



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

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

**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. For health & safety reasons, we ask only one parent per family attend. 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.

**St Francis of Assisi 'Little Church'** - Little church has resumed after the summer break. All children from Reception to year 5 are welcome to attend during the 9.30am Mass every Sunday.

**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. Payments must be made in advance.

Can we remind parents/carers that your child should attend only on the days you have specified in your contract, as these are the days you will be charged for, **whether they attend or not**. Amendments to this can only be made in exceptional circumstances, and must be agreed through the school office first. A change in day will result in a change to the staff rota, which we may not always be able to accommodate.

**Meet and Greet** – Many thanks to all the parents/carers who were able to attend the meet & greet sessions recently. We hope you found the session valuable! If you were unable to attend the meeting you can find a copy of the presentation on your class page.

**Attendance** - since returning from the summer holidays we have had fantastic attendance right across the school, including 2 weeks of 100% attendance from 1LH. This is a wonderful start to the school year. Thank you for your support.

**COVID Local Authority guidance update** – We have been advised by the Local Authority to implement the following guidance: If your child tests positive for COVID they must stay at home for 3 days before returning to school. Day 0 is the day the symptoms began, or the day they tested positive. Then count 1-3 days of absence. Your child can return to school on day 4, if they are well enough to do so. This will help reduce the spread of infection around school.

**Sensory Circuits** - this week we have started sensory circuits with our EYFS and Key Stage 1 children. The children have really enjoyed following on from the Key Stage 2 children to complete a circuit of different activities to help them focus for the day ahead of learning.

**Rainbows** - in the next couple of weeks we will be starting up our Rainbows intervention. This is an intervention we deliver for our children who have experienced loss and/or separation within the family. If your child has not already had this support and you feel that they would benefit from it please email the school office.

**Medical records** – If your child's medical details have changed recently, can you please email [enquiries@st-austins.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@st-austins.co.uk) to confirm the changes. This is needed to ensure we keep our pupil medical records up to date.

**Moments that Matter** – Thank you to all our reception parents/carers who came to school last week for our Moments that Matter meeting. The positive feedback was well received and the recommendations will be reviewed by our Senior Leadership Team. We are happy to know your child has settled in well.

**Online safety** – Please see the attached link for information regarding “Keeping children safe online” published by the NSPCC [NSPCC - Keeping children safe online](#)



“In our school, where everyone is special,  
we will love and serve as Jesus taught”



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**Welcome assembly** – We will be inviting all new reception parents/carers to our welcome assembly on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 9.15am here in school. Our year 2 children will prepare invitations, prayers and songs to share with our newest members of the school community. We hope our new parents/carers can attend. Further information will follow.

**Admissions September 2024** – If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 they will be due to start reception class next year. The deadline for submitting your application forms to both the Local Authority and our school is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. We will be holding 4 meetings, for parents/carers to visit the school and collect all the relevant forms. For details about the admissions process please see the Local Authority link [Liverpool City Council Admissions](#)

There will be a maximum of 2 adults per child allowed to attend, and strictly no children are allowed on this occasion. You **must** book a place at one of these meetings via our school office on 0151 427 1800 or email [enquiries@st-austins.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@st-austins.co.uk)

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November – 9.15am – 10.15am      Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November – 9.15am – 10.15am  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – 9.15am – 10.15am      Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January – 4.30pm – 5.30pm

If you already have children in our school, you do not need to attend the meetings, you can collect the relevant form at the school office or email [enquiries@st-austins.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@st-austins.co.uk) to request a form electronically. There is a maximum of 30 adults per meeting. You will be shown around the school by our year 6 children.

**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.

**Culture Week** - We are looking forward to the start of our 'Culture Focus', beginning on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September with our international music and dance day; followed by 'European Day of Languages on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September'. Look out for more information and photos of year group activities on X (previously known as twitter).

**Health & Safety Parking** - Can I please ask that all parents park respectfully around residential driveways located near to school. Unfortunately, I have received emails from residents so early on in this academic year, who have always been advised to contact the police following any illegal parking. Please see the email below from one of our residents:

*Hello again; welcome back! Since school started, someone has parked across my driveway on Darby Road on two days already - and that's just the times I've noticed. I looked at the latest newsletter on the school website, and noticed that you'd only asked parents not to block driveways on Riverbank Road. Let's be disingenuously generous and assume they therefore didn't know that applied to any other roads. Please can you make explicit next time you send a message out, that it applies to ALL driveways near to the school? This is getting so tedious.*

**School Crossing Patrol** – As you may be aware, we have had no school crossing patrol this week. We have been informed that Jenny has left her post. We have contacted the Local Authority who have said they will try and recruit a replacement. We have been advised that legally we cannot manage the crossing. Please be vigilant when crossing the road with your children.

**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.

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

**Scooters and bikes** - Can I remind parents/carers, for health & safety reasons, you must walk with your scooter or bike whilst on school premises. You will be asked to dismount if you are riding on the playground. Thank you for your cooperation.



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**School Building Levy** – The Archdiocese of Liverpool ask for a voluntary donation of £10 per family to assist with improvements to our school building. Over the past years we have received funding from the Archdiocese for our new built EYFS classroom, nursery classroom, new reception area, offices, new windows, new school boilers, the refurbishment of our key stage 2 classes and many more. Whilst this is a voluntary contribution, all our children benefit, therefore if you are able to continue with your generous contribution and support, this would be greatly appreciated. Payments can be made via the school APP in the 'Shop' section, or by cash at the school office.

**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! Only one parent receives the registration information, then once you are registered, 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.

**School Money payments** – All payments made to school are made via the school APP, using a system called School Money. Only one parent is registered initially per pupil. If you would like a second parent to be added to the system, so that both parents can make a payment, please speak to the school office who will can grant access to the second parent.

**School Website technical issues** – On returning to school in September, we have witnessed an abundance of technical issues with our website provider Community Brands. We are working together to rectify and update all the information that should be accessible to parents. Please be patient whilst we complete this task. You can also access school information via the parent APP and Twitter.

**Liverpool Schools Cross Country** - The 1st race of the Liverpool and District Primary Schools' Cross-Country League took place at Croxteth Park last night. St Austin's year 5&6 children completed the course with great enthusiasm, stamina, and resilience with over 70 schools competing in total. The conditions of the park were extremely wet and muddy however, with pure determination, 5 girls and 3 boys finished in the first 50 which is an outstanding result considering they have only had one training session this season. Staff and children would like to thank all the parents/carers that make such events possible by supporting their children at these competitions. We are looking forward to the next race which will be held at Newsham Park on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Congratulations** - Well done to all our new maths champs, reading, Spanish and RE ambassadors, school councillors and our Year 6 House Captains and Caretaker Crew. We hope you are ready for the different challenges your new role brings.

Thank you for your continued support and have an enjoyable weekend.

#### Dates for the diary

26<sup>th</sup> Sept - First Holy Communion Meeting with Father David  
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

Kindest regards,

Colette Hickey  
Headteacher



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