

Newsletter

Spring 1 2026

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope everyone enjoyed a restful break. As we begin the Spring term, we're excited for a fresh start filled with new learning, new goals, and lots of opportunities to shine. Let's make this half-term a fantastic one!

In God's love we learn and grow together

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

We celebrated Anti-Bullying Week in early November, beginning with Odd Socks Day on Monday 10th November. It was wonderful to see all our children and staff wearing odd socks to remind us that everyone is unique and should be celebrated for who they are. Thanks to your generosity, we raised £71 for the Anti-Bullying Alliance. The children took part in activities and discussions throughout the week to help promote kindness, respect, and standing up for one another. They learnt about the different roles involved in a bullying situation and how it's not just the ring leader that gives power to bullying. We learnt how to use our power for good to become a defender for those who may be getting bullied.



Our After School Clubs will re-commence week beginning Monday 12th January. All Clubs will end week ending 13th February 2026 when new clubs will be announced.

ROAD SAFETY WEEK

Our school took part in Road Safety Week at the end of November. Road Safety Week is an important time when children learn how to keep themselves safe when walking, cycling or travelling near roads.

The children took part in special lessons and activities to help them remember key safety rules, such as:

- **Stop, Look, Listen, Think** before crossing the road
- Using **zebra crossings** and **traffic lights** whenever possible
- Wearing **bright or reflective clothing** so drivers can see us
- Always holding a grown-up's hand near busy roads
- Wearing **helmets** when cycling or scooting



We also talked about how drivers can help keep us safe by slowing down near schools and staying alert.

Thank you to all the pupils for taking part so enthusiastically, and to families for supporting safe travel habits. Let's keep practising these important tips so everyone can travel safely - not just this week, but every week!

UK PARLIAMENT WEEK



UK parliament week was celebrated across the school in November, with each year group taking part in activities designed to develop their understanding of what Parliament is and who works there. Pupils completed a range of activities, including researching the local MP for our area, taking a virtual tour of the Houses of Parliament, and learning how democracy works.

School Buddies and the School Council are currently working together to improve lunchtimes for all pupils. Through pupil voice, it was identified that children would like more activity opportunities when playing outside. Suggestions were gathered from each class and shared with Mrs Conley, who approved the purchase of new equipment. The Buddies and Councillors will now begin training so they can lead and support these activities during lunchtime.



Taste on Dingle Lane have, once again, supported some of our families by gifting Christmas gifts and we would like to thank them for their on-going support at Christmas time.



Thank you to all parents, carers, staff and Governors who purchased raffle tickets. The raffle raised £197.00 for the School Fund.



CHOIR: CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT TESCO

As part of our Christmas celebrations, our choir spread festive cheer by singing Christmas Carols at our local Tesco store on Thursday 4th December. They had a fantastic time entertaining shoppers and raised an impressive £120.82 for our school fund.

A big thank you to everyone who supported our talented children and contributing so generously.

I liked singing at Tesco because my mum came to see me.

I liked singing at Tesco because I loved singing with my friends

Dancing and singing was so much fun at Tesco, my family came to see me too.

I liked singing the songs that we learned in singing assemblies.



FATHER SILVIU VISIT

We were thrilled to welcome Fr. Silviu, our parish priest, into every classroom this Advent! The children loved his warm stories, joyful messages, and the change to share their own thoughts and questions. Christmas Movie Night was held on Friday 5th December, and it was a wonderful success! His visits brought a wonderful sense of excitement and togetherness to the school, helping the children and our parish community. It was a truly uplifting way to begin the Advent season!

At the end of his visits to each classroom, Fr. Silviu was enthusiastic to share how amazed and delighted he was by the children. He couldn't believe how much they knew about the liturgical calendar and he was deeply touched by the thoughtfulness and kindness with which they spoke. Fr. Silviu also shared that he's very much looking forward to spending time with the children again on his next visit.



CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT



Our Christmas Movie Night was held on Friday 5th December, and it was a wonderful success!

Children had a fantastic time, arriving in their festive Christmas jumpers or cosy pyjamas. Some even brought along their own pillows and teddy bears, adding to the warm and magical atmosphere.

A huge thank you to all the staff who helped make the evening such a memorable Christmas event for our children.

We are delighted to share that £397.60 was raised, which will go towards our School Fund to purchase additional items and resources for our pupils.



ALFRED STOCKS COURT VISIT

As part of our Christmas celebrations, members of the Singing Club walked to Alfred Stocks Court on Monday 8th December 2025 to perform for the residents. Everyone had an absolute ball, with the children singing beautifully for 45 minutes. One resident, who once sang professionally, proudly remarked that the pupils were better than some of the people he had performed with in the past - a wonderful compliment and a memorable moment for all involved.



MERSEY PARKS CARE HOME



On Tuesday 9th December, our school choir brought the festive season to the residents of Mersey Parks Nursing Home with a special visit. The students performed a selection of well-loved Christmas carols, filling the home with familiar melodies that had many residents singing and humming along.

Residents expressed their appreciation for the choir's performance, and our pupils enjoyed the opportunity to share their talents and brighten someone's day.

We are incredibly proud of our choir for representing the school with kindness and joy. Their dedication and festive spirit helped make the day truly special for the Mersey Parks community.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Our school came together in a wonderful spirit of generosity through our Reverse Advent Calendar. Rather than counting down to the holidays with treats and surprises, our children focused on giving - and the results were truly inspiring.

Throughout the month, every child was allocated a special December day to bring in a donation for our local food bank. From the very first morning, the collection table began to fill with colourfully packed donations.



Thanks to the kindness of our children and their families, we were able to donate a significant number of items to the food bank, helping to support local individuals and families during the winter season. Staff at the food bank expressed their gratitude.

Popular contributions included tinned goods, dried pasta, rice, cereal, tea, coffee, biscuits, long-life milk, canned fruit, soup, and essential toiletries such as soap, toothpaste, shampoo, and deodorant.

The Reverse Advent Calendar has not only provided valuable support to those in need but also reminded our children of the power of kindness and community. We are incredibly proud of everyone who took part and helped make this initiative such a success.



Thank you to all our families for your generosity - together, we made December brighter for many.

WEDNESDAY 10th DECEMBER

Wednesday 10th December was a very busy day at St Finbar's.

The day started with our annual '**Wear a Christmas Jumper Day**' in aid of Save the Children. Staff and children wore a Christmas/festive jumper/cardigan or colourful top. The money raised will make sure children have access to food, healthcare, education and safety. The school raised £104.50 for this worthwhile charity.



Thank you to our Mellors catering team who provided **Christmas dinner** for our pupils and staff. Our catering team served 430 sprouts, 184 stuffing balls, 600 roast potatoes, 190 chipolata sausages, and too many turkey slices and carrots to mention!



In the afternoon, all children were able to watch a performance by **Coverdale Puppets** who told us all about the meaning of Christmas. Children thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas treat and we look forward to another visit next year.

GUITAR CLUB MUSICAL CONCERT

On Friday 12th December, our School Guitar Club performed a wonderful concert for parents, carers, and friends. The children have made fantastic progress this term.

The concert was thoroughly enjoyable for everyone who attended, and everyone appreciated the hard work and dedication the pupils have shown.

Well done to all our guitarists for an excellent performance, and thank you to everyone who came along to support them.



CHRISTMAS CORNET CONCERT



A big thank you to everyone who joined us for our Christmas Cornet Musical Concert on Tuesday 16th December. The children did a wonderful job performing a festive mix of Christmas songs. Thank you to families for coming along to support the children.



KS1 NATIVITY SUPPORTED BY YEAR 3

Thank you for attending the KS1 Christmas performance of 'Mary's Knitting' on Wednesday 17th December. We hope you enjoyed the performance. The children performed with enthusiasm and confidence, and it was lovely to see their excitement as they helped tell the Christmas story and celebrate the birth of Jesus. Well done.



VISIT BY FATHER CHRISTMAS

On Wednesday, 11th December, our school was filled with excitement as Father Christmas himself came to visit! Children across the school could hear the jingle of his bell as he made his way through the corridors.

Each class was delighted to welcome him, and Father Christmas took the time to speak with the children and share in their Christmas excitement. To make the day even more special, he gifted every child a present to take home.

It was a magical moment for everyone and a wonderful way to celebrate the festive season. Thank you, Father Christmas!



CAROL SERVICE

Our hearts were truly warmed when the school community gathered for our annual Christmas Carol Service. The atmosphere was magical, and the wonderful sounds of our pupils' voices filled the school hall. What a joy it was to listen to our pupils sing traditional carols as well as some more contemporary songs. Year 6 readers and the Year 2 children for the tableau were brilliant and helped capture the message of the season excellently. Thank you to Parents and Carers who took time out to come and share with us this special occasion.



CHRISTMAS PARTY DAY

We ended the school term on Friday 19th December with a wonderful Christmas Party Day. The school and catering team kindly provided the delicious party food, and the children enjoyed coming to school in their own clothes to celebrate in the festive atmosphere.



On 16th December all main legal guardians (who we have email addresses for) were sent an invitation to join Arbor. Arbor is our new school management and communication system.

The invitation came direct from Arbor giving instructions on how to set up your account. **If you have not already done so**, please follow the instructions in the Arbor email to complete your registration as soon as possible.

From the middle of January, **Arbor will be our main method of communication with parents/carers**. Please note that **emails will no longer be sent from the school office email account**, so it is important that **you sign up** to ensure you continue to receive school communications.

Once you have joined 'Arbor', please take the time to check all the information we hold for your child, including:

- Contact details
- Permissions
- Medical Information
- Attendance
- Any other personal information

If any details are incorrect, please update them via the app. You do not need to contact the school office.

You will also be able to reply to messages from the school directly through Arbor, making communication quicker and more efficient.

Thank you for your cooperation as we move to this new system. If you experience any difficulties signing up, please contact the school office for support.

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club is **FREE** to all our children in Reception to Year 6.

It opens at 8.00 am every school morning. Last entry to Breakfast Club is 8.30 am. There is always a selection of cereals, bagels, toast, sausage & beans, yoghurt, fresh fruit and drinks.

A big 'Thank You' to **Magic Breakfast** who supply us with bagels, cereal and juice and for our staff who look after our children.

Please do not drop your child off before 8.00 am as there are no staff available to look after them.

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

If you require assistance to complete a school form/school 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.



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.



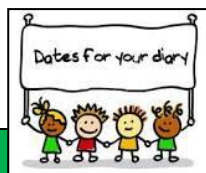
If you would like to donate any part of the school uniform or PE kit, it must be washed and in good condition. Please drop any donations to the school office. We have been able to help many of our families and will continue to do so.



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. 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.

Please contact the Local Authority admission on www.liverpool.gov.uk/admissions if you require a place for your child. You can also contact the school direct who will be able to assist you.



January 2026		
13 th	Tuesday	Year 4 & 5 Visit Kings Leadership Academy
15 th	Thursday	Closing Date for Reception Class Applications 2026 Themed Lunch: Build a Burger
February 2026		
9 th – 13 th	Monday - Friday	Children's Mental Health Week ' This is my place '
13 th	Friday	Last Day of Term
16 th – 20 th	Monday – Friday	Half Term Week
23 rd	Monday	Children Return to School
March 2026		
5 th	Thursday	World Book Day & Themed Lunch: Details to Follow
12 th	Thursday	Year 3 Trip to Martin Mere: Details to Follow
19 th	Thursday	Year 1 Trip to Martin Mere: Details to Follow
20 th	Friday	School Close to Children: Staff Training Day
April 2026		
1 st	Wednesday	Last Day of Term
2 nd – 10 th	Thursday – Friday	Easter Holidays
13 th	Monday	Children return to School
May 2026		
4 th	Monday	Bank Holiday: School Closed
8 th	Friday	Year 4 Trip to Martin Mere: Details to Follow
19 th	Tuesday	Year 5 Trip to Martin Mere: Details to Follow
21 st	Thursday	Themed Lunch & Last Day of Term
22 nd – 1 st	Friday – Monday	School Closed for Half Term
June 2026		
2 nd	Tuesday	Children Return to School
22 nd	Monday	Year 2 Trip to Martin Mere: Details to Follow

July 2026

1 st	Wednesday	Secondary School Induction Day
10 th	Friday	Year 6 Trip to Martin Mere: Details to Follow
17 th	Friday	Last Day of Term
20 th	Monday	School Closed for Children: Staff Training Day



Our Lady of Mount Carmel & St Patrick
High Park Street, Toxteth, Liverpool L8 8DX
olmc@rcaol.org.uk
0151 727 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.

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 Food Bank: Open every Wednesday, 9.00 am – 12 noon. If you can donate store cupboard items e.g. soup, pasta sauce, tins of tuna, meat and biscuits, please drop them off in church or the presbytery. Thank you.

Online Alpha Course – Thursday 15th January, 6.45 pm – 8.00 pm. The Archdiocese of Liverpool begins a new 11 week online Alpha Course, running weekly until 26th March. Alpha is an opportunity to explore life, faith and meaning in a friendly and open environment. All are welcome. For more information, email pd@rcaol.org.uk. To register, visit archdioceseofliverpool.org/Alpha26

First Holy Communion Dates: Saturday 9th May at 12 noon for Holy Family and St Finbar's Catholic Primary School.

YPAS PARENTING GROUPS JANUARY – APRIL 2026

WEEK COMMENCING
19TH JANUARY

**YOUTH
CONNECT 5**

A 5 week programme for parents and carers of young people aged 8-18 years which provides knowledge, skills and understanding to help children develop strong emotional wellbeing through resilience building techniques and tools and promoting self-care.

WEEK COMMENCING
26TH JANUARY

**RIDING THE
RAPIDS**

A 10 week programme for parents and carers of children aged 5-16 years, who have a diagnosis of Autism and/or learning disabilities who are exhibiting challenging behaviour.

Where there is a diagnosis of Autism, attendees are required to have completed a post diagnostic course prior to attending this group.

WEEK COMMENCING
26TH JANUARY

**THE NURTURE
PROGRAMME**

A 10 week programme that aims to improve the emotional and mental health of parents and children, strengthening family relationships whilst reducing behaviour difficulties.

WEEK COMMENCING
26TH JANUARY

TALKING TEENS

A 4 week programme for parents and carers of teenagers aged 11-18 years which aims to increase understanding of teenagers feelings and behaviour, whilst delivering strategies for maintaining and improving relationships.

WEEK COMMENCING
26TH JANUARY

CATHY CRESWELL

A 6 week programme for parents and carers of children aged 5-12 years who are experiencing low level anxiety.

This programme focuses on upskilling parents to support their child with overcoming and managing anxiety by promoting strategies and tools that parents and carers can use at home with their child.

WEEK COMMENCING
23RD FEBRUARY

**YOU AND ME,
MUM**

A 10 week programme for mothers of children aged 0-16 years which promotes understanding around how domestic abuse affects you as a parent and how it effects your children.

WEEK COMMENCING
2ND MARCH

PARENTALK

A 6 week programme for parents and carers of teenagers aged 13-18 years which provides an opportunity to discuss day to challenges and explore some of the key issues that parents and carers of teenagers face, along with looking at valuable principles and easy to apply techniques throughout the parenting journey.

GROUPS COMMENCING
MARCH 2026

**INCREDIBLE
YEARS**

A 14 week programme for parents and carers of children aged 2-10 years which is designed to strengthen parent-child interactions and attachment, promote social, emotional and language development offering help to manage challenging behaviour.

LAST WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH

**CHAT 'N' CHILL
PARENT PEER
SUPPORT GROUP**

A parent peer support group that takes place on the last Wednesday of each month in YPAS central hub 10am-12pm.

The Chat 'n' Chill sessions provide parents and carers with an interactive safe space where they can relax, socialise and have an opportunity to talk with a parenting practitioner as well as other parents and carers.

To refer in for parenting support or for further information.

Please email referrals.liverpoolypas@nhs.net or visit ypas.org.uk by scanning the QR code below

