, which they will be performing for the class. This has helped them develop their speaking and listening skills, as well as their confidence in expressing ideas through performance.

**Class 5:** Class 5 have been learning about the four layers of the rainforest: the Emergent Layer, the Canopy, the Understory and the Forest Floor. On one side of their worksheet, they drew and labelled each of the different layers. On the other side, they wrote facts about each layer, describing the plants, animals and conditions.

**Class 6:** In Geography, the children worked in pairs to design their own games based on the rainforest. They created a variety of imaginative games, including rainforest-themed Snakes and Ladders, map-based games exploring deforestation, and challenges focused on protecting endangered animals.



**Class 7:** In DT, Class 7 designed a playground footprint before building their models using a range of materials. They worked creatively to ensure their designs met their own success criteria. They also thoroughly enjoyed their Art lesson where they created sculptures inspired by Henry Moore using Modroc, linking to their current study of World War II artists.

**Class 8:** The highlight for class 8 had to be their Year 6 production. See the full write up on page 3!



## Prince of Wales Athletics

Last Friday, children from St Mark's took part in our annual Schools Athletics Competition at the Prince of Wales Stadium. Twelve schools participated in what was a fantastic evening of athletics.

The St Mark's children were absolutely brilliant, demonstrating resilience, determination and outstanding team spirit throughout the event. One of the highlights of the evening was seeing them enthusiastically cheering on their teammates and celebrating each other's achievements.



There were some exceptional performances on the track. Ollie in Year 6 secured first place in the 800 metres, while the Year 6 girls' and Year 5 boys' relay teams were also medallists. With several children and relay teams progressing through to the finals, St Mark's showed what strong and competitive athletes we are.

The competition also included a range of field events, such as the howler throw and standing jump, giving all participants the opportunity to showcase their talents. Josh in Year 6 secured our first ever field medal in the standing jump!!

Huge congratulations to all of our competitors—you were outstanding and a true credit to our school.

## Rags 2 Riches 4 Schools Collection - Next Week!!! - Tuesday 30th June

Next **Tuesday 30th June** is our Rags 2 Riches 4 Schools collection.

Rags 2 Riches is a fantastic way for us to raise much-needed funds for resources and projects that directly benefit our children, so why not take this opportunity to enjoy a much-needed clear-out at home?



### **Why This Project Matters**

The Rags 2 Riches 4 Schools project is about more than fundraising — it's about protecting our planet and helping others:

- It helps reduce waste going into landfill
- It benefits the environment
- At present, all donated clothing is being sent to Ukraine and other European countries, as well as to communities in Africa and Pakistan.

### **How You Can Help**

To help us raise funds for the school, please place any unwanted clothing, shoes and/or accessories into a bin bag or plastic bag and return them to school by 9:00am on the day of collection.

Please note that school uniforms cannot be accepted.

For a full list of items that can be collected, please visit: [www.rags2riches4schools.co.uk](http://www.rags2riches4schools.co.uk)

**Thank you for your continued support — it is very much appreciated!**

## Sports Day

In a final attempt to ensure this important and much-loved event can still take place, Sports Day has been rescheduled to **Monday 13th July**.

The track races will begin at **9:00am**, and we expect the event to finish by **11:00am**.

If you are planning to attend, please make your way to the field for the start of the races.

We look forward to seeing you there and cheering on the children!





## Year 6 this Production - Pirates of the Curry Bean

This week, our Year 6 children delighted audiences with their fantastic performance of *Pirates of the Curry Bean*, a swashbuckling pirate adventure on the high seas!

The show follows twins Jack and Liza Periwinkle as they embark on an exciting quest to rescue their mother and uncover hidden treasure after pirates steal their treasure map. Packed with witty one-liners and toe-tapping, catchy songs, the production left audiences thoroughly entertained.



Well done to each and every member of the cast. Your commitment to your roles, learning of lines in a short space of time, confidence on stage and pure joy throughout the performance was an absolute delight to watch. The children were heavily involved in creating the choreography and producing their own props, and I'm sure you will agree that they did a fantastic job.

Congratulations also to the talented team of pupils who expertly managed the sound and lighting. Despite being unable to use the stage lights on the day because of the heat, your hard work throughout rehearsals and the performance helped bring the show to life.



A special thank you and well done to the staff for their fantastic direction and set design, which provided the perfect backdrop for this adventurous tale.

It was a wonderful production and a fitting celebration of the children's hard work and talent.

**A great job by everyone involved — well done!**

## Piano Recital

On Tuesday, Mrs Bennett's pupils delighted their parents with a wonderful piano recital. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to showcase the hard work, dedication and commitment they have shown in learning the piano over the past year.

We were treated to a varied and entertaining programme, featuring pieces ranging from *Bells in the Steeple* to *Star Wars*. The children performed with confidence and skill, demonstrating the progress they have made throughout the year.



Well done to all the children who took part. It is always a pleasure to hear you play and a wonderful opportunity to see and celebrate the progress you have made throughout the year.

A special thank you to Mrs Bennett for providing the children with the opportunity to perform and for organising such an enjoyable event.



## Ukulele Showcase



During Collective Worship on Tuesday morning, Mrs Kelly's ukulele students gave us a wonderful demonstration of just how joyful and versatile the ukulele can be.

We were shown a video explaining the recent resurgence of the instrument and how its popularity has grown in recent years.

This was followed by a selection of musical performances from the children. From *The Drunken Sailor* to George Ezra's *Shotgun*, the pupils showcased the wide range of music that can be played on the ukulele. The Year 6 pupils even performed a beautiful classical piece called *Haele*, playing the melody by plucking the strings rather than strumming, demonstrating another technique and style of playing.

Well done to Mrs Kelly and all the children who took part. Their enthusiasm and talent has inspired many of us to want to pick up a ukulele and have a go ourselves!



If your child is interested in learning the ukulele, it is never too late to give it a try. Contact details can be found on our website, or you can call into the school office to request a letter from Mrs Kelly.



## Riana's Publishing Success

We are delighted to share some fantastic news that Riana's debut eBook has been officially published on Amazon!

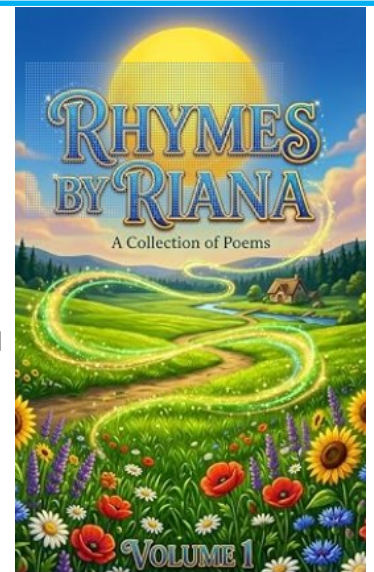
From a young age Riana has been fond of writing. Her participation in the Young Writers Poetry Competition earlier this year gave her the confidence and inspiration to continue developing her talent and creating more poems.

These poems have now been brought together in her published book, *Rhymes by Riana* – an anthology of poems to embark on a journey to a bright and hopeful world through her 11-year-old imaginative lenses.

As part of a promotion aligning with Amazon Prime Day deals, Riana's ebook is FREE to download and read to anyone with an Amazon account (even non-Prime account) until 27th June (Sat).

Riana's Book Link: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0H5SHPGKJ>

Congratulations, Riana! We are incredibly proud of your dedication, creativity, and remarkable achievement. We look forward to reading your poems and seeing where your writing journey takes you next.



## Online Safety Video

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

This video provides a quick overview on posting photos safely, balancing screentime and tackling cyberbullying.

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



## 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 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|

## School Lunch Payments

We kindly ask all parents to ensure their Parent Pay account for school lunches remains in credit. This is particularly important as we come to the end of the academic year.

**If you have any outstanding balance, please arrange to clear it over the weekend and ensure you have enough credit for the rest of the term.**

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: 20th July 2026**



## Letter Sent Home

- Extreme Heat Letters to Families
- Young Voice (Choir Members)



## 2025-26

### Diary Dates

### June

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 - Sports Day 9-11am  
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: Monday & Wednesday**

**Class 8: Wednesday & Friday**

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