



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

5<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

**Welcome back** - I would like to welcome our new pupils and their parents in the Reception and Nursery classes and also the pupils who have joined our school in other year groups. Thank you to everyone for preparing your children so well - there has been a really positive start by all which is much appreciated by our staff.

**Uniform** –The children look extremely smart in their school uniform. We have attached the uniform link to our website. [School Uniform](#). Please remember to label ALL items of clothing, including PE kits, as already we have a lost property box which is over flowing.

**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 considering First Holy Communion arrangements with Father David Potter.

**Holy Communion Meetings** - The first Holy Communion meeting for parents/carers only will be on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 2.15pm in school. Please sign in at the main office. At this meeting you will be given dates for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession) and your child's Holy Communion for the coming year.

**Little Church** – starts again tomorrow at the 9.30am Mass in St Francis of Assisi Church. All children aged 4-11 years are welcome to attend.

**Year 6 residential visit, Kingswood Colomendy** – our year 6 children will be attending Kingswood, Colomendy from Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Sept – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September. We would like to wish them a fun start to year 6. Can all outstanding payments please be made by 11<sup>th</sup> September.

**Staffing** – We welcome Miss Davies (Year 6) to our teaching staff, Miss Kelly (Nursery) to our learning support staff and Senorita Diaz, our new Spanish teacher. We wish them a successful year and our children have made them feel very welcome.

**The school day as follows:- Gates open 8.40am for reception – year 6 pupils, class doors open 8.45am**

Nursery – 8.30am

Reception – 8.55am – 3.10pm

Years 1 and 2 finish at 3.15pm

Years 3 and 4 finish at 3.20pm

Years 5 and 6 finish at 3.20pm

Can we remind you to stay with your child until 8.45am when class doors open. Children must not be left unattended on the school playground before this time for safeguarding reasons. If your child walks to and from school alone (y6) please inform the class teacher.

If you have delegated another adult to collect your child please inform the school office of this change. For safeguarding reasons, we will not allow your child to be collected if we have not been informed. This is also the case for after school club.

**Meet and Greet** - We are delighted to invite parents to school to meet their child's new teacher and understand the specific expectations of the year group. The sessions will be 3.30pm–4.00pm week beginning Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September. All teachers will be in their classrooms to deliver the presentation, except year 6 who will be situated in the key stage 2 hall.

Monday – Year 6 and year 5

Tuesday – Year 4 and year 3

Wednesday – Year 2 and year 1

Your children will not attend this meeting but can be supervised on the KS2 playground by school staff, weather permitting. Please collect your child at the normal time 3.15pm or 3.20pm and wait on KS2 playground outside the polytunnel for the year group support staff to arrive. A reminder will be sent out next week.



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**Moments that Matter (Reception parents/carers)** – We invite our reception parents/carers to a welcome meeting with key staff from Reception and the school Parish. The meeting will be at school from 6.00pm on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September. Further information will follow on the ParentAPP next week.

**Attendance and Punctuality** – We cannot stress how important excellent attendance and punctuality can have a positive impact on learning. We will continue to monitor this closely again over the year. We will continue to reward classes and individuals whose attendance and punctuality is outstanding. Our school target is 97%.

**Attendance legislation** – Holidays are not permitted in term time and new legislation states that parents/carers will receive a penalty notice of £80 per adult, per child. This is an increase on previous years. School attendance is a Local Government priority and will be heavily monitored by our Education Welfare Officer who will also be working with GP's.

**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.

**School Office Opening Times** – If you are unable to see your class teacher the preferred method of contact with your class teacher is via the school email address [enquiries@st-austins.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@st-austins.co.uk). Alternatively, you can telephone the office on 427 1800.

**Please note our phone lines are available from 8.30am – 4.00pm only.**

General Enquiries and sickness absence - the office can be contacted during the following times: -  
8.30am – 12.00pm and 1.30pm - 4.00pm

Financial/Dinner Money enquiries – Mrs Debbie Doran can be contacted during the following times: -  
8.30am - 12.00pm and 1.30pm - 4.00pm

## Health and Safety

**Medication** – Please complete all the necessary forms, located at the main office, if prescribed medication is needed. Non-prescribed medication **cannot** be given. If any medical issues have arisen over the holidays can you please keep your class teacher informed. Each class has their own medical register.

**Outdoor Apparatus** – Can we remind all parents/carers that the outdoor apparatus is out of bounds before and after school. Your child will not be insured for accident or injury. Staff members follow a strict risk assessment when managing the children's play during the school day.

**Bikes and scooters** – We encourage our children to use their bikes or scooters to get to school however we would ask that no bikes or scooters are ridden on the playground or on the ramp up to Darby Road. There have been several accidents in the past where children have been seriously hurt.

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

**Neighbourhood parking** – Can I respectfully ask all parents/carers not to park across residential driveways around school. We have an excellent relationship with the local residents which is seriously compromised if people park across their driveways. Local residents have been given the contact number of Merseyside Police in the event of inconsiderate parking. We ask that you cooperate fully with the school on this matter.

**Playground protocol** – Parents/Carers must not approach or challenge another pupil or parent/carer in our school under any circumstances whilst on the premises. If you have any concerns please make an appointment to see your child's teacher or a senior member of staff.

**Emergency illness and contacts information** – If you have recently changed your home address, contact phone numbers or if there is any change in a medical condition for your child please inform the office immediately so we can update our records accordingly.



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**For safeguarding purposes,** we need at least **3 emergency contacts**, so if you need to add another member of the family to your records please contact the office immediately.

**Key Stage 2 Physical Education** – PE is taught by your child's class teacher therefore PE days will be across the full week. Please check your class pages on the website for confirmation of both PE days. Essential PE kit is a plain white t-shirt or polo shirt, plain black shorts, and black pumps (indoor) and training shoes (outdoor) for key stage 2 children only. School tracksuits are optional and can be worn on both days when your child has PE. These can be purchased from the school office for £35.00.

**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 2025. The deadline for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024.

**School Catering – 'Food for Thought'** – Our school catering provider is 'Food for Thought' who we have been in partnership with since February 2015. They are a not-for-profit school meals company owned by their schools and who have been awarded the Association's Silver Award for their use of locally sourced organic produce.

All children are offered a choice of meals, cooked fresh each day. Reception children are offered a limited choice of a hot or cold lunch. There is a wider variety for older children.

**Please note:** As we are now receiving payments online for lunches, children must choose either hot dinners or packed lunch for each half term. This is the only time they can change from hot dinners/packed lunch. This is to assist us with all catering arrangements. School no longer accept cash, all payments are made via the parent APP.

**Dinner Money payments** – All children in key stage 1 (Reception, year 1 and year 2) are entitled to a free school dinner, therefore no payment is due. For children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6, dinner money is payable for the full week on the first working day of the week (£10.00 per week/ £2.00 per day). Payments are made via the school APP, and can also be made in advance for the half term. Our school office also accepts card payments.

**Please note:** we are aware there is an issue with the payments side of the APP, whereby you won't yet be able to see what monies you currently owe. They are working on a fix now, so hopefully this will be resolved very soon.

**Key Stage 1 Milk** – The Local Authority are no longer supplying milk to our key stage 1 children, this was taken over by a private company called DairyLink UK Ltd. If you have registered for your child to receive milk this term, they will receive it daily. If you have not yet registered, please go to the following website [Dairy Link UK - Order milk](http://Dairy Link UK - Order milk) and click on the order milk tab at the top. A list of registered children will be sent to school once parents have completed the online form.

**KS1 Fruit – All children in Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2** are entitled to a free piece of fruit every day. Unfortunately, this initiative is not funded for KS2 pupils. If you would like your child to continue to have a piece of fruit each day, you may send this into school. We **do not** allow chocolate, sweets, cereal bars or crisps as a mid-morning snack – we are a healthy school, with 'Healthy Schools Award Status'.

**Pupil badges** – Can we ask if you have any badges at home from last year, for example Ambassador, School Council, House Captain, Pupil of the week – can you please return them to school.

**Culture Week** – Week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> September our children will be taking part in Cultural activities across the school. Activities include black history, poetry and our European day of languages. This is always a very successful week and thoroughly enjoyed by all the children. Keep checking our Instagram account for photographs.

**School Website** - Our school website address is [www.st-austins.co.uk](http://www.st-austins.co.uk). It provides you with a wealth of information about teaching and learning, policies and planning, along-side information about your child's class projects, including photos, extra-curricular clubs and homework. Please try to look at the website on a regular basis.

**Instagram** – Please follow our school Instagram account @staustinsschool for regular updates from your child's class as well as the whole school.



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**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! Once you are registered on the APP, 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.

#### Dates for the diary

- 11<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> Sept - Year 6 Kingswood, Colomendy
- 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Sept - Meet and Greet sessions
- 19<sup>th</sup> Sept - Moments that Matter (Reception parents)
- 30<sup>th</sup> Sept - Culture week
- 12<sup>th</sup> Oct - Feast of St Wilfrid
- 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> Oct - Autumn Open Night
- 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> Feb - Spring Open Night
- 25<sup>th</sup> Oct - End of Term 2.15pm finish
- 4<sup>th</sup> Nov - INSET day (school closed to all pupils)

Our pupils and staff have made a super start to the year and we are extremely grateful for the support you give, as parents/carers. We thank you all for your constructive communication and cooperation. We will continue to work in partnership together to provide the best education for our pupils. We look forward to another fantastic and successful year ahead.

Kindest regards,

Colette Hickey  
Headteacher



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