



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

www.st-austins.co.uk

Newsletter

3rd September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back! I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to our new pupils and their families in Nursery and Reception, as well as those joining us in other year groups. Starting a new school can feel like a significant step, and we are delighted to see how confidently and happily the children have settled into school life.

Thank you to all parents and carers for preparing the children so well for the start of term. Their positive attitude, enthusiasm and readiness to learn have been noticed by staff across the school. We look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year to ensure that every child thrives, achieves their full potential and enjoys their time at St Austin's.

School Uniform - The children look extremely smart in their school uniform, and we thank parents for their support in maintaining our high standards. Please remember to label **all clothing and footwear**, including PE kits, as our lost property collection will grow rapidly. For full uniform information, please visit our website: [School Uniform](#)

Catholic Life - It is with great sadness that I share the news of the passing of our previous parish priest, Fr Joe Kendal. For those parishioners who knew Fr Joe, he served our parish with faith, kindness and devotion until he left to work in Spain in 2022. He was a constant presence in the lives of our children, staff and families as well as a committed school governor. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. The funeral service will be held at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King in Liverpool on Friday 4th September at 12 noon.

We would like to remind families to access the St Wilfrid Parish Newsletter online each week at the following link [Parish Newsletters](#). This is particularly important for families of children in Year 4 and above who may be considering First Holy Communion arrangements with Father David Potter.

Academisation consultation – As you may be aware from the local news prior to the school holidays, we have been approached by the Archdiocese regarding academisation. A consultation letter for parents will be sent out tomorrow. Please read as this information is very important!

First Holy Communion Meeting - There will be a meeting for parents and carers on Wednesday 23rd September at 2.30pm in KS2 hall. Please sign in at the main office on arrival. During this meeting, Father David will provide information regarding the Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession) and First Holy Communion dates for the coming year. Parents may collect their children immediately after the meeting.

Staffing Update - We are delighted to welcome Miss Petts as our new Year 4 teacher. We also welcome Mrs Clair back from maternity leave as she returns to join our Year 3 team. As we welcome Mrs Clair back, we say a fond farewell for now to Mrs Agger, who begins her maternity leave as she prepares to welcome her new arrival. We wish her and her family all the very best at this exciting time. We are also pleased to welcome Miss Tickle to St Austin's, who joins our Learning Support team in Year 1.

School Day Arrangements - A reminder classroom access will be from 8.45am. Our Nursery opens at 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

Safeguarding - For safeguarding reasons, children must remain with their parent or carer until classroom doors open at 8.45am. Children should not be left unattended on the playground before this time. If your Year 6 child walks to and from school independently, please inform the class teacher of this arrangement via email to the school office at enquiries@st-austins.co.uk



"In our school, where everyone is special,
we will love and serve as Jesus taught"



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At the end of the school day, please ensure children remain with you once collected until you have left the school premises, as our playground can be particularly busy at these times. Bikes and scooters are not permitted to be ridden on the playground. Please walk offsite safely.

Collection Arrangements - If another adult is collecting your child, please inform the school office in advance. For safeguarding reasons, we cannot allow a child to leave school or after-school club with an adult who has not been authorised by a parent or carer.

Attendance and Punctuality - Excellent attendance and punctuality are essential for children's learning, progress and wellbeing. Our school attendance target remains **97%**, and attendance will continue to be monitored carefully throughout the year. We will also continue to celebrate and reward outstanding attendance and punctuality both individually and as classes. Holidays during term time are not authorised except in exceptional circumstances. Current legislation means that parents and carers may receive a penalty notice of **£80 per adult, per child** for unauthorised absence. School attendance remains a significant Local Authority priority and will continue to be monitored closely by the LA.

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

School App (ARBOR) – Our main source of communication between school and parents/carers is now Arbor. Thank you to the 82% of parents who have now successfully signed up. All information will be sent via the Arbor APP, and all payments must be made via this method too, as St Austin's is now operating a cashless payment system! If you need assistance gaining access to the APP please see our office staff who will be happy to assist.

End of half terms – please note, at the end of every half term school will close at 2.15pm. After school club will close at 4.45pm on those days.

BEES BEES BEES – over the holidays our bees have been working very hard to produce lots of honey. We would like to thank those staff who have travelled into school over the summer holidays caring for the bees and retrieving the honey. We will be having a honey stall on Friday 4th September at the end of the school day for those who wish to purchase our local honey. Please bring cash. Please support this worthwhile valuable enrichment activity. All funds to go back into school to support the children.

Dates for the diary

9th -11th Sept - Year 6 PGL
14th-17th Sept - Meet and Greet sessions
12th Oct - Feast of St Wilfrid
21st/22nd Oct - Autumn Open Night
10th/11th Feb - Spring Open Night
23rd Oct - End of Term 2.15pm finish
2nd Nov - INSET day (school closed to all pupils)
3rd Nov - School Opens

Finally, we are incredibly proud of how quickly the children have settled back into school life, displaying such enthusiasm, curiosity and eagerness to learn. With your continued support at home and our dedication in school, we know that this year will be filled with exciting opportunities, memorable experiences and wonderful achievements for every child. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of St Austin's school community.

Kindest regards,

C. Hickey

Colette Hickey
Headteacher



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