



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 11th 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:

Our Vision:

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

One body, many parts. 1 Corinthians 12

At the start of this new school year, we are reminding ourselves about what our school Vision and FACE values look like in action; we should be seeing it happening all around us when we are in our school: **our vision is the FACE of St Mark's.**

Our vision and associated values are at the very heart of all that we do at St Mark's, from our Teaching and Learning approach and curriculum content to our expectations of behaviour and the way in which we relate to others in our school community and in the wider world.

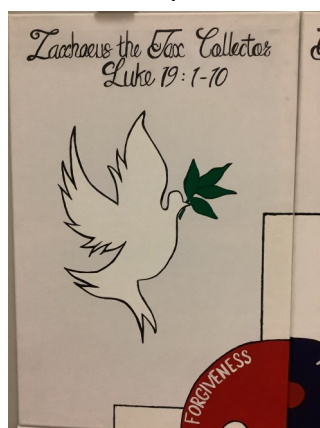
The Biblical verse that underpins our vision is: **'One Body, Many Parts'** (1 Corinthians 12): We are one community, bringing our own unique differences so that our school community can grow and flourish. We need everyone to play their part!

One of the main ways we can put our **vision into action** is through our **FACE values**. When we show these values in our learning and in our relationships, **we grow as people and enabling ourselves and others to become more of who we are created to be.** The illustrations below were designed by the children to show how each of the values can be represented through an image, linking the key Bible story for each of our FACE values to every day life.



Forgiveness

**Be a peacemaker—
don't rub it in, rub it out**

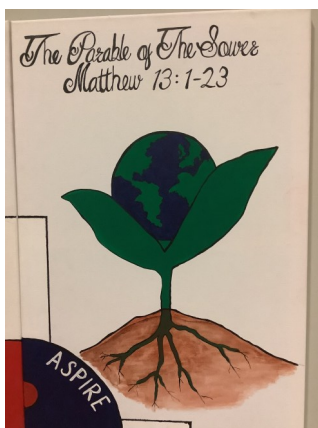


Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

When Zacchaeus was forgiven by Jesus, he felt peace and acceptance. When we offer **forgiveness**, we can bring peace to others which strengthens relationships. The dove is a sign of peace.

Aspire

**Keep growing—
dig deep, aim high**

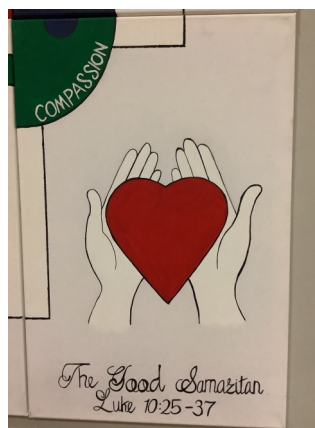


The Parable of the Sower

The seed planted in good soil is healthy and strong. If we root ourselves in knowledge and values for life, we are enabled to grow and **aspire** to achieve great things, in school and beyond.

Compassion

**Be kind—
notice the need**

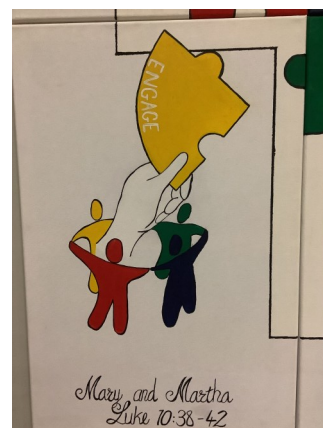


The Good Samaritan

The Good Samaritan didn't ignore the man who was suffering. He noticed the need and acted with love and **compassion**. People and our environment need our help, locally and globally.

Engage

**Be here now—
play your part**



Mary and Martha

In the story of Mary and Martha, Martha was distracted and 'missed the moment'. We all need to **engage**, to play our unique part to make our school community the best it can be.

It is wonderful to see how the St Mark's vision and values are truly embedded into school life, genuinely informing the choices we make on a daily basis. I wonder if you can see these values in action at home too?

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

Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1 & 2: Both Year 3 classes have really enjoyed History this week! They have begun learning about the Stone Age and have been busy creating their own fact files.

Class 3: In Computing, the children have been recapping and developing their skills using the program 'Scratch'.

Class 4: In PE, Class 4 have been developing their golf skills by learning how to use a driver to launch the ball as far as possible into the distance.

Class 5 & 6: Year 5 also enjoyed PE this week. In Netball, the children have been playing competitive matches, with a focus on developing and using different types of passes, including chest, shoulder and bounce passes.

Class 7: Class 7 have been developing their rugby skills this week, learning how to pass accurately and change direction effectively. The Year 6 children who participated in Bikeability also did a fantastic job on their course, with lots of lovely comments from the instructors, praising their efforts.

Class 8: In Maths, Class 8 have enjoyed the challenge of rounding large numbers this week. They have worked hard to develop their understanding and apply their skills with increasing confidence.

Happys's Circus—This Sunday!

Come and join us for an unforgettable afternoon inviting Happy's Circus to St Mark's Junior School!



The gates shall be open at 12.30pm for hot and cold food, refreshments, games and much more before the show in the Big Top at 2pm (doors open at 1.30pm).

The show's synopsis: Happy's Circus presents Universe!

Let us take you to a place where boundaries dissolve, and the marvels of the Universe unfold before your eyes. From the moment you step inside the Big Top, you will be swept away on a galactic journey led by stargazing acrobats, gravity-defying aerialists, and mysterious cosmic creatures from out of this world.

Performers lose themselves in a swirling galaxy of light and sound. Weaving together feats of daring and beauty to remind us that the universe we call home is both vast and intimately magical.

Immerse yourself in a spectacle of colour, wonder, and enchantment that celebrates the limitless possibilities that lie far beyond our realm.

The show is 2.5 hours with interval.



You can book tickets by visiting — [ST Marks Junior School PTA | Happy's Circus](#)

Curriculum Meetings

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, we are 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 and links for these meetings.

Year 3—Tuesday 15th September at 4pm

Meeting Link: [Year 3 Curriculum Meeting 4pm 15/9/26 | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)

Year 4—Thursday 17th September at 4pm

Meeting Link: [Year 4 Curriculum Meeting - 4pm 17/9/26 | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)

Year 5—Thursday 17th September at 3.45pm

Meeting Link: [Year 5 Curriculum meeting 3:45pm 17/9/26 | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)

Year 6—Tuesday 15th September at 4.30pm

Meeting Link: [Year 6 curriculum meeting 4:30pm 15/9/26 | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)



We will be recording the sessions and will send the links out following the meeting dates, so if you're not able to make it at the times specified above, please don't worry.

If you are able to join us live, please ensure the **mute button remains on** for the duration of the meeting.

We would love to put names to faces so if you're able to **keep your camera on** and you are happy for this to be visible during the recorded session, please do. We understand though, if it's a busy time of day and you would prefer just to listen!

Bikeability

This week so me of our Year 6 children took part in Bikeability, a scheme that equips children with the skills and confidence they need to cycle safely on the roads.

The course started on Monday in school, with the children completing circuits and challenges around the playground. Tuesday saw the biggest step for the children as they headed out onto the road! With the experienced instructors on hand to support and encourage them, the children quickly grew in confidence.

During the course, the children learnt to:

- Start and stop with greater confidence
- Pass stationary vehicles parked on the road
- Understand the road: signals, signs and road markings
- Negotiate the road: including quiet junctions, crossroads and roundabouts
- Share the road with other vehicles



The Bikeability team were extremely impressed with the St Mark's children. They commented on how much they always enjoy visiting St Mark's, which is something that we can all be very proud of. Well done to our Years 6 children for demonstrating our schools value of **Engagement** in such a fantastic way.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to the Bikeability team for a fantastic week of learning and developing essential road safety skills!

A Reminder About Safe and Considerate Parking

We have received reports of inconsiderate parking outside our school and would like to remind everyone of the importance of keeping our school community safe.

We kindly ask all families to park considerately and be mindful of our neighbours.

Please do not park:

- In front of driveways.
- Across dropped kerbs.
- On the zigzag lines outside the school.
- Near the entrance to the school car park.



It is important that you do not drop children off on the zigzag lines or near the school car park entrance. These areas must remain clear to allow pedestrians to enter and leave the school safely. Keeping these areas free from vehicles is essential to protecting children, families and other pedestrians as they arrive at and leave school.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support in helping us maintain a safe and considerate school community.

Outdoor Learning—This Term

Outdoor Learning sessions for Year 3 children will begin next week. Please ensure your child wears their own clothes that they do not mind getting dirty. Children must bring wellies in a bag and a warm waterproof coat every Thursday.

Outdoor Learning—Arrangements for the Year

We will be following the same schedule as last year with **Year 3 and 4** classes having whole class lessons in the Autumn and Summer terms.

Year 5 children will be given the opportunity to take part in Outdoor Learning in smaller groups during the Autumn and Summer terms. We will send you the date of your child's session in advance.



Extra Curricular Clubs Autumn Term 1

Monday

Chinese Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.00pm	Starts 07/09
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
Boys Football Y5-6	Lunchtimes	Starts 15/09
Girls Football Y5-6	Lunchtimes	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

Please view the club selections [table](#) for club dates!



School Lunch Payments

We kindly ask all parents and carers to ensure that their child's ParentPay account remains in credit for school lunches.

If your child's account currently has an outstanding balance, please arrange for this to be cleared over the weekend.

Thank you for your continued support.



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

Sun 13th - Happy's Circus @ St Mark's School 12.30pm
Wed 23rd - School Individual & Sibling photos
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 - Harvest Festival in School (Children Only)
Fri 9th - World Mental Health Day (Hello Yellow)
Tue 13th - Rags Collection (change of date)
Tue 13th - Book Look
Wed 14th - Year 5 & 6 Parents - Coffee with Mrs Fitch 2.30-3pm
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 [Starts W/C 21st Sep](#)

Please wear your PE Kit to School on PE days.

Class 1: Monday

Class 2: Wednesday

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: Wednesday & Friday (non swimmers)

Class 8: Tuesday & Friday (non swimmers)

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

