



St Austin's  
Catholic Primary School  
Riverbank Road  
Liverpool L19 9DH  
Tel: 0151 427 1800



[www.st-austins.co.uk](http://www.st-austins.co.uk)

## NEWSLETTER

5<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

**Welcome back** - I hope that you all had an enjoyable summer break. I would like to welcome our new pupils and their parents in the Reception and Nursery classes and also the pupils who have joined our school in other year groups. Thank you to everyone for preparing your children so well- there has been a really positive start by all and this is much appreciated by our staff.

**Uniform** – Thank you for all the positive comments. The children look extremely smart in our new school uniform and this has been well received by the children themselves, who feel very proud. We have attached the uniform link to our website. [School Uniform - September 2023](#)

**Parish Newsletter** – Can we remind parents/carers to access the Parish newsletter weekly online at the following address [St Wilfrid Parish newsletters](#). This is especially important for parents/carers of children in years 4 and above who may be thinking about First Holy Communion arrangements with Father David Potter.

**Holy Communion Meetings** - Our first Holy Communion meeting for parents will be on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30pm in school. Please sign in at the main office. At this meeting you will be given information regarding the Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession) and Holy Communion dates.

**Breakfast and After School Club** – If you would like your child to start in either of our clubs, please email [enquiries@st-austins.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@st-austins.co.uk). A contract agreement will be emailed to you, which must be signed prior to your child starting. Breakfast club costs £4 per day. After school club costs £10 per day.

**Staffing** – We welcome Mr McRae (Year 4) to our teaching staff and we hope he enjoys a successful year with our children who have made him feel very welcome.

**Meet and Greet** - We are delighted to invite parents to school to meet their child's new teacher and understand the specific expectation of the year group. The sessions will be 3.30pm–4.00pm week beginning Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September.

Monday - Y6 in KS2 hall and Y2 in classrooms (possible total of children = 120)

Tuesday – Y5 in KS2 hall and Y1 in classrooms

Wednesday – Y4 in KS2 hall and Y3 in classrooms

Your children will not attend this meeting but can be supervised on the KS2 playground by school staff, weather permitting. Please collect your child at the normal time 3.15 or 3.20 and wait on KS2 playground outside the polytunnel for LSO's arrive. A booking form will follow at a later date via the APP to assist us when allocating the correct staffing ratios for supervision.

**The school day as follows:- Gates open 8.40am Class doors open 8.45am**

Reception – 8.55am – 3.10pm

Years 1 and 2 finish at 3.15pm

Years 3 and 4 finish at 3.20pm

Years 5 and 6 finish at 3.20pm

Can we remind you to stay with your child until 8.45am when class doors will open. Children must not be left on the school playground on their own before this time for safeguarding reasons. If your child walks to and from school alone (y6) please inform the class teacher.

If you have delegated another adult to collect your child please inform the school office of this change. For safeguarding reasons, we will not allow your child to be collected if we have not been informed. This is also the case for after school club.

**Attendance and Punctuality** – We cannot stress enough the importance of excellent attendance and punctuality and we will continue to monitor this closely again over the year. We have had excellent attendance this week and will continue to reward classes and individuals whose attendance and punctuality is outstanding. Our school target is 97%.



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**School Office Opening Times** – The preferred method of contact with your class teacher is via the school email address [enquiries@st-austins.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@st-austins.co.uk). Alternatively, you can telephone the office on 427 1800.

**Please note our phone lines are available from 8.30am – 4.00pm only.**

General Enquiries and sickness absence - Mrs Joyce Jones can be contacted during the following times: -  
8.30am - 11.45am and 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Financial/Dinner Money enquiries – Mrs Debbie Doran can be contacted during the following times: -  
8.30am - 12.00pm and 1.30pm - 4.00pm

### **Health and Safety**

**Medication** – Please complete all the necessary forms, located at the main office, if you bring prescribed medication to school. Non-prescribed medication **cannot** be given. If any medical issues have arisen over the holidays can you please keep your class teacher informed.

**Outdoor Apparatus** – Can we remind all parents/carers that the outdoor apparatus is out of bounds before and after school. Your child will not be insured for accident or injury. Staff members follow a strict risk assessment when managing the children's play during the school day.

**Bikes and scooters** – We encourage our children to use their bikes or scooters to get to school however we would ask that no bikes or scooters are ridden on the playground or on the ramp up to Darby Road as there have been several accidents in the past where children have been hurt.

**Dogs** – The only dogs permitted on school premises are guide dogs. No other dogs are allowed on the premises.

**Riverbank Road parking** – Can I respectfully ask all parents/carers not to park across residential driveways on Riverbank Road. We have an excellent relationship with the residents of Riverbank Road which is seriously compromised if people park across their driveways. Local residents have been given the contact number of Merseyside Police who they will contact in the event of inconsiderate parking.

**Playground protocol** – Parents/Carers must not approach or challenge another pupil or parent/carers in our school under any circumstances. If you have any concerns please make an appointment to see your child's teacher or a senior member of staff.

**Emergency illness and contacts information** – If you have recently changed your home address, contact phone numbers or if there is any change in a medical condition for your child please inform the office immediately so we can update our records accordingly. **For safeguarding purposes**, we need at least 3 emergency contacts, so if you need to add another member of the family to your records please contact the office immediately.

**Uniform** – A reminder that all uniforms should be labelled with your child's name. As we have new jumpers, all maroon, it will be difficult to identify missing items, especially school tracksuits. If items of clothing are not collected from school we will be recycle them to less fortunate families in this current climate. Thanks for your cooperation.

**Key Stage 2 Physical Education** – PE is taught by your child's class teacher therefore PE days will be across the full week. Please check your class pages on the website for confirmation of both PE days. Essential PE kit is a plain white t-shirt or polo shirt, plain black shorts, and black pumps (indoor) and training shoes (outdoor). School tracksuits are optional and can be worn on both days when your child has PE. These can be purchased from the school office for £35.00.

**Year 7 Secondary school applications** – A reminder to all parents/carers of children in year 6 to check their preferred secondary school websites for information about their admissions process including entrance exams into year 7 for September 2024. The deadline for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

**School Catering – 'Food for Thought'** – Our school catering provider is 'Food for Thought' who we have been in partnership with since February 2015. They are a not-for-profit school meals company owned by their schools and who have been awarded the Association's Silver Award for their use of locally sourced organic produce.



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All children are offered a choice of meals, cooked fresh each day. Reception children are offered a limited choice of a hot or cold lunch. There is a wider variety for older children.

As we are now receiving payments online for lunches, children must choose either hot dinners or packed lunch for each half term. This is the only time they can change from hot dinners/packed lunch. This is to assist us with our catering arrangements. We no longer accept cash for hot dinners.

**Dinner Money payments** – All children in key stage 1 (Reception, year 1 and year 2) are entitled to a free school dinner, therefore no payment is due. For children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6, dinner money is payable for the full week on the first working day of the week (£10.00 per week/ £2.00 per day). Payments are made via the school APP, and can also be made in advance for the half term. **Please note: our school office accepts card payments.**

**Key Stage 1 Milk** – The Local Authority are no longer supplying milk to our key stage 1 children, this was taken over by a private company called DairyLink UK Ltd. If you have registered for your child to receive milk this term, they will receive it daily. If you have not yet registered, please go to the following website [Dairy Link UK - Order milk](http://DairyLinkUK.com) and click on the order milk tab at the top. A list of registered children will be sent to school once parents have completed the online form.

**KS1 Fruit – All children in Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2** are entitled to a free piece of fruit every day. Unfortunately, this initiative is not funded for KS2 pupils. If you would like your child to continue to have a piece of fruit each day, you may send this into school. We **do not** allow chocolate, sweets, cereal bars or crisps as a mid-morning snack – we are a healthy school, with 'Healthy Schools Award Status'.

**X (formerly twitter)** - As you may be aware, Twitter was recently rebranded to X. If you have the app on your device, the icon and name will have changed over the last month. We will still be posting regularly from our school account [@StAustinsSchool](https://twitter.com/StAustinsSchool) so follow us for updates from your child's class as well as whole school messages. If you cannot access X, school posts are available on the homepage of our school website.

**School Website** - Our school website address is [www.st-austins.co.uk](http://www.st-austins.co.uk). It provides you with a wealth of information about teaching and learning, policies and planning, along-side information about your child's class projects. Class pages will include photos, extra-curricular clubs and homework. Please try to look at the website on a regular basis.

**School App (PARENTAPP)** – Our school APP is the main source of communication between school and parents/carers. All letters are sent via the APP, and all payments are made via this method too! Once you are registered on the APP, you can add additional contacts via the profile tab on the main page. If you need assistance gaining access to the APP please see our office staff who will be happy to assist. This process reduces the amount of paper and supports our environment.

#### Dates for the diary

11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> Sept - Meet and Greet sessions  
12<sup>th</sup> Oct - Feast of St Wilfrid  
25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> Oct - Autumn Open Night  
7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Feb - Spring Open Night  
3<sup>rd</sup> July - Summer book look

Our pupils and staff have had a super start to the year and we are extremely grateful for the support you give. We thank you all for your constructive communication and cooperation. We will continue to work in partnership together to provide the best education for our pupils. We look forward to another fantastic and successful year ahead.

Kindest regards,

Colette Hickey  
Headteacher



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