



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Weekly Newsletter - Friday 11th April 2025

www.stmarksjunior.com

All enquires: admin@st-marks.gloucs.sch.uk

Our Value in focus this term is: JUSTICE



Headteacher's Message:

We have packed a huge amount in to our last week of term, working hard to complete our final pieces of work and celebrating all things Easter!

The children have, once again, shown what incredible individuals they are – from their attitude to learning to their kind, trustworthy and respectful approach in all aspects of school life. It has been a complete joy to see the children truly flourishing and growing as people within the wide range of experiences they have had, this term. I am extremely proud of each and every one of them.

And, on this note, I am delighted to share a very special achievement from a remarkable group of boys who have demonstrated an outstanding attitude as well as a high level of skill to win **The Double**! Read on as we explain more!

Last Friday, our magnificent football team faced Holy Apostles in the semi-final of the **Large Schools Football League**. The win secured St Mark's a place in Tuesday's **final** against St James' at Ashley Manor Prep School. This was a momentous occasion but one the boys were well and truly ready for.

The match report below, from our very own Coach Jenny, summarises the performance brilliantly:

'Our opponents in the final were St James School — a strong and competitive side who gave us a great game.

Every single player on our team gave their all, showing incredible determination, teamwork, and true sportsmanship throughout. St Mark's emerged as well-deserved winners, securing a 5-1 victory and claiming the league title for the 2024/25 season. This incredible win means St Mark's have now won both major trophies this school year — an achievement we're extremely proud of!

The match itself was a brilliant showcase of school football, featuring two teams of very high quality.

This team has been an absolute pleasure to coach. Watching them grow and play together has been a real joy. St Mark's is lucky to have such a talented group of footballers, and we wish our Year 6 players the very best as they continue their football journeys beyond primary school.

*A huge thank you goes to **Phil Jukes** (George's dad) and **Jonathan Barnett** (Sam's dad) for their invaluable support. Their time, commitment, and expertise has been really helpful and we're incredibly grateful all their help.'*

The league has been running for 103 Years and the Albert Dix Cup for 62 Years. This is the first time in our school's history that we have won the double. What an incredible achievement!

From all of us at St Mark's we would like to say a huge **thank you** to **Jenny Campbell** for her support and managing the array Football fixtures this season.

Have a super Easter everyone, Mrs A Fitch and the Staff Team



PTA Easter Cake Competition



Thank you to everyone who supported the Cake Sale and Baking Competition this week. We were so impressed with the children's baking skills and their Easter themed decoration was truly fabulous!

Well done to everyone who entered the competition.

A big thank you to Ukulele teacher Mrs Kelly who judged the competition for us this year. You can see from the photos what a tough job it was to select just 3 winners!

And the winners are... **1st place Naomi, 2nd place Katie, 3rd place Lucy (bunny cake) and overall house winners Blue house.**



Congratulations to our winners and thank you to the House Captains and PTA for putting on another fantastic event for the children, raising valuable funds for our school.



A huge thank you everyone who came along to the school Disco yesterday. We hope the children had a wonderful time and we will let you know how much we raised after Easter.

From everyone at St Mark's, our thanks to the PTA team for all their hard work!

Easter



This week the children took part in an **Easter Service** in school and **Experience Easter** at St Mark's Church.

At St Mark's Church, children in Year 3 to 5 explored the Easter story through six different interactive stations. They wrote down their hopes and dreams on palm leaves, decorated pebbles with symbols of peace, covered a wooden cross with bandages to explore how the cross can be seen as a symbol for healing, as well as learning more about the Last Supper and washing of the Disciples' feet.

The children were thoroughly engaged in the different activity stations and enjoyed the time spent reflecting and asking questions about Easter. Thank you to the team at St Mark's Church.

During the Easter Service on Tuesday, Reverend Rod Paterson gave an interactive and engaging talk exploring the Easter message. We had some wonderful performances from our school choir, orchestra and recorder groups. **Thank you to Rod Paterson, Mrs Bennett and the children who performed during the Service.**



National Roman Legion Museum - Year 4 Trip

Year 4 had a wonderful immersive experience when we went to visit Caerleon in Wales. The children had the opportunity to explore one of the finest Roman barrack buildings in Europe, the remains of the Amphitheatre as well as the Roman Baths. Throughout the day, the children had the opportunity to examine a number of artifacts which gave an insight into life 2000 years ago.

The children also spent some time in a mock up of a Roman barrack and tried on some armour, visited the museum with artifacts that have been uncovered in the village and participated in a mock Roman meal. Some very interesting food choices were available!



The children were an absolute delight to take out for the day.

Well done to Year 4, our parent helpers and the whole team.



Learning Highlight of the Week

Class 1 & 2: After weeks of planning, this week the children made their seasonal vegetable tarts in DT. They looked and apparently tasted delicious!

Class 3 & 4: Year 4 went on a trip to the National Roman Legion Museum yesterday. One particular highlight was learning about the different rooms within the Barracks.

Class 5: In English, the children have been writing verses of a poem in the style of the Highwayman poem.

Class 6: In Science, the children have enjoyed learning about the Earth's orbit around the Sun.

Class 7: The children have been creating Mandala art. Mandala art, meaning "circle" in Sanskrit, is a geometric design or pattern often used in spiritual practices.

Class 8: Class 8 enjoyed PE. They played a game in Cricket called '5 bats'.

Reading Award

Congratulations to Tegan who has completed the Year 4 Reading list! Tegan was presented with her badge in our Celebration Assembly today. **A fantastic achievement, well done!**



Teaching & Learning Owls

Gold - Emily

Congratulations to our owl badge winner Emily!



Leavers' Hoodies

The Year 6 children were delighted to receive their leavers' hoodies from the PTA yesterday. It was so lovely to see all the children proudly wearing them today.

Thank you so much to the PTA for gifting these to the children and to our school community who come and support all of the PTA events, raising funds for these types of projects.

The hoodies will be worn with pride!



Rags 2 Riches 4 Schools—Monday 12th May

It's that time again to have that sort through your wardrobes to see if you have any unwanted clothing, shoes and accessories.

The Rags2riches4schools project is primarily about protecting our planet, and as a bonus, you are also **raising funds for our school to use** for other projects for the children.

We would love to see a full van load of donations from St Mark's. Please drop off items in your own bags after Easter. The collection will be on **Monday 12th May** at 9am.

Click [here](#) for full list of what can be collected. Please note they cannot take school uniforms.



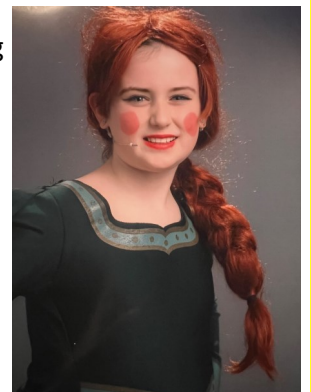
Shrek the musical



Honey and Summer had a busy weekend last week performing in **Shrek** with "My Stage School".

The children performed wonderfully and have shared some fantastic photos of the production with their classmates. It takes a lot of commitment to put a show of this scale and professionalism. The girls have been working so hard for the last 12 weeks rehearsing every week in their stage school classes.

What a fantastic experience and thank you for sharing this with us in school.



Extra Curricular Clubs - SUMMER TERM 1

Monday

Baking Buddies Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.30pm
Gym Club Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm
Chinese Language Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.15pm
Recorders Y3-6	Lunchtime (Plus Tue 6th May)

Tuesday

Board Games Y3-4	12.40pm - 1.10pm
Orchestra Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm
Rounders Y5-6 (Ends 13th May)	3.10pm - 4.00pm
Tennis Y4-6	3.15pm - 4.15pm

Wednesday

Baking Buddies Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.30pm
Cyclestars Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.15pm
European Languages Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.15pm
Magical Maths Y3-6	3.15pm - 4.15pm

Thursday

Coding Club Y5-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm
Choir Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm
Outdoor Learning Y3-4	3.15pm - 4.15pm
Reading & Times Tables Y3-6	3.10pm - 4.00pm



School Term Dates

2024-25

Term 4: Mon 24th Feb – Fri 11th Apr 2025

Term 5: Mon 28th April – Fri 23rd May 2025

Term 6: Tue 3rd June – Fri 18th July 2025

Inset Days: 2nd June, 21st July



Letters Sent Home

- Cadbury World Trip Year 5



Outdoor Learning - Summer Term 1

Class 7: Thursday Morning

Class 8: Thursday Afternoon

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.



2024 - 25

Diary Dates

April

Mon 28th - Start of Summer Term

Tue 29th - Girls Football League Finals 4pm kick off

May

Mon 5th - Bank Holiday

Mon 12th - Rags Collection

Mon 12th - 14th - SATs Week

Tue 20th - Cadbury World Trip Year 5

Tue 20th - Swimming Gala

Wed 21st - GWR Trip Year 6

Wed 21st - Spring Fayre (No Clubs on)

Thu 22nd - Book Look

Fri 23rd - End of Term 5

June

Mon 2nd - INSET Day (No children in school)

Tue 3rd - Start of Term 6

Thu 5th - Year 2 Transition Evening @ St Mark's 6.30pm

Thu 5th - Charity Fayre 3.10pm

Tue 10th - Sports Day

Wed 11th - Y6 Leavers Service Gloucester Cathedral (Children Only)

Fri 13th - Sports Day Back Up

Mon 16th - Midsummer Concert 6.30pm

Wed 18th - Drayton Manor Trip Year 6

Fri 20th - Whole Class and Year 6 photos

Fri 20th - Prince of Wales Athletics Event

Tue 24th - Year 6 Production 1.40pm Performance

Wed 25th - Year 6 Production 7.00pm Performance

Thu 26th - 'Explore our World' Year 5 Bournside Visit

Mon 30th - Bournside Transition Week

PE - Summer Term 1

Children should come to school in their PE kit on PE days.

Class 1: Monday and Thursday

Class 2: Wednesday and Friday

Class 3: Tuesday and Wednesday

Class 4: Tuesday and Friday

Class 5: Tuesday and Thursday

Class 6: Tuesday and Thursday

Class 7: Tuesday

Class 8: Friday



Remember: tracksuit tops should be plain navy only. A school sweatshirt is absolutely fine.