

IN OUR SCHOOL...

Where everyone is special...

Issue 12: Christmas 2022

A Sign of the Times: Signing Choir spread Joy at the Cathedral



Well, where did that term go? Is it really Christmas already? What an action packed autumn term we have had with so many wonderful stories and events to fill the pages of our school newspaper.

This term we welcomed our new parish priest, Father David, to St Austin's and in this issue we have an extended Catholic Life section documenting everything that has gone on in school this term to live out our school mission statement. See pages 4, 5 and 6 for all the details.

It's also a very festive issue with articles about the amazing Early Years and Key Stage 1 Nativity, a hugely successful community Christmas Dinner as well as a joyous and triumphant return of our school Christmas Fayre after a three year absence.

As usual, an enthusiastic team of writers from across the school have contributed articles, stories and reports to this issue's Newspaper and it wouldn't be possible without their hard work.

So...sit back with a cup of tea and a mince pie and read about the wonderful world of St Austin's. It's been a whirlwind of a term.

A Merry Christmas and we'll see you all in 2023!

Mr Hints – Tuesday 20th December 2022



In November, a group of children from St Austin's teamed up with schools from across Liverpool to form a 'signing choir' in order to make a positive stand against bullying. See page 2 for a full report, with pictures and children's thoughts on a fantastic venture for our school...

[Year 6 children review the KS1 Nativity – page 7](#)



[Catholic Life: see how the children of St Austin's have been living out our mission statement in so many different ways this term – pages 4, 5 and 6](#)

United against bullying – Signing Choir perform at Cathedral

By MISS SULLIVAN

Our PSHE lead teacher and Mental Health advocate Miss Sullivan tells us all about a fantastic day at the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral:

During Anti-Bullying week, some key stage two children had the opportunity to attend the Anglican Cathedral and perform two songs alongside other schools across the North West. The children practised for many week beforehand and it really paid off on the day as their signing was absolutely fantastic. The event was organised by Knotty Ash, who have a Deaf Resource Base within their school, and their aim was to raise awareness for bullying and empowering children to be their authentic selves.

The children performed the songs 'No Matter What' and 'This is Me' and were joined in the audience by Miss England, Anti-bullying Alliance, The Mayor of Liverpool and Julia Baird (John Lennon's sister).



Here's what some of our children had to say

'I liked signing together with all the other schools' - Henry Y3

'I loved showing off my sign language skills to everyone' - Findlay Y3

'I enjoyed it because I was signing to people around the world who needed it' - Eva Y5

'This is Me was my favourite part because we were signing to deaf children and it looked like they really enjoyed it too' - Jackson Y6.

Autumn in year 4 was also selected to be part of the signing choir and she wrote this detailed report:

I got to go to be part of the signing choir at the Anglican Cathedral. I went with other children from KS2. My Mum works at the cathedral and we saw her when we arrived and she wished us good luck! This was for anti-bullying week and Lily's step-dad organised it. It was an amazing day and I loved singing as part of the choir and learning how to sign – Autumn year 4



Young Minds 'Hello Yellow'

Young Minds Hello Yellow – Thank you to everyone who donated recently to the Hello Yellow appeal. Our school has raised a fantastic total of £420! For further details about Young Minds and the work they do, please see the following link: [#HelloYellow | World Mental Health Day | YoungMinds](#)

IT'S OK TO BE DIFFERENT – ODD SOCKS DAY TO LAUNCH ANTI BULLYING WEEK!



To launch this year's Anti-bullying week the children all wore odd socks to school to celebrate our uniqueness and spread the message that it's 'ok to be different!'

European Day of Languages 2022

Our International lead teacher Miss Docherty takes us through the events of another successful European Day of Languages

By **MISS DOCHERTY**

Our theme for this year's 'European Day of Languages' developed our pupils' knowledge and appreciation of the diversity of European languages in a fun and engaging way.

Nursery, EYFS and KS1 children went on a language treasure hunt, finding simple phrases of different European languages and matching them to the correct flag. They, also, took a light-hearted look at how animal sounds are represented in different European languages.

KS2 children became language 'secret agents' for the day, completing a series of challenges which explored various European languages whilst developing their language skills. Activities were varied and ranged from counting to 10 in three different languages to rapping in a European language. Other activities involved studying the etymology of some European languages, including Greek and English and studying the origins of our alphabet from other European alphabets. Our celebration of this day forms an integral part of our international dimension enabling St Austin's pupils from nursery to year 6 to grow in their knowledge and appreciation of diverse languages and cultures, equipping them with vital skills as future global citizens.



YEAR 6 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES – We asked two year 6 children to tell us about some of the roles and responsibilities in year 6

Being a House Captain – by AMELIE LANGFORD

Being a House Captain in Year 6 has forever been one of my dream roles since being a part of St Austin's school. In my opinion it is a great privilege to be chosen for this role as there are many responsibilities within the role which enables pupils to show their capability of being responsible, reliable, and helping the school as a community.

There are 4 houses within St Austin's which consist of St Matthew, St Mark, St Luke, and St John. Each child is placed in a house at the start of Reception and there are various activities and challenges throughout the year where houses work together or complete especially for house points.

Since being chosen as St John's House Captain at the start of Year 6, some of my jobs have included helping in the office, sweeping up the dinner hall after lunch, taking the receptions down to their classrooms after they have had their lunch and collecting the house points in from KS2. I have thoroughly enjoyed each and every part of the job, however, my favourite aspect is working in the office in the mornings, as I love communicating with

parents and children and it gives me an opportunity to take all of the registers to all of the classes and chat with the office staff.

I feel very proud to be responsible for my house alongside Daniel Kearney in Miss Clarke's class. Together, we work well as a team and communicate well to be the best of our ability.

Being in Mr Shieble's crew – by MATT CULLEY

Being in Mr Sheible's crew is a huge privilege. Helping the school is really fun, it includes the following: cutting plants using leaf blowers and using tools that year 6 can be trusted with.

Mr Sheible's crew lets you leave your classroom to help around school. The latest crew has set up our stage for our classes to perform their Christmas shows on, after you have finished your job for that day, you will return to class. You get into Mr Sheible's crew by a hat, the class teacher will pick a name out of the hat and there are about 4 children from each class selected. This crew is a privilege that only year 6 can take part in and I feel very lucky to have been selected this half term.

CATHOLIC LIFE – ‘In our school, where everyone is special, we will love and serve as Jesus taught’

Over the following three pages, our staff and children will document ways in which we have lived out our school mission statement this term: ‘In our school, where everyone is special, we will love and serve as Jesus taught.’

Advent Service at the Metropolitan Cathedral



By ETHAN and LYLA – Year 5 RE Ambassadors

The RE ambassadors from year 2 to year 6 gathered and drove off from school in the minibus. When we arrived we walked up a mountain of steps to reach the Metropolitan Cathedral. Once in the Cathedral we sat down on a bench and waited patiently. The music began and we watched a fantastic performance of the nativity. The choir sang and there was a real baby Jesus. My favourite part of the service was presenting my gift to The Three Kings on the altar. - **Ethan Y5**

We left school, drove in a minibus to town and arrived at the Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral. As we entered the Cathedral we searched for a place to sit by the year 6 children from our school. We were all engrossed and watched the nativity peacefully. My favourite part was The Wise Men dancing to 'You Are A Star' off Sing 2. - **Lyla Y5**



Reception welcome lesson

Nursery and Reception gathered together to celebrate our topic 'Welcome'. We talked about how we have been made to feel welcome joining St Austin's and how we are welcomed into God's family when we are baptised. We celebrated by sharing juice and biscuits together.



Knights of St Columba

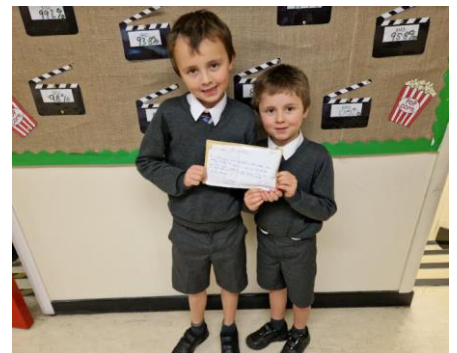
In October local parishioner and friend of our school community Mr. Grimes visited the children in year 5 and 6 to talk about his role in The Knights of St. Columba. Harrison in year 5 said, *"I had never heard about The Knights of St. Columba, so this was a really interesting talk and new discovery for me."* Thomas, also in year 5, added: *"I found this really fascinating that they were all volunteers helping those in need and raising money for charities like Zoe's Place."*

Mass for the Feast of All Saints

On 1st November, children from years 4 and 5 gathered in St Francis of Assisi Church to celebrate the Feast Day of All Saints – remembering our own parish Saint: St Wilfrid and all the other Saints who have done so much good in our world.

Finlay and Dylan raise money for our school

Two budding entrepreneurs and brothers, Dylan (year 1) and Finlay (year 2) have been raising money by making and selling Christmas. They have kindly offered to donate the money raised back to school to spend on the children of St Austin's – what a wonderfully kind gesture. Together they have raised nearly £50 and they should be immensely proud of their efforts and generosity. True examples of living out our mission statement.



Praying the Holy Rosary

On Tuesday 18th October, our school joined one million other children to pray the Holy Rosary. Each KS2 child was given a free set of Rosary beads to take home that day.

Charlotte in year 5 said, *"We brought in Rosary beads from home and gathered as a year group. We then prayed the rosary including the Hail Mary and Our Father. It felt nice to connect with Jesus and Our Lady."*



'Vocation and Commitment' – Father David visits year 6

In November, to coincide with year 6's RE theme of Vocation and Commitment, we invited our new parish priest Father David into school to speak to the children about his vocation as a priest. He talked the children through his ordination day as well as explaining to the children how he felt that it was his calling from God to be a priest. He also shared with us some of the joys and challenges of being a priest. To finish the talk, he reminded the children that we all have a calling and a vocation. Martha in 6DH is an RE ambassador and she said: "We were able to ask Father David lots of questions about his vocation as a priest. It was an extremely interesting afternoon." A big thank you to Father David for giving up his time to speak to year 6.



We were given an enlightening talk by Sister Mary who talked about her life as a Carmelite nun. The children asked her extremely thoughtful questions and she invited the children to share in a quiet reflection in the chapel of the monastery. Alex from year 6 said, "At the monastery I learnt so much like how the nuns make their own clothes." Chloe from 6DH also had a great afternoon, saying: "In the Carmelite monastery, we asked Sister Mary lots of questions about her life. She told us that they all work extremely hard in the monastery and follow a strict structure of work and prayer every single day. She was a very inspiring lady."



EYFS and Year 5 Prayer Buddies

Owen and Dylan in year 5 spoke to the newspaper about how the children of year 5 have been buddying up with our EYFS children to say prayers and to demonstrate to the younger children the power and importance of prayer. This is what they had to say:

We got into a circle in the KS2 hall and then introduced ourselves to the Reception child we had been partnered with. The year 5 children taught their EYFS buddy our school prayer step by step. We also showed the younger members of our school how to do the sign of the cross. - Owen

It was great to meet some of the younger children in our school and actually teach them our school prayer and how to do the sign of the cross. They were all really nice and seemed to enjoy this experience. – Dylan



Year 6 visit to Carmelite Monastery

Year 6 have been learning about religious orders as part of their 'Vocation and Commitment' RE theme. This year we were invited back to the Carmelite Monastery in Allerton to learn about the vocation of a Carmelite Nun. Carmelite Nuns are an order of enclosed nuns who devote their lives to serving God.



Advent Mass

Year 3 gathered in church with children from Holy Trinity to celebrate an Advent Mass. In his homily, Father David spoke about the true meaning of Christmas and reminded them that Advent is a time of waiting for the coming of our Lord. He also spoke to the children about the significance and symbolism of the Advent wreath as another candle was lit. The children all behaved impeccably and came back to school full of the spirit of Christmas.



Year 4 spread joy with Christmas Cards for Care Homes

To reach out and to spread joy, year 4 have been making Christmas cards for residents of local care homes. What an unbelievably kind and thoughtful gesture from our children – really encapsulating the Gospel Values that we believe in in St Austin's



Community Christmas Dinner 2022

On 1st December, we invited residents and parishioners from our local community into school for a festive Christmas lunch. Our guests were waited on by some of our year 6 children and our school choir even performed some carols to get everybody in the festive spirit. It was a wonderful afternoon and very much appreciated by our guests. Indeed, a number of guests wrote to the school to express their gratitude with one person saying: **“Thank you to all the staff and children for a lovely Christmas lunch yesterday. I was particularly impressed with how polite and well-mannered the children were. Their waiting skills were excellent as was the beautifully singing from the choir. The children are a credit and a testament to your hard-working staff.”**



Mrs Hickey was an extremely proud Headteacher after the event, saying: *“A fabulous afternoon was had by all. Each and every parishioner, stopped Mrs Doyle and I to say they had a wonderful afternoon. The children were a credit! The servers, the choir and of course our fabulous kitchen staff and dinner ladies who stayed to help with the dishes alongside Mr Shieble.”*



A few weeks before the Community Dinner, our school RE Ambassadors delivered invitations to local residents.



Cop 27 and Laudato Si – doing our bit for the environment

Daniel and Lucas in year 5 tell us what they have been doing to follow Pope Francis’s message to tackle climate change:

We researched about climate change and how Greta Thunberg is trying to make the world a better place. We produced some informative posters about climate change. Year 5 then marched around the school and visited each class.

As we marched around the school the teachers chanted,

“What do we want?”

The children replied with, “Lower carbon emissions.”

“When do we want it?”

“Now!”

This felt like we were spreading an important message about the environment.



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Finally, a huge congratulations to the children in years 3, 4 and 5 who made their First Confession this term in preparation for making their First Holy Communion next year.



Christmas Stars of the Stage! – Early Years and Key Stage 1 Nativity 2022



For the first time in three years, we performed our Nativity show to a live audience. What a fantastic performance it was. We asked some of our year 6 children to review each performance. This is what they had to say about a triumphant return to the stage for our Early Years and Key Stage 1 children:

Nursery performance – By Shay

They sang nativity rhyme, 'When Santa got stuck up the chimney.' They looked so happy singing and they did a great performance of 'Navidad' I loved the way they all had Santa hats on and they all performed brilliantly. I would give their show 5 stars out of 5!

Reception performance – by Elsie

I really loved their performance. Their singing was amazing and they all had huge smiles on their faces. I loved the way some of the children dressed up as items from a Christmas Dinner! The songs they sung were: 'Red Letter Box',

'A Christmas Dinner', 'A Miracle in Town' and 'Estrellita'. I would give their performance a fantastic 10/10!



Year 1 performance – by Emily

Recently, I got the chance to see the year one's play. I really enjoyed it as it was engaging and fun to watch. Their costumes looked amazing and there were children dressed as Santa, Santa's wife, snowflakes, angels, reindeer and elves. The year one's started off with a song, which they sung beautifully, called 'Whoopsie Daisy Angels.' After some brilliant acting from the angels and snowflakes, the elves came on tapping away. The children in year one sung and acted incredibly and I, and many others, enjoyed it thoroughly. I liked the Santa's sleigh prop. When Rudolph, Santa and his wife came on I

almost mistook them for the real ones.

The year one's topped off the whole play with singing a song in Spanish. The play was the best play I've ever seen and I amazed that the year one's memorised all the words. 5 stars!!!

Year 2 performance – By Olivia

All the costumes in the play were astonishing. They had so much detail in them and all together they looked great! They had the three wise men costumes, the inn keepers, the donkey, Mary and Joseph and more! The acting, singing and dancing were perfect and so cute. There were so many parts for everyone. It looked great and everyone on the stage were shining with glee as they performed. The singing was so clear and you heard every word they said. It was so fun to watch and I thoroughly enjoyed it! Everyone loved it so much especially the children on the stage and it just looked so special and really reminded me of when I was in year 2 and did that exact same play. In all I would say everyone who got to see it though it was 10/10!

More Christmas Time Fun!

All the fun of the Fayre – a triumphant return for the St Austin’s Christmas Fayre!

The St Austin’s Christmas Fayre returned with a bang this Christmas after a three year hiatus due to the Covid Pandemic. Bigger and better than ever, it was a wonderful evening of fun and festivities, all organised by our team at SAPTA. There was food, singing, games, Irish coffees, an elfie-selfie and even a chance to visit Father Christmas himself!

In total, £3210.54 was raised – what an incredible amount. A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Fayre!

SHAY in year 6 visited the Fayre with his Mum and he wrote this fantastic review of an enjoyable festive evening in St Austin’s

The St Austin’s Christmas Fayre – By SHAY

Today I visited our school Christmas Fayre. I was looking forward to seeing what I could spend my money on and being with my friends. I paid £2 towards the entrance fee and it was totally worth it. There were so many good stalls and things to look at and buy. I bought a custom-made gingerbread man and blackberry tango. The choir sang Christmas carols at the end of the hall and my Mum won a prize on the bottle tombola! There was a lovely smell of food in the air so I went over to see what it was. I bought a home-made cheeseburger for £3. It was delicious and well with the money. There was so much to see and done. A big thank you and well done to everyone who worked hard at the school Christmas Fayre.

Here’s what some of our other children had to say about a memorable night at the Christmas Fayre:

'It was good. I went to see Father Christmas and he gave me chocolate!' - Anthony (Reception)



'I got my face painted like a bunny! I got sweets for my daddy and 2 books for me. It was super good!' - Ada (Reception)

'It was great fun getting my glitter tattoo' – Amelia (year 2)

'It was good because you got to decorate gingerbread men and eat them!' – William (year 2)

'There were LOADS of cakes' – Thomas (year 2)

'Our school Christmas fayre was spectacular. There were many stalls and activities such as my favourite, the delicious cake stall. I bought a huge chocolate runny Costco cake. It took me around five minutes to eat this huge treat. The fayre was crowded and Christmasy. Everybody was in good spirits. I now feel ready for Christmas.' – Josh (year 5)

'I loved the Christmas fayre, I went to the grotto, got my face painted, a glitter tattoo and bought sweets and crystals! It was so fun and happy!' – Stevie (year 3)

'I went to see Santa at the Christmas fayre and I won a prize on the bottle tombola!' – Stephen (year 3)

'I decorated a gingerbread man. It tasted delicious!' – Florence (year 1)

'I loved throwing the snowballs. I won a candy cane!' – Patrick (year 1)

'At our school Christmas fayre there was a range of stalls such as food and sweet stalls. My favourite was the snowball throwing activity. I was the first person to get a Christmas pudding ball through Santa's mouth. – Max (year 5)

Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

Check out the pictures below of two very important days in the St Austin’s calendar – Christmas dinner and Christmas Jumper Day! Just look at the smiles on the children’s faces...



More news from around school

VE Day in Year 6

Year 6 have loved learning about World War Two this term as part of their History curriculum. To bring the topic to a close, we invited the children to come into school dressed in traditional world war two clothes and then we celebrated VE Day together in school. Evie McGowan and Isla Murphy, two of our fabulous year 6 children, wrote about this memorable day. This is what they had to say



Evie – Our year 6 World War Two dress-up day was an unforgettable event. During the day, we got to do many fun activities. First of all, let me talk about our costumes. For this one and only day in year 6, we were allowed to dress up in traditional world war two clothes, for example: an evacuee, a soldier or a land-girl. Before morning playtime, we went onto the yard to parade our clothes in front of the other KS2 children. After playtime, we did some more activities in class, we learnt about VE Day, we coloured in some Union Jack flags and bunting and we even had a go at learning the Charleston dance.

In the afternoon, we went down to KS1 to share our costumes with the nursery, reception, year 1 and year 2 children. It was such a memorable day.

Isla – On Friday 11th November we celebrated the end of our World War Two topic by dressing up as someone from World War Two. It was a brilliant day, I had lots of fun and it was a great way to finish off our history topic.

Donations for Ukraine

In school we are still are praying for our friends in the Ukraine this Christmas. Thank you for the Ukraine donations earlier in the year which were transported to The Margaret Clitherow Centre by our RE Ambassadors and Year 6 caretaker crew.



Junior Tax Facts

This term we invited friends from HMRC into school to speak to the children about Tax. The children learnt how tax is paid, how it is calculated and what our valuable tax money goes towards paying for. It was an enlightening session for our year 5 and 6 children as they learnt a very important and unavoidable life skill!



Year 6 Visit to the Palm House

Year 6 enjoyed a great morning at the Palm House in Sefton Park back in November.

Here's what three of our children thought about the trip:

The Palm House was amazing and we learnt how the Palm House was used in World War Two, including how they had to camouflage it so that it would not be used as a landmark by German Bombers. – Isla

Year 6 went to the Palm House not too long ago. It was really fun because we got to see all of the plants and statues. – Beatrice

We went to the Palm House to find out about it in World War Two. It was great. We also got loads of information about the different plants in the Palm House. – Olivia



Bike it Breakfast is Back!

This term saw the return of the ever-popular Bike-it Breakfast. It was great seeing families cycling to school and then sharing breakfast together. A huge thank-you to everyone who supported our Bike-it Breakfast this term

Nursery

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.

Our favourite day of all was our amazing adventure at The Blue Planet Aquarium! We began our visit with a sensory lesson on the different aquatic habitats including oceans, seas and

coral reefs. We then watched a spectacular Aqua-Theatre Show where real divers swam alongside the sharks and fed them.

We especially enjoyed travelling through the underwater tunnel looking at all the different creatures. After our lunch we had lots of fun in the Pirate Playground while we watched the spectacular Pelican Cove Display.

We have been practicing really hard for our very first school Christmas Nativity. 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 doing so!

Reception

This half term we have been busy bees in Reception.

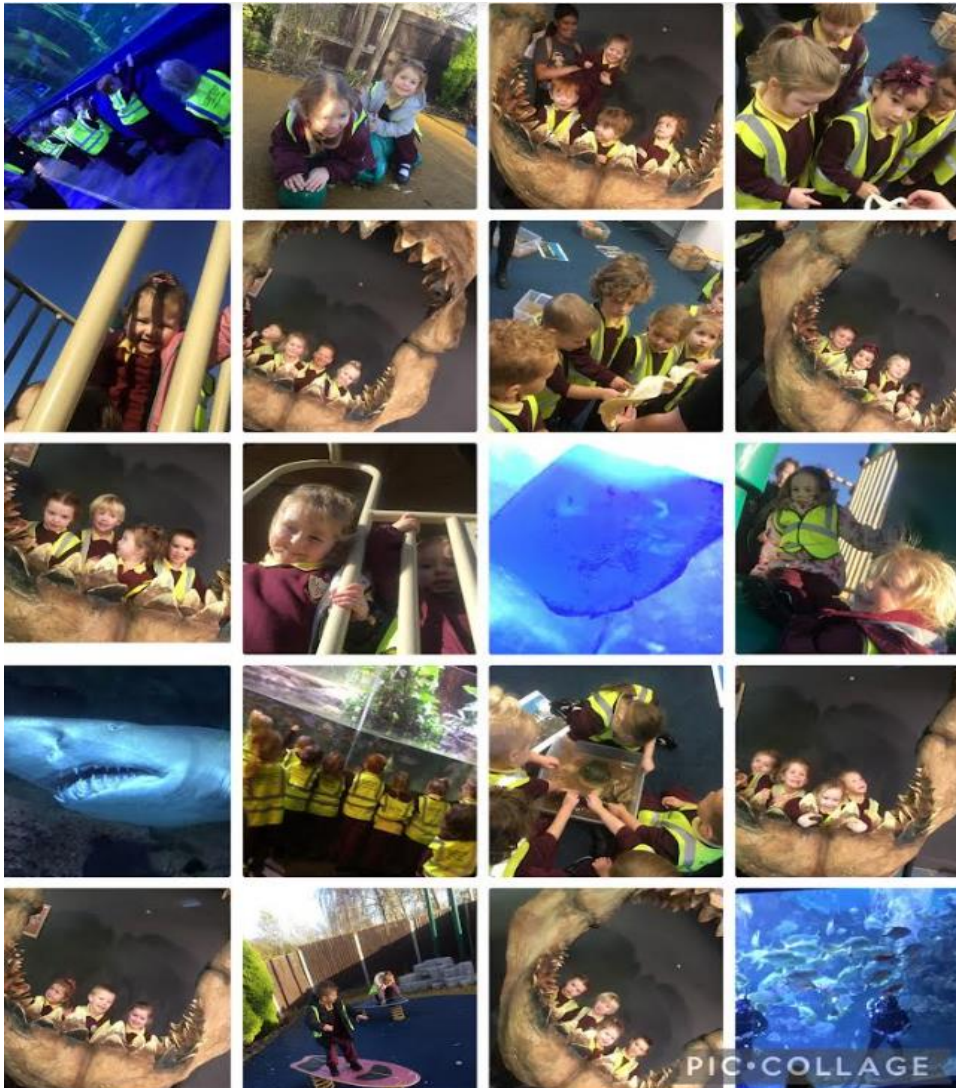
During our phonics lessons we have begun to learn lots of different phonemes, in fact we have learnt all 23 Phase 2 sounds. The children have begun to recognise and use these sounds in our reading and writing tasks in class. The children have loved taking their Little Wandle books home each week to share with their families.

We have covered the topics such as 'Magical Me', 'Rhyme Time' and 'Let's Celebrate' so far this term! We have read lots of wonderful books including The Colour Monster and Pumpkin Soup and lots of different Nursery Rhymes like Humpty Dumpty. The children have loved developing their writing skills based on these books and have written lots so far such as a recipe for pumpkin soup and a Get Well Soon card for Humpty Dumpty.



In Maths, we have continued to develop our counting skills. We have been using lots of different methods to help us like subitising and part whole models to develop our understanding of numbers. Over the last few weeks we have loved exploring shape, repeating patterns and prepositions using lots of Christmas themed resources!

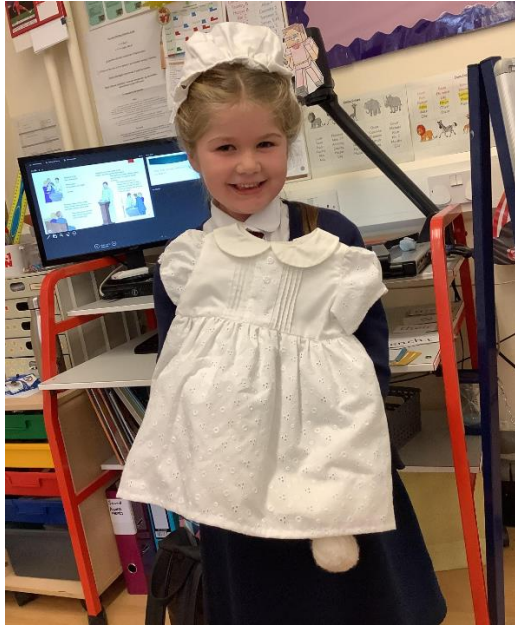
We also loved making our own lamps for Hindu festival of Diwali. Check out the picture below:



Year 1: Baptism

In 1LH we have been learning all about Baptism in our RE lessons. We brought in our baptism candles, baptism gowns and our baptism blankets. Some children compared their baptism shoes to their shoes now. There was a massive difference in size!

We even looked at some photographs from each other's baptisms. We couldn't believe how much we have all changed and grown.



Year 4

Year 4 have had an extremely busy term. Here are some of the children's highlights:

"In PE we are doing basketball, I really enjoy it. I have got a couple of shots in. We learnt the dribble and played games. PE is my favourite subject." (Autumn)

"I have enjoyed playing basketball, especially mini matches where everyone gets to take part" (Saoirse)

"The last week of swimming was fun because we had a pool party and some free play time" (Polly)

"In science we got to try and melt different types of chocolate at different temperatures" (Annie)

"I liked when we decorated for Christmas because at the end it looked beautiful" (Neveah)

"I liked making adverts for the chocolate bars we invented. They were all really different and nobody's was the same" (James - QR code)



"I enjoyed making cards for people in the local nursing home because it felt good to help people" (Macie)

"I loved it when we made pendants in art because I loved crafting things" (Jolene)

"In history we have been learning about ancient Greece and their civilisation. That was good." (Aidan)

"I thought learning about Harvey Milk and the rainbow pride flag in PSHE was really interesting" (Luna)



Year 4 Nativity

Yesterday, Year 4 finished off their current RE topic. To rejoice at all the learning they have done during this Advent topic, they invited their parents into school for a Nativity performance and Carol Concert. What a wonderful way to celebrate all of their learning. Well done year 4 and thank you to all the parents who were able to join us.



Year 5

As part of their topic, A War on Climate Change, Y5 marched around their school. To begin with, they made eye-catching posters that contained many important ideas, instructions and messages. They then marched around the school and visited many different classes to deliver their crucial messages. Charlotte McNicholl of 5CA said, "We loved every minute of it! We taught people how important it is to look after our planet!" And the children of St. Austin's and you can now look after it too!



One of our Science topics this half-term has been forces and the children have been learning about lots of them including gravity and friction. One of our exciting investigations included making parachutes and Shaun McKnight of 5CA said, "I really enjoyed dropping them from the top of the stairs and seeing how long they took to go down. I'm looking forward to doing more Science next term!"

Throughout the Advent period, we have been learning about how Christians wait for the birth of Jesus and to begin this, we visited our parish church for an Advent mass with our new parish priest, Father David. Jenson Elcock of 5CA said, "We always enjoy our trips to church! As Christmas is nearly here, this visit was very special to us." Next year, the children will be learning more and more about the life of the church as we integrate this within our learning.

A DAY OUT WITH THE GOAT

On the 11th of December 2022 Grandad Goat took all of his family out for a Christmas meal which included all of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We all went to the Richmond tavern and had lots of food and drink and a great time, the goat even arranged a visit from Santa for the little ones. Towards the end of the night Grandad goat had arranged for presents to be given out to everyone.

My great grandad (AKA the Goat or Greatest Of All Time) is 91 years old and was born in Dublin. He moved to Liverpool in 1950 but he still has the strongest Irish accent I have ever heard. My great grandad goes by a few names, he's known as the Goat, Grandad Paddy or Tommy.

The goat has 5 children, 9 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren! His favourite drink is Guinness and he loves to sing Frank Sinatra at any given chance, you will also still find him on the dance floor at any party he goes to. He is a brilliant Great Grandad and he is very talkative, I enjoy listening to his fascinating stories. I am so lucky to have him and he makes everyone laugh at any time.



by Alex | - year 6

Well done Eliza – year 4



Loughran School Of Irish Dance
3 d · 🌐

🏆 ELIZA LEVENSON 15th u10 🏆

Wow Eliza. From primary to regional qualifiers in two months. Your work ethic is second to none and we are so excited for the future now you have the dancing bug! Amazing results, well done 🎉
#teamloughran



Film review: Matilda the Musical - by Imogen (6REC)

There are many different versions of the iconic book Matilda by Roald Dahl. There is a movie, a book, even a West End show! But does the new musical live up to expectations?

Recently, I went to see the new musical and I enjoyed it very much. The songs were amazing, the characters were brilliant and I loved how there were many twists and turns along the way! I feel that the director Matthew Warchus and the cast did an exemplary job of acting out the iconic story!

I do agree that the recommended age is 6+ because there are a few parts that may scare younger audiences, there are characters such as Miss Trunchbull who are the villains in the story and do mean things that may scare younger children.

I think they did very well on making the story similar to the original book while adding songs and dance routines to make it that bit more interesting. I personally think they casted the correct people to play the roles of the main characters such as Matilda, who was played by Alisha Weir and Miss Honey played by Lashana Lynch. I do think all the crew did a very good job with costumes and the set of places like the Wormwood's house and the school that Matilda arrives at.

Overall I give the musical a 4.5/5 now, would you like to go see the new Matilda the musical?



Write a story in 500 words...

We have some extremely talented writers in St Austin's. Here are three imaginative and creative stories written by the children of our school. Enjoy!

Long ago, there lived two young girls. Gwendoline was the oldest and Mary was the youngest. They lived in a small cottage in the middle of a vast, foreboding forest- with their mother and father. Their mother was a housewife and cooked and cleaned until she could no more and their father went to the nearest town to trade and earn money. The girls were happy living a simple life in their humble abode, but one day near Christmas they were told to fetch some holly, for their Christmas wreath, and the rest is history...

It was four o'clock in the afternoon, when Gwen and Mary were told to go out and convey some holly back to their cottage. They both accepted the task and swiftly proceeded towards the dark depths of the frightful forest. Mary was trembling like a flame blown by the wind, but Gwen was the opposite. Unlike her younger sister Gwen was afraid of nothing she was a mighty lion- audacious. Gwen and Mary walked for many miles and eventually discovered a holly tree. As they looked back the two girls pondered on where they were and how they would get back to their deferential house. Eventually they walked down the dark and spine -chilling clearance thinking it was the way...

Gwendoline ran nimbly ahead as Mary tottered behind her. Suddenly there was a mysterious sound that came from the bushes. Gwen toppled over abruptly as she was frightened by the enigmatic sound. After the girls had been scurrying around for a long while they consequently found a cozy cottage in the middle of the gloomy forest. They both knocked on the bright red door, as a frail decrepit lady answered almost immediately and invited them in. The two girls looked around tumultuously, and sat down in the enormous navy blue chair, and soon found out that the old lady's name was Petunia. Petunia seemed friendly and let them stay for the night. She promised them that she would contact their parents when the sun arose. It was day break and Mary woke to the blinding light.

She woke her sister and her sister woke Petunia. Petunia told them that she would try to get hold of their parents...

Mary missed her mother and father. She had been longing for them all night. Gwen also wanted her parents as she loved them as she loved nobody else. Petunia told the girls that her telephone was downstairs in the dining room. When they all arrived Petunia shoved the girls into the room and ferociously locked the door... the girls panicked and their little hearts were drums. Or beating like them. Mary thought of a cunning plan and managed to escape. They ran as fast as their little legs could carry them and, after some time, they arrived home. Mary and Gwen lived happily ever can't put my finger on it...

Written by Emily and Martha

How Rudolph Came to

Be – By Jackson

Rannard-Darlow (year 6)

There was a normal reindeer in the Arctic doing what every reindeer does: eating most things it could find!

It was Christmas Eve so most of the reindeers gathered next to an ancient fire. The reindeers did this every year because this is where Santa chooses new reindeer to come to live with him. So they all sat there until midnight eating carrots and talking in reindeer-speak, when all of a sudden, there was the noise of bells jingling in the night sky. And then they saw Dasher in the air.

The reindeer which got picked last year and Rudolph's only friend, waved with his spare hoof and Santa made a quick land to choose his reindeer. When he was choosing he said: "This will be my last reindeer so I'm going to let you decide who to come with me. Also, the reindeer that gets picked will get a red, glowing nose and guide my sleigh tonight."

All the reindeer began murmuring about who to pick. There were some reindeer saying, "Pick me, Santa pick me!" but Santa didn't listen. Dasher said to Santa that Rudolph would be a good reindeer for him. So Santa asked the reindeer his name and he said "Rudolph!" As soon as he said his name, Rudolph was lifted into the air and his nose turned a shiny red colour. "We don't have much time," said Santa, "you will guide my sleigh tonight so that all the boys and girls in the world get their presents this Christmas Eve."

So Rudolph was attached to the harness and off they flew. And that is how R

CHRISTMAS ELVES - BY LOTTIE CRONSHAW

The Christmas Elves were working in the workshop. One of the Elves noticed that they did not have enough presents. The Elf felt worried. The Elf knew that they wouldn't have enough presents for Christmas. Santa came in the workshop and said "I will use my magic to make more presents" said Santa "but" said the Elf "you used all your magic on the slay" "oh yes" said Santa. Then Santa had an idea "we can use the fast machines" "yay" An Elf came rushing in and said "the Sack maker has not finished the Christmas sack. "I have an idea" said another Elf "you know how we have been rushing around we haven't took time so let's all work together" "all done" said one of the elves. The beautiful brown sack is finished. Now let's enjoy Christmas. The end.

Sport and Extra-Curricular

RUNNING FOR GLORY

Recently, ESME in year 6 represented Liverpool at The British Cross Country Challenge. Here is her Report on why Cross-Country is so important, with a run-down of how the season has gone for the St Austin's Cross Country Team so far...

BY ESME –year 6

Cross country is a nationally renowned sport which is a healthy form of exercise. In Liverpool, some primary schools offer cross country running clubs for their pupils and enter teams to compete in the Liverpool Primary Cross Country races. Primary schools compete from all over Liverpool city. These races are roughly a mile in distance. The races take place in different parks around Liverpool and mainly it is years 5 and 6 pupils that take part.

Each school gains points if the pupils are among the top ten finishers in each race. At the end of the season three schools are awarded the first, second and third place in the Liverpool Primary Schools champion league. St Austin's girls team came 2nd at the end of the season last year.

This season, the first race was supposed to be in Croxteth Park but was delayed to later in the year due to bad weather. The second race was in Newsham Park, the third was in Stanley Park and the fourth was in Clarke Gardens which was very hard and hilly. Then we did Croxteth which as I have told you was delayed and happened before the new year. During the races the organisers were timing the top twenty finishers. From St Austin's, I had great race times and was chosen to be on the Liverpool team, as was Elsie (Year 6) and Henry (Year 5).

In November, myself, Elsie and Harry competed in a national race at Sefton Park called The British Cross Challenge. Both the boys and girls Liverpool teams came first and are the 2022 Merseyside champions. Myself, Elsie and Henry received gold medals. Elsie and myself are also 2021 Merseyside Champions as the Liverpool girls team came first last year. We may also gain a place on the Primary School Merseyside.

In the new year there are two more primary school races this season, Sefton Park and The Mystery Park and I really hope that our school wins the boys and girls league.

I have really enjoyed training and doing races with St Austin's. I would encourage others to join our school's cross-country club because it's very good for your physical and mental health.



An Ashes Star in the making – AOIBHEANN in Year 6 gets picked to play cricket for Lancs!

BY AOIBHEANN – year 6

At the beginning of December I received some very exciting news. In November I attended trials for Lancashire cricket, it involved travelling to Manchester's Old Trafford cricket ground and showing my cricket ability. I took turns at batting, bowling and fielding with other under 11 girls, getting to meet and play with Emma Lamb who plays for Manchester Originals: my favourite team.

Once the trials were done I had to wait a few days to hear the news. One Tuesday evening in December my Dad got an email from the coaches in Old Trafford to say that I had been selected to join the 2023 under 11 squad. I jumped for joy and felt extremely proud of myself. I trained hard twice a week for months as I really wanted to be a part of this team.

I later found out that 250 girls applied and only 20 were selected. In 2023 I am looking forward to getting my kit and to start training hopefully meeting new friends and getting even better at cricket.

Farewell Mrs Fryer and Good Luck!

Today we wish a fond farewell and good luck to Mrs Fryer who leaves us after eight years at St Austin's. Over that time Mrs Fryer has taught and impacted the lives of hundreds of children in such a positive way and we will all miss her greatly. She leaves our school to begin a new venture and we wish her all the luck and happiness in the world. This morning, we held a special assembly for Mrs Fryer where children presented her with cards, memories and photographs. Children in Mrs Fryer's class performed a beautiful poem for Mrs Fryer, the RE Ambassadors led a prayer, the choir sang some songs and Mrs Hickey led the staff tributes thanking her for her wonderful service to our school. It goes to show just how much everyone values Mrs Fryer and the hard work she has given to St Austin's. Good luck Mrs Fryer, we will all miss you. But we know you leave with some very special memories of a fantastic eight years in our school.



Christmas message from Mrs Hickey

As another busy term draws to a close, it falls to me to wish everyone a very happy, healthy and holy Christmas. It has been a fantastic start to the school year and I can't wait to see all of our children and families refreshed and re-energised in the new year ready for an action-packed Spring Term. On behalf of myself and all the staff, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!