



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 4th September 2026

www.stmarksjunior.com

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

Our Value in focus this term is FACE Values

Headteacher's Message:

Three days in and we're in full swing! The children have returned to school raring to go, with excellent attitudes to their learning and in their relationships. It really has been a joy to see!

A particularly warm welcome to our new starters in Year 3 and to those in other year groups too. We have been amazed with how quickly the children have adjusted to the new routines and expectations with such a motivated and engaged approach.

In Collective Worship today, we reflected on how proud we can be of ourselves by the way in which we have started school again in our new Year Group.

Each class shared, in front of the rest of the school, what they are proud of and what they are already looking forward to. Here are their responses.



- ◇ *We are **Class 1 in Year 3**. We are proud because we worked and tried our best. We have shown kindness towards each other. We are looking forward to trying new things and growing our courage every day in Year 3.*
- ◇ *We are **Class 2 in Year 3**. We are proud because we managed our first day at St Mark's. We have shown all of our values already, especially by being brave. We are looking forward to learning new things like maths and history.*
- ◇ *We are **Class 3 in Year 4**. We are proud because we have started Year 4 well. We have shown confidence, respect to each other and perseverance in all we have done. We are looking forward to lots of things this year especially Ancient Greece.*
- ◇ *We are **Class 4 in Year 4**. We are proud because we showed excellent lining up and walked quietly up and down the stairs, we were also actively engaged in our music lesson. We have shown we can be quiet and actively listen. We are looking forward to learning new things and getting our next owl.*
- ◇ *We are **Class 5 in Year 5**. We are proud of getting a marble yesterday. We have shown kindness to everyone. We are looking forward to Cadbury World.*
- ◇ *We are **Class 6 in Year 5**. We are proud because we have a 'can do' attitude. We have shown that we are ready to listen. We are looking forward to Cadbury World.*
- ◇ *We are **Class 7 in Year 6**. We are proud because we have all shown compassion and welcomed each other with kindness. We have shown how well we can work together and have supported each other. We have shown how helpful we are through our class rules as one of our favourite rules are, if we have the opportunity to help someone say yes! We are looking forward to all of our fantastic trips this year, especially our trip to London, which is at the end of September.*
- ◇ *We are **Class 8 in Year 6**. We are proud because we have extra responsibility of being a good role model by being at the top of the school. We have shown we can have a positive attitude towards learning. We are looking forward to our school trips, including the residential, because they all seem really interesting and exciting.*



You might like to use these together with one or two of the questions below to prompt conversations at home about your child's first 2 days of the new school year?

- What was the best thing about being in your new class?
- Who did you spend time with today and what did you do together? Have you made any new friends?
- What are you most looking forward to doing in your new class this year?
- What is something that made you smile / laugh or feel proud?
- How did you help someone? (Showing one of our FACE Values, Compassion: 'Be kind, notice the need')

Best wishes for a lovely weekend,

Mrs A Fitch and the Staff Team

Communication



We know that there is a lot to remember and get used to at this time of year so please do not hesitate to get in touch or check the **newsletter** or your **child's Year Group Page** on the school website.

The **Class Teachers** will lead the children out of school at the end of the day so, once all of the children have been dismissed, please do use this as a time to have a quick chat with the teacher. For any longer conversations, please arrange an after-school appointment via the school office or by emailing clerical@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk.

There will also be a member of the **Senior Leadership Team** on the playground at both ends of the day so this is often a good time to have a quick word. We are all here to help!

Curriculum Letters and Maps

Curriculum Letters and Maps have been emailed home today to give you a flavour of what your child will be focussing on this term together with classroom routines and helpful reminders.

We are also offering an opportunity to join your child's **Class Teacher for a meeting via Teams** to hear a little more about what your child can expect in their new year group. Below are the timings for these. The link for the TEAMS meeting will be sent out next week.

Meeting times:

Year 3: Tuesday 15th September at 4pm

Year 4: Thursday 17th September at 4pm

Year 5: tbc

Year 6: tbc

A reminder of our Behaviour and Character Development Policy

Promoting positive behaviour is crucial for children to learn, grow and flourish. We believe that children achieve best when there is a partnership between home and school and this applies particularly to behaviour. We expect parents to support the school in maintaining good discipline, which in turn ensures good learning.

Please familiarise yourself again with our Behaviour and Character Development policy. It has been written in line with current research and best practice to ensure all children continue to have the opportunity to learn in a calm, safe and positive learning environment.

It is crucial that all parents understand the systems in place at school to ensure a joined-up approach when promoting positive behaviour for the children at St Marks. **Attached is a summary of the revised policy.** Please see the policy in full on our school website: [St Mark's Church of England Junior School - Policies](#)

Play Equipment

A reminder that the outside play equipment is not designed for children any younger than KS2 (7-11yrs).

Please refrain from allowing younger children to play on the equipment for health and safety reasons. Thank you for your understanding.



Healthy Breaktime Snacks – Snacks

for break time need to be healthy.

This can include rice cakes, crackers, breadsticks, cheese, fruit, veg sticks and cereal bars for example.

Treat Friday: crisps, chocolate bars, no sweets



Safeguarding and Online Safety

- If you have a safeguarding concern, please report it immediately to [Mrs Fitch head@](mailto:Mrs Fitch head@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk), [Mr Edwards deputy@](mailto:Mr Edwards deputy@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk), [Mrs Whale senco@](mailto:Mrs Whale senco@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk)
- Age-appropriate online safety - *online safety posters sent out beginning of every month. Look out for this: Top Tips for parents about how to keep your child safe online*
- Social media considerations – *reminder that all social media platforms are 13+*

Mobile phones – if needed, please are switched off as soon as on site, handed in to the class teacher, kept in a locked drawer, handed back at the end of the day and must only be switch on again when child is off site.

A reminder that Smart watches of any kind are not permitted in school.

School Punctuality—Reminder

- Please be reminded that children should arrive in the school classroom between **8:35am and 8:45am**. Lessons start promptly at 8:45am and so any child arriving after this time will miss valuable learning time.
- Should your child arrive late please can they enter the building via Reception and report to the school office as a late arrival. **They will need to give their name, class and a good reason for their lateness.**
- If you need to **report an absence** please call our absence line 01242 702280 (option 1). You will need to give a reason for your child's absence.
- Leave of absence forms can be found in reception. Remember, **term time is school time** and time off school for family holidays is not a legal right. Taking your child out of school during term time will be detrimental to their education. You can apply for leave of absence if you feel your circumstances are exceptional and necessary.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Birthday Celebrations

On Birthdays children can come to school wearing their own clothes as a special way of recognising their birthday.



As we know that the cost of living continues to affect many families, we kindly ask that children do not bring sweets, treats or books to share with the class. We hope that having an own clothes day will provide a special celebration without placing any additional financial burden on families.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We are blessed with a very friendly and knowledgeable team of Governors from all sorts of backgrounds. The main meetings take place 5-6 times a year and are lively and informative. These meetings benefit hugely from the presence of different stakeholders and their perspectives, including the Staff Governor and the Parent Governors.

We asked one of our current Parent Governors how they have found the role and they said :

"Being a parent governor is a great way to be involved with and contribute to the school. The board is made up of a really supportive group from a range of backgrounds and skills, all coming together with the same aim of making St Mark's the best it can possibly be for all its staff and pupils."

We are looking for parents who have great qualities and skills who would enhance our school governing body as a Parent Governor. Skills in either business, finance, HR, Health and Safety, IT or premises management would all be useful but certainly not essential.

We would love to hear from you if you are interested in this opportunity and for more information please email admin@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk.



Free School Meals – Important Information

The Department for Education has expanded FSM eligibility so that all children in households receiving Universal Credit may now qualify, subject to the updated eligibility criteria.

Please visit [Apply for free school meals | Gloucestershire County Council](#) to see if you are eligible and to apply for Free School Meals.

Why should I apply?

For every child that is entitled to free school meals the school receives extra funding to enhance provision and improve progress and outcomes for children. So please apply even if you do not wish to take up your free school meal.

If your child is eligible, they will receive a healthy school meal at no cost to you. You will also receive funding for school trips.



Online Safety Video

This month's Online Safety video theme is **Back to school**

This video provides a quick overview on establishing family tech rules and tips on how to use AI.

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



Extra Curricular Clubs Autumn Term 1

Monday

Baking Buddies Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.30pm	Starts 14/09
Chinese Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.00pm	
Gardening Y3-5	3.15pm - 4.00pm	Starts 14/09
Gymnastics Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.00pm	Starts 07/09
Homework Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.00pm	Starts 14/09
Recorders Y3-6	Lunchtime	Starts 14/09
Running Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.00pm	Starts 14/09

Tuesday

Orchestra Y3-6	Lunchtime	Starts 15/09
Choir Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.00pm	Starts 08/09
Tennis Y4-6	3.15pm - 4.10pm	Starts 08/09

Wednesday

Baking Buddies Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.30pm	Starts 16/09
Multisoccer	3.15pm - 4.15pm	Starts 09/06

Thursday

Kids with Bricks Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.00pm	Starts 10/09
Outdoor Learning	3.15pm - 4.15pm	Starts 17/09

Day to be confirmed

Boys Football Y5-6	Lunchtimes tbc
Girls Football Y5-6	Lunchtimes tbc



Guitar/Brass lessons

Mr Meade still has a few spaces available for this term! Whether your child would love to learn the guitar or have a go at a brass instrument, now is a great time to get started.

If you're interested or would like more information, please contact Mr Meade directly:

Mobile: 07967 814659

Email: davidmeadeguitar@gmail.com



School Term Dates - 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



2026-27

September

Tue 1st - INSET Day (No children in school)
Wed 2nd - INSET Day (No children in school)
Thu 3rd - First Day Back for Children
Mon 7th - Thu 10th Year 6 Bikeability
Tue 8th - Year 3 Parent Drop in 3-3.30pm
Sun 13th - Happy's Circus @ St Mark's School 12.30pm
Fri 25th - PTA AGM 3.45pm-4pm at St Mark's
Wed 30th - Year 6 London Trip to Parliament

October

Mon 5th - Flu Immunisations
Mon 5th – Fri 9th - Cycle to School week
Wed 7th - Year 3 & 4 Parents - Coffee with Mrs Fitch 2.30-3pm
Thu 8th - Rags Collection
Fri 9th - World Mental Health Day (Hello Yellow)
Tue 13th - Book Look
Wed 14th - Year 5 & 6 Parents - Coffee with Mrs Fitch 2.30-3pm
Tue 20th - Harvest Festival in School (Children Only)
Thu 22nd - INSET Day
Fri 24th - INSET Day and End of Term One

November

Mon 2nd - Start of Term 2
Tue 10th – Parents' Evening 3.30-6.00
Thu 12th – Parents' Evening 3.30-6.00
Fri 13th - Children in Need
Mon 23rd - Anti Bullying Week Starts and Odd Socks Day



Outdoor Learning Starts 17th September

Class 1: Thursday Afternoon

Class 2: Thursday Morning

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 - Autumn Term 1

Please wear your PE Kit to School on PE days.

Swimming starts W/C 21st September

Class 1: Monday

Class 2: Wednesday

Note change of days for Year 4

Class 3: Monday & Thursday (non swimmers)

Class 4: Monday & Thursday (non swimmers)

Class 5: Tuesday & Friday (non swimmers)

Class 6: Tuesday Friday (non swimmers)

Class 7: Tuesday & Friday (non swimmers)

Class 8: Tuesday & Friday (non swimmers)

Remember: tracksuit tops should be plain navy only. A school

