



S Finbar's
Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

December 2024

ADVENT

Advent is a liturgical season consisting of four Sundays leading up to Christmas and ending on Christmas Eve. It is celebrated by Christians all over the world. It is an Old English word coming from the Latin *adventus* (arrival) or *advenire* (to come). It is a special time dedicated to the remembrance of Jesus' coming as a baby over 2,000 years ago.

When does Advent Start? Advent starts on the nearest Sunday to 30th November and lasts until midnight on Christmas Eve.

What happens during Advent? Christians across the world prepare to celebrate the arrival of the Lord into the world through the birth of His son Jesus Christ. Advent is a time to celebrate light in the midst of darkness.

What is the Advent Wreath? The Advent Wreath is an evergreen wreath with 4 candles (3 purple and 1 rose). The candles are lit every night during Advent, 1 candle the first week, then an additional candle for each successive week.

What do the coloured candles represent? Three of the candles are purple because the colour is a liturgical colour that signifies a time of prayer, penance and sacrifice. The rose candle symbolises joy.

The first candle, which is purple, symbolises, hope. It is also called the 'prophecy candle'.

The second candle is also purple and represents faith. It is called the 'Bethlehem Candle'.

The third candle is pink and is called the 'Shepherd's Candle'.

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Saviour. The candle is called the 'Christ Candle'.



REMEMBRANCE

St Finbar's Catholic Primary School fell silent on the 11th hour on Monday 11th November to mark Remembrance Day.

Children have been making their own poppies and learning about their significance.



SUGAR AWARENESS WEEK: 18th – 22nd NOVEMBER

School Health, in partnership with Public Health in Liverpool Local Authority, provided the school with water bottles and a toothbrush and toothpaste for all children. This is to promote good dental hygiene habits amongst all school children.

KS1 children also took part in a virtual dental hygiene session and learnt about the impact of sugar on their health.

If your child/ren are bringing their water bottle into school, please put their name on it.

Healthwatch Liverpool can be contacted on 0300 777 7007 and they are able to support families in finding local dentists who are accepting new child patients, ensuring children have access to regular dental care.



NURSERY & RECEPTION OPEN AFTERNOON

Thank you to all the parents/carers, and children, who attended our open afternoon. We hope you found the afternoon informative and we look forward to seeing you again.

If you could not visit us and would like to see our Nursery & Reception class, please contact the school office who will arrange a visit for you.



CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) AWARENESS INITIATIVE

Magic Breakfast (our Breakfast Club provider) is working with Cadent Gas and Bonanza Creative regarding energy initiatives to support our families. Part of their programme is to increase carbon monoxide (CO) safety and all families were provided with a free carbon monoxide alarm.

Next term Bonanza Creative will be delivering workshops to educate our children on the dangers of carbon monoxide (CO) and how we can all keep ourselves safe.



SCHOOL DAY

We have noticed that throughout the school there are some children who are regularly forgetting their PE kits and this is having a detrimental effect on their learning as it may be that children cannot participate with the correct clothing. If you are unsure of your child's PE day, please speak to the class teacher. Children should come to school in their PE kit on their PE day.



PE Kit: Plain black shorts, legging or joggers. Plain white, round necked t-shirt. Black pumps or trainer.



It is very important your child attend school everyday an on time. Learning begins at 8.55 am for all children. Children arriving late are generally unsettled in the morning which has a significant impact on their learning. They are also at risk of missing key lessons such as phonics and reading.

CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME



Pope Francis is very keen on doing our very best to make our world a better place. Year 2 have answered the call of Pope Francis and on Friday 25th October they went litter picking in the area around Cockburn Street with the help of Liverpool City Council.





A big 'thank you' to our Mellors catering staff for hosting our bonfire treat themed lunch on Tuesday 5th November. 120 themed lunches and 150 firework biscuits were prepared and eaten.

Our catering staff also made chocolate cookies for our Nursery & Reception Open Afternoon on 12th November.



Mrs Flynn received a fantastic Brilliant Box of Books from Read for Good. These will be added to our growing collection of amazing library books. Which book would you like to read?



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

We will again be supporting our local food bank with our 'Reverse Advent Calendar' which focuses on giving rather than receiving. Each pupil has been given a letter which lets them know the day they can bring their donated food or toiletry item into school.



CATHOLIC LIFE + MISSION

At St Finbar's we welcome links with our local and global communities. During the month of December, each class is going out in to their local community to connect up with them. Orchid and Rose classes are going to sing at Tesco's, Daffodil class is visiting Alfred Stocks to sing to their residents, Poppy and Tulip class are going to spend time with adults from 'Wheel meet again' an over 50s active aging class based at South Central Community Transport. These opportunities allow our pupils to live out their Catholic life and Mission. We look forward to sharing photographs in next month's newsletter.



Our Christmas Movie Night took place on Thursday 28th November.

Children had a fantastic time and dressed up in their Christmas jumper's or pyjamas. Some brought their own pillows and teddy bears.

Thank you to all the staff who made the event such a memorable Christmas event for our children. Thank you also to Tesco who donated hotdogs, buns, crisps and ketchup! £340 was raised which will go towards our school Fund to purchase additional items for our children.



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) 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.

We also have a small collection of winter coats and shoes.



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 We currently have places available for children age 3+.

For places in any other year group, please contact the school office and they will inform you of the correct procedure to apply for a place.

The online application portal for children starting **Reception in September 2025** is now open. Please apply on-line now. The closing date for those interested in a Reception place is **15th January 2025**. www.liverpool.gov.uk/admissions **Please note, if your child attends our Nursery, you still need to apply for a Reception place.**

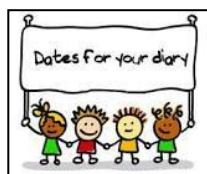
If you require assistance to complete an application form, please contact the school office (0151 727 3963) or email finbars.rec@st-finbars.liverpool.sch.uk Our office staff will arrange a date and time for you to come to school and complete the paperwork with you.



We would like to extend a personal 'thank you' to all our St Finbar's families and friends who have supported us over the past year. Your kindness and support helps make the school such an amazing, caring and vibrant place.

We would like to wish all of our children and families a Very Happy, Joyful and Peaceful Christmas. Happy Holidays to our other faith families.

Whatever way you celebrate the season – have a wonderful time with your families and we look forwarding to seeing you all in 2025!



December 2024		
2 nd	Monday	Reverse Advent Calendar Begins
2 nd – 6 th	Monday - Friday	Half-Price Book Fair: Cash Only
5 th	Thursday	Advent Mass, School Hall, 9.30 am. Parents/Carers invited
9 th – 12 th	Monday – Friday	After School Clubs End
9 th	Monday	Orchid & Rose Class: Carols at Tesco, Park Road. Parents/Carers invited
10 th	Tuesday	Coverdale Puppets Christmas Show Year 3/4 Visit from Mill Street Ukulele Club
11 th	Wednesday	Christmas Dinner
12 th	Thursday	'Save the Children' Christmas Jumper Day EYFS Christmas Stay & Play: 9.00 am. Parents/Carers invited Year 2 Visit from Mill Street Community Group
13 th	Friday	KS1 Nativity Performance 10.00 am. Parents/Carers invited Keyboard Club Musical Concert, 2.00 pm. Parents/Carers invited
16 th	Monday	Year 1 Visit Alfred Stocks Court
17 th	Tuesday	Cornet Christmas Concert, 2.00 pm. Parents/Carers invited
18 th	Wednesday	Father Christmas Visits Snowball Fight with Father Christmas for Attendance and Planet Point Award Winners
19 th	Thursday	Carol Service, 2.00 pm. Parents/Carers invited
20 th	Friday	Christmas Party Day Last Day of Term: School Closes at 1.30 pm for children
January 2025		
6 th	Monday	Inset Day – School Closed for Children
7 th	Tuesday	Children Return to School





Our Lady of Mount Carmel & St Patrick
High Park Street, Toxteth, Liverpool L8 8DX
olmc@rcaolp.org.uk
0151 272 1463



OLMC Tea/Coffee & Cake: Please join us after the 11.15 am Mass. Cup of tea/coffee and a slice of homemade cake, £1. Everyone welcome.

Mass Attendance Sheets: The attendance sheets at the back of church are for **all** parents/carers to sign each week to enable us to keep records for future reference for any faith forms for schools that we may be asked to fill in. These forms will give us an accurate record of attendance and will be kept for a minimum of 3 years.

WAY Programme: The sessions for the children making their First Holy Communion will start next Sunday at 10.15 am in OLMC. Please note your child must be accompanied by an adult. Due to space, only one adult per child.

Session 1 – Sunday 8th December 2024

Session 2 – Sunday 12th January 2025

Session 3 Sunday 19th January 2025

Session 4 – Sunday 9th February 2025

Session 5 – Sunday 2nd March 2025

Session 6 – Sunday 27th April 2025

Session 7 – Sunday 11th May 2025.

Mount Carmel Parish Centre: If you would like to hire our function room for your event, please contact Ann Marie on 0151 727 1695.

OLMC & St Patrick's Youth Club: Children of secondary school age are invited to join to share faith, friendship and food. The first meeting of the youth club will be in OLMC on Saturday 7th December at 3.00 pm. The meeting will include the 5pm Vigil Mass and dinner afterwards, finishing at 7.00pm. For more information please contact Fr Silviu.

Exclusive support for families

From YES Energy Solutions in partnership with Cadent



Are you looking for comprehensive support?

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Email: cmb.advicecentre@yesenergysolutions.co.uk



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Why choose us?

Personalised support: We understand every family's needs are unique.

Expert guidance: Our team of professionals is here to help you every step of the way.

Holistic approach: We cover all aspects of support to ensure your family's success.

Call: 03330 149 466 (lines open Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm*)

Text: 'ADVICE CMB' to 82228 to request a free call back

Email: cmb.advicecentre@yesenergysolutions.co.uk



*calls are charged at your normal rate
call backs are free of charge

Date: 25th November

Dear Parent or Guardian

The Winter HAF programme starts on the 23rd December and there are lots of great activities happening over the school holidays. Children and young people, from reception to age 16, who are eligible for benefits related free school meals, will be able to access hundreds of activities throughout the Christmas holidays including specific provision available for children with SEND or additional needs, at no cost. There's a great range of activities across the city including **breakfast with Father Christmas, Christmas crafts, Christmas parties, ultraviolet dodgeball, cooking, mindfulness, yoga, football, drumming, creative writing, cycling, gymnastics, theatre tech, podcasting, drama, trips out and ice skating!** A meal is included for every child attending.

We have introduced a central booking system to make it easier for you to find and book the activities. You can find out where your nearest scheme is by clicking on this link <https://eequ.org/liverpoolhaf> or using the QR code which will take you to the Liverpool HAF page and the easy to fill in booking system. You can search by age, provider or date. There is a handy booking help video here - [How to make a booking](#)



☒ If you are struggling with the cost of living then please click:
<https://www.liverpool.gov.uk/cost-of-living/>

☒ If you're more than 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under 4, you may be entitled to get help to buy healthy food and milk. Click on the link to find out how to register <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/>

Liverpool City Council is working with Mersey Play Action Council, the local schools, voluntary and community organisations, and childcare providers to deliver the Winter HAF programme. This programme is funded by the Department for Education.

The Family Information and SEND Directory also provides a wealth of useful information and support for families - [FISD](#).

Regards

Sally Dobbing

Sally Dobbing

Holiday Activities and Food Project Manager





WINTER WARMER event

Friday 29 November 2024
10am - 2pm

The Hilton Hotel
Liverpool One
3 Thomas Steers Way
Liverpool L1 8LW



A FREE local event organised by Liverpool City Council's Healthy Homes team.

A range of organisations offering expert advice on various issues including:

- Fuel poverty
- Healthy eating
- Social/lifestyle information
- Advice on benefits, emergency fuel and food payments
- Free food packs with recipes (zero food waste whilst stocks last)
- Benefit Maximisation checks
- Free health checks
- Eligibility checks for Energy Efficiency Funding
- Energy saving advice
- Fuel debt advice
- Free winter warmer packs (while stocks last)

And much more ...

FREE Prize Draw with various prizes donated by local businesses

FREE hot drink on arrival



FREEPHONE 0800 0121 754
liverpool.gov.uk/
healthyhomesprogramme





TINY TEETH

Supporting families with children aged 0-5 across Liverpool with oral health

AVAILABLE FOR ALL FAMILIES

WE CAN OFFER YOU SUPPORT IN THE HOME WITH:

- EMOTIONAL SUPPORT
- ACCESSING SUPPORT IN YOUR COMMUNITY
- FREE ORAL HEALTH ADVICE, TOOTHBRUSHES / PASTE
- PARENTING TOOLS & GUIDANCE
- HOW TO MAKE TOOTHBRUSHING FUN



SCAN FOR SUPPORT



Charity Registration no. 1139517

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Available in Levels 1, 2 & 3

*Please go to our website for more detailed information.

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Daily sessions
1st session 9:30 - 11:30am
2nd session 12:30 - 2pm**

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Available in the following levels:

Level 1:	CACHE Level 1 Award in Preparing to Work in Schools
	CACHE Level 1 Award in Safeguarding in a Learning Environment
	CACHE Level 1 Certificate in Wellbeing
	Level 1 Occupational Studies for the Workplace
Level 2:	CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Safeguarding & Prevent
	CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Challenging Behaviours
Level 3:	Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of Special Educational Needs

Please go to our website address above, for more information.

*Please take note of the online live webinar sessions that **MUST** be attended to complete this full time 6 week course, and the ESFA's (Education Skills Funding Agency) eligibility criteria.