

IN OUR SCHOOL...

Where everyone is special...

Issue 9: Christmas 2021

St Austin's Plea to Save the Planet Children come together to tackle climate crisis



Hello everyone and welcome to the Christmas 2021 issue of our school newspaper 'In Our School'

What a fantastic first term we have had to the school year. The children have all settled into their new classes really well and we have crammed so much learning and so much fun into the first few months of this academic year.

Back in September we had a visit from the new Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Mary Rasmussen. She was blown away by the friendly welcome she was given by staff and children and loved going on a tour of our school. There is a detailed report of her visit on page 2.

Educational visits have begun again. The children love expanding their horizons and experiencing opportunities that they would not normally get in the classroom. In this issue you will read a report about Year 6's day out at the Western Approaches Museum to coincide with their World War Two History topic. You will also read about Nursery's adventurous day out to Delamere Forest.

To end this term, our KS1 children performed a fantastic Nativity. We were extremely disappointed that we weren't allowed to invite parents into school to watch the show but we hope you enjoyed the video recording of our talented Nursery, Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 children. A big thank you to all of our KS1 staff for preparing the children so well.

We wish all our families a happy and healthy Christmas and here's to a prosperous 2022.

See you in the new year!

Mr Hints – 20th December 2021



This term, inspired by Pope Francis's plea for 'swift and decisive action' against climate change and to coincide with the COP26 Climate summit in Glasgow, the children of St Austin's came together as one to send a powerful message to the world about the need to tackle climate change.

Year 4 were incredibly engaged in learning about COP26 and were determined to slow down climate change. They worked hard creating posters which they held up as they went on a protest down to Otterspool Promenade. As they walked along presenting their posters the children chanted '**Climate change is not a lie, do not let our planet die.**' They attracted a lot of positive attention from passers-by and hopefully made an impact on

people's actions to reduce their carbon footprint and take steps to slowing down climate change.

Year 5 have also been extremely busy making posters to raise awareness of the climate crisis. They went on a march around school in an attempt to drum up support from the St Austin's community. Hopefully, due of these positive and thoughtful actions from our children, we will see a change in people's attitudes towards our environment. It is not too late to save our beautiful planet for our future generations.



Visit of Lord Mayor, Mary Rasmussen

Nursery Report

Back in September we were delighted to welcome Councillor Mary Rasmussen, the new Lord Mayor of Liverpool, to our school.



Councillor Mary Rasmussen was raised in Chapel Road, Garston, the third child of ten to Thomas and Theresa Gibbons. Thomas and Theresa came to Liverpool from County Mayo, Ireland and made the city their home after trying Glasgow and London. They always told their children it was the best decision they ever made. Mary echoes their sentiments.

Mary was educated at St Francis of Assisi Primary School and then at Blessed John Almond School for her secondary education. Later in life, Mary completed an access university course, but an opportunity to work with people who were long-term unemployed meant that higher education was put on the back burner.

Mary was first elected to represent the Speke/Garston Ward in 2007 and has held numerous positions on the council. She has also been the Chair of the Labour Group and was also the first woman in Liverpool to occupy the Chief Whip role.

Mary believes that Liverpool is the best, because its people are, quite simply, the best.

During her visit to our school, Councillor Rasmussen went on a tour around each class in the school. She was blown away by the friendly welcome she was given in each class and was astounded by the thought provoking questions that were asked by the children, as well as how respectful the children were.

As a school we wish Councillor Rasmussen well as she embarks on her year as Lord Mayor of Liverpool and we look forward to her visiting the school again in the not-too-distant future.



World Mental Health Day 2021

World Mental Health day was celebrated on Sunday 10th October. On Friday 8th, St. Austin's celebrated 'Hello Yellow' and we all arrived at school with a yellow accessory on and our classrooms were filled with yellow. We focused on resilience throughout the school and our main theme was a resilient boat. We thought about 'what really floats our boat?' and makes us happy. We had a fantastic day discussing our likes and dislikes and things that really truly make us smile, even when we are having an off day.



Our youngest children have made a fantastic start to life in St Austin's. In this report, our wonderful nursery children give us the low-down on everything that has been going on in nursery this term, including their exciting, wintery day out to Delamere Forest.

What an amazing beginning we have had to Nursery! We began by getting to know each other and we made lots of new friends. It didn't take us very long to find our friendship groups and to settle into our second home for the next year of our lives.

We have enjoyed lots of adventures this term: one of our favorites was arriving in our classroom to find a lot of disruption and discovering an abandoned egg from an unknown creature. We later learnt that it had been left by Zog the dragon, who wanted us to take care of it until it was safe for him to come and collect it.



We look forward to our semi-weekly P.E. lessons with Mrs O'Shea and Miss Jones. However, Mrs O'Shea makes us run the daily mile EVERY SINGLE DAY because apparently she's training us for the Olympics, (doesn't she know we are only 3 and 4?!)

Our favorite day of all was our wonderful winter wonderland adventure at Delamere Forest. We went on a woodland walk and found strange footprints in the snow which we think belonged to 'THE GRUFFALO'!
(cont. on next page)



Nursery report cont. from page 2...

We went deep into the forest to see if we could find him and mysteriously found Christmas decorations hanging in the trees. We decided to make our very own Christmas Tree out of sticks and the decorations that we found, it looked so beautiful. We finished our special day sitting around a freshly lit fire with burning logs where we toasted some delicious marshmallows.



We have been practising really hard for our very first school Christmas Nativity which you will be able to view online. We are going to sing for our families and friends and hopefully make them very proud. We hope there will be lots of laughter and maybe even some tears (happy ones of course!)

When we come back after our Christmas break, we are looking forward to seeing what new adventures we will get up to and the fun we will have in Spring term.

Caretaker Crew

A group of year 6 children have been working alongside Mr Shieble each week to do important jobs around school. Self-titled 'The Caretaker Crew' they have been assisting in a number of ways like: building the stage for the Key Stage 1 Nativity, fixing the chairs in the KS1 hall and collecting leaves from the school field. Mr Shieble has been delighted with the commitment and dedication of the Caretaker Crew, they have put lots of effort into every task and have completed all jobs with smiles on their faces. One of the members of the crew, Kieran Putzer said, "I learnt how to use a leaf blower and I loved being in charge of decorating the school Christmas tree." Arlo Hunter said, "The best thing has been working as a team."



A day to remember: Year 6 trip to Western Approaches



Educational visits came back with a bang for year 6 this term with a brilliant day out to the Western Approaches Museum in Liverpool City Centre to support their history learning about World War 2

The Western Approaches Museum is a dis-used World War 2 bunker that was used during World War 2 to coordinate the allied missions of The Battle of the Atlantic.



The bunker has now been turned into a museum but many of the original rooms and features of the bunker have remained intact and the year 6 children loved exploring the different sights, sounds and smells of the Battle of the Atlantic.



In the afternoon, the children then experienced what it was like to be at sea by taking a trip on the iconic Mersey Ferry. The drizzly weather of the morning subsided and they were able to enjoy the beautiful views of the Liverpool waterfront. Erica Lau from 6DH loved the trip, saying, "The Liverpool skyline was brilliant and I was very happy on the trip because I learnt lots about World War 2."

Over the next two terms, all other year groups in the school will be going on educational visits to enhance their learning. We can't wait to read about all of these fantastic visits in the next issue of our newspaper.



CONGRATULATIONS!

A huge congratulations to Mrs Fryer on the birth of her baby daughter, Josie Gwen McLoughlin, who was born on the 2nd October. The whole family are doing really well and the St Austin's community send their very best wishes to Mrs Fryer, her husband Ian, and, of course, the beautiful baby Josie.

Watch the children grow – Year 4 and 5 Poly-tunnel club

Some of our Year 4 and 5 pupils have been enjoying taking part in a gardening club this term. Once a week they have been spending up to an hour working closely with Marie from Food for Thought to; identify plants around our school grounds, tidy up the Polytunnel, plant new seedlings, learn about the growth of different plants and plan how to make our school environment look more exciting. All the activities that the children are doing enable them to work towards the John Muir Environmental Award. This is an award that encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment through learning, in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration!

Water Way to Have a Great Time – Year 5 Swimming

This term our year 5 children have taken part in swimming sessions at Garston Lifestyles. Each week they have walked to and from the swimming baths and have developed their water confidence, their front crawls, their back strokes and their water safety skills. The coaches were really impressed with the children's effort, determination and the respect that they demonstrated in each lesson, and every child has made significant progress and massively developed their swimming skills. The year 5 teachers are extremely proud of them all. Here's what some of our year 5 children had to say about the sessions:

We have attended 12 weeks of swimming sessions each Thursday morning. I think the children in our class have been getting really good. – Imogen

The swimming coaches are really nice and supportive. If you need help they are there to help you. – Jackson

We all enjoy the walk to swimming. Our class on average take 16 minutes to walk from school to Garston Leisure Centre. Our personal best time to walk to swimming is 13 minutes. The walk is worth it and we are all improving our swimming. - Leyton

Year 6 – World War Two VE Day

Year 6 have absolutely loved learning about World War 2 this term. To celebrate all of their learning, they held a VE Celebration Day on the last day before October half term. The children came dressed in traditional clothes of the time and took part in a range of activities.

CERYs and ORLA from 6DH take us through the events of a memorable day...



BY CERYs and ORLA

On Friday 22nd October year 6 had a class VE day to celebrate the end of our WW2 topic. People dressed up as: soldiers, evacuees, nurses / doctors and W.A.A.F (Women's Auxiliary Air Force)



That day we had a little party, we also went through a power point that showed a little bit about VE day, finally we went around key stage 1 and showed them our funky costumes. I particularly loved the smiles on the nursery children when we visited them.

All together we had a really good day and it was a great way to end our history topic. - **By Cerys**



On Friday the 22 of October both year six classes wore WW2 costumes to represent costumes worn in Britain during WW2. We learnt the Charleston which was a dance that people used to do to have fun during the war. We had a VE Day party with food like sausage rolls, crisps and juice; it was amazing. I dressed up as a girl pilot warden and we coloured in a VE day picture, we had a brilliant day. Most people dressed up as evacuees and everyone had so much fun; we will always remember it. **By Orla**



Isla treading the boards

Isla Docherty in year 6 has been rehearsing with her drama group 'Tread' to put on a Christmas performance of Jack and the Beanstalk. Due to Covid restrictions, they are having to film their performance instead of doing it in front of a live audience. This is what she had to say about a day of filming:

BY ISLA DOCHERTY

On the 1st of October I went to Allerton Towers to film sections of the movie Jack and the Beanstalk. We started at 9:30 am and finished at 1:30 pm. It took 4 hours of filming and in those hours we filmed 3 scenes, the scenes we filmed where, the end, the Giants appearance and Jack climbing the beanstalk but, we didn't use a real life stalk, we used a tree! In our breaks I got locked in the bathroom and had to climb out a very small window at the top of the bathroom wall and scraped all my back. By the time it was over I was shattered and wanted to go to bed. But it had been a great day.

Jayden's Amazing Santa Canter!

BY JAYDEN – YEAR 5

SUNDAY 5TH OF DECEMBER 2021

It was a fine Sunday morning and the sun was shining as I was getting ready for my very first Santa Dash. It was exciting getting to give money that I have and don't need to the people who need it most, who are the children of Alder Hey.



When I decided to take on this challenge, friends and family kindly chose to support me with their donations as well.

I got dressed into my Santa suit and it looked hilarious because it had a hat, belt and had MASSIVE and I mean MASSIVE pants! As you can see on the left there's me at town hall waiting for the dash to start and I'll talk more about that later.

My Mum and Dad took me, my sister, my Nan and our dog Coco by car to town. The trip didn't take too long thankfully. So, we got there about half an hour early.

We wandered around town looking for the Santa dash starting area. Then how we found it was looking for the adults coming back from their really long 5k run and they looked absolutely shattered, some of them were shaking!

So, we finally made it to the start with 20 minutes to spare. For the next 10 minutes we sat down and waited, then it was time for me to line up at the start ready for my dash. I did my warm up with the other people there, stretching my muscles by doing jumps and jogging on the spot. Then Oli the elephant came and



if you don't know who that is then he's the elephant in the Alder Hey logo. Lots of people had cameras that were flashing left right and center. We finally were set off by a man shouting a countdown of 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, GO! And we were off.

At first, I felt scared because there were many others there, about 500 other young people there. It didn't take long until I started panting but, in the end, I made it and when I got to the home run there were drums and two people on stilts in costumes giving me high-fives and best of all a drum roll, please..... A SNOW MACHINE!

Yes, you heard me right a snow machine.

At the end I was given a medal and a selection box of chocolates! So, I completed the 1k dash in under 4 minutes and I finished in top 20 and in my age group top 10 which I am extremely pleased and proud of – looking forward to next year's dash!!!!

I hope my story raises awareness of the children who need our help and support and inspires other people to try to make a difference with their fundraising efforts for the children of Alder Hey.



A huge well done also to Lucie (year 5), Grace (year 2), George (year 1) and Freddie (year 3 – not in photograph) who also completed this year's Liverpool Santa Dash and, by the look of the photo, had amazing fun doing it!

Advent Masses

As we are now in the season of Advent, our children have attended Advent Masses at St Francis of Assisi Church. Father Joe celebrated the Masses and spoke in his homily about how Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. He also asked the children to pray for those who are less fortunate than ourselves. The children sat beautifully during the Masses; responded to the prayers and received Holy Communion from Father Joe. Our **Reading Ambassadors** helped with readings and the offertory and some of our year 5 and 6 children assisted by being Altar Servers. A big thank you to Father Joe for celebrating mass with us and for reminding us all of the true meaning of Christmas.



Praying the Rosary

On Monday 18th October year 5 gathered to pray the holy rosary. The month of October is dedicated to the holy rosary, one of the best known and most traditional catholic devotions. October also includes the feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7th. The best way to celebrate, of course, is to pray the rosary.



Well done Reuben

Well done to Reuben in year 6 for receiving his Altar Server medal this term. Reuben is one of a number of children in our school who assist Father Joe each week. It takes incredible dedication and commitment to be an altar server and we are very proud of all of the children who give up their time to serve in church each weekend.

Year 5 Communion Celebrations



Year 5 had a fabulous Communion celebration. The children showed off their dance moves with a selection of ‘Just Dance’ songs. We played party games and had a dance competition. We have some super dancers in year 5. The children enjoyed a snack and an ice cream whilst watching a Disney film. It was lovely to see all of the children celebrating together – what a lovely afternoon! We are so proud of all of the year 5 children who have made their First Holy Communion.

Visit of Father Thomas

Year 6 have been learning about ‘Commitment and Vocation’ in their RE lessons this term. To help us understand more about a religious vocation, we invited Father Thomas Clarke (Miss Clarke’s brother) into school to speak to our year 6 children. Father Thomas talked to us about his vocation growing up; when he was ‘called by God’ to be a priest; and the day-to-day role of a catholic priest. We found out that Father Thomas not only celebrates mass with his parishioners, but he performs sacraments such as weddings, funerals and confession. He is also a prison and hospital chaplain and visits both primary and secondary schools. We are very grateful to Father Thomas for his time.

Citizenship: Alex and Teddy to the rescue

Alex and Teddy in year 6 proved what thoughtful citizens they are by coming to the aid of an elderly lady on Riverbank Road. They were both playing after school when they heard the cry of someone distressed from a nearby house. Rather than ignoring it, they came back to school to inform staff. Mr Shible then went to assist and found an elderly lady in a nearby house who had fallen and couldn’t get up. The lady was fine, thanks largely to the swift and thoughtful actions of Teddy and Alex. We are very proud of the two year 6 boys for demonstrating the gospel values of kindness and thoughtfulness for others that we promote here in St Austin’s.



5 minutes with...Mr Hints

We asked our year 6 reporters to put some questions to Mr Hints to find out what makes him tick outside of the classroom.

We discovered his passion for sport, his love of music and his secret love of Rom-coms! Here's what he had to say...

Why did you want to come and work in St Austin's?

I'd worked in my previous school for quite a few years so I was ready for a new challenge. I came for a tour of St Austin's and everyone was so welcoming. The children all seemed really happy and I just got a great feeling that this was a school I'd love to work in.

What's the best things about our school?

There is a great sense of community between children, staff and parents: everybody helps each other out and looks out for each other. I also love how the children are given so many exciting opportunities to further their skills in a whole range of activities from sport to music to dance to art. There really is something for everyone in St Austin's!

What was your favourite subject when you were in school?

I was sport-mad growing up so I loved PE. I've also always loved writing stories so I really enjoyed English. As I got older, I grew to love History. I had some great history teachers in Secondary school who really instilled a passion for history inside of me. So much so, that I eventually went on the study history at university.

What is your favourite subject to teach?

I love writing stories with my class. There is nothing better than seeing a story develop from our imaginations until it becomes almost real on the page. I also love teaching History and PE.

Who inspires you and why?

Like me, my mum was a teacher before she retired. She was so passionate about the children in her care and was so hard-working and dedicated. If I could remotely emulate what she achieved then I would be very proud.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I love sport, but when it comes to playing sport, I'm a bit of a jack of all trades, master of none! I still play football for local team Cheshire Lines (though my knees are slowly giving way!); I play tennis for East Wavertree Tennis Club and, in the summer, I like to hack around the golf course with my dad. I also

love watching Test cricket. Music is also a big passion. I've played the piano and sung (a bit) since I was little and I love going to gigs. I've been lucky enough to see some of the world's best musicians play live, like Paul McCartney, Elton John, Oasis and Coldplay.

What kind of music do you like listening to?

I grew up listening to Oasis and Blur and then fell in love with bands like Coldplay, Muse, Kings Of Leon and Arctic Monkeys. I also enjoy listening to classical music, particularly when I want to relax or when I am doing work – I find it helps me concentrate.

What are your favourite films?

Forrest Gump is my all time favourite and still makes me cry to this day. Rom-coms are a guilty pleasure; I never go a Christmas without watching Love Actually!



If you had to eat the same meal every day for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Some kind of pasta meal – probably something simple but tasty like Spag Bol.

If you could invite 3 people, alive or dead, round for tea, who would you invite and why?

Robin Williams – one of my favourite actors who is sadly no longer with us. A comedy genius who made so many people smile.

Cleopatra – I'd love to get the goss on Julius Caesar and find out what life really was like all those years ago in Ancient Egypt/Rome.

Noel Gallagher – does he really hate his brother so much? Are Oasis ever going to reform? How did he write a genius piece of music like The Masterplan? He could even bring his guitar and serenade us!

What are you watching on TV?

Mrs Hints loves Strictly so we have to watch that on a Saturday night (I secretly like it as well but don't tell her I said that!) and we are

still currently working our way through Masterchef the Professionals on BBC iPlayer. I love a good crime thriller and can't wait for the next series of Line of Duty. I love comedies like Alan Partridge and anything by Ricky Gervais. His latest creation 'Afterlife' on Netflix was so incredibly funny one second but heartbreaking the next. I can't wait for the new series of that in the new year but I think I will need lots of tissues!

What is your dream for the future?

Our little girl Freya turns 2 in January so I just want her to be happy and healthy with lots of friends.

Favourite holiday destination?

Disneyworld in Florida – because I'm a big kid at heart!

If money was no obstacle, describe your perfect day. What would you do? Where would you go? Who would you be with?

I'd have a Tavern Brekky and then teleport to the Magic Kingdom in Disneyworld where we would take Freya to visit all of the Disney characters and enjoy some of the rides. We'd then drop Freya off at my mum and dad's, who will babysit her for the afternoon, so that Mrs Hints and I can have lunch next to the Grand Canal in Venice before relaxing for the afternoon with a cocktail on an idyllic beach in the Caribbean. We'd then pick Freya up and head to our caravan in Anglesey where we'd have a BBQ tea as the sun sets behind us. Perfect.



Red or blue??

Blue – my Mum has been a season ticket holder since the 1960s so I didn't really have a choice! It's very much a love-hate relationship I have with Everton at the moment. I was at Wembley in 1995 when we last won a trophy and I just hope I live to see us lift another trophy one day... but things aren't looking great at the moment!

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year...” – Christmas in St Austin’s

Key Stage 1 Nativity 2021

Last week our Nursery, Early Years, year 1 and year 2 children wowed with their annual Nativity extravaganza. They put on a fantastic show for the camera and their parents and families will undoubtedly be extremely proud of them when they watch the recording.

We sent six roving reporters from year 6 to review each nativity performance and they were blown away by the talent on display from the youngest children in our school through to our year 2 children. This is what they had to say about each magnificent performance:

Pixie and Poppy-Sue reviewed the Nursery performance:

The first song was ‘When Santa got stuck Up the Chimney’, they all did fabulous singing and I can agree that everyone was very impressed. The second song was ‘Navidad’ and they all had great singing voices in Spanish and the performed beautifully and I was very impressed with all of the actions they did as well with the first one. The final thing I would say is the outfits they were wearing matched the performance amazingly so altogether I give it a 10/10. **By Pixie**



Today we watched the nursery Christmas production. They sang ‘Santa Got Stuck Up the Chimney’ beautifully - I loved it! They also sang ‘Navidad’ which I thought was amazing. They also performed a nativity rhyme which was so clearly said by the children and they all had smiles on their faces. It made me so happy, seeing the effort put in by everyone one to make it a wonderful play. I rate it a big 10/10 also thank you to all the teachers who participated in making it a great performance. **By Poppy-Sue**



James and Daniel reviewed the Early Years performance:

I watched the Reception Nativity, and the first song was ‘Two Carol Singers’. In total there were four songs, the rest were: Christmas dinner, A Miracle in Town, and Gatatumba. There were lots of good costumes like, a gravy box, a turkey, a carrot, Brussel sprout, Mary and Joseph plus baby Jesus, shepherds, and the Three wise men. At the end there was a Christmas poem. I really liked all the songs and the Christmas poem at the end, I also thought that the costumes were quite funny too. – **By James**



They were dressed in Christmas costumes like angels, shepherds, wise men and food you would find on a Christmas dinner. Their first song was the Two Carol Singers which was excellent. Their next song was Christmas Dinner which was about the food you would have on a Christmas dinner. The next song was about the Miracle of Jesus; there were two shepherds and three wise men with Mary and Jesus. They sang a song in Spanish called Gatatumba which was amazing. To finish off, they did an excellent Christmas poem. Our head teacher Mrs Hickey said, “I loved it, it was fabulous, the singing was excellent and the costumes were very good.” I thought it was brilliant and the dancing was fabulous. **By Daniel**

Emmie reviewed the Year 1 performance:

The year 1 play was excellent and I really enjoyed watching it. The singing was very loud and clear and the children’s acting was very good and professional. I loved the range of stories that they told: Polar Express, Frozen, Let it Snow, Elf, Santa Claus is Coming to Town and they even sang a Spanish song which was amazing. The costumes they wore were outstanding. Year 1 even did a part where they told us what each letter of ‘Christmas’ stands for which I really enjoyed. Overall I would give year 1 an amazing 10/10! – **By Emmie**

Matthew S reviewed the year 2 performance:

Year 2’s acting was amazing and they all knew the words to the songs off by heart. They had great singing voices and it was very professional. Their outfits were very creative. The songs they sang were ‘Clip Clop Little Donkey’, ‘How Many People Are In this Inn?’, ‘Away in a Manger’ (in Spanish), and ‘Snow is Falling’. There were ten sheep and three Wise Men – quality entertainment! – **By Matthew**



What did the children think? We asked some of our superstar performers from Early Years and KS1 to give us their highlights. This is what they had to say...

'It made me happy to see my cousin Kayla in the audience' – Dolly (Nursery)

'I loved wearing my Christmas Tree dress and singing our Christmas songs' – Florence (Nursery)

'I loved our special treat (CHOCOLATE BUTTONS) when we got off stage!' – Jacob (Nursery)

I liked it when everyone was clapping – Elizabeth (RCC)

I've never done that before, it was great – Jack RCC

I liked all the songs we sang. Let It Snow was my favourite! – Edie (1LH)

I liked doing the actions when we sang – Fiadh (1LH)

I liked getting dressed up in the costumes and face-paint – Poppy (1LH)

I loved when we all shouted Merry Christmas and Felix Navidad – Jude (1LH)

I liked seeing Santa all dressed up in our show – Samuel (1LH)

I liked being an elf and singing the song tapping away – Enrico (1CG)

I liked playing Mrs Claus because I got to wear red lipstick – Lauren (1CG)

It was very good. I really enjoyed it. I loved being a cute little lamb! – Etta (2AK)

It was amazing, fantastic and spectacular! The song I liked the best was 'Three Wisemen' – Luca (2AK)

I really enjoyed the Nativity because we had so much fun and the costumes were cool – Niamh (2CS)

My favourite part was the dancing camels and the Strictly come dancing judges – Lily (2CS)

Christmas Dinner and Christmas Raffle



Yesterday the children enjoyed a sumptuous Christmas Dinner cooked by our amazing kitchen staff. Staff helped out serving drinks, pouring gravy and tidying away plates; Christmas music played in the canteen and the atmosphere was incredibly festive. The children enjoyed turkey with all the trimmings with a Christmas tree choc-ice for pudding....delicious!



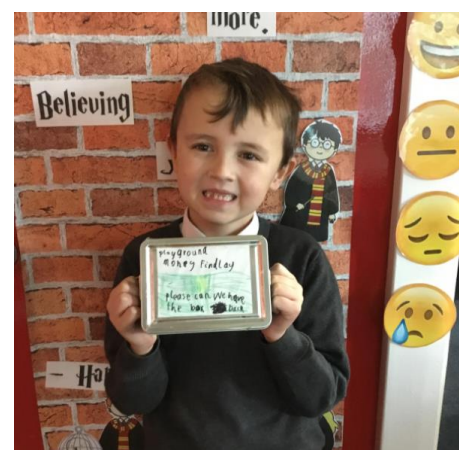
Congratulations to **James Y1** and **Matha in Y5** who won the school Christmas raffle and therefore took home the enormous chocolate hampers shown in the picture below. Also a big well done to Class 6REC who raised the most money overall. They too received a prize and **Manasa and Arlo** accepted that on their behalf (see photo below)

Thanks to Mrs Baird who donated the hampers along with a family friend. In total, £870 was raised across the school, an incredible amount that smashed last year's record. A huge thank you to the generosity and kindness shown by everybody who bought a raffle ticket. The money raised will go towards equipment for the children in school. The school council have already written some ideas as to what they would like to spend the money on keep those ideas coming!



Findlay's Fundraising

A number of year 2 parents kindly donated some money to be put towards equipment for the Key Stage 1 yard. Not to be outdone, Findlay in 2CS wanted to raise some money on his own and set about using his own time to make Christmas cards to be sold. Not only is this extremely enterprising from Findlay, it also shows what incredible kindness he has. Some of his cards were even sent as far as America and Australia. Findlay raised a whopping 31.50 and is extremely proud of himself, and St Austin's are extremely proud of him. Here he is holding up his money tin!



Christmas Party Pics!

On Monday, each class celebrated with a Christmas Party, we even had a visit from Father Christmas himself. Can you spot yourself in our gallery of pictures?



Christmas stories and book reviews

Sofia and Steve's mission to save Christmas – By Neave Perigo, year 5

CHAPTER 1

Once upon a time there lived a girl called Sofia and an elf called Steve. But he wasn't an ordinary elf; he was the most powerful elf of existence. You may be thinking how? All elves have the same amount of magic but in this story there is only one magical elf left. So I am going to tell you the story of what really happened.

It was Christmas Eve, the elves were arguing because they were unhappy about losing their magic. The reason they were losing the magic was because all the children across the land were losing their Christmas spirit. The children were really sad, they had not seen their friends all year because they could not go to school due to COVID and now most of the kids don't believe that Santa will come this year!

But there was still one elf left thanks to his kind hearted friend Sofia. Sofia believed in Santa and always will no matter what. Steve is Sofia's elf. Steve still had his magic to save Christmas. So he decided to tell Sofia that he needed her help while turning into his human form. Sofia on the other hand was surprised, in shock but excitedly agreed.

Steve and Sofia came up with a plan. "So we need to get help by getting the most famous Youtubers and the world's favourite teacher to help us make a tiktok video to spread Christmas cheer.

"Sofia we have only got 24 hours to save Christmas" said Steve worriedly. Sofia said, "get PewDiePie Jelly and Mr Hughes from 4JH on the phone now".

ONE HOUR LATER

Mr Hughes is teaching his famous fabulous dance move the wiggle worm to Jelly and the gang. Just as Mr Hughes is about to upload the tiktok Christmas dance the Grinch comes out of nowhere to stop the video getting posted. But he didn't know that Steve still had his powers. Steve used his magic to teleport the Grinch to the middle of the Arctic Ocean where he can't cause anymore disasters.

The video gets posted and goes viral within two hours thanks to Steve, Sofia, PewDiePie and jelly as well as class 4JH. Across the world, kids and teens are doing the wiggle worm (which is now more famous than the floss!) and feeling happier than ever before! Suddenly the elves began to feel their magic once again as Christmas spirit starts to spread and more people start to believe that Santa will come this year.

Have Sofia and Steve saved Christmas? We will have to wait and see.....

CHAPTER 2 - A NEW BEGINNING

It's finally a new Christmas year in 5EV for Sofia it was a different class, but Sofia still had Steve. Sofia was so excited for it to be the 1st of December to see her old friend Steve again. When the time came for Steve to arrive, he came in his human self and gave Sofia loads of cuddles, they were having so much fun until they heard on the news that the Grinch was back...

"The Grinch is back what should we do," said Sofia in worried voice "I don't know but we have to do it fast until he ruins Christmas." Rushed Steve in a hurried voice. "Shall I do what I had done before and teleport him into an ocean." Steve said with loads of thoughts in his head. "Well, I mean like he somehow got back to land, and we want to get rid of him for good don't we we'll have to think of a plan then." Sofia said.

Sofia and Steve were thinking hard to come up with the perfect plan and then they got it a plan to defeat the Grinch. First, we need tape. Second, we need rope. Third, we need a box

So, then we can trap the Grinch you may be wondering how they're going to trap the grinch with tape, a box, and rope. Sofia and Steve are going to tape a rope onto a box and put bait under it to attract the Grinch and then BOOM the box falls on the Grinch and Sofia and Steve will jump out of a bush and catch him. Sofia and Steve didn't think what they were going to do with him though is this going to lead to trouble?

CHAPTER 3 - ACTION

You may be wondering how Steve and Sophia know where the Grinch will be, well the thing is they don't, but they have an idea. There's going to be a festival tonight about celebrating Christmas by lighting up a humongous Christmas tree and singing Christmas songs around the tree.

It's finally time for the festival. Sophia found a tree to tie a rope around it and Steve got the box and taped the rope connecting to the tree together to create a trap, the last and final step is to get the bait.

Steve and Sophia got chocolate biscuits because who doesn't like chocolate biscuits and placed it under the box. Just on time for everyone to arrive. "There he is," Steve said quietly, "we better hurry," exclaimed Steve. The Grinch was walking right past Steve and Sophia without a flinch. Sophia seen the Grinch taking out scissors as well as an extended ladder. Sophia was really confused about why the Grinch needed scissors and an extended ladder and then Sophia got it, it was to cut out the lights on the Christmas tree.

Sophia didn't even think about talking to Steve about it, she just sneaked up towards the Grinch and attempted to take the scissors out of his bag, then before you know it Steve caught Sophia and was telling her to get back her.

When Sophia did, she had to explain it to Steve about why she was looking in the Grinch's bag, why she hadn't told Steve about it and why she had attempted to, when they had her own plan.

It eventually was time for the Christmas tree to light up. The Grinch was walking towards our trap and taking everything out of his bag. But then the Grinch turned around and there was his favourite treat in the whole world a chocolate biscuit, he ran over to the biscuits and fell right into Steve's and Sophia's trap.

"Yes, we got him" both said so excitedly. Did you really think that Sophia and Steve wouldn't know what to do with him! Well, if you did, you were wrong.

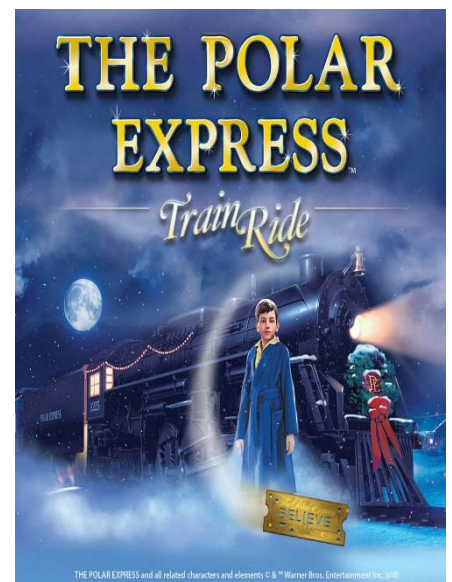
They called Neil Armstrong to help us send the Grinch to space, but we aren't that mean, so we had to get him gear to be able to breathe. You are probably thinking that Steve could have just teleported him to space well Steve has a limit plus he probably wouldn't survive. The Grinch was long far gone never seen again! Sophia and Steve were so happy that it is time to celebrate!

By Neave Perigo

Polar Express – By Jaden Gill, year 6

I really enjoyed this film because it had me happy, sad, and anxious. I really liked that the ticket man was voiced by Tom Hanks and I think that He was the perfect voice casting. My favourite part was when the 3 kids were sliding down Santa's sack but another kid was hiding in the sack as well. The Polar Express is a popular Christmas movie that came out in 2004, I personally think that the best Christmas film is Home Alone 2: Lost in New York, but when I think of Christmas the Polar Express always comes to my mind. I would like there to be a realistic version of the Polar Express and Tom Hanks be the ticket man again

By Jaden Gill.



The Christmas Pig – By Tess Burns, year 6

The Christmas Pig is a story about a boy who has this teddy called Dr Pig/ DP who comforts him whenever he's sad. But then his parents split up and he moves to a new house. A few months later, before Christmas in a car ride with his step-sister he gets lost! During the day he gets a replacement called The Christmas Pig. Suddenly, he's alive. On Christmas Eve, the night for miracles and lost causes, the two venture to the land of the lost to find DP, while running from the grasp of the loser.

By Tess Burns

Sport and Extra-Curricular

Athletic Stars

St Austin's Success in Indoor Athletics Comp

This term a group of year 6 athletes have had great success in two indoor athletics competitions. Competing against a total of forty-five schools from across the city, St Austin's eventually finished in 5th place which is an incredible achievement. The result was bitter-sweet, however, as the top four schools qualified for the County finals after Christmas. Nevertheless, the children who took part should be immensely proud of themselves. We asked some of the children from our successful team to share their stories...



On the Friday 19th of November St Austin's arrived at an Indoor athletics competition. Our school came 2nd so that meant we qualified for the City Championships. On the Friday 10th of December our school entered Greenbank Sport Hall for the city finals. You needed to place in the top 4 to qualify for the next round but we placed 5th so we didn't qualify. On the positive side our score means that we are the 5th best primary school at indoor athletics in Liverpool so we are still all really proud! – **By Sophie Bell**

It all started in November when my teacher announced he was starting an indoor athletics club after school. In my mind I knew what I had to do join. A week or two later, I am at the club preparing for the competition. I was doing my best to get in the team, deep down I knew I was going to get in but I still had to wipe the floor with everyone. Anyway, six weeks later, when I had been told I'm in the team I was so excited but when I got there I was so nervous. But after coming first in both of my relays and smashing my jumps we qualified for the city finals which we came 5th in. – **By Isaac Edoh**

I loved indoor athletics! It all started off with an after school club which took place on a Tuesday 3:20 till 4:30pm. – We learnt a bunch of different skills which would be included in the

competition. After all of the trial sessions were completed, it was now in the teacher's hands to decide who would be chosen for the competition, and all I could do was hope. When I found out I got in I was overflowing with joy, but felt a drop of anxiousness inside me.

The competition came in a blink of an eye, and suddenly I was walking into the sports hall in Notre Dame High School trembling with fear. Totally overwhelmed, my first race was a relay with Emmie Whewell a lap each. – I was amazed after me and Emmie had finished our race. We came 2nd and I was delighted.

Time past and we all sat down as it was about to be announced whether we had qualified for the City Finals or not. A buzz of Adrenaline shot through me. Everywhere was dead shot silent...."In 2nd place is.. ST AUSTIN'S!!" cheers surrounded me and we had qualified for the City Finals - **By Kayla Peters**

Indoor athletics was super fun, both competition and club. I went to the training and then the competition.

The training is on Tuesdays after school from 3:30 – 4:30 with Mr Hints. We do lots of sports including: relays, long jump, triple jump, vertical jump, javelin and chest push. Its lots of fun. So if you can, go to it.

The competitions were very nerve racking but fun. The first competition was on Friday the 19th of November after school at Notre Dame High School. We all tried our best and with all the effort we put in we managed to come second and qualify for the city finals.

The city finals competition was on Friday the 10th of December in the morning at Green Bank Sports Academy. We all tried to push past our limits to try and get in the top 4. Sadly, we came 5th but we are still happy because we gave it our all and were so close, and can I say a big thank you to everyone who participated in the indoor athletics club and competitions, and one big thank you to all the teachers who helped train us and took us to the competitions. – **By Isabelle Lee**



Cross Country Report

Our Cross-Country coach, Mrs O'Shea gives us the low-down on the season so far...

By MRS O'SHEA

Since the cancellation of the City Cross Country Championships in 2020, life for our children has been very different! Initially during the first lockdown there was a proliferation of family and children's exercise regimes; children went out running regularly; the Daily Mile flourished; everybody was buying bicycles. The plethora of activities brilliantly provided by the School Sports' Partnerships, numerous coaches and even Joe Wicks showed how important physical activity is to the children, and more importantly, how much the children enjoy it.

St Austin's year 5 and 6 cross country team were enthusiastically welcomed back in September this year and have been totally committed to training weekly with Mrs O'Shea. They have worked extremely hard every Monday and Tuesday morning before their school day even begun showing total commitment and determination for the Cross Country League Races. These sessions have been devoted to long runs, sprints, starts reaction technique, relays and repetition runs.

The competition races began on Thursday 30th September at Croxteth Park which saw St Austin's girls receive an overall Silver Certificate Award. The second race at Newsham Park on Thursday 30th September was cancelled and the children went onto the third race at Stanley Park on Wednesday 6th October. The children again ran every inch of the course with passion and enthusiasm. The fourth race at Clarke's Gardens was a fabulous turn out of children, parents and staff and the children went on to secure 8 places in the first 50!

Each competition race was timed and the first thirty runners were selected from each of the 18 races of the Cross Country League season. Two of our Year 5 Girls', Elsie O'Doherty and Esme Cameron qualified to represent the great city of Liverpool which was a fabulous honour. On Saturday 27th November 2021 at Sefton Park, Representative teams competed against other Merseyside Boroughs and club teams from across

Great Britain at the Cross Challenge event. It was a bitterly cold day and there had been a storm the night before which left a path of destruction across the city but this did not deter our children one bit.



They courageously ran through the freezing wind with Esme finishing in 13th position with a time of 8.27 and Elsie finishing 39th with a timing of 9.09. Both girls being awarded a hard earned and well-deserved medal. We look forward to our further races in the new year and hope to continue with our great success.



Girls Football Tournament

In October St Austin's girls' football team took part in a city-wide 7-a-side tournament. With minimal training and preparation, the girls excelled in all of the matches they played. Although we didn't win the tournament, the girls came back to school with their heads held high and should be extremely proud of the teamwork and skill that they showed. Ella Baxter, one of the girls who took part in the tournament said, "I just loved playing in a team with all of my friends and representing St Austin's." Well done to the girls' team who consisted of: Isla Docherty, Ella Baxter, Heidi Jackson, Isobel Gill, Emmie Whewell, Ruby Robbie-Mogan and Megan Fisher

After School Clubs

Our extremely dedicated and talented staff provide so many clubs for our children to take part in. We cater for every hobby and interest and there are clubs for children as young as early years right the way up to year 6. Clubs include: samba band, computing, choir, mindfulness, athletics, netball and cricket. Unfortunately we have had to cancel clubs recently due to the current covid situation, but fingers crossed, clubs will be back after the Christmas break. So whatever your interest, whatever your passion, whatever your age, get yourself involved!