



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



www.st-austins.co.uk

NEWSLETTER

21st December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Parish news: St Francis of Assisi Christmas Mass times are 7.00pm (Christmas Eve) 12 Midnight (with Carols from 11.30pm), and 10.00am Christmas Day. 12 Noon Boxing Day. Father David has said all are welcome!

Little Church – Some of our children are performing a Nativity play during the 10.00am Mass on Christmas Day.

Sacrament of Reconciliation - Congratulations to our year 4 children who celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation by making their First Confession, on Monday 11th December at St Francis of Assisi Church. Thank you to our teachers, catechists, priests, parents/carers and pupils for making this so special.

Key Stage 2 Advent Masses – Our key stage 2 children have recently attended Advent Masses with Holy Trinity School. This was a very reverent occasion. Thank you to all the parents/carers who were able to walk the children to Church.

Year 4 Nativity – Many thanks to the parents/carers who attended the year 4 Nativity this week. This was a lovely performance by our children, and we hope you all enjoyed it! Well done to all!

Safeguarding – It has been brought to my attention by several year 5 and 6 parents/carers that boys in particular, are accessing a website that contains 'chat up lines' which are called 'rizzies'. These chat up lines can be found on You Tube, TikTok and men's lifestyle websites. These chat up lines are of a sexual and misogynistic nature. Some of these 'rizzies' have been used in school towards our year 5 and 6 girls, which is totally unacceptable. I have spoken to all year 5 and 6 boys today as to the severity of this inappropriate sexualised language and I ask for parents/carers support in checking your child's devices, WhatsApp, Messenger etc..to ensure the safety of all of our children.

On line safety - With Christmas nearly upon us and many children either receiving new devices (or simply spending more time on them over the holidays), we have some advice for parents/carers before the holidays begin. LGfL offer a one-stop location for support and advice at the following link [LGfL Online guidance for parents](#) and further information can be found on our school website at the following link [Setting up parental controls on new devices](#)

Instagram - Alongside the launch of our new website next year, we will be moving from Twitter/X to Instagram. You can find us on Instagram at @StAustinsSchool - please give us a follow now, ready for 2024.

EYFS reception class admissions September 2024 - There will be a final meeting for parents of pupils who are due to start school in September 2024 on Tuesday 9th January here at school at 4.30pm. Our Year 6 children have made a fantastic job taking our potential parents on a school tour. If you would like to book a place, you must do so through the school office on 0151 427 1800.

A reminder to parents/carers of children in our nursery that you still must complete an admission form if you would like your child to start in reception class in September 2024. In addition, you also need to complete an on-line local authority form. Closing date for applications is Monday 15th January 2024.

School newspaper - This term's issue of our school newspaper, 'In Our School' will be sent out to all parents/carers via the ParentAPP tomorrow. Hopefully it will provide some light, festive reading for you in the build up to Christmas. We were inundated with reports and articles written by children from Nursery right the way up to year 6. Thank you to Mr Ayre and the 'Newsroom' for all their hard work!

Attendance & Punctuality – Today we celebrated those children who achieved 100% attendance over this term with board games and music. We had 104 children who attended the celebration! We would like to thank the parents/carers for your continued support.

Key Stage 1 Christmas performance – A huge thank you to all staff, and pupils for helping to make the infants Christmas plays so memorable this week. What a fantastic performance - we are immensely proud of all the children who took part. Well done! A link to the performance will be sent to key stage one parents via the ParentAPP.

ParentAPP – Please remember to check the ParentAPP payments section for details of any outstanding balances for dinner money, breakfast club, after school club and nursery fees. You can also purchase uniform items on the APP in the 'Shop' section. These items can be collected from the school office after they have been paid for.



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we will love and serve as Jesus taught"



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Parish Christmas donations – We have been invited to share food hampers, and toy donations with families within our Parish community. The hampers have been provided by The Parish of St Wilfrid, and Garston Family Support. We would like to thank them for their generosity at this difficult time for many of our parents. They will be gratefully received.

Community Christmas Dinner – Last week we hosted our annual community Christmas dinner for people in our Parish, and those in the community who help our children. We welcomed 40 guests, who were served a traditional Christmas lunch, and waited on by a group of our year 6 children. This was yet again a great success, and the children were a credit to our school!

SAPTA Christmas party - Many activities have taken place in school as we prepare for Christmas. Today we had our SAPTA Christmas party, with a visit from Santa. The children enjoyed a great festive afternoon. Please see class pages and twitter for photographs of all our Christmas activities.

SAPTA Christmas Fair – Thank you to everyone who attended the SAPTA Christmas Fair recently. Well done to all the raffle winners, who have all been contacted and received their prizes! I am delighted to inform you that together, we have raised a fantastic £2570.51 for our school. All monies received will go towards our children's education. The donations given to school from parents/carers and local business were beyond expectation. Thank you!
A massive thank you to all members of SAPTA, and parent helpers who have made the above events possible. This is not an easy task and we are very grateful for your support!

Rock your Socks – Thank you to everyone who donated to Rock your Socks recently! Socks have still been arriving at school, and we are now delighted to confirm we have donated a phenomenal 700 new pairs of socks to those in need at the Whitechapel Centre!

CAFOD Fun Run - This year's CAFOD Christmas fun run is returning once again on Wednesday 27th December 2023. The event will take place at the usual venue of Wavertree Sports Park, Wellington Road, L15 4LE. For further information, and to register for the race please see the following link: [CAFOD fun run 2023](#)

The CAFOD fun run raises vital funds used to support communities in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East to fight poverty and injustice. Funds are used to support local experts who provide practical help in times of crisis and emergency, including helping communities to rebuild their lives after natural disasters. Please join CAFOD this Christmas and help them to continue this crucial work around the globe.

After school club Friday 22nd December – Due to the early finish, after school club will close Friday 22nd Dec at 4.45pm.

End of term – School will close on Friday 22nd December for the half term break at 2.15pm.

Start of term – School will open again on Tuesday 9th January at 8.45am.

Dates for the diary

22 nd Dec	School closes at 2.15pm
8 th Jan	INSET Day for staff training – school is closed for all pupils.
9 th Jan	Start of Term – school opens 8.45am
9 th Jan	Reception admissions meeting 4.30pm

As we come to an end on what has been an eventful 2023 there is much to celebrate. A fantastic year of achievements for our school, two inspections, brilliant SATs results in both KS1 and KS2 and opening the Eurovision Song Contest in May!

On behalf of staff and governors we wish all our families a happy holy Christmas, see you all in 2024! God Bless!

Warmest wishes

C. Hickey

Colette Hickey
Headteacher



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