ST MARK'S C OF E JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Value in focus: FACE Values

Growing together,
becoming all we are created to be

21st October 2026

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE



What a fantastic first half term we have had! The start of September already feels like such a long time ago, and it's hard to believe that just six weeks have passed. The children have immersed themselves in their learning, approached school life with enthusiasm and energy and achieved so much already. I think we are all now ready for a very well-earned half-term break!

We have lots of exciting opportunities to look forward to in Term 2, but for now, we have all certainly earned a well-deserved break!

Please see below for some of the highlights and events coming up next term.



November

Mon 2nd - Start of Term 2
Thu 5th - Greystones Farm Trip Year 3 Class 1
Tue 10th - Parents' Evening 3.30-6.00
Thu 12th - Greystones Farm Trip Year 3 Class 2
Thu 12th - Parents' Evening 3.30-6.00
Fri 13th - Children in Need
Mon 23rd - Anti Bullying Week Starts and Odd Socks Day
Thu 26th - PTA Sip and Paint evening

December

Thu 3rd - Christmas Fair
Fri 4th - 3 Ukulele Concert for parents 2.30pm
Tue 8th - Carol Service 5.30-6.15 Yellow & Green House / 6.45-7.30 Red & Blue House
Wed 9th - Panto 10am
Thu 10th - Christmas Jumper Day (Save the Children)
Wed 16th - Christmas lunch
Thu 17th - Concert for Rocksteady parents 2.15pm

I do hope you are able to take some time to rest and recharge, ready for another busy term!

With my best wishes for a lovely half term. Mrs A Fitch and the Staff Team

Please Label All Clothing!

As the weather gets colder, children are bringing more layers to school, including coats, jumpers, hats and gloves. Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name. This makes it much easier for us to return lost items to their owners and helps to prevent clothing from going missing.

Our lost property collection can quickly build up, so please check that your child's belongings are named, particularly school jumpers, PE hoodies and coats.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep lost property to a minimum!



New ParentPay Feature – Dinner Money Auto Top-Up

ParentPay has introduced an Auto Top-Up feature to help you keep your child's school meal account topped up. You can set a minimum balance and when your child's account falls below this amount, ParentPay will automatically add a fixed amount using a pre-authorised bank transfer.

To use this feature, you must first enable the Bank Transfer facility by setting up a Direct Debit mandate in ParentPay. Once this is in place, you can activate Auto Top-Up and manage your settings through your ParentPay account.



ParentPay

If your child's school meal account is currently in arrears, please ensure it is topped up before the start of the new term. Many thanks for your support!

Teaching & Learning Owls

Bronze - Dougie, Felicity, Owen and James

Congratulations to our badge winners!





Outdoor Learning Term 2



Year 4 will be taking part in Outdoor Learning lessons during **Autumn Term 2,** which will take place on **Thursday afternoons.**

The children will also have PE or swimming on Thursday mornings, so they should come to school wearing their PE kit. As the weather gets colder and wetter, please ensure they bring extra layers and a waterproof coat to keep them warm and dry during their outdoor activities.

Please remember to bring wellies to school for Outdoor Learning.



Starlight Hike

Last weekend, **Landon and Brody** took part in the **Starlight Hike**, a night-time charity walk that raises vital funds for **Sue Ryder.**



They completed an incredible **10km walk** in just over two hours, finishing at 11pm on Saturday evening, all to raise money for this wonderful charity.

A huge well done to both Brody and Landon for this fantastic achievement! We are super proud of you, not only for completing the 10km challenge but also for raising money for such a worthy cause. You have demonstrated our **school value of 'compassion'** in such a positive and inspiring way.

If you would like to support their fundraising efforts, please visit their JustGiving page using the link below:

Donate to Landon and Brody's Starlight Hike

The Poppy Project Reminder

We are inviting all children to take part in our **Poppy Project 2026** to help us remember and honour the brave people who have served, sacrificed and lost their lives in wars and conflicts.

Your Challenge

Over half term, create your very own poppy to contribute to our school remembrance project! You can make your poppy using any medium you like.

Be as creative and imaginative as you wish! Here are some ideas to inspire you:



- Painting, drawing or colouring
- Paper, card or collage
- Knitting, crochet, sewing or felt
- Clay, salt dough or other modelling materials
- Recycled or natural materials
- Digital art or mixed media



These are just ideas – we would love to see your own unique creations!

What Does Your Poppy Represent?

The poppy is a symbol of remembrance. As you create your poppy, think about what remembrance means to you and how we can honour those who have helped to protect others and bring peace. You could even include a short message of remembrance or peace with your creation.

Important Deadline

All poppies must be brought into school by **Friday 6th November 2026.** Please make sure your poppy is ready and **handed in to Mrs Edmondson** by this date so that it can be included in our school project.

We cannot wait to see the wonderful, thoughtful and imaginative poppies you create. Every poppy will help us come together as a school community to remember, reflect and show our respect.

Remember. Reflect. Create.

Thank you for taking part in our Poppy Project 2026.

Jewellery, Watches and Nail Varnish Reminder

For health and safety reasons, children should not wear jewellery to school. One pair of stud earrings is permitted; however, bracelets and necklaces are not allowed. Watches may be worn, **but smartwatches of any kind are not permitted for safeguarding reasons.**

During PE, children must remove their watches and cover their earrings with tape to help prevent injuries.

We would also like to remind parents and carers that nail varnish must not be worn to school.

These rules are in place to help keep all our pupils safe. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.



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 202
Term 6: Mon 7th June – Wed 21st July 202



Inset Days: 1st Sept, 2nd Sept, 22nd Oct, 23rd Oct, 7th June

Dates for your Diary



October

Thu 22nd - INSET Day (No children in school)
Fri 23rd - INSET Day (No children in school)
Sat 31st - Year 6 Secondary Application Closing Date

November

Mon 2nd - Start of Term 2
Thu 5th - Greystones Farm Trip Year 3 Class 1
Tue 10th - Parents' Evening 3.30-6.00
Thu 12th - Greystones Farm Trip Year 3 Class 2
Thu 12th - Parents' Evening 3.30-6.00
Fri 13th - Children in Need
Wed 18th - St Mark's Open morning 10.30am
Mon 23rd - Anti Bullying Week Starts and Odd Socks Day
Tue 24th - St Mark's Open morning 10.30am
Thu 26th - St Mark's Open morning 10.30am
Thu 26th - PTA Sip and Paint evening

December

Thu 3rd - Christmas Fair
Fri 4th - 3 Ukulele Concert for parents 2.30pm
Tue 8th - Carol Service 5.30-6.15 Yellow & Green House / 6.45-7.30 Red & Blue House
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Extra-Curricular Clubs Autumn Term 2 2026

Monday
Chinese Y3-6 3.15pm - 4pm
Gymnastics Y3-6 3.15pm - 4pm
Homework Y3-6 3.15pm - 4pm
Recorders Y3-6 Lunchtime
Rugby Y5-6 3.15pm - 4pm
Running Y3-6 3.15pm - 4pm



Tuesday
Orchestra Y3-6 Lunchtime
Choir Y3-6 3.15pm - 4pm
Football Boys Y5-6 Lunchtimes
Football Girls Y5-6 Lunchtimes
Netball Y5-6 3.15pm - 4pm
Tennis Y4-6 3.15pm - 4.10pm

Wednesday
Baking Buddies Y3-6 3.15pm - 4.30pm
Dodgeball 3.15pm - 4pm

Thursday
Coding Y6 3.15pm - 4pm
Kids with Bricks Y3-6 3.15pm - 4pm
Outdoor Learning 3.15pm - 4.15pm

Outdoor Learning Autumn Term 2



Class 3: Thursday
Class 4: Thursday
Please ensure your child wears suitable outdoor learning clothes to school and brings wellies and a warm waterproof coat every Thursday
Children must wear long trousers for safety reasons.

PE - Autumn Term 2

Please wear your PE Kit to School on PE days.



Class 1: Monday & Thursday
Class 2: Monday & Friday
Class 3: Thursday (non swimmers)
Class 4: Thursday (non swimmers)
Class 5: Monday & Friday (non swimmers)
Class 6: tbc & Friday (non swimmers)
Class 7: Wednesday & Friday (non swimmers)
Class 8: Tuesday & Friday (non swimmers

Senior Leadership Team
Mrs Fitch: head@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk
Mr Edwards: deputy@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs Whale: senco@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk
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Term Dates