



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

www.st-austins.co.uk



NEWSLETTER

23rd October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Parish News Feast of St Wilfrid – 12th October

Thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate the feast of our parish patron, St Wilfrid. The children learnt a great deal about his life and legacy, and a wonderful selection of their work is now proudly displayed in classrooms.

Holy Communion Preparation - Please ensure you attend all preparation meetings for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, enabling your child to make their First Confession. Your support in this important stage of their faith journey is greatly appreciated.

School Community - Our recent Welcome Assembly was a great success. A huge thank you to our new Reception parents and carers who joined us. Year 2 pupils led the celebration beautifully with prayers and songs, and our new children made us all very proud.

Reception Admissions - Children born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 are due to start Reception in September 2026. The deadline to submit applications to both the Local Authority and the school is 15th January 2026.

We are holding four parent/carer information meetings where you will be taken on a tour of our school and collect the necessary forms:

Wednesday 5th November	9.15 – 10.15 am
Wednesday 12th November	9.15 – 10.15 am
Tuesday 18th November	9.15 – 10.15 am
Thursday 8th January	4.30 – 5.30 pm

Please note: a maximum of two adults per child may attend, and no children are permitted on this occasion. Places must be booked via the school office on 0151 427 1800 or by emailing enquiries@st-austins.co.uk

Families with children already in our school do not need to attend but can collect or request forms electronically. Each session is limited to 30 adults, and our Year 6 pupils will proudly guide visitors around the school.

Year 7 Secondary Admissions- A reminder for parents/carers of Year 6 pupils to check secondary school websites for admissions details, including entrance exam information. The deadline for applications is 31st October 2025.

Open Evenings - A huge thank you to all parents and carers who attended our open evening last night, and to those joining us tonight. These events always provide a valuable opportunity for positive and constructive dialogue between parents and teachers. We truly appreciate your continued support.

As we have a number of separated parents across the school, offering individual appointments for each parent would mean extending parents' evenings over three or four nights for many classes. We are very grateful to those parents who can attend jointly to celebrate their child's achievements. For any parent unable to attend this time, there will be an opportunity in February to visit school and look through your child's books. We will continue to review this approach annually in consultation with our Governing Body.

Safeguarding - Breakfast Club, children must be brought to the main door by an adult and should not enter the premises alone. This is an essential safeguarding requirement. After School Club, children will only be released to known adults. If someone different is collecting your child, please inform the school office in advance. Thank you for helping us keep all pupils safe.



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Emergency Contact Information - In line with the local authority safeguarding team, each school needs 3 contact names and phone numbers for each child. In times of sickness or poor attendance we will contact various relatives on your contact list. If you have moved house, please ensure our school office has the most up to date information on your child.

Pupil Medical Records - If your child's medical details have changed, please email enquiries@st-austins.co.uk so we can update our records.

Important Online Safety Notice for Parents/Carers - We would like to bring your attention to an important online-safety concern for children. A recent report has found that the video-sharing platform 'TikTok' is recommending highly inappropriate material, including pornographic content, to accounts set up with a child's age, even when "restricted" settings are turned on. While apps such as TikTok and Instagram may look fun and harmless, unmonitored access can expose children to videos or search results that are not suitable for primary aged pupils. The risk is especially high when children use these apps without supervision or with minimal parental controls.

What we recommend:

- Restrict or limit your child's access to video-sharing apps. Wait until they are older before giving them free, unsupervised use. TikTok and Instagram terms and conditions stipulate a minimum age of 13.
- If they do use such apps under your supervision, ensure you have a conversation about appropriate content and set boundaries around time, usage and sharing.
- Use device settings or parental-control apps to restrict access, and check the "restricted mode" is enabled, but please note this may *not* be fully safe on its own. [To enable restricted mode, open TikTok and go to Settings>Content Preferences>Restricted Mode]
- Encourage children to use apps or platforms designed specifically for their age group, and to let you know immediately if they see something that makes them uncomfortable.

By keeping communication open and staying alert to what children are doing online, we can help protect them from unexpected exposure to harmful content and ensure their digital experience is a safe one. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for supporting our joint responsibility in keeping our children safe online.

Bike it Breakfast – Our annual Bike it Breakfast will take place on Friday 7th November. All children and parents/carers are invited to come to school on their bikes or scooters, and those who do receive breakfast in the key stage 1 hall. School will be open from 8.00am. Please note breakfast will be served between 8.00am and 8.40am.

Anti bullying week is week beginning 10th November - On 4th November 2025, some of our pupils will be taking part in a Signing Choir event at St George's Hall as part of the Anti-Bullying Schools Project. This special event celebrates inclusion and the power of communication through sign language. Our school is proud to take part each year, having previously performed at events such as the Eurovision Song Contest Opening Ceremony and at the Anglican Cathedral. The performance will be live streamed, allowing everyone to join in and celebrate this inspiring occasion.

Attendance and Punctuality - Our whole-school attendance for this half term stands at 96.7%, which is above the national average — well done, everyone! We are now focussing on improving our whole school punctuality. We would like to thank all families for their continued commitment to ensuring children arrive on time and ready to learn each day.

Health & Safety – Please can we remind all parents and carers that scooters and bikes must **not** be ridden on the school playground, either before or after school. Following a concern raised by a grandparent who was nearly knocked over, Mr Sheible will now be asking children to **dismount from their bikes and scooters** as they enter the playground. We appreciate your continued support and cooperation in keeping everyone safe.

Parent App update coming in 2026 - We're excited to let you know that our Parent App will be updated in 2026. This will make it easier to receive messages, view key dates and access school information. No action is needed right now—we'll share full details and any next steps closer to the time. We will make the change as smooth as possible and provide help for anyone who needs it.

Uniform and Lost Property - Please ensure that all items of school uniform are clearly labelled with your child's name. We have many unnamed items that have been left in school this half term. A lost property bag is available at the school office for parents to check for lost items.



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School payments – Please ensure you bring your accounts up to date by Friday 24th October. You can check the school APP for any outstanding monies. If you are unable to access your account details on the APP please speak to the office staff who will help. If you have any questions or queries regarding your accounts, speak to Mrs Doran at the school office.

Liverpool and District Primary Schools' Cross Country League - Pupils in Years 5 and 6 have now completed four of the six races in the Liverpool and District Primary Schools' Cross Country League. The latest event at Clarke's Gardens saw record support for St Austin's, with pupils showing remarkable commitment and enthusiasm. Their effort and conduct made the whole school community proud. It was wonderful to see so many parents/carers who came and showed their support! The girls' team is currently third in the league, and the boys' team sixth! Congratulations to all participants as we look forward to the final races!

SAPTA News - Thank you to everyone who supported our Scholastic Book Fair this week, and to the SAPTA volunteers whose help made it possible. The funds raised will be matched by Scholastic, enabling us to purchase even more wonderful books for our children to enjoy in school.

SAPTA Christmas Fair - will take place on Friday 28th November, from 3.30 – 5.30 pm. Join us for an afternoon of stalls, tombolas, refreshments, and Santa's Grotto — a festive favourite for all the family!

End of Term:

End of Term	– Friday 24 th October: early finish at 2.15 pm.
After School Club	– Friday 24 th October: closes at 4.45 pm.
INSET Day	– Monday 3 rd November: school closed for staff training.
Return to School	– Tuesday 4 th November: doors open at 8.45 am.

Finally, as we reach the end of a busy and productive first half term, I would like to thank all parents, carers, staff, and governors for your continued support. Wishing you a restful and enjoyable midterm break — we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 4th November.

Kindest regards,

Colette Hickey
Headteacher

Dates for the diary

24 th Oct -	End of term, school closes at 2.15pm
24 th Oct -	After school club closes at 4.45pm
3 rd Nov -	INSET Day (school closed to all pupils)
4 th Nov -	School opens for all pupils
7 th Nov -	Bike it Breakfast
10 th Nov -	Anti-bullying week
28 th Nov -	SAPTA Christmas Fair
15 th Dec -	Infant Christmas Play
16 th Dec -	Infant Christmas Play
17 th Dec -	Pupils Christmas Dinner
18 th Dec -	SAPTA Christmas Party / Christmas Jumper Day
19 th Dec -	End of term – school closes at 2.15pm



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