



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 18th 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:

The Roots of Our Teaching and Learning Tree

This week, we have been focusing on **The Roots** of our Teaching and Learning Tree. Just like a real tree needs strong roots to grow and flourish, children need strong foundations in place to allow them to learn and thrive.

Our Teaching and Learning Tree reminds us of the key features that help us learn and grow. The roots represent the **foundations for learning** and encourage children to think: *"Am I ready to learn?"* before they begin any task. We have even introduced special actions for each root to help children remember them. *I wonder if your child can recall the four roots and their actions, and explain how we put them into practice each day!*

It is still early days, but we are excited to see these 'roots' becoming part of everyday learning across the school.

Vision and Values (Grow – shape of a tree)

- Grow together through every season of life.
- Show our FACE values and termly values.
- Bring out the best in each other.

How parents can help: Talk with your child about the value we are focusing on this term and celebrate examples of them showing our FACE values of **Forgiveness, Aspire, Compassion, Engage** at home.

Healthy Relationships (Hands clasped together)

- We work together.
- We are respectful.
- We show we are safe.

How parents can help: Encourage your child to listen carefully, use respectful language and consider how their actions affect others. Talk about solving disagreements calmly and kindly.

Ready to Learn (Point to head twice)

- Ready to try our best.
- We have everything we need.
- We make good choices for learning.

How parents can help: Help your child establish good routines, ensure they arrive on time, are well-rested and have everything they need for the school day.

Can Do Attitude (Raise hands in the air three times)

- We can!
- We are not afraid to make mistakes because they help us to learn.
- We persevere.

How parents can help: Praise effort rather than outcomes, encourage your child to keep going when learning feels challenging and remind them that mistakes are an important part of learning.

Together, these four roots create the strong foundations that help every child at St Mark's to grow together, becoming all we are created to be.

Best wishes for a lovely weekend, Mrs A Fitch and the Staff Team



Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1 & 2: Year 3 had their first Outdoor Learning lesson this week, and it was definitely the highlight of the week for both classes! They carried out a survey of the Outdoor Learning area and, in particular, thought about ways they could improve the space.

Class 3: In Music, the children have been learning about harmony and how different parts can be layered to create a song. They enjoyed singing a song together, experimenting with harmonies, working together to create a layered sound.

Class 4: In PE, Class 4 enjoyed creating their own mini-golf courses in small groups. They used hoops as targets and practised using a driver to hit golf balls into the hoops.

Class 5: Class 5 really enjoyed their music lesson this week! They are learning all about Blues music and had great fun listening to and singing along with 'Moanin' Lisa Blues'. The children also learnt about bent notes, which are notes that are higher in pitch to create the distinctive sound often heard in Blues music. They were then given the opportunity to have a go at improvising.

Class 6: In Geography, the children are studying Mount Everest. They learnt about mountaineer Tenzing Norgay and his historic achievement of reaching the summit. The children also created fact files about Mount Everest.

Class 7: In RE, the children created a piece of artwork inspired by the Creation. They depicted different parts of the story and made links to our recent **Open the Book** visit.

Class 8: Geography was also a highlight for Class 8. The children have been learning about Haiti, Sicily and the South West of England. They were tasked with comparing and contrasting the three locations, identifying and writing about their similarities and differences.

Happy's Circus

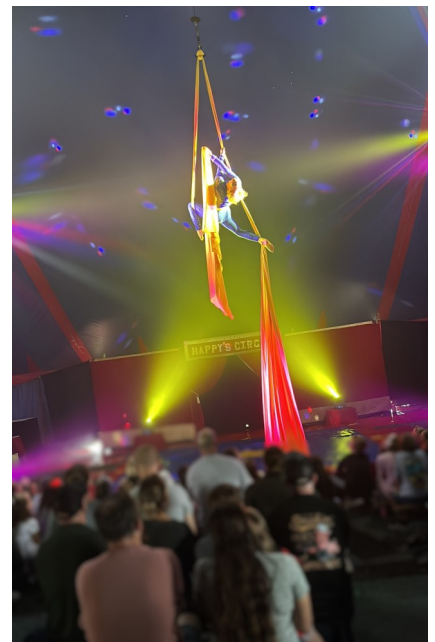
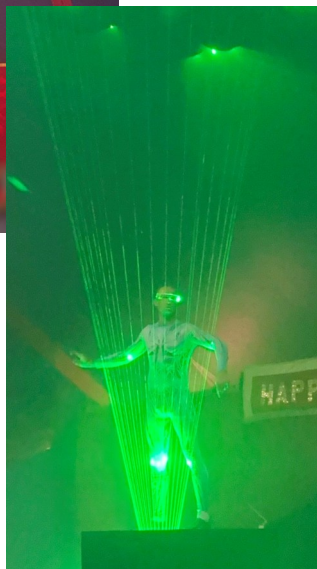
On Sunday, the circus came to St Mark's – and what a spectacle it was! Despite the rain, we certainly didn't let it dampen our spirits.



The PTA had organised some fantastic food vans, and the popcorn was flowing! We were treated to an incredible show featuring acrobats, jugglers, clowns, aerialists and even an amazing laser act. The performers were absolutely incredible and had everyone captivated!

A huge thank you to our wonderful PTA for organising such a fantastic fundraiser for St Mark's.

What a brilliant afternoon!



Teaching & Learning Owls

Bronze - Lea & Jacob

Congratulations to our badge winners!



Curriculum Meetings

We hope that the curriculum meetings held on Teams this week were informative and provided a helpful insight into what the children will be focusing on this term.

If you were unable to attend the meetings, recordings of each session, along with the accompanying presentations, are available to view on your child's page of the school website.

[St Mark's Church of England Junior School - Year 3 Curriculum Meeting](#)

[St Mark's Church of England Junior School - Year 4 Curriculum Meeting](#)

[St Mark's Church of England Junior School - Year 5 Curriculum Meeting](#)

[St Mark's Church of England Junior School - Year 6 Curriculum Meeting](#)



Cross Country Success!

Our first cross country race of the season took place at **Burrows Field, Leckhampton**, providing a new venue and a new experience for everyone involved. We were incredibly proud of all the girls who took part, showing tremendous courage and determination. For many, this was their first time competing in a race with nearly 100 children on the start line, and they represented St Mark's brilliantly.



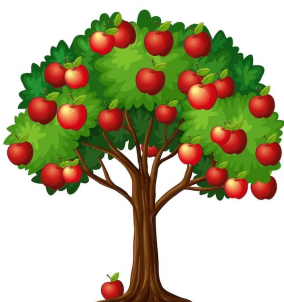
Well done to all of our runners for embracing the challenge with such enthusiasm and resilience.

We wish our boys the very best of luck in their race today!



Gardening Club

The Gardening Club has been busy this week collecting apples from around the school grounds. They then sold the apples after school to raise funds for St Mark's.



A big thank you to everyone who helped with the collection and to all those who supported their resourceful fundraising efforts.

Well done Gardening Club!



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!



Whole School Individual & Sibling Photos

Freedom photography will be visiting school on

Wednesday 23rd September to take individual and sibling school photos.



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

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

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
Sat 31st - Year 6 Application Closing Date

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

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.

