



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 10th July 2026

www.stmarksjunior.com

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

Our Value in focus this term is Respect

Headteacher's Message:

Last Friday, we received the exciting news that St Mark's has been awarded the **Green Flag Award with Distinction!**

The Green Flag Award scheme recognises and rewards well managed green spaces across the UK and around the world that meet high standards of environmental management.

We received some fantastic feedback from the assessors, who praised the wide range of eco-projects we have undertaken, from creating our Sensory Garden to participating in the Big Schools' Birdwatch campaign.

They were particularly impressed by our children's knowledge and understanding of important environmental issues, as well as the enthusiasm and support shown by our parents, volunteers and wider school community in helping to bring these projects to life.



The assessors described the Sensory Garden as a *"lovely project to introduce them to the wonders of nature and the great outdoors, as well as creating a fabulous new facility to enhance your school grounds for years to come – really well done!"*

A huge thank you has to go to **Mrs Reilly and the School Council** who have pioneered the way to enable the school to achieve this award. Mrs Reilly has led fundraising initiatives, successfully applied for grants, attracted volunteers and donations – as well as many hours of her own time. What a wonderful achievement – we are incredibly grateful!

We are also delighted to share that we have achieved our **Healthy School Award** this week as well - another testament to the excellent work that goes on at St Mark's!

Well done and thank you to everyone who has been involved in these projects.

Hot Weather Reminder

Despite the warm temperatures, we hope to remain open for the rest of the term.

Sports Day—Monday 13th

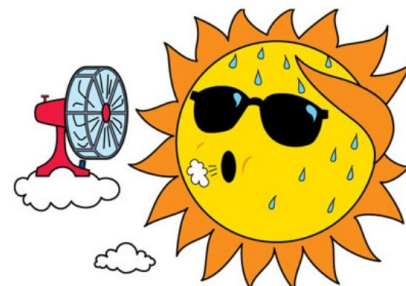
- Starts promptly at 9:00am; please join us on the field after dropping children off; chairs available or do bring a picnic rug!
- Finishes before 11:00am (temperatures are forecast to be 21–23°C)

Each day, please ensure your child:

- Brings a **sun hat** and **named water bottle**
- Has **sun cream** applied before school
- Wears either **school uniform** or **PE kit**

We will continue to follow our **Extreme Weather and Heatwave Plan**, including providing plenty of water, shade and opportunities for children to cool down.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



Best wishes for a lovely weekend,

Mrs A Fitch and the Staff Team

Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1 & 2: Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed Art this week. They have been learning about the African style of painting Tingatinga and inspired by the bold and colourful painting style the children created their own colourful collages.

Class 3: In Outdoor Learning, the children took part in an exciting activity that combined movement, music and nature. Using two contrasting pieces of music—one by Gustav Holst, linking to their Cheltenham topic, and the somewhat popular song *Baby Shark*—the children worked together to build piles of sticks, logs and other natural materials, moving and creating in time with the beat.

Class 4: In DT this week, the children designed and made wonderful wooden pavilions. They carefully measured, marked and cut the wood before assembling their models, to create stable structures.

Class 5: Class 5 enjoyed their trip to the Cheltenham Music Festival this week. A particular highlight was having the opportunity to play the trumpets. See below for the full write up!

Class 6: Class 6 have been practising everything they have learned in Maths this year. They put their skills to the test during a fun code-breaking activity.

Class 7 & 8: The highlight for Year 6 has to be their Residential trip to the Pioneer centre. We are looking forward to hearing all about it next week!



Cheltenham Music Festival—Year 5 Trip

This week, Year 5 visited the Cheltenham Music Festival. They began the day by attending a concert, where they listened to a variety of orchestral pieces. Throughout the performance, they explored how music can convey different emotions through changes in tempo, pitch and dynamics.

After lunch, the children took part in three exciting workshops, where they worked with string, trumpet and percussion instruments. During the percussion workshop, they played claves and recreated two famous football chants – the Norwegian 'Viking Clap' and one of England's own football chants.



It was a fantastic trip, and the children were an absolute delight throughout the day. They represented the school brilliantly with their enthusiasm and excellent behaviour.

Well done, Year 5!

Calling all singers

We will be holding another **Young Voices Taster Session** next **Tuesday after school until 4pm.**

It's **not too late** to sign up! If you haven't already registered, please email clerical@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk to reserve your child's place.

The session is open to **all current Year 3, 4 and 5 children.**

There is nothing quite like being part of the **largest children's choir concert in the world!** It's a fantastic opportunity to join the school choir, make new friends and experience an unforgettable musical event.



Teaching & Learning Owls

Star - Oliver

Silver - Naomi

Bronze - Gniewomir, Misha, Evie, & Henry



Congratulations to our badge winners!

Reading Award

Congratulations to Rose, who has completed the Year 4 reading list! This is such a fantastic achievement — well done!

This is shaping up to be a record-breaking year for the number of children who have completed the list. We are so impressed by the children of St Mark's and their love of reading!



Youth for Christ

This week marked Paul Bennett's final Collective Worship at St Mark's as part of his work with Youth for Christ.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Paul for everything he has given to our school community over the 25 + years which has included serving as Chair of Governors and as a member of the parent community when his children (now married!) attended St Mark's!

We wish Paul every success and happiness in his new venture. Good luck, Paul, and thank you for all you have done for St Mark's!

THANK YOU!

Prince of Wales

This week celebrated the children who took part in the Prince of Wales Athletics event a couple of weeks ago. Each participant was presented with a certificate to recognise their fantastic effort and achievement. It was also a wonderful opportunity for our medal winners to proudly show off their medals.

Congratulations to:

- **Ollie Year 6 800m—Gold**
- **Indie Year 6 Howler Throw—Silver**
- **Josh Year 6 Standing Jump—Bronze**
- **Year 6 Girls Relay team—Silver**
- **Year 5 Boys Relay team—Silver**

With several children and relay teams progressing to the finals, St Mark's proved to be a force to be reckoned with. We also won two field medals—the first field medals in St Mark's history. A huge well done to Indie and Josh for this remarkable achievement!

Congratulations once again to all the children on their fantastic achievements!



School Lunch Payments

As we approach the final week of term, please could you check your ParentPay account balance.

If you have any outstanding balance, we would appreciate it if you could clear this over the weekend. Please also ensure that there is sufficient credit on your account to cover the remainder of the term. As a reminder, school lunches cost **£2.95 per meal**.



Bikeability Holiday Course

We wanted to let you know about the upcoming Bikeability Holiday Course taking place during the summer holidays for children aged 9-14. At St Mark's Year 6 children are given the opportunity to do the course, however this is a great opportunity for pupils who may have missed Bikeability training in school to still take part and learn an important life skill.

Cycling helps children build confidence, independence, and road safety awareness, while also encouraging regular physical activity.

Further information and booking details can be found here:

<https://www.thinktravel.info/upcoming-events/bikeability-holiday-courses>

We have also attached a flyer with this week's newsletter.



Year 3 Egyptian Day

On **Tuesday 14th July**, our Year 3 children will be taking part in a special Egyptian Topic Day.



Children are welcome to come to school dressed in an Egyptian costume should they wish. Dressing up is completely optional.

Thank you to all the parents who have already offered to help on the day. If anyone else is available and would like to volunteer, please contact the school office. Thank you!

Parent Online Safety Booklet

As part of our school's Online Safety subscription, we receive an annual **Parent Online Safety Booklet**, which provides an overview of the key parental controls available to help keep children safe online.

The booklet is attached to this week's newsletter for your information and reference.



PTA Disco - Thursday 16th July

We're excited to invite everyone to our upcoming PTA school disco! Come along for an evening of music, fun, and fundraising!

Timings:

- **Years 3 & 4:** 6:00–6:45pm
- **Years 5:** 7:00–8:00pm
- **Year 6:** 7:00–8:30pm



Please bring:

- A **water bottle**
- Your **entrance slip** with **£2** (Slips to be sent home w/c 13th July)
- Small change for sweets, glow sticks and tattoos—prices range from 50p to £1

Please do NOT bring:

- Mobile phones, your own food, heels or heeys

Collection:

Children will be collected **under the Willow tree**. No child will be allowed to leave **without an adult**.

We look forward to seeing lots of you there for a fun-filled evening

Clothing & Lost Property

Please can you check that your child's school clothes are clearly labelled in readiness for September? Handwritten labels are absolutely fine.

We will be putting out the lost property after school next week, so please do take a look if your child has misplaced any items.



World Cup News

Monday got off to an exciting start, with the children watching the highlights from England's victory over Mexico, which they couldn't watch due to the 1am kick off!

It was wonderful to hear the children cheering England on and celebrating the win together. We're all hoping the next match kicks off at a much more sociable time!



Freddie's Football Success

Freddie was recently nominated for, and went on to win, the **Southside FC Playmaker Award** in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the **Southside U11 Panthers**. The award is nominated by coaches and selected by the club committee from across **45 teams**, making this an incredible achievement.

His nomination highlighted both his outstanding performances and continued development throughout the season:

"Freddie has accumulated over 20 goals and 20 assists this season (the second year in a row he has achieved over both 20 goals and assists in a season)."

"He's looked to develop his game this season being selected to train with the Gloucestershire FA development centre on Tuesday nights down in Bristol, which has certainly given Freddie a growing confidence on the ball."

Well done Freddie on a thoroughly deserved award!



Celebrating Raine's Performance



Raine in Year 4 recently took to the stage for her **second live theatre performance** with her Drama Kids class. The show was hilarious, clever and great fun for everyone involved, and Raine did a fantastic job!

Raine would love to see more children from St Mark's give **Drama Kids** a try.

The Hatherley class runs on **Wednesdays from 5.00–6.00 pm** during term time, with a live stage performance every summer. It's a wonderful way to build confidence, develop acting skills and make new friends.

Classes restart in **September**, and **free trial sessions** are available for anyone who would like to give it a go! Click [here](#) to visit their website.

More football Success

Frankie in Year 5 has also enjoyed a fantastic football season. Playing for **King Stanley Dragons**, he helped his team win **three football tournaments**—an incredible achievement!

To make the season even more memorable, Frankie scored an impressive **19 goals** across the three tournaments, making a huge contribution to his team's success. What an outstanding season, Frankie—well done!



Even more Football Success!

Huge congratulations to siblings Isabella and Archie after the recent Southside Star Presentation Day! Bella had an incredible first season in football, finishing as the team's Top Goalscorer with 19 goals. She's scored some fantastic goals throughout the season and has been brilliant to watch. What a way to start her football journey!



Archie also had an amazing season, winning the Parents' Player of the Year award after receiving 8 out of 12 votes. But the biggest surprise of the day was him being awarded the Southside Star "Safe Hands" Shield! This award is open to goalkeepers across all 47 Southside Star teams, so for Archie to be chosen is an incredible achievement and a testament to all of his hard work, commitment and performances this season.

Well done, Bella and Archie! We are extremely proud of your achievements!



Summer Holiday Birthdays

If your child has a birthday during the school holidays, they are welcome to wear their own clothes on one day during the last week of term to celebrate.



Reading Books

We will be starting to collect in all school reading books next week.

Please can your child return any reading books to school. Thank You!



Extra Curricular Clubs Summer Term 2

Monday

Baking Buddies Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.30pm	Finished
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	Finished



Tuesday

Tennis Y4-6	3.15pm - 4.10pm	Finished
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Wednesday

Baking Buddies Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.30pm	Finished
Cricket Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.15pm	Finished

Thursday

Coding Y6	3.15pm - 4.00pm	Finished
Kids with Bricks Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.00pm	Finished
Outdoor Learning	3.15pm - 4.15pm	Finished

Friday

Athletics (With the Ball)	3.15pm - 4.15pm	Finished
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Please see club selections [table](#) for club dates!

School Term Dates - 2025-26

Term 6: Mon 1st June – Mon 20th July 2026

Inset Days: 20th July 2026

2026-27

Term 1: Tue 1st Sept – Fri 23rd Oct 2026

Term 2: Mon 2nd Nov – Fri 18th Dec 2026

Term 3: Mon 4th Jan - Fri 12th Feb 2027

Term 4: Mon 22nd Feb – Thu 25th Mar 2027

Term 5: Mon 12th April – Fri 28th May 2027

Term 6: Mon 7th June – Wed 21st July 2027

Inset Days:

**1st Sept 2026, 2nd Sept 2026,
22nd Oct 2026, 23rd Oct 2026,
7th June 2027**



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.

Letter Sent Home

- Happys Circus Flyer and email
- Young Voices Letter
- Flu Immunisation Letter
- Eduspot App Letter



2025-26

Diary Dates

July

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

Advance Notice of Some Key Dates

Sunday 13th Sept - Happy's Circus @ St Mark's School 12.30pm

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.

