

## February 2024

As always, at this time of year, it is hard to believe that we are already half way through the school year and very soon we will find ourselves in the final term of this academic year. We will soon say 'goodbye' to our Year 6 and welcome new Reception children.

Our school motto "In God's love we learn and grow together" is at the heart of everything we do. We are all very proud of our children and are privileged to support their learning journey throughout St Finbar's. Thank you to all parents/carers who are supporting their child/ren with their homework tasks, we appreciate the difficulty of juggling work but this really does help.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

St Finbar's expects parents and other visitors to always behave in a reasonable way towards all members of the school community. Any behaviour displayed that falls below the standard the school expects, will not be tolerated. Please be mindful of our children and always promote being a positive role model for them.

### OUR LADY OF LOURDES – FEAST DAY 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY

The story of Our Lady appearing to a young girl called Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes is well documented.

Bernadette told how she saw a lady of great beauty, dressed in a pure white robe with a blue sash, a veil over her head, a rosary clasped in her hands and yellow roses at her feet.

Bernadette's daily visits to the grotto caused quite a stir in the countryside. Crowds of people began to gather and watch Bernadette as she examined the cave and obediently did the things the lady asked of her. They watched Bernadette scrape away soil beside the grotto until a spring of water started to trickle out. Would you believe this spring still provides 27,000 gallons of water every day!



We celebrated the feast day of the "beautiful lady" (Our Lady of Lourdes) on 11 February.



## LENT

Lent is the period of six weeks (40 days not including Sundays) leading up to Easter, the most important festival in the Christian calendar.

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday. The last week of Lent is called Holy Week.

Lent is an old English word meaning 'lengthen'. Lent is observed in spring when the days begin to get longer.

**What is the story of Lent?** Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray before beginning his work for God. Jesus was tempted several times by Satan, but was able to resist. Lent allows Christians to remember Jesus's fasting in the desert. It is a time of giving things up and a test of self-discipline.



There are many goods that some Christians do not eat in Lent, such as meat and fish, fats eggs and milky foods. Some Christians just give up something they really enjoy, such as cakes and chocolate.

**How is Lent celebrated?** In western Christian churches, the day before Lent starts is Shrove Tuesday. This is also known as Pancake Day. This day was traditionally the last change to use up the foods Christians would not be eating during Lent.

On Ash Wednesday many Christian churches hold services during which Christians are marked on the forehead with a cross of ashes. This is a sign of saying sorry to God for any wrong-doing.



## LENT FUND RAISING

During Lent we will be raising money for various charities as well as supporting St Cleopas' Pantry. We understand that families will have their own challenges currently but appreciate any support you can give when the children are involved in fund-raising events.

We will be having a cake sale later on in this half-term. If you are a baker or can donate some shop bought cakes, donations will be gratefully received. Date of the sale to come. Unfortunately, cakes containing nuts cannot be included.

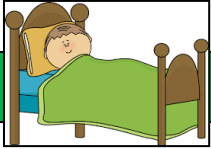


## CONTACT DETAILS

If you have recently made any changes to your contact details, mobile details or email addresses, please can you email the school office or visit the school office to let us know.

This also applies to the emergency contact details you have provided the school with.

Thank you.



## DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE TROUBLE SLEEPING?

Does your child have trouble sleeping? We will soon be offering a 1hr workshop, in school where up-to-date evidence/science will be shared.

Parents will be offered support to help overcome the sleep problems their child may be experiencing by sharing hints and tips for them to help their child. Signposting information regarding services who may be able to support with maintaining factors will also be shared.

If you are interested in joining this workshop, please let our office staff know or email [finbars-rec@st-finbars.liverpool.sch.uk](mailto:finbars-rec@st-finbars.liverpool.sch.uk)



Congratulations to Alexandra who won the 'Chocolate and Book Basket' raffle. We raised £41.50 for school funds. Thank you for your continued support.



**TESCO**  
Community Grants

We recently heard that we came second in the TESCO Grant Scheme and have won £1,000 towards our Early Years garden where the children will be able to grow fruit and vegetables. Further details will follow; however, we would like to thank everyone who voted for us.

## SAFER INTERNET DAY

Although we practice staying safe online every day, once a year we join Safer Internet Day which took place on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February.

The theme this year was 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'.

Modern technology and the internet are wonderful tools if utilised correctly. Online safety is a very important part of school life at St Finbar's. Children are taught about online safety in a variety of ways and it is embedded into the computing curriculum. Children are taught the necessary skills to keep them safe.





Let's make Attendance a New Year Resolution!

To attend every day and be on time.

A reminder that St Finbar's does not authorise holidays in term time. As well as being unauthorised, a penalty notice will be issued by Liverpool City Council.

As always, we ask for your support with ensuring children are in school and on time unless they are sick. Medical appointments, when possible, should be after school. If you want to discuss any aspect of attendance do not hesitate to make an appointment at the school office to speak with a member of the Attendance Team.

	Week 29.1.2024	Week 5.2.2024	Week 19.2.2024
<b>Nursery</b>	95.29%	92.39%	93.55%
<b>Reception</b>	90.95%	97.62%	95.61%
<b>Year 1</b>	93.33%	97.86%	98.57%
<b>Year 2</b>	94.29%	92.50%	91.43%
<b>Year 3</b>	93.48%	95.22%	92.17%
<b>Year 4</b>	95.00%	96.67%	97.22%
<b>Year 5</b>	94.29%	96.19%	88.57
<b>Year 6</b>	96.45%	95.16%	95.81%
<b>Whole School Attendance</b>	94.96% 😞	94.84% 😞	93.23% 😞

Whole School Target 97%



100% Excellent!



98/99%+ Good

97% At Target



Less than 97% Below Target



**MOTHER'S DAY SALE**

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March, the children will be able to purchase an item to give to their important female, in their life e.g. Mum, Nan, Aunty, Sister etc. The items range in price from 50 p to £1.





# Number Day 2024

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February we took part in the NSPCC Number Day.

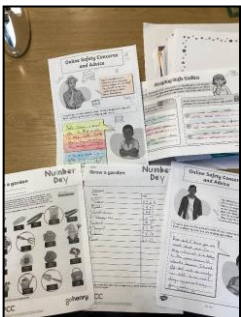
A total of £116.26 was raised and has been sent to the NSPCC.

Year 2 used their maths skills to bake some delicious cakes to share with friends after they discussed the importance of staying safe and speaking up.



One of our Year 6 pupils kindly donated her pocket money to the NSPCC.

Year 3 took part in a TT Rockstars competition. They also measured their height and the length of their feet and hands during Maths. They ended the day by writing a friendship poem.



Year 5 enjoyed 'Dressing as Digits'. They used their calculation skills to work out money problems and designed their own garden. Year 5 really enjoyed all of the maths games too.

Time was also spent learning about online safety and what we can do to protect our personal information.



## LIVERPOOL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL OF READING



We celebrated our love of reading when we took part in the Liverpool Children's Festival of Reading week.

Our children took part in online events featuring a range of authors, illustrators and poets. Each class received a copy of the book being discussed for their library.

## LiveSimply

An important part of our faith is to care for creation and to develop respect for other people in the world. St. Finbar's school community are going to be putting our faith into action. During Lent, we are going to take part in the 'Big Lent Walk'. Children will walk for small periods during the week around the playground. In the final week of this half-term, we will have the whole school out walking sharing the message of support for our global neighbours. More information to come.



## CHINESE NEW YEAR: THEMED LUNCH



On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February, we celebrated the Chinese New Year by having a themed lunch.

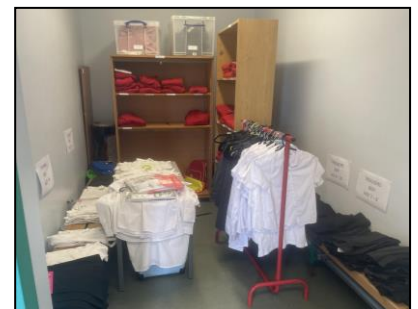
A big 'thank you' to our catering staff who hosted the event.



Do not forget that our Pre-Loved Uniform 'shop' is always open.

Please ask at the school office or email the school office on ([finbars-rec@st-finbars.liverpool.sch.uk](mailto:finbars-rec@st-finbars.liverpool.sch.uk)) with your requests (e.g. item, sizes etc) and we will see what is available and get it ready for you to collect.

If you would like to donate any part of the school uniform, it must be washed and in good condition. Please drop any donations to the school office. We have been able to help many of our families and will continue to do so.

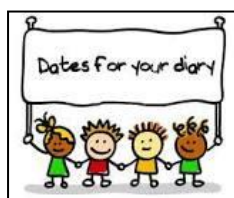




If you wish to apply for a Nursery place at St Finbar's, please contact the school office on 0151 727 3963 or email [Finbars-rec@st-finbars.liverpool.sch.uk](mailto:Finbars-rec@st-finbars.liverpool.sch.uk) We currently have places available for children age 3+.

The online application portal for children **starting Reception in September 2024** has now closed.

If you wish to make a late application, please email [www.liverpool.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.liverpool.gov.uk/admissions)



FEBRUARY 2024		
27 <sup>th</sup>	February	Year 6 SAT's Booster Classes Start
MARCH 2024		
4 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	Year 5 visit to the University of Liverpool
7 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	World Book Day, Themed Lunch & Raffle
8 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	Mother's Day Sale
11 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	Start of British Science Week
19 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	Parents' Evening (Details to follow)
20 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	Parents' Evening (Details to follow)
25 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	Start of Holy Week
29 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	School Closed – Easter Holiday
31 <sup>st</sup>	Sunday	Easter Sunday
APRIL 2024		
12 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	Last Day of Easter Holiday
15 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	Children Return to School





**Message for parents and guardians of children from the Director of Public Health Professor Matthew Ashton**

Have you heard the news about measles? There is a large outbreak of measles around Birmingham. Many children have been admitted to hospital. It is likely that measles could spread to Liverpool.

Measles is a nasty infection and can make you very sick if you catch it. It starts with a high temperature and a cold with red eyes. Then you get a measles rash that spreads from your face to the rest of your body.

It is very easy to catch if you are not vaccinated. It spreads through coughs and sneezes. Measles can be very serious for some people. It can cause pneumonia, encephalitis (brain infections) and sometimes even death.

**How to protect yourself and your children from measles:** The MMR vaccine prevents measles. It is very safe. You need 2 doses to protect you for life.

All children are offered the MMR vaccine. It is free on the NHS.

If your child has missed any vaccine, book an appointment at your GP practice. Check your child's Red Book if you are not sure or ask the GP practice.

It is never too late to catch up if you have missed a vaccine.

For more information, visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel & St Patrick  
High Park Street, Toxteth, Liverpool L8 8DX**

[stpatrick@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:stpatrick@rcaol.org.uk)

**0151 272 1463**



**St Patrick's Inaugural Spring Concerts in association with the University of Liverpool**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 4.30 pm and Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 4.30 pm

The concerts feature students from the University of Liverpool performing a range of classical music in a wide variety of styles. All welcome.

**Sacrament of Confirmation (Secondary school age children)**

The next meetings are Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February and Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 4.00 pm. The meetings will take place in the Finbar room in Mount Carmel.