



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

www.st-austins.co.uk



NEWSLETTER

8th March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Catholic Life – Lent Mass – all key stage two children will be attending Mass during Lent. Year 6 have attended last week, year 5 will attend 14th March, followed by years 3 and 4 attending on 28th March. We are celebrating all Lent Masses with Holy Trinity School.

CAFOD The Big Lent Walk – As in previous years, during Lent CAFOD encourage schools to take part in a fundraising event. A sponsored walk has been arranged for this year. As a school we always support a local charity alongside the Catholic Association for overseas disasters. This year we have decided to support Zoe's place, in recognition of the continued support they give to a family at our school. The Big Lent Walk is planned to take place on 27th March – further information regarding sponsor forms will follow.

Church and Parish – 'Baby Basics' is an initiative whereby Moses baskets are filled with items for distribution to new mothers and their babies in need. During Lent, there will be a basket at the back of St Francis Church for donations of items such as nappies, wipes, baby towels, blankets, etc. Clothing for new born and 0-3 will also be greatly appreciated.

Punctuality - during this term we will be monitoring punctuality closely. Our school day starts at 8.55am, could we ask that all pupils arrive on time to start their learning promptly. Doors to all classes in both key stage one and two open at 8.45am. We thank you for your support.

OSSME - we would like to congratulate our OSSME practitioner, Gemma Smith, (ASD Specialist teacher) who has worked closely with some of our children in school, on the safe arrival of her baby Benny, born on the 5th February. We wish Benny and Gemma all the best.

Omegle: inappropriate images – It has been brought to our attention that the website *Omegle* is a free online chat website that allows users to socialise with others without the need to register. The service randomly pairs users in one-on-one chat session where they chat anonymously using the names "You" and "Stranger" or "Stranger 1" and "Stranger 2" in the case of Spy mode. Thank you to our parents/carers who have raised this concern whilst checking their children's phones. We ask all parents/carers to continually monitor the online safety of their children. For further information and guidance for parents/carers, please see the following link InternetMatters.Org

Mental Health – This week Miss Sullivan (Senior Mental Health Lead) will be meeting our newly appointed well-being warriors. The children will receive their yellow badges indicating to others that they are there to support their peers in school.

World Book Day – This year's World Book Day was another great success. It was lovely to see children embracing the joys of literature and sharing their favourite books with each other. It was also great for the children to spend some time in our fabulous school library. On Tuesday 21st March we will be celebrating World Poetry Day. More information about this day to follow shortly via the parent App.

Twitter - Twitter is regularly updated with photos and videos of our children's fantastic work. Please remember to check in frequently so you don't miss anything. The class with the most liked/retweeted tweet each half term receives a bonus playtime.

Kingswood Colomendy – The year 6 residential visit is coming in April 2023, at a cost of £200 per child. Payments can be made via the ParentAPP in the payments section. Please ensure you allocate your money next to the Colomendy trip. If you wish to pay in instalments please speak to the school office who can advise. Following the parent meeting, the powerpoint presentation will be on the year 6 class page on the school website and a link sent to all year 6 parents/carers via the parent app.



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



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STEM Week – This week has been alive with science/computer science, technology, engineering and maths activities. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the activities so far. National STEM week is week beginning 13th March, however due to the planned strike industrial action next week, we have moved the curriculum forward. Please see twitter @StAustinsSchool.

Spanish Day – Our children are well into rehearsals for our Spanish Day performance on 31st March. Bookings will be made available through the ParentAPP nearer the time. Please state whether you wish to attend the morning or afternoon performance. More information to follow.

Gardeners – we would like to say a massive thank you to Mrs Nisbet and her colleagues from 'Angel Solutions Ltd' who spent a whole day on Friday clearing our Polytunnel. They have also donated a sum of money for the children to spend on our outdoor curriculum. Just in time for STEM week!

Cross country – The 5th race of the Liverpool and District Primary Schools' Cross-Country League took place at Sefton Park on Monday 27th February. Once again St Austin's completed the course with great passion and enthusiasm displaying sportsmanship to another level. Currently our position on the league table is girl's 1st and boy's 6th with only one race left to complete which will be held at Wavertree Sports Park, Thursday 9th March. This is complete credit to our children for showing commitment, resilience and self-discipline to their weekly cross-country sessions and training tirelessly no matter what the weather.

Playground refurbishment – just in time for the pending hot weather....we now have some much needed shade on our key stage two playground. The refurbishments continue!

Party invitations – Teachers are happy to give out invitations to a whole class for a party, but not just specific children in a class. This can sometimes cause upset and can be alleviated by parents/carers organising this between themselves on the playground. Thank you for your understanding.

Turkey/Syria disaster fund – Many thanks to all the parents/carers who donated recently to the Turkey/Syria disaster fund, we are delighted to inform you that we raised a fantastic £982, which will now be sent to support the many families affected by the earthquake!

End of term – School will close on Thursday 6th April for the spring break at 2.15pm.

Start of term – School will open again on Tuesday 18th April.

Dates for the diary

6th Mar - Science Week
6th Mar - STEM Week
8th-15th Mar - SAPTA Book Fair onsite
31st Mar - Spanish Day
2nd-5th Apr - Y6 Residential to Colomendy

Warmest wishes

Colette Hickey
Headteacher



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