



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

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

**Catholic Life** – Lent Masses commence this week. Our children will be attending the pending Lent Masses at St Francis of Assisi Church at 10am on the following dates: 3<sup>rd</sup> March for years 3 and 4, 10<sup>th</sup> March for year 5 and 17<sup>th</sup> March with year 6. All are welcome to attend. If parents can support the staff in walking the children to Church on these days, please see the class teacher.

**Sacramental Preparations** – Preparations for children making their First Holy Communion this year will take place on the following dates:

5th May – Class 4KA St Francis of Assisi Church 7.00pm  
6th May – Class 4SM St Francis of Assisi Church 7.00pm  
12th May – Class 4KA St Francis of Assisi Church 7.00pm  
13th May – Class 4SM St Francis of Assisi Church 7.00pm  
19th May – Class 4KA St Francis of Assisi Church 7.00pm  
20th May – Class 4SM St Francis of Assisi Church 7.00pm

**First Holy Communion Services are:** 13th June – Class 4SM / 20th June – Class 4KA

**Little Church** - has resumed after the half term break. This is during our Sunday 9.30 Mass at St Francis of Assisi Church. All children aged 4-11years welcome.

**CAFOD** – Our Lent fundraising season has begun! The children were privileged to be joined by CAFOD members for a celebration assembly last week. CAFOD explained to the children where and how our fundraising money has been spent overseas. We were delighted to find that St Austins is one of the main contributors to the CAFOD fund. Nationally we are in the top 15 schools for our fundraising efforts. Thank you to all the parents/carers in sustaining this success.

**The Big Lent Walk** - Mrs Agger and the RE ambassadors are working hard to promote our big Lent walk. As we always support charities home and away, our home charity this year is Zarach - The Liverpool Bed Charity. This charity not only supplies families in our local community with beds and bedding for children, but the founder's members are past pupils. Our second home charity is Clatterbridge cancer appeal. A charity close to our hearts at St Austins. Sponsor forms will be sent out in due course so please support our home and away charities.

This year we will hold our Big Lent Walk on the afternoon of Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**Stay and Pray** – After the success of last terms gathering, we have a new date. Key Stage 1, along with reception and nursery children are inviting their parents on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March to stay and pray. RE ambassadors enjoy serving refreshments afterwards. All welcome.

**Gardeners** - The prayer garden continues to be developed, please take a look at the beautiful daffodils. A statue of Mary will soon take pride of place all completed by our Thursday gardening club. Please ensure children do not jump across onto the path as flowers and plants are still growing and are easily damaged.

**Our Polytunnel** - This year's growing season is now in full swing. Onions and garlic are coming along nicely for year 4, year 6 have planted beetroot and nursery are nurturing their sweetcorn. Yr 1 are preparing their potatoes for planting in the next few weeks, and the other year groups will be planting their seeds before Easter. Watch this space for developments of the 2026 crops.

**New Attendance and Punctuality Electronic Register – Arbor**– We have moved our registration process from paper format to an electronic system called “Arbor”. Teachers record children's attendance directly into the secure portal each morning and afternoon. Morning registration closes at 9:00am. To ensure your child is marked present, please make sure they are in school by 8:55am. School doors open at 8:45am. If your child arrives after 9:00am they must report to the school office and will be marked as late. Thank you for your support in ensuring children arrive promptly and ready for the day ahead. All our attendance data is reported to the DfE electronically.



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**2026 SATS information for parents** – if you have a child in year 6, they will be taking their National Curriculum tests (SATS) in May 2025. The tests are not qualifications and do not affect your child's future options, they are an opportunity to compare nationally, and an important tool to help teachers identify pupils who may need additional support. Key stage 2 SATS tests will run **from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May**. Please ensure your child is in school during this period, and on time. Thank you for your continued support.

**World Book Day 2026** - This year's World Book Day takes place next Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Parents should have now received a letter with details of how we are celebrating this special day in St Austin's, which includes information about World Book Day competitions we will be holding. Children are invited to come to school wearing their pyjamas or loungewear next Thursday to celebrate the joys of snuggling up with a bedtime story. Children are permitted to bring their slippers to school but must also have appropriate footwear for playtime and lunchtime. Keep checking Instagram and the parent app for further messages and pictures.

**St Austin's book giveaway** - Next Thursday, in conjunction with World Book Day, we will be holding a 'book giveaway' after school on the Key Stage 2 playground. We have a wide selection of books from our school library, still in good condition, that we will be giving away free of charge. Please come and help yourself to a book or two. Our fabulous school Reading Ambassadors will be helping to keep everything in check - thank you in advance to them for giving up their time after school to assist with our book giveaway.

**Hispanic Week 2026** – We are currently preparing for Hispanic week 2026 and rehearsals are going well for our Hispanic shows which this year will be held over two afternoons, Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April. This year's performances combine both modern and traditional music with dance and sport.

**STEM Week** - STEM Week this year will run from Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March and the theme for this year is **Curiosity: What's your question?** Inspired by Team GB's recent success at the Winter Olympics, our activities throughout the week will be centred around this achievement, encouraging students to explore, investigate, and develop their own questions linked to winter sports, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

**PGL** – Our year 5 children will be attending PGL this September. Payments will need to be completed by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. If our child is not attending PGL please ensure that you inform school immediately. All costing will be submitted to PGL by May 2026. An information meeting will take place for parents early in July after school.

**Chess lessons** - Our Year 5 pupils have now started chess lessons provided by **Chess in Schools and Communities**. This UK charity brings chess lessons, clubs and resources into state schools to support children's learning and social skills, providing trained tutors, equipment and a structured curriculum for all pupils, regardless of prior experience. We are pleased to see the children embracing the challenge and developing their confidence and strategic thinking through the programme. Have a look at their website for more information [www.chessinschools.co.uk](http://www.chessinschools.co.uk)

**Breakfast and After School Clubs** – a reminder that all places for Breakfast Club and After School Club must be pre-booked in advance. Pre-booking is essential to ensure we have the correct support staff ratios in place to supervise the children safely and effectively. Without prior bookings, we are unable to guarantee appropriate staffing levels. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and well-organised provision for all pupils.

**Staffing** - It is with mixed emotions that I inform you of Mrs Manning's retirement. Mrs Manning has been a fantastic asset to our school community. She began her journey at St Austin's as a Reception Learning Support Assistant in September 2000 and has continued to provide unwavering care and support to our children, staff, and families throughout her time with us. Mrs Manning was part of the St Austin's family long before joining the team, having been a parent at the school for many years, and she has played an important role in our community since 1985. Her dedication, kindness, and commitment will be greatly missed. We thank her sincerely for her many years of service and the positive impact she has made on so many children's lives. We wish her a long, healthy, and very happy retirement — congratulations Mrs Manning!

We also wish Miss Kelly the best of luck as she too leaves St Austin's school.



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**Health and safety** – parents climbing over neighbouring garden walls to retrieve footballs is not permitted. There should be no footballs brought on to the playground in the morning before doors open. Any complaints by neighbours addressed to school regarding trespassers will be asked to contact the police.

**End of term** – School will close on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April for the spring break at 2.15pm.

**Start of term** – School will open again on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 8.45am.

### Dates for the diary

6 <sup>th</sup> Mar -	STEM Week
17 <sup>th</sup> Mar -	The Big Lent Walk
31 <sup>st</sup> Mar -	Spanish Day Performance
1 <sup>st</sup> Apr -	Spanish Day Performance
2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr -	End of term 2.15pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr -	Good Friday
6 <sup>th</sup> Apr -	Easter Monday
13 <sup>th</sup> Apr -	INSET Day
14 <sup>th</sup> Apr -	School opens for the summer term
11 <sup>th</sup> May -	SATS week – Year 6

Kindest regards,

Colette Hickey  
Headteacher



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