

# IN OUR SCHOOL...

Where everyone is special...

Issue 11: Summer 2022

## Goodbye and GOOD LUCK!



This week we say a fond farewell to our wonderful year 6 children as well as our parish priest, Father Joe. Our Year 6 children leave us with lots of fantastic memories made over the course of their seven years in St Austin's. Father Joe is saying goodbye to our parish to begin life as a seminary lecturer in Valladolid in Spain. We wish all of our leavers good luck and very best wishes for the future. There is a full run-down of all of the end of term year 6 activities, as well as Mrs Hickey's tribute to Father Joe, inside this issue of the newspaper.

### Performance of Rise Theatre Group

(Catholic life: pages 6-7)



### Year 6 disco photo gallery! (pages 10-11)



Hello everybody and welcome to the summer issue of our St Austin's newspaper, 'In Our School'. Well, where did that year go?? I can't believe I'm writing this with less than a week to go until the end of the school year – it has just flown by. But what a joy to have an uninterrupted, action packed year to look back on and savour.

This term we say goodbye to our amazing year 6 children and in this issue of the newspaper, we will be paying tribute to them and thanking them for their wonderful seven years in our school. Year 6 have had a busy last few weeks and we will be reporting on all of these events in the newspaper, which includes a stunning performance of Beauty and the Beast to parents last week.

We are also saying goodbye to another great friend in Father Joe, who is leaving our parish at the end of the school year to take up a new post in Valladolid in Spain. We thank Father Joe for his unwavering support of our school over the past ten years and for the service he has given to our parish community. We wish him lots of luck in his new parish. From September, we will be welcoming Father David to our parish and school community.

It just leaves me to say, I hope all of our families and friends enjoy the summer holidays – you've earned the rest and we can't wait to see you refreshed and re-energised in September for another fantastic year in school.

Take care and see you on the other side!

Mr Hints

**End of term message  
from Mrs Hickey (back  
page)**

# 'Tale as old as time' – Year 6 WOW with production of Beauty and the Beast!



**On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July, year 6 wowed audiences with their stunning performance of the Disney favourite 'Beauty and the Beast'.**

There was singing, dancing and wonderful acting on display throughout two amazing nights. The children had only been working on the production for less than four weeks and managed to pull together an outstanding show packed full of fun and laughter. The year 6 staff are very proud of every child in year 6 – it didn't matter whether they were in the backstage crew, helped to design props, part of the choir, in the Be Our Guest dance, or were a starring role – every single child in year 6 participated and every single child in year 6 did themselves proud. Here's what some of the children had to say about the show:

## **Ruby Robbie-Mogan**

The production was based on Beauty and the Beast. I was backstage since I don't enjoy the attention on-stage. In my opinion, the performance was absolutely fantastic. There was a splash of comedy and everybody shone brighter than a star on-stage and behind the scenes.

## **Molly Nelson**

In the year 6 production I was the Enchantress. I was very happy and it was the best experience ever. I really loved it; I got to hold the rose, sing Tale as Old as Time – it was amazing from start to finish!

## **Harry Ikin-Doyle**

The Year 6 production was Beauty and the Beast.

I was Cogsworth the clock. It was difficult only having three weeks to learn the lines. But we did it, and we did it proudly. In fact, I would say that we smashed it!

## **Poppy Sloan**

For the year 6 production we did Beauty and the Beast and I got the role of Chip. I was so excited, I wasn't even nervous! I got to wear a tutu and it looked adorable. I was shattered the day after though!

## **Kayla Peters**

When I found out I got Belle for our year 6 production, I was more than delighted, however, I knew it was my responsibility to learn my lines and I couldn't let year 6 down. After the two weeks we were given to learn our well-prepared scripts, everything became real. Everyone had a role, whether it was backstage or a dancer – we all had a part to play to make it the best year 6 production it



it could be. Last night, we performed in front of an audience. It was brilliant. All of the parents enjoyed the show and I just wish we didn't have to stop!

## **Holly Arnold**

A dance teacher called Sarah came into school and taught us a dance for the year 6 production. The dance was to the song 'Be Our Guest'. She could only come in two or three days a week so we didn't have long to learn it. When I performed it onstage to parents, I was so excited. All of the nerves left the minute I made my first dance move – I guess you could say I 'danced them out!'

## **Meghan Fisher**

I loved every second of the year 6 production. I'm a dancer and an angry villager. It was really cool to watch your friends act on stage. To be honest, you can't give all the credit to the children, you have to give some credit to the teachers, particularly Mr Hints, Miss Clarke and Mrs Daniels for all of their hard work.



## **Erica Lau**

Beauty and the Beast is our year 6 production. I am in the backstage crew and I am helping Mrs Daniels with all of the props. I also get a sheet with children's names and I have to go and find those children and get them ready to go onstage. I enjoyed being in the backstage crew – you don't have to learn any lines which is good and I was able to watch and listen to the children singing, acting and dancing on the stage.

# Inflatable Fun!



Last Thursday, as a special treat for year 6, particularly as a 'well done' for a fantastic production, we hired an inflatable assault course for our school field.

Both classes thoroughly enjoyed their morning jumping, climbing, weaving and running through the assault course. Some children raced against each other, whilst others just enjoyed sharing a fun morning with their friends. In the afternoon, we invited children from across the school with 100% attendance to spend some time on the assault course in. Some teachers even had a sneaky go! It will go down as a special highlight of our year.

Arlo Hunter loved every minute of the assault course, saying: *'It was so much fun, I particularly loved the slide at the end and everybody waiting for you cheering you on!'*



Mr Hints said, *'We wanted to give the children a treat to say a big well done for all of their hard work this year. It was a wonderful day and the children absolutely loved challenging themselves on the assault course.'*

The sole purpose of the day was to have fun. Having said that, some children challenged themselves by trying to make it through the assault course in as fast a time as possible. A big well done to Cian Lawler who managed to complete the course in a jaw-droppingly-fast 13 seconds!



## Hola amigos – year 6 link-up with partner school in Madrid

Organised by our fantastic Spanish teacher, Patchi, our year 6 children had the opportunity this term to hook up with a school in Madrid. Chatting via Zoom, the children were able to see what it was like inside a Spanish classroom as well as getting to know some of the children in Madrid. Children from both schools asked really interesting questions and had the opportunity to practise both their Spanish and English speaking skills. A big 'gracias' to Patchi for setting up this wonderful opportunity for our year 6 children. Tess Burns loved the link-up, saying: *"It was so fun! We got asked questions in Spanish and we answered in our very best Spanish. The children from Madrid put us to shame with their fantastic English speaking skills though!"* Holly Arnold added, *"It was amazing because we were able to meet new people over Zoom and learn more about their culture and community."*

## Young Shakespeare Company performance of The Tempest

Back in May, year 6 were treated to a visit from the Young Shakespeare Company, who performed one of Shakespeare's most well-known comedies, The Tempest. It was a captivating performance and the children loved the storytelling and enactment of the actors and actresses. There were also opportunities for the children themselves to play an active role in the performance. Year 6 then spent the afternoon in class, exploring the play further and immersing themselves in the Shakespeare text. Oliver in 6DH was wowed by the performance, saying: *"I liked the performance of the Tempest. I didn't just like the play, I liked the fact that we could take part and also go behind the scenes and see how each scene was performed."* A big thank you to The Young Shakespeare Company for putting on another memorable performance.

# All RISE! – Theatre group share God’s message for our planet



We invited RISE theatre into school on Monday 27th June. RISE theatre is a touring professional Christian theatre company with a passion for delivering religious and original performances.

The whole school came together, which is extremely unique and took part in an interactive performance of ‘God’s Planet’.

Children were taken on a journey of discovery around the earth into space. They learnt about the beauty of God’s creation, His love for every person and how we can care for our common home.

Daniel Marley, year 5: “I particularly liked the different songs because they were really creative, interactive and fun.”

Paul Clifton, year 5: “I enjoyed covering the important topic of Climate Change.”

Chloe Stockdale, year 5: “I liked that all year groups could watch the performance together and join in. It was educational and fun.”

## Leavers Mass and Mass for St Peter and St Paul



Over the past few weeks we have celebrated two very special masses in St Francis of Assisi Church. On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June, children from years 4, 5 and 6 gathered with children from Holy Trinity, to celebrate mass for St Peter and St Paul. During the mass Father Joe congratulated our year 4 children who had made their Holy Communion this year.

Yesterday, our year 6 children, along with their families, gathered in church for their Leavers Mass. A big thank you to Father Joe for leading the service, but we are especially thankful to our wonderful year 6 children who led the service with their beautiful readings, prayers and memories. They were an absolute credit to themselves and their families. We wish the year 6 children well as they make their next step to Secondary School.

## Essay writing competition

Back in year 5 the current year 6 children took part in a nationwide competition to write a 500 word essay about why Mass is special to them. Every single child in the year group took part and there were some fantastic and extremely spiritual pieces of writing detailing why the children believe that Mass is such an important and integral part of their faith and their life. In June, our parish priest Father Joe came into school to present the children with their prizes. The children received a special book about Catholicism as their prize to take away.

(Catholic life cont.)

## Adios and Gracias Father Joe

By Mrs Hickey

We wish Fr Joe the very best in Valladolid, a small city in northwest Spain. He takes up a new position as a seminary lecturer teaching the vocation of those new to priesthood.

St Austin's will miss him dearly and we thank him for his support, guidance and spiritual presence in an around our school community. He will always be welcomed back with open arms.

We send our very best wishes!



## Year 6 transition morning at the Anglican Cathedral

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June year 6 spent an extremely engaging morning at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral taking part in a number of activities preparing them for the transition to Secondary School. The children had the opportunity to share their worries and fears about going to Secondary School as well as talking about the excitement that they were all feeling. The children were reminded that God will be with them throughout this transition, and during the morning, the children had time for quiet reflection and prayer asking for God's help and guidance as they make the step up to Secondary School.

# Colomendy 2022



In early April, year 6 spent three fantastic nights at Colomendy. During their visit, year 6 took part in a number team building and adventurous activities. Year 6 supported each other incredibly well and were always showing encouragement and kindness to each other, they were an absolute credit to the school and to themselves throughout their stay at Colomendy.

In the last issue of the school newspaper, we tantalized people with a small gallery of photos from Colomendy. This time, in the children's words, we have a thorough run-down of all of the activities which made this residential such a memorable three nights.

## Crate stack – by Dan Staniford

In Colomendy, my favourite activity was Crate Stack. The challenge was to work as a team to make a stack of crates as high as possible. Two people would be on harnesses and then had to climb on top of the crates and stack them – the rest of the children would pass the crates to the people in harnesses. My legs turned to jelly when we got up high. The best part was knocking it all down once we had finished!



## Knights and Cavaliers by Joshua McAdams

My favourite memory was when we played Knights and Cavaliers. Cian and I were on a four-win streak and we needed just one more win. The game started and we had a pretty good start but just as we were about to win, Cian jumped on me and I slipped on a water bottle and we both collapsed in a heap on the floor. Everybody found it hilarious and we both saw the funny side. I have never played this game before but it was definitely my favourite activity from Coloemendy!

**More Colomendy memories next page**

## Nightline – By Ben Hughes

My favourite activity in Colomendy was the nightline. The nightline was where you had to be blind-folded and you had to walk through a forest. To make sure you kept to the right path you had to hold onto the shoulders of the person in front. It was a little bit scary not being able to see where you were going but you had to trust the person in front to guide you. Our team managed to make it through the obstacle course – though we did have a few people fall over on the way round!



## The Disco and Talent Show – by Ella Baxter

My favourite memory from Colomendy was the disco and the talent show. So on the last night, we all gathered in the sports hall at Colomendy for a disco and talent show. We watched all different types of acts: dancing, singing, comedy, card throwing and loads more. We had a blast in the disco, singing and dancing to music – we were just having fun with our mates and just having a really good time!

## Leap of Faith – by Zach Dallas

Out of many different activities in Colomendy, the Leap of Faith was my personal favourite. Before I did the Leap of Faith, I really thought I would not do it because of my fear of heights but when I found out what it looked like I knew I had to do the jump. First I climbed up a very tall and very thin wooden tower. After that, I stood on the edge of a plank and pointed my arms out and then I heard everyone on the ground shout, “3,2,1....Leap of Faith!” – then I jumped. Afterwards I felt unreal and so proud that I had done it.



## Frizbee golf – By Cerys Abdul-Kennimouth

In frizbee golf my partners were Ruby, Emma and Mr Hints. It was really fun. You had to throw a frizbee into a target from about 100 metres away. I got a ‘hole in one’ on hole number four. Holes seven and eight were the most challenging, number eight was on top of a massive hill. When we added up our score I came 2<sup>nd</sup>!



## Giant zip-wire – by Isobel Gill

When we first walked up the steep hill to the giant zipline we were all so nervous and excited to finally be able to conquer our fears. I waited for ages and ages and then, boom! It was my turn to go on the zip-wire! I was so happy. It was half-way down when I remembered that I had promised Miss Clarke that I would do a superman pose whilst I was gliding through the air. And guess what, I did it! I felt so free and so proud of myself. I would give anything to re-live it all over again!



## Jacob’s Ladder – by Pixie Marshall

There were so many great activities in Colomendy, but the best one for me would probably be Jacob’s Ladder. Now it was really tall and I don’t normally have a fear of heights, but I was a little bit nervous. It was raining as well so that just made the ladder slippery. I made it almost to the top thanks to my team who helped and supported me, particularly Isobel Gill who kept me going, even though she had two muddy foot-prints

On her pants. There were two more poles to get to the top but I was just too small to reach them and my time ran out. Tess and Cian made it all the way to the top but Tess was definitely the winner because she stood on the very top and shouted, “It’s not Jacob’s Ladder, it’s my ladder!” It was a really fun activity; I recommend it.



## The whole trip – by Arlo Hunter



One of the best experiences of my life. On the first day, when I was driving with my mum and dad to school, I was so excited. When I was on the bus, I just couldn’t wait to get there and head out to do some activities. When we arrived at Colomendy there was so much stuff to do, I couldn’t quite believe the amount of fun I was about to have. My favourite memory was doing the zipwire and conquering my fear of heights. I also loved the Leap of Faith, the disco and the massive football match that we had.



## Other news from around school

### Ready steady watch – Year 4 communion celebration at the cinema

By Camille – 4HD

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July, my friends and I went to the cinema to watch 'Minions the rise of Gru' – it was amazing! I felt like I was in the movie. I laughed, cried, got shocked and get scared. I loved all of the characters and animation. It was a special afternoon to celebrate year 4 making their sacrament of Holy Communion this year.

### Year 4 - Everton in the Community

By Ceira – 4HD

Everton in the Community come into our class every morning and afternoon. In the morning they teach us PSHE – skills like friendship, teamwork and how to ask for help if we feel anxious. In the afternoons we play games outside, my favourite is rounders. The winning teams receive certificates with words like 'inspiring' on it



### Year 5 at Belvedere

Year 5 have been spending some time at Bellerive to help with their learning of Mandarin. Here's what some of the children had to say:

Belvedere was really fun! We did Chinese ink painting, we learnt how to paint bamboo and pandas! We did Chinese dancing - I had a great time! – Evie McGowen

It was really fun! We did art with a very big paintbrush and learnt a section of a chinese dance; we used fans as props – Esme Cameron

## Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebration



**St Austin's celebrated the Queen's historic Platinum Jubilee in style with a picnic on the playground. During the day the children learnt about Her Majesty and her reign as our longest serving monarch and took part in a number of activities in class including: making bunting, making crowns and taking part in Mr Burke's monarchy quiz.**

**Here's what some of our children had to say about the celebration:**

**"The Jubilee Day was a big party in school. We had to wear blue or red which are the colours of the Union Flag" – Heidi Jackson (year 6)**

**"On the Queen's Jubilee Day our school had a bit of a celebration. We were allowed to come into school in our own clothes as long as they were red, white or blue (the colours of the Union Flag). We sat on the playground or on the grass and had some party food which we enjoyed with our friends whilst appreciating our Queen's seventy years of service to our country.**

### Community Afternoon Tea

On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, St Austin's hosted an afternoon tea for local residents and members of our parish community. The event was a huge success – our guests enjoyed some sumptuous treats and were very well looked after all afternoon by a team of year 6 waiters and waitresses. They were even treated to a song by our Year 6 singers.

Many parishioners expressed their thanks and appreciation, with one parishioner even requesting to purchase a school tracksuit as a souvenir. Well done to everyone who made the afternoon a success



# Fun in Nursery and Early Years

## Church Farm - Reception

On Friday 8th July, we went to visit Church Farm in Thurstaston. We enjoyed a tractor ride, although we had to hang on tight as it was a little bit bumpy! We also had the chance to feed sheep, alpacas and meerkats. The sheep had us giggling as they didn't have any teeth so it was so tickly! We looked at lots of different animals around the farm and we also got to pet a lionhead rabbit, a guinea pig and a hen. We had so much fun meeting all of the different animals!

Isaac RCC - I liked the rabbits running around!

Matilda - My favourite was stroking the hen, it was so soft!



## Storybarn - Reception

On Tuesday 3rd May, we went on a visit to the Storybarn at Calderstones and had so much fun exploring the different areas. One of our favourite things was the hot air balloon and we pretended that we were floating up higher and higher! We read a story called 'Billy Beast' and then had to collect items from around the barn to construct our own story. We even got to make our own bookmark monster in the Art room too!

Rory RNL - I liked it when there was funny noises for our story!

Caoimhe RCC - I liked helping to make a story

## Safari Park – Nursery

The Nursery children had a fantastic day out at 'The Safari Park'! We drove around the 550 acre – 5 mile drive and saw many animals from around the world including lions, baboons, rhinoceros, ostrich to name but a few. After we ate our delicious picnic we explored more animals on foot including meerkats, giraffes and tigers. Our favourite part of our wonderful day, was when we watched the sea lion display where we met 18 year old Arthur and 8 year old Ollie!

## Nursery PE lessons

During the last week of school, we have enjoyed the Commonwealth Games Festival in our P.E. lessons. This focussed event, was aimed to get all of our children active and enjoying being active which included a mix of running, jumping and throwing skills. Fantastic fun was enjoyed by all and we are looking to incorporate this into our future P.E. lessons.

# Year 6 Disco Pics

## Can you spot yourself in our gallery?







# Athletics Success

## St Austin's excel in track and field



On the afternoon of Tuesday 21st June, a St Austin's athletics team comprising of children from years 3,4 5 and 6 represented our school at Wavertree Athletics track in the Liverpool Primary Catholic Schools Athletics Competition. This is the first time the competition has been staged in its full format since 2019 and so we were absolutely desperate to put on a great performance. The children did not disappoint.

In the weeks building up to the competition, staff in school had been preparing the children so well. The children had been racing off against each other, learning the technical skills of the high jump, leaping in the long jump and perfecting their relay change-overs. We ended up with the very best team possible to represent our school.

The children performed absolutely amazingly in the competition and we finished overall in a fantastic 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The following children all came first in their events: Paddy year 3 high jump; year 3 relay team; Wendpanga year 3 75m; Lucy year 4 High Jump; Henry year 4 Long Jump; Daniel Year 5 135m; Esme year 5 600m; Isabelle year 6 135m; Isabelle year 6 High Jump; Emmie year 6 600m; Kian year 6 Long Jump

We are so proud of the children who performed. Harriers' coaches Steve and Paul were also in attendance on the night and complimented our children's behavior, attitude and performance. Next year, we are aiming for first place!

Here's what some of our superstars had to say about the competition:

"In the athletics competition at Wavertree I did the 600m which I won. I loved representing the school and I got a real thrill hearing everybody cheering me on" – Emmie (year 6)

"There's been a few athletics comps this year but the summer one was my favourite by far – Isaac E (Year 6)

PE lead teacher Miss Clarke had this to say: *"Our children did us proud showcasing exemplary behaviour and skills in track races such as the 75m and relay as well as field events such as the high jump and long jump. We achieved fantastic results across the board and it was clear to see how much the children enjoyed the afternoon. As PE lead I had the opportunity to watch the excitement unfold trackside and the teamwork/support from our children towards one another was a privilege to watch. Well done to all children who took part."*

## Going for Gold!

St Austin's has recently achieved a Gold Award for the PE provision provided in the school. This is a fantastic achievement and a great testament to the hard work put in by children and staff. St Austin's PE lessons are always fun and engaging and the children learn valuable skills as well as maintaining a good level of fitness. A huge well done to our PE leads Mrs O'Shea and Miss Clarke for inspiring our school to achieve this great award.

Nursery children have really enjoyed their PE lessons recently, which have been linked to the upcoming Commonwealth Games, with Mrs O'Shea saying: *"During the last week of school, we have enjoyed the Commonwealth Games Festival in our P.E. lessons. This focussed event, was aimed to get all of our children active and enjoying being active which included a mix of running, jumping and throwing skills. Fantastic fun was enjoyed by all and we are looking to incorporate this into our future P.E. lessons."*

## MESSAGE FROM MRS HICKEY...

It has been wonderful to end this year the way we intended to. The Summer of 2019 was the last term, we as a whole school, enjoyed such activities. It has been humbling to witness the events that have taken place; allowing parents into school to meet teachers, attend the Y6 performance, parent workshops and children enjoying time altogether to watch the RISE theatre company. It has been a magical experience for all and one to remember and appreciate.

I say a fond farewell to our Year 6 children, who have been a credit to themselves, their parents and to our school. I have observed first-hand the maturity, confidence and encouragement they have shown each other over the year. They have certainly outgrown us! Good luck and best wishes in your new schools next year and beyond! Aim high!

Finally, I would like to wish the staff, governors and parents a safe and restful summer break. See you all in September.

Mrs Hickey