



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

www.st-austins.co.uk



Newsletter

18th December 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Catholic Life - For information regarding St Francis of Assisi Church, you can see their weekly newsletter at the following link [St Wilfrid Parish Newsletters](#)

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

Little Church - our children from Little Church will be performing a nativity play during the 10.00am Mass on Christmas Day in St Francis Church. They have been rehearsing in school to perfect their performance with Mrs Baird. I am sure they will be fantastic.

Advent Masses – All KS2 children have thoroughly enjoyed the Advent services at St. Francis of Assisi or the Metropolitan Cathedral. The children were proud ambassadors of our school.

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

Parish Christmas donations – food hampers, and toy donations have been donated to school to share with our parish families. The gifts have been given 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.

Year 4 'The Nativity' – Congratulations to the year 4 children and the school choir for a fantastic nativity performance last week. Parents thoroughly enjoyed the festive afternoon. Well done to all.

Stay and Pray – Our recent Y3 and Y4 Stay and Pray was a huge success! Thank you to the families who joined us to take some time of prayer and reflection during this season of Advent. We have proudly displayed all intentions in our new prayer garden. We look forward to the Y1 and Y2 Stay and Pray in the Spring Term.

Christmas craft Stay and Play – Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our reception Christmas stay & play - both afternoons were a huge success and enjoyed by all. We are hoping to follow up with more sessions in spring and summer terms so watch out for the parent app alert. Please see our Instagram for photos of both afternoon sessions.

Community Christmas lunch – Last week we hosted our annual community Christmas dinner for our parishioners and those from our local community who help our children. We welcomed thirty guests, who ate a traditional Christmas lunch, and they were served by a group of our year 6 children. Yet again, this was a remarkable success, and the children were a credit to our school!

Key Stage 1 Christmas performance – A huge thank you to all staff, and pupils for helping to make the infant Christmas plays so memorable. What an incredible performance - we are immensely proud of our children and the confidence and enthusiasm they showed. Well done! A link to the performances will be sent to parents via the APP.



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Music Night - The St Austin's Music Night returned with a bang last Tuesday. Everyone who attended went home with huge smiles and full of festive cheer. The evening began with our year 5 and 6 violin ensemble who played some wonderful festive pieces under the guidance of their teacher, Demet. Following this, parents were treated to performances from some solo pianists and singers from years 5 and 6. The choir then closed proceedings with a selection of their favourite Christmas songs. A huge thank you to the over 100 parents and family members who attended the event; thank you to all the teachers who gave up their time last Tuesday evening and prepared the children so well; but the biggest thanks must go to the children themselves - as usual, they did themselves, their families and the school proud. What a night!

Attendance & Punctuality – 93.4%

An increase in school sickness has impacted our overall attendance this term, for both staff and children. With a fresh start in the new year, we hope to regain our school target of 97%. Please ensure school are notified of any illnesses so we can inform our EWO. Thank you for your support in sending your child into school on time.

Admissions September 2026 – There will be a final meeting for parents of pupils who are due to start school in September 2026 on Thursday 8th January here at school from 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 must complete an admission form if you would like your child to start in reception class in September 2026. In addition, you also need to complete an on-line local authority form. Closing date for applications is Thursday 15th January 2026.

SAPTA Christmas party - Many activities have taken place in school as we finish for the Christmas break. Today we had our SAPTA Christmas party, with a visit from Santa. The children enjoyed a great festive afternoon. Thank you to the SAPTA parents who helped organise this event for all our children. Please see Instagram pages for photographs of all our Christmas activities.

Instagram - All our Christmas festivities will be on our Instagram pages. We have now reached a massive 1000 followers. Please take a look at our page and share with family and friends!

Online safety - With a huge increase in sales of electronic devices (around 13 million people receive smartphones for Christmas each year) it is important to ensure that you and your children are safe when playing with new technology. To help, we have found some parental advice to keep our school community safe online over the holidays. [Top tips for staying safe online at Christmas - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

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.

Outstanding monies – Can you please ensure all payments for breakfast club, after school club, nursery, and any outstanding dinner monies are paid up to date before we finish for the Christmas holidays. Thank you.

After School Club costs – A reminder the cost of the After School Club will increase in January 2026 to £12.50 per night.

Christmas Disco – Thank you to the group of parents who helped organise a Christmas disco for our KS2 pupils recently. The event raised a fantastic £530 which has been donated to school which will be used to support enriching and enjoyable activities for all our children.

School newspaper – we will send out the new addition in Jan 2026



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Peaceful Holidays 'Reducing family conflict at Christmas' – The Local authority have provided schools with a link for guidance and support on how to reduce family conflict at Christmas. This includes some top tips and advice on where to go for support. [Peaceful holidays](#)

CAFOD Christmas Fun run - All are welcome at CAFOD's annual Christmas Fun Run at Wavertree Sports Park, L15 4LE on Saturday 27 December 2025. Registration open from 10.00am, and the run sets off at 11.00am. 3k and 5k route options available, pram friendly route and dogs on leads are welcome too. Festive attire is encouraged! For a sponsor form or interest in volunteering at the event, please email Colette on cbyrne@cafod.org.uk or sign up now by visiting cafod.org.uk/christmasfunrun

Entry Fees: £10 adults | £5 children | £20 family ticket

End of term – School will close on Friday 19th December at 2.15pm.

End of term After School Club – will close on Friday 19th December at the earlier time of 4.45pm

Start of term – School will open again on Tuesday 6th January at 8.45am.

Dates for the Diary

19 th Dec -	End of term – school closes at 2.15pm
5 th Jan -	INSET day – school closed for all pupils
6 th Jan -	School opens for the spring term

On behalf of the staff and governors I wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous new year. A huge thanks for the fantastic support you have given the school during this busy term. Enjoy the break!

See you all in 2026!

Kindest regards,

Colette Hickey
Headteacher



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