# ST MARK'S C OF E JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Value in focus: FACE Values | Growing together, becoming all we are created to be | 6th November 2026

## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back after the half-term break. The children have settled straight back into school life, demonstrating our values and many of the key learning habits from the **Roots and Trunk of our Teaching and Learning Tree.** In Collective Worship this week, we celebrated children showing a **Can Do Attitude,** building **Healthy Relationships,** being **Positive and Motivated,** and arriving each day **Ready to Learn.**




Our value in focus this term is **Trust**. We will be exploring how trust helps us build strong relationships, who we can trust during life's stormy times, and how significant historical figures have demonstrated trust in action and inspired others through their courage and character.

This week, we made a whole school Acrostic Poem to remind ourselves of what we mean by Trust in our school:



**T**ruthfulness and Tolerance
**R**eady to help
**U**nderstanding each other
**S**aying sorry = Strong relationships
**T**houghtfulness – notice the need

I wonder if we can put spot these ways in which Trust is shown at home too!

Next Wednesday 11th November, we will hold our annual **Act of Remembrance.** Together, we will give thanks for those who gave their lives so that we might live in peace and freedom, and reflect on the courage, selflessness and strength of character that enabled them to make such sacrifices.

**With my best wishes, Mrs A Fitch and the Staff Team**

## Online Safety Video

This month's Online Safety video theme is Online Grooming.

This video provides a short overview explaining what Online Grooming is, spotting the warning signs and what actions you should take if this is happening to your child.

Please click here to view the video on our website.



## Learning Highlight

**Class1:** Class 1 thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Greystones Farm and Nature Reserve this week. Find out more about their day on page 3!
**Class 2:** The children enjoyed Geography this week. They used Google Earth to locate famous UK landmarks. They then used their findings to locate and plot the landmarks on a map.
**Class 3:** In Computing, the children have been using Scratch to develop their coding skills. They learnt how to create their own blocks of code, allowing them to reuse sections of code rather than having to write long sequences each time.
**Class 4:** In Science, Class 4 have been exploring electrical circuits. They enjoyed making their own circuits and were delighted to see the colourful bulbs light up.
**Class 5:** As part of their study of Frida Kahlo in Art, the children have been creating their own self-portraits. They took a photograph of their face, cut it in half and then carefully drew the missing half, using the facial feature drawing techniques, they have learnt in previous lessons.
**Class 6:** In Computing, the children have been developing their coding skills using Kodu, a fun programming game. They programmed a robot to eat apples and change colour, as well as creating its own world.
**Class 7:** Class 7 enjoyed their PE lesson this week. They focused on throwing techniques in Netball.
**Class 8:** In History, the children have been learning about Viking Gods. Each child chose a god to research and find out more about, before deciding how best to present their findings, for example, through a poster or a list of interesting facts.

## Albert Dix Football Tournament

A fantastic effort from the team at the Albert Dix School Tournament!

The team battled through a tough group, showing great determination and quality throughout, conceding just one goal in the entire group stage to finish top and secure their place in the semi-finals.

In the semi-final, the team produced an excellent performance, beating St James 2-0 to book their place in the final.

Next up was a final against a very good Naunton Park side. Unfortunately, we conceded in the first minute, giving ourselves an uphill battle. Despite continuing to work hard and compete throughout, the game finished 2-0.

Although the result wasn't quite what we had hoped for, there was so much to be proud of. The whole team played some excellent football, showed fantastic teamwork and, most importantly, demonstrated brilliant attitudes from the first whistle to the last.

A huge well done to everyone involved. You should all be incredibly proud of your performances!





## Greystones Farm and Nature Reserve

Class 1 visited **Greystones Farm Nature Reserve** yesterday for an exciting trip linked to our Stone Age topic.

The ancient meadows and rivers of Greystones Farm are home to a diverse range of wildlife. The site is also home to **Salmonsbury Camp,** an important meeting place during the Neolithic and Iron Age periods and a Scheduled Monument.

The children enjoyed learning about the history of Salmonsbury and discovering what life was like for the people who lived there. A particular highlight was exploring the roundhouse, which has been constructed using traditional tools and materials.



They also had the opportunity to try their hand at the traditional building technique of wattle and daub. This involved using a woven lattice of wooden strips, known as wattle, before applying a sticky mixture of wet soil, clay, sand and straw, known as daub, to create the walls. It was a fantastic hands-on way to discover how homes would have been built during the Stone Age.

A huge thank you to the team at Greystones Farm for such an engaging and enriching experience. We had a fantastic day and are looking forward to exploring our Stone Age topic further this term!





## Teaching & Learning Owls

Silver - Rex

**Congratulations to our badge winner!**



## Parents' Evening

Parents' Evenings will be taking place on **Tuesday 10th November** and **Thursday 12th November.**

This is an important opportunity to catch up with your child's teacher, discuss their progress and celebrate their achievements.

If you haven't yet booked your slot, please contact the school office.

We look forward to seeing you next week.

## Year 3 DT Day – Parent Volunteers Needed!



Year 3 are looking for parent volunteers to help with their DT Day on Thursday 10th December. The children will be making Stone Age clothing for their teddies, using a variety of stitching and sewing techniques.
If you are able to spare a morning, afternoon or even the whole day, we would love to hear from you. Please email clerical@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk if you are available.

Many thanks for your support!

## Year 5 SEND Open Afternoon – Chosen Hill

To support parents of prospective Year 5 pupils, Chosen Hill will be holding another **Year 5 SEND Open Afternoon** on **Tuesday 24th November.**

The afternoon will run as follows:

- 11.45am – 12.10pm: Tour of the school
- 12.15pm – 12.45pm: Presentation from the SENCo, followed by a Q&A session and an opportunity to meet members of the team.
- 1.00pm: Event ends

This SEND-specific tour complements the wider programme of Open Events offered by the school.
If your child is currently in Year 5 and has an EHCP, or is in the process of obtaining one, and you would like to attend, please contact Danni Richards at drc@chosen-hill.gloucs.sch.uk to confirm your attendance.

Please include your child's name and the name of their current school.

## PTA Paint & Sip Night – Thursday 26th Nov

Join us for a creative evening of painting, sipping and socialising at St Mark's Junior School on **Thursday 26th November at 7.30pm.**

For £35 per person, you can enjoy a relaxing and fun-filled evening, with all painting materials and guidance included. You can choose to paint a mug or create your own wax melt burner, and enjoy a delicious charcuterie, cheese or sweet treat board alongside your chosen activity.

Even better, **£5 from every ticket sold will be donated directly to the PTA,** helping to support our school.

Whether you're a budding artist or simply looking for a lovely evening with friends, this is a great opportunity to get creative while supporting St Mark's. We hope to see lots of you there!

## Children in Need - Friday 13th Nov

This year's **Children in Need** takes place on **Friday 13th November.**

The children are invited to come to school wearing **bright, colourful clothing, spots or stripes instead of their usual school uniform.** They are also welcome to wear a Pudsey T-shirt if they have one!
We will spend time in classes learning about the impact that our funds will have on the lives of others.

If your child has PE, please ensure they wear (or bring) suitable footwear to change into. This also applies to Year 5 and 6 children who will have swimming/PE.

You will be able to make a **donation** via **ParentPay next week.** We will let you know as soon as this is available. **Thank you for your 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 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




**November**

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
Fri 27th - St Mark's Open morning 10.30am

**December**

Wed 2nd - Year 6 Chirstmas Fair Making Day
Wed 2nd - We the Currious Year 4 Trip (Letter to follow)
Thu 3rd - Christmas Fair
Fri 4th - Year 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

## 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: Wednesday & 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