ST MARK'S C OF E JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Value in focus: FACE Values | Growing together, becoming all we are created to be | 13th November 2026

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

We have had another packed week, with Parents Evenings, trips out and visitors in!
Thank you for making the time to attend your child's Parents Evening in the busy family life schedule. We hope it was informative and useful for you.

If you have any comments / requests for a follow up meeting, please do complete the slip on the bottom of your child's Interim Report to be given to your child's class teacher or contact the school office: clerical@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk and we can get in touch to respond accordingly.

At St Mark's, we are committed to continually improving the experiences we provide for our children and families. As part of our annual Parent Questionnaire, we would be very grateful if you could take a few minutes to share your thoughts about your child's experience at school so far and how we can continue to develop and improve.

Your feedback is incredibly important to us and helps to shape our priorities as we work together to ensure every child can thrive at school.

Please scan the QR code to access the survey or click here.



As a school community, we gathered together on Wednesday this week to give thanks for and remember those who have lost their lives through war and conflict and also to remember those who are still serving.

We talked together about the significance of this time, the Last Post was played and the children observed a minute's silence with utmost respect and sensitivity. We then reflected on how we can be people who bring peace to others, wherever we go. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who are suffering at this time; may we bring peace, hope and love to others.

Thank you to all those who were able make models and pictures of poppies to mark this special time. Many of them were used as a visual focus for the children during our act of Remembrance and are now on display in our entrance area.





Odd Socks Day and Anti-Bullying Week begin on Monday. Please turn to page 3 for more information.

Best wishes for a lovely weekend,
Mrs A Fitch

Children in Need

We have had a fantastic day marking Children in Need and joining in the fun to raise money for this very important cause!

The children came to school dressed in their own bright and colourful clothes, with some looking particularly fabulous in their Pudsey ears and outfits!

In class, we also spent time learning about Children in Need and how the money raised helps to make a difference to the lives of children and young people across the UK.



Thank you for embracing the spirit of Children in Need and for your generous donations through ParentPay. We are delighted to share that, so far, we have raised an amazing £263!

Well done, everyone, for helping to make a difference!

Class 2 Visit to Greystones Farm Nature Reserve

This week, Class 2 enjoyed a fantastic visit to Greystones Farm Nature Reserve. Just like Class 1 last week, the children had great fun exploring their current topic, the Stone Age, and discovering what life was like for people living during the Iron Age.

The hands-on activities provided a wonderful opportunity to bring their learning to life. A particular highlight was stepping inside a life-sized roundhouse and imagining what it would have been like to live there. The children also enjoyed having a go at the traditional building technique of wattle and daub as well as fire lighting.



A huge thank you to the team at Greystones Farm for providing such an engaging and enjoyable day for the children. We would also like to give a special shout-out to all our parent helpers who supported both Class 1 last week and Class 2 this week. Your help and support are very much appreciated!







Learning Highlight

Class 1: In PSHE today, the children enjoyed learning about ***Children in Need.*** They discussed the importance of not taking what we have for granted and thought about those who are less fortunate than ourselves, including people living in poverty or facing disadvantage. They also explored how *Children in Need* helps to support families who may be experiencing difficult circumstances.

Class 2: The highlight for Class 2 had to be their trip to Greystones Farm and Nature Reserve.

Class 3: In History, the children have begun learning about the origins of the Olympic Games in Ancient Greece. They have been exploring how the Games began and comparing them with the modern-day Olympics.

Class 4: In English, the children have enjoyed writing non-chronological reports about their mythical creatures, using their imagination and descriptive language to bring their creatures to life.



Class 5: The children excelled during the Michael Rosen live poetry lesson this week. They enjoyed writing their own poems based on the theme 'Silly Lessons', imagining what might happen when something goes wrong in the classroom! Their wonderful ideas included 'everyone turns into a banana', 'the computers turn into robots' and 'the class pet had a party'. The children then confidently performed their poems to the rest of the class, sharing their creativity and sense of humour. Every class took part in this fantastic live lesson, which was certainly a highlight of the week for the whole school! A big thank you to Miss Thornhill for organising this event for St Mark's.

Class 6: A poignant moment for Class 6 this week was Remembrance Day, particularly the assembly, where the Last Post was played and we took time to reflect on the courage and sacrifice of those who have served and continue to serve in the Armed Forces, and the importance of remembering them. The children also created their own poppy designs for their class spirituality book.

Class 7: In Art, the children have been busy creating their own characterful Viking faces out of clay. They have enjoyed shaping and adding details to bring their Viking characters to life.

Class 8: Class 8 have also been enjoying their Art lessons. Using silk stretched over circular frames, the children used gutta to carefully draw Viking knot designs, outlining their patterns in either gold or black. In their next lesson, they will be adding colour by painting onto the silk.

Odd Socks Day & Anti-Bullying Week - Break the Silence

Anti-Bullying Week 2026 takes place from **Monday 16th to Friday 20th November,** with this year's theme **'Break the Silence'.**

The week will begin with **Odd Socks day on Monday**, when children and staff are invited to wear odd socks to school. Odd Socks day is an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! There is no pressure to wear the latest fashion or buy expensive costumes. All you need to do to take part is wear odd socks, it could not be simpler!

Throughout the week, the children will take part in lessons and Collective Worship focusing on anti-bullying and the themes surrounding this important message. It is a valuable opportunity for us to come together as a school community to raise awareness of bullying, promote kindness and celebrate the importance of treating everyone with respect.

Most importantly, we want to encourage children to speak up, support one another and remember that no one should ever feel alone or afraid to ask for help. Together, we can break the silence!



Teaching & Learning Owls

Bronze - Henry, Millie & Ava

Silver - Eva, Chris & Landon

Congratulations to our badge winners!





Dangerous Driving & Parking Incidents

I regret to inform you that further incidents of dangerous driving and inconsiderate parking on Robert Burns Avenue have been reported this week. This is a significant concern for our school community, as it puts the safety of our children and families at risk.

While we recognise that the vast majority of parents and carers drive responsibly, we ask everyone who needs to travel to school by car to allow sufficient time, drive safely and legally, and park considerately, showing respect for our neighbours.

In particular, we have seen an increase in the number of vehicles parking or stopping on the zig-zag lines outside school. This is extremely dangerous as it obstructs visibility and puts children and families at real risk, particularly during the busy drop-off and collection times. Please do not park, stop or wait on the zig-zag lines or outside the gates to the main entrance at any time.

We appreciate that drop-off and pick-up times can be busy and sometimes pressured, but the safety of our children and wider community must always come first and cannot be compromised.



Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping us keep everyone safe.

Caterlink - School Dinners Survey

As part of Caterlink's commitment to continually improving their catering service, they would be grateful for your support in completing their **Parent & Pupil Survey.**

This survey can be completed by parents alongside their child at home. It takes approximately 9 minutes to complete and will provide Caterlink with valuable feedback on what they are doing well and, importantly, where they can improve their service.

The survey will remain open until 20 December, and Caterlink would like to encourage as many families and pupils as possible to take part.

Thank you for your support in helping us gather this important feedback for Caterlink.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCYZD5L

caterlink
feeding the imagination

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

Mon 16th - Anti Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day (Please note date amendment)
Wed 18th - St Mark's Open morning 10.30am
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

Advance Notice: Key Dates

18th June Sports Day
7th - 9th July - Year 6 Residential

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