ST MARK'S C OF E JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Value in focus: FACE Values | Growing together, becoming all we are created to be | 20th November 2026

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE



A huge thank you and well done to our wonderful Year 6 pupils who have led tours for prospective parents during our Open Days. Visitors were incredibly impressed by the children's confidence, maturity and ability to speak so positively about life at St Mark's.

They were outstanding ambassadors, providing a genuine insight into our learning, values, opportunities and school community. We are incredibly proud of them all.

It has also been a pleasure to be involved in the Open Days at Benhall Infant School, speaking with families about the growing partnership between our two schools and our shared commitment to providing an increasingly coherent educational journey from Reception through to Year 6. As we prepare for the move to an Executive Headteacher model from January, it will be a real privilege to work across both schools, alongside our dedicated staff teams, to strengthen this collaboration further and create even greater continuity, shared opportunities and the very best outcomes for all children.

Seeing our Year 6 pupils speak with such confidence, warmth and pride was a wonderful celebration of the journey children make from Benhall to St Mark's. Their articulate responses and self-assurance reflected both the strong foundations laid at Benhall and the growth they have continued to make at St Mark's, developing into grounded, confident young people who truly embody our vision of ***'Growing together, becoming all we are created to be'.***

Thank you for your generous donations of bottles and teddies today, as we look forward to our **Chirstmas Fair** on **Thursday 3rd December.**

Best wishes for a lovely weekend,
Mrs A Fitch





Learning Highlight

Class 1: In PSHE today, the children have been designing anti-bullying posters, highlighting the importance of what makes each of us unique. Earlier this week, they also created their very own odd socks picture, using individual patterns and designs and adding their own special anti-bullying messages.

Class 2: The children have been busy preparing their musical set for their upcoming ukulele concert during their music lessons with Mrs Kelly. This week, they enjoyed learning to play *Shotgun* by George Ezra.

Class 3: Class 3 have been publishing their non-chronological reports about their very own mythical creatures. The children worked hard on their presentation and handwriting, making sure their finished pieces were the best they could be. They were extremely proud of their work and even earned two marbles for their class rewards jar. Well done Class 3!

Class 4: In RE, the children have been learning about Islam and exploring the meaning of Tawhid – the Islamic belief in the oneness of Allah and that there is only one God.

Class 5: The children have been working on the backgrounds for their Freda Kahlo portraits this week. Freda Kahlo is well known for her bold jungle themes, vibrant flowers and leaf patterns and the children used this as inspiration for their own colourful backgrounds.

Class 6: In French, the children enjoyed a fun game of French battleships! They were challenged to decipher French numbers and items of clothing as part of the game, putting their vocabulary and language skills to the test.



Class 7: Following on from last week, Class 7 have been busy painting their Viking knots. Their choice of colours and attention to detail have really helped bring their designs to life.

Class 8: In Maths, the children have enjoyed learning about profit and loss, developing their understanding of money and putting their mathematical skills into practice.

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

This week, we marked Anti-Bullying Week, taking part in lessons and Collective Worship focused on how we can all play our part in preventing bullying. This year's theme, 'Break the Silence', encourages children to speak up, support one another and never be afraid to ask for help.

On Monday, the children took part in Odd Socks Day, wearing odd socks to celebrate individuality and remind us that we are all unique and should be proud to be ourselves. It was a lovely way to show our support for Anti-Bullying Week!



Teaching & Learning Owls

Bronze - Monty & Arlo

Congratulations to our badge winners!





Whitting House Visit

Last Friday, our **FACE Champions**, joined by a few additional children, enjoyed a lovely visit to **Whittington House,** where they spent time playing games and singing with the residents.



During their visit, the children and residents made Christmas cards together. It was a joy to see the children chatting with the residents, asking about their ideas and helping them create cards they were all proud of. Seeing the smiles on the residents' faces as they shared this special time with the children was an absolute highlight of the week. They enjoyed playing Pudsey Bingo too, which was particularly fitting as it was Children in Need! This proved to be a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

The residents and staff were delighted to welcome the children, and we were incredibly proud of how wonderfully they represented our school.







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 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 (arrive 2.20pm)
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
Thu 17th - PTA Disco (Y3&Y4 6-6.45pm) / (Y5&Y6 7-745pm)

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
Mrs Hicks: admin@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk

All enquiries:

admin@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk

01242 702280

www.stmarksjunior.com

Term Dates