

IN OUR SCHOOL...

Where everyone is special...

Issue 10: Spring 2022

CHAMPIONS!



This term a St Austin's team of year 6 athletes ran, threw and leapt to victory in the inaugural 'Liverpool FC Foundation Inter-School Athletics Competition' at Wavertree athletics track. A full report, with photos and personal viewpoints of this historic and memorable day, can be found on the back page. Pictured above with the trophy are the winning team... Back row: Heidi, Emmie, Isla, Kian, Alex and Sophie. Front row: Isabelle, Cian, Isaac and Oliver

[St Austin's welcomes the return of Hispanic Day \(page 2\)](#)



[Year 6 Colomendy Pics \(page 8\)](#)



As I write this, the sun is shining, plants are blooming, spring is definitely in the air. Welcome to the Easter issue of our school newspaper: 'In Our School'

During this special time of Lent we have been demonstrating how kind and 'giving' we are here in St Austin's. This half term the children have taken part in two worthwhile appeals, raising money and giving personal items to people much less fortunate than ourselves. We were blown away by the generosity shown for the Ukraine appeal. The school community really came together to support the people of this war-torn nation. As well as this, we have been 'walking for hunger' to raise money for CAFOD. Last week, children took part in a sponsored 20 minute walk around school and around the surrounding streets to raise money and awareness for this extremely important appeal. We are very proud of all the children for all the kindness, empathy and thoughtfulness they have shown.

This term we have packed lots into our learning and on these pages you will read about a number of amazing things that have happened in St Austin's over the past few months, including: science week, Hispanic Day, NSPCC Number Day, World Book Day and Harriers training, to name just a few. We also won our very first trophy of the year when a group of year 6 athletes reigned supreme in an athletics competition organised by Liverpool FC and the Harriers.

So sit back with a biscuit and a cuppa and enjoy reading about the wonderful term we have had in St Austin's. Have a great Easter break and we'll see you all in the summer term.

Mr Hints – 7th April 2022

Hola! – It's Hispanic Day

Hispanic Day returned with a bang this term as we celebrated all things Spain and Hispaniola. Our International lead teacher, Mrs Docherty tells about a welcome return for a St Austin's institution...



By MRS DOCHERTY

After many weeks of performance preparations, Hispanic day finally made its welcome return to our school. It was fantastic to once again see the ruffles of Hispanic dresses, brightly coloured hair flowers and mini players from Spain's La Liga, as well as other South American teams, in their various football kits. Red and yellow were, of course, the popular colours of the day and everyone in school participated in celebrating Hispanic culture by joining in and wearing these colours too.

Flags were coloured in, new Spanish stamps created and Spanish tourist board adverts produced, to name just a few of the class activities that took place during the day. Amongst the stage performances there were jungle animals, a Spanish sing-off, a Hispanic rap and much more. The children really enjoyed themselves and had lots of fun. We are now looking forward to Hispanic Day 2023 and the long-awaited opportunity to once again invite all of our parents to come and join in the celebrations with us.



We asked some of our children to tell us why Hispanic Day is so special to them...

Spanish Day was absolutely wonderful. I loved performing on stage and performing all of the dance moves that Patchi had taught us – Emmie (year 6)



I loved Spanish Day because we got to sing really loudly on the stage – it was colourful and amazing – Owen (year 4)

Spanish Day was really fun. We did our performance, we wore our Spanish dresses with pride and everybody wore red and yellow colours to celebrate the colours of the Spanish flag. It was probably one of the best days of the year! – Ava (year 5)



I liked putting on Spanish costumes and colours – Maria (year 1)

On Spanish Day year 5 performed a song with actions in front of the other year 5 class and year 3. We wore items of clothing and sang the words for what we were wearing in Spanish. Our song was very catchy and upbeat - Emily (year 5)

Last minute Covid struck again and year 5 had to split into separate bubbles for the Spanish Day performance. We managed to pull it off and have a fantastic Performance – Christopher (year 5)

Ash Wednesday and Lent Masses

On Ash Wednesday, our Parish priest and school governor Father Joe, came into school to administer Ashes to all of our children and staff. The ashes remind us that we are all cleansed of our sins as we embark on the important time in the Liturgical year – Lent.



Over the past few weeks, Key Stage 2 were invited to church by Father Joe to celebrate Mass. During this holy time of Lent, it is important that we remember the sacrifice our Lord made for us and, in his homily, Father Joe talked about this as well as reminding children that Lent is a time of giving and a time when we should be thinking about and 'doing more' for others. The children all behaved reverently in church and joined in with the prayers, responses and hymns. We thank Father Joe for giving up his time to celebrate mass with us and for reminding us all of this important time of Lent and Easter.

RE Ambassadors trip to the Cathedral

Last week, our school RE ambassadors were lucky enough to go on a tour around the magnificent Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King. They marvelled at the magnitude and awe-inspiring nature of this very special place of worship and then went back to their classes to share their thoughts and their facts about one of Liverpool's two magnificent cathedrals. Hopefully their trip will inspire others to visit the Catholic Cathedral in the near future.

Lenten Appeal raises over £5,000!



During Lent all classes are taking part in a sponsored walk against hunger and homelessness. We have chosen two charities to support – CAFOD and The Whitechapel Centre. The children were very excited and enthusiastic to walk around our local area to promote two worthy causes. We hope the money raised will go some way to helping the work CAFOD does to combat global hunger and help the Whitechapel Centre in their work to support those who find themselves homeless in our city. Thank you to all those who supported us in our Lenten Appeal.

Currently, the total raised stands at a whopping £5260.21 and we still have money coming in!

Emma Harry, one of our year 6 RE Ambassadors tells us why these charities are special to us...

We are all fighting this week for hunger. We are raising money for CAFOD and the Whitechapel charity. To do this, we will all be going on a sponsored march around school for twenty minutes and hopefully we will raise enough money to help those people who are going hungry around the world. – Emma

Ukraine Appeal

Like everybody we have been deeply moved and horrified by the desperate situation in Ukraine. Our children really wanted to help so on Wednesday 23rd March we asked for donations to be brought into school. We were absolutely overwhelmed by the response. Year 6 RE ambassador Holly Arnold helped out on the day. Here, she gives us her thoughts on this wonderful example of 'giving':

On Wednesday 23rd March, I went on the minibus with the school's donations for Ukraine. We had around 50 bags full of things like: toothpaste, blankets, medicine, clothes and much more. I was very emotional delivering our items as I knew we were helping people less fortunate than ourselves. As we had a little bit of time left over, we taped up some boxes and got them ready to be sent off. I felt very proud to be taking part in something so special for the people of Ukraine – Holly



MORE NEWS FROM AROUND SCHOOL...

NSPCC Number

Day 2022

By Mrs Doyle

A huge thank you to all parents and carers who helped us to get involved in Number Day. We managed to raise £344 for a very good cause. The children had a great time exploring, calculating and playing with numbers. Congratulations to 6RE who had the largest class total in the TT Rockstars challenge in our school and to 4HD who had the highest average per pupil total in the school. We look forward to the next battle after half term. Please keep practising at home.



Safer Internet

Day 2022

By Mr Hughes

On 8th February we celebrated Safer Internet Day in school. The children were able to access a live stream from Liverpool Football Club players and community regarding gaming and how to stay safe online. The theme of the day was 'Together for a better internet' and looking at how children act towards others and treat others when using online devices. Teachers have been explaining to children how to communicate appropriately when online. The internet, as we know, is a fantastic resource if used properly.

Watch us grow...Science Week 2022

By Mr Huddleston

British Science Week 2022 took place at St Austin's between Monday 14th and Friday 18th March. This year's Science Week theme was Growth. During the week the children celebrated all things Science with lots of interesting and engaging investigations taking place across the school. The children carried out many different investigations in class to discover how things grow and change. The children in all year groups planted lots of seeds in preparation for Spring. The children have been caring for their seeds and investigating in which conditions these seeds can grow best. Each class also planted their very own sunflower seeds and began to care and nurture them for our Grow the Tallest Sunflower competition. The class that grows the tallest sunflower by June will win a special prize for their class to keep. We also had a 'Guess the Staff Member' Quiz taking place in each Key Stage. The children had to look at each staff member's old school photographs and try and work out which staff member it actually was. The children in all year groups had plenty of fun seeing how their teacher's had grown and changed!

We asked the children what they thought of Science Week. This is what they had to say...

Science Week was very interesting. We planted sunflowers, we looked at pictures of teachers when they were younger to see how they have changed and grown – I learnt a lot! – Pixie (year 6)

It is my job to water our sunflower to help him grow – I have named him 'Sunny'! It's really exciting watering him and seeing him grow. I feel like a proud Mum! – Isla (year 6)

During science week we learnt about about life cycles and planted sunflower seeds for a school growing competition. We also had a class guess the baby competition. Everybody had to bring in a baby photograph of themselves. This was really fun – Imogen D (year 5)

I liked touching the bread for our Mouldy Bread experiment – Megan (year 1)

I loved planting sunflower seeds – Florence (Nursery)



Is Imogen a Panto Star? Oh Yes She Is!

'In Our School' caught up with Imogen in year 5 who told us all about her starring role in 'Just Entertainment's' panto, Sleeping Beauty. Well done Imogen, everyone in St Austin's is very proud of you.

By IMOGEN P (year 5)

Hello, I'm Imogen I would like to talk about the pantomime by Just Entertainment, Sleeping Beauty!

This pantomime I got to take part in, after about four months of hard work and practice it was finally perfect, it was time for my first show! I was quite anxious about my first show 'press night': press night is when the press come to review the show, we got 8.5 out of 10 stars I'm so proud that I did well on my first performance.



On my next show my teacher said I did very, very well maybe even better than press night! The next Tuesday I had 2 shows the matinee in the afternoon and an evening performance I felt like I was going to do well because I had done in the previous shows.

Luckily, I did amazing! Even though there were many hiccups along the way the show still went on and it was brilliant!

PE – Year 6 Harriers Coaching

Year 6 have loved their PE this term as they have been lucky enough to receive expert athletics coaching from Steve and Paul of the Harriers. This culminated in a team of year 6 children entering and winning an inter-school athletics competition at Wavertree in March (full report on back page). Two of our year 6 pupils, Alex and Kian tell us why they have loved the coaching so much...

During harriers, I particularly liked the competitive element and learning new skills like javelin, discus, hammer throw. We also did endurance running which I love - Kian

The Liverpool Harriers have been coming in and helping us learn athletics. We've finished the beginners course and now we are onto the expert course. Steve and Paul helped us to improve our skills and we won the harriers tournament at Wavertree that I was lucky enough to take part in. – Alex

M&M productions perform The Hobbit

Last Thursday, we were delighted to welcome back to St Austin' our friends from M&M productions to perform the JRR Tolkien classic, The Hobbit. This is the first time for two (and a bit) years that we have been able to invite a theatre group into school to perform to our children and we were not disappointed by the fantastic performance. It was a wonderful show packed full of laughter, audience participation and brilliant storytelling. The children were thoroughly entertained for over an hour and we can't wait to invite M&M back next January for another brilliant show.



Ama-sing for Ukraine

On Friday 11th March, St Austin's teamed up with hundreds of schools from across the UK for an ama-sing sing-a-thon for the people of Ukraine. Our year 5 and 6 children gathered in the hall and sang and danced to the song 'Lean on Me...' We performed the song to show solidarity with the people of Ukraine at this extremely difficult time.



March in March – Meabh's 100km challenge

Any of you who know Meabh in 3TD know that's she loves the planet and wants to make a difference! She has managed to walk 100km in March to try to raise money for WWF. If you can spare a few quid she'd love to get to her fundraising target.

This is what Meabh had to say: "Do you want to join me in making a difference? I'm raising money in aid of WWF - UK and every donation will help. Thank you in advance for your contribution to this cause that means so much to me."

Well done Meabh, everyone in St Austin's is very proud of you.



What a zoo-perb day out! – Year 4

Educational Visit to Chester Zoo

Class 4HD and Anna, Liam and Joe from Class 4JH tell us about their fantastic educational day out at Chester Zoo...

By CLASS 4HD

After 2 years, Year 4 finally escaped the classroom to visit Chester zoo.

We left as soon as the bus arrived and before too long arrived at the zoo, the drizzling rain didn't spoil our day.

As we arrived we could see the elephants, the mummy elephant was looking after the cute baby. We learnt that they need to eat a lot and can spend two thirds of a day feeding. They eat grasses, tree bark, roots, leaves and the like.

Before long, on our way to the education zone, we headed towards the lions. They were proudly sitting on the high rock watching. Although they were having a lazy day, they were roar-some!

Next it was time to go to the education room to learn about the animals from the rainforest and their habitats. Leon told us all about the impact of deforestation.

He told us that over 50% of store cupboard products contain palm oil?

The unsustainable production of palm oil is one of the **BIGGEST** threats facing the forests and wildlife of Borneo and Sumatra right now. That's why, at Chester Zoo, they support the production of sustainable palm oil.

The star of the day had to be the orangutans. They were so much fun to watch.

Sadly the day had to end so we headed back to the bus. We were all exhausted after a LOT of walking! We can't wait to find out where we are going next term!

Check out our Y4 class page to see the photos <https://www.st-austins.co.uk/year-4-25/>

CHESTER ZOO – BY ANNA, LIAM AND JOE (4JH)

We went to Chester zoo because we were learning about the rainforests. First , we saw the Asian elephants playing around in the dirty, muddy water. After that , we went into the humid butterfly enclosure and we also saw tiny little frogs in there as well . Then after that, we



moved onto the jaguar, one group saw the full jaguar but unfortunately one of the groups only saw the jaguar's bum. On the roof of the jaguars enclosure we saw sloths hanging on branches. Underneath the sloths there were some GIANT fish and tiny little fish.

We moved onto the learning centre where we had a rainforest expert talk to us about all of the amazing animals in the rainforest .

Then , we went to fruit bat forest and we saw so many bats and it smelled disgusting . We went to see the orangutans and we saw a parent hanging on the metal fence and the baby one was climbing on top of the parent , there were also silvery gibbons hanging from the sealing. There were spider monkeys and mandrills and baboons . It was finally time to go home and that was our day at Chester zoo.



Out of this Universe – Year 5 Trip to the World Museum

Year 4 were not the only year group to get out and about this term. Year 5 have also expanded their horizons with a fantastic morning at the World Museum. They combined Science and History with two educational workshops. They visited the awe-inspiring 'planetarium' and experienced what it was like to fly amongst the planets and the stars in our galaxy. They also learnt about the mummification process for their History topic of Ancient Egypt. They had a great morning and came back to school with a wealth of new knowledge to use in their curriculum lessons. *Lola Safar, from 5EV said, "We took part in two workshops. We got to gaze at the stars and took part in mummifying an Ancient Egyptian. It was extremely gory but very interesting!"*



READING IS GREAT! –

WORLD BOOK DAY 2022

By MR HINTS

On Thursday 3rd March we celebrated World Book Day here in St Austin's. This is always one of our favourite days in the calendar and this year certainly did not disappoint. Our theme this year was to celebrate the joys of a 'bed-time story' so, with this in mind, we invited the children (and staff) to come into school dressed in their pyjamas or lounge-wear. We had an array of colourful and themed pyjamas; some children even brought a teddy or wore slippers for extra comfort! During the day, the children immersed themselves in the world of books. We asked the children to bring in their favourite books from home to share with their class, we 'dropped everything and read' for ten minutes in the morning and the afternoon, each class spent time in the library enjoying the comforts of a good book (a big thank you to our LSO's who decorated the library with fairy lights, cushions and bean-bags to make it even more homely), and we even had time to fit in another edition of the Masked Reader! Willing members of our staff team masked their faces, reading and sharing their favourite stories – but who was behind each mask?? It was a wonderful day, reminding us all of the joys and wonders of a good story. Remember, 'READING IS GREAT!'



everyone else shared their book and clue. In the afternoon, Miss Clarke took us to the library. I sat and read a story called 'Goal'. It's about a boy who ends up in a coma after an accident but he still hears everything while he is in the coma. It is a brilliant book. The library was decorated with rainbow fairy lights and blankets and pillows. It was a brilliant day. – Heidi

World Book Day has to be one of the best days in school. We all got comfy in the library whilst Miss Docherty read us a bedtime story. As you probably guessed, bedtime stories was the theme and because of this we got to come into school in our pyjamas! We had a blast so it is so hard to pick my favourite bit of the day – but I would probably say it was playing 'The Masked Reader' or when we had to guess everybody's favourite book. – Lily



Heidi in year 6 and Lily in year 3 both loved World Book Day. They shared with us their highlights:

On World Book Day I wore my oodie and brought a massive lion squish-mallow for my clue. My book was the Butterfly Lion by Michael Morpurgo. It's a wonderful book. Cian guessed my book from my clue and then we went round the class and



World Book Day Competitions

We set the children two challenges for World Book Day. We'll leave it to our Year 5 Reading Ambassador, Imogen to tell you all about them...

The World Book Day competitions consisted of a story-writing and an art challenge. First, the children had an opportunity to write their own original story in no more than 500 words. For the other competition, children had to design a front cover for a story of their choice. All of the Reading Ambassadors read the stories and looked at the art-work and one winner in each category was chosen in every year group. The winners will receive a book of their choice. – Imogen (year 5)

Well done to all of our winners. They were: Alice and Dylan (reception); Rosa Bella and Lottie (year 1); Iona and Finley (year 2); Freya and Maya (year 3); Poppy (year 4); Joseph and Imogen (year 5); and Orla and Isla (year 6)

Year 6 Colomendy Residential

Year 6 have recently returned from three fantastic and adventurous days in Colomendy. We will have a detailed feature on this residential in the summer issue of our newspaper, which will include reports and accounts from the children. But for now, here are a few photos from our memorable time in Colomendy...



Sport and Extra Curricular

A Season to Remember!

MRS O'SHEA takes us through the highs and more highs of a hugely successful Cross-Country Season

After a successful beginning to the Cross Country League in 2021, the children continued training hard into the new year.

With our competitors from around the city being of extremely high standards, we began with a cross country training workout. This consisted of training during bitterly cold, Winter evenings using a fartlek training approach (Swedish for speed play), containing unstructured sessions which we alternated hard running and easy running. We used a mix of long and short hard segments including, three minutes hard, two minutes hard, one minute hard with two minutes easy in between everything. We knew we had to hit the ground running and that is exactly what we did!

Our first race of 2022 was race 4 at Sefton Park on Monday 7th March where the girls deservedly earned 1st place and the boys confidently took 3rd. The following week race 5 at Newsham Park on Thursday 17th March the girls swiftly and successfully took 1st place again and the boys seized 4th. The final race of the season race 6 took place at Wavertree on Tuesday 22nd March where the girls managed 5th place and the boys took 4th. It was nothing short of nail biting waiting for the results to come through with the girls taking 2nd place overall and the boys taking 4th missing 3rd place by one painful point to St Paschal Baylon Catholic Primary School. We can proudly reveal that Esme finished 2nd overall for the girls with Elsie finishing 4th. This is a massive achievement for our children especially considering that the City Cross Country Championships was cancelled in 2020 because of the pandemic and our children have not trained or competed.

We now qualify for the Liverpool City Cross Country Championships which take place on Wednesday 30th March and Monday 4th April.



City Championship

After qualifying for the Liverpool City Cross Country Championships at Wavertree on Wednesday 30th March, our year 5 & 6 boys and girls ran on what was a bitterly cold afternoon. Wavertree is known for being a well-planned cross country course which presents everything possible to disrupt their stride, their pace, and their focus but this did not deter our children one bit! The children performed like professionals. They maintained pace through constant changes of footing, elevation and direction. Our children did not disappoint us with year 5 girls, year 6 girls and year 6 boys all qualifying through to the final.

On Monday 4th April, with our year 6 children being at Colomendy, our younger year 5 children represented our school in the final! Once again, they showed courage, strength and determination!!! Parents, grandparents and staff ran across the course in an attempt to capture every nail-biting moment. As they approached the finish line, there was cheering to be heard from every St Austin's supporter, this included Steve and Paul from the Liverpool Harriers who also came along to support us. We are immensely proud to inform you that our girls finished 2nd overall in the Liverpool City Cross Country

Championships. They have qualified for certificates, medals and trophies which they are ecstatic with. These will be presented to the girls by Mrs Hickey on Thursday during assembly. Throughout the whole event, our children have been an absolute credit to our school with their manners, behaviour, sportsmanship and fellowship to their competitors being nothing short of exemplary.

2022/2023 Cross Country League and Championships watch out because St Austin's are aiming for 1st place!

Star runner, Esme Cameron from year 5, who has finished no lower than 3rd in any race this season, had this to say about a brilliant cross country season: *"Doing cross country is really fun and hard work. It's a great experience to take part. I love it when we have finished a race so I can cheer on my friends in the races after mine. I get really excited because after all of the races the people that are in charge count up the points and the school with the lowest score wins."*

Esme's team-mate Molly Copeland agreed, saying: *"I enjoy cross country because we have an amazing running teacher in Mrs O'Shea. We do lots of fun activities such as, relays and races and the activities help us improve our running."*



Harriers Heroes!

Year 6 Athletics team reign supreme in Harriers Comp!



Back in March a team of athletes from year 6 represented St Austin's at the inaugural 'Liverpool Foundation Inter-School Athletics Competition' at Wavertree Athletics Track. The competition, organised by The Harriers and Liverpool FC comprised of running, jumping and throwing events taking place over one day. Eleven schools participated in total and St Austin's were crowned the very first winners blowing away the opposition. In total our team won 6 out of the 8 running events and performed brilliantly in the throwing and jumping events meaning that our points tally far exceeded any other school.

Harriers coaches Steve and Paul as well as Liverpool Mascot 'Mighty Red' presented the winners shield to our delighted children and it now stands in pride of place in the entrance to our school.

A huge thank you to our Harriers coaches and our year 6 staff for preparing the children so well, but our main thank you and

congratulations goes to our wonderful children who, not only performed heroically, but were also fantastic ambassadors for our school all day. The winning team were: **Emmie, Cian, Kian, Alexander, Sophie, Heidi, Oliver, Isla, Isabelle and Isaac**.

Hopefully their success will inspire other children to give athletics a go as we prepare for the Schools District Competition in the summer term.

We asked some members of our winning team for their thoughts and this is what they had to say...

Sophie - *When I went to the competition I was really nervous. As soon as we won, we all screamed and shouted with joy. We were all so proud of ourselves. The event had been organised really well and it was a tough battle. I took part in the long distance race (600m). I also took part in the relay.*



Isla - *I took part in the 75m sprint and came first in the heats and the final. I also took part in the relay and we came first in that too. The feeling of looking behind you and seeing everyone way behind you is the best and then hearing your name getting called on the loud speaker while everyone cheers you on is amazing. We were competing against eleven other schools and we came first thanks to our amazing team effort – we are all so proud.*

Emmie - *I ran the 150m and the girls relay and came first in both. I really enjoyed the experience and was really proud of St Austin's. I was also proud of myself for coming first and was so happy that out of all eleven schools our hard work paid off because we won!*

Kian - *I took part in the harriers competition and my event was the 600m race which I won. I felt very proud, in fact we all felt extremely proud because we went on to win the whole event and took the winners shield back to our school.*

