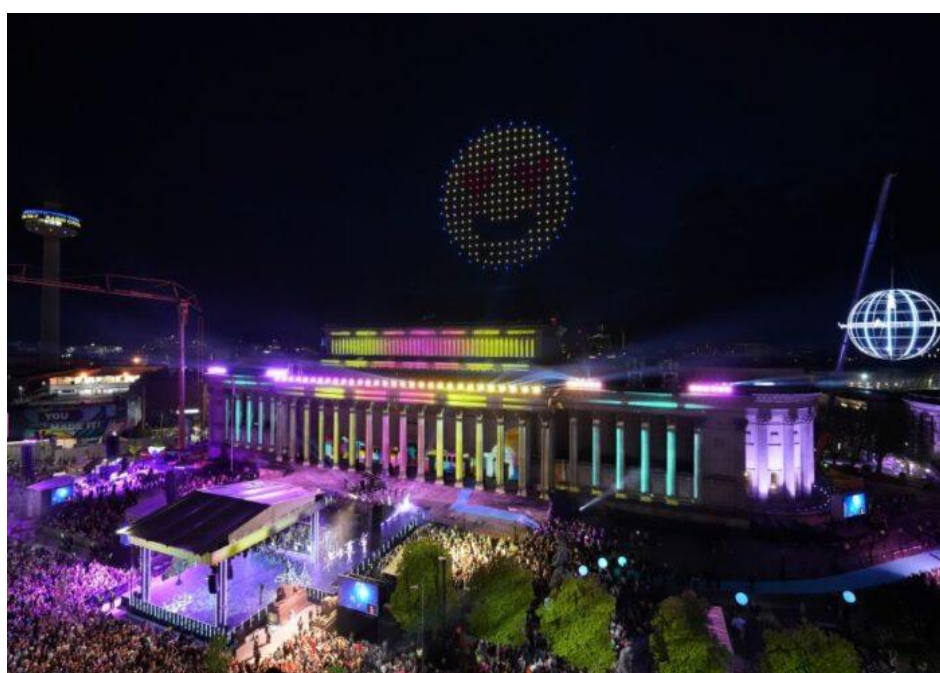


IN OUR SCHOOL...

Where everyone is special...

Issue 13: Summer Term 2023

St Austin's Welcomes the World to Eurovision



In May, pupils from St Austin's teamed up with the Liverpool Signing Choir and a host of musical superstars from around the world to take part in the Eurovision Welcome Concert at St George's Hall. What a night and experience it turned out to be. A full report, with exclusive insights from our children, can be found on page 6...

'School's out for summer...' as Alice Cooper once famously sang. And as the curtain comes down on another action-packed year, it's time to look back and reflect on the moments that made it special.

This is the first newspaper since Christmas and we have a bumper issue crammed full of stories and highlights from a wonderful few months in our school.

You will read about all of the events that have made our school a special place to be, like Spanish Day, World Poetry Day, The Summer Fayre, Masses in church and a host of educational trips.

There is a special tribute to Mr Burke, who retires today, celebrating over thirty years of teaching in our school.

And you will read how a group of St Austin's children welcomed the world to Eurovision in Liverpool!

This will be the last time I write one of these pieces as I hand over editing duties to Mr Ayre next academic year. It has been a joy putting this newspaper together over the past few years and I know Mr Ayre will carry on the good work that the children and staff have set in making this the best school newspaper in the country!

I wish everyone a restful and enjoyable summer break. See you all refreshed and re-energised in September

Mr Hints – 19th July 2023

**Summer message
from Mrs Hickey
(back page)**

**HOLA AMIGOS! – SPANISH
DAY 2023 (page 7)**



**Girls crowned Cross-Country
Champs – (full report page 13)**



'Thank You for the Music' ...and so much more!

Mr Burke retires after 27 years of service to St Austin's

Today we say a fond farewell to Mr Burke after over 27 years teaching in St Austin's.

Mr Burke is part of the fabric of our school and it will be strange and sad not having him around next year to brighten up our days with the knowledge and wisdom he bestows on the children. Putting it simply, the children all admire and respect Mr Burke and they will all be incredibly sad to see him go. Mr Burke arrived at St Austin's in 1995 after studying history in University and after a successful career in Music, which saw him play in many bands, including the infamous Liverpool band, Echo and the Bunnymen. Mr Burke still performs to this day and this love of music and performing transcends to the children in school. The children come alive when Mr Burke is teaching them. He has a special gift at being able to get the very best out of every child he teaches; with Mr Burke, the children want to learn.

Everyone in the St Austin's community wishes our friend Mr Burke health and happiness in retirement and we thank him for everything he has done for the children in school.

Staff tributes to Mr Burke

Good luck Mr Burke, it's always nice to hear a friendly Irish voice on the corridors and I'll miss this dearly! I wish you the best of luck for your retirement and best of luck for the future – **Miss Sullivan**

Dear Noel, congratulations on your retirement! Wish you bucketsful of happiness, good health and exciting adventures. I'll miss our lunch time conversations and the music I could hear in my 'travels' through the school. You certainly have given the children a taste of the real thing. Take it easy and enjoy your lazy days. – **Pachi**

Mr Burke, What can I say? It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have worked with you over the years. Not only have you been a great colleague but also an inspiration to my children. Grace always speaks so fondly of



her memories of being in your class, especially when a box of Maltesers saved your life!! I hope to see you on Who Wants to be a Millionaire in the near future, just think of the retirement fund, but please don't add me to your 'phone a friend list'! St. Austin's will miss you so I hope you keep in touch. Wishing you health and happiness for the next adventure - **Mrs Doyle**

What will I miss most about Noel? It's probably sitting outside my classroom listening to Noel educate the children about some of the musicians that have brought joy to my life. Marking books is so much easier with Pink Floyd, The Who, Oasis or Bob Dylan on in the background! Noel's knowledge, wisdom and passion for education shines through when he's teaching. The children hang off his every word and I've learnt a great deal from him in my short time at St Austin's. But personally, I've also grown to know a kind-hearted, warm and witty man who has time for everyone. Noel, St Austin's just won't be the same without you. Enjoy your retirement - you've certainly earned it. – **Mr Hints**

Wishing you lots of happiness in your well deserved retirement Noel. I'll definitely miss listening to your music lessons and hearing your endless stories and adventures. I know you'll have lots planned in your next chapter - relax and enjoy it all. – **Mrs Daniels**

I had the pleasure to have worked with Mr Burke for over 20 years. He was an excellent teacher with the unique talent of totally engaging his class particularly with his anecdotal style of teaching which our pupils loved- my own son and daughter were lucky enough to be in his class and still remember this time fondly. He supported many year 6 residentials and also represented the school on Erasmus projects abroad most notably when he and I represented our school at the Armistice Remembrance celebrations in Paris in 2018. He had a great knowledge of music and entertained our staff with stories of his time with the band and also his general knowledge based on his many life experiences. Mr Burke's unique sense of humour, loyalty and friendship will be greatly missed at St Austin's – my family and I wish him well in his retirement and thank him for the many years of service which he has given to our school. – **Former Headteacher Mr Carney**

Children's tributes to Mr Burke

I like that Mr Burke plays lots of songs that famous people have written. I like when we play musical instruments and we hope you

have fun when you don't have to teach us anymore – **Xavi 2CS**

Thank you for being an amazing music teacher! My favourite lessons were Echo and the Bynnymen, The Beatles, The Kinks and The Who. Our music lessons are so much fun especially when we get up and dance! When you walk into the room we all smile and lighten up. I really do hope you enjoy your retirement and maybe if you miss us you are welcome to come back! I don't think anyone could replace you. – **Mena 3TD**

Thanks for teaching me. It's made me look at music from a different perspective. I know everybody will miss you – **Luca 4HD**

I remember when we did a mini Eurovision with songs like the Macarena and Who Let The Dogs Out. They were songs you have probably heard of before, but never heard any other songs from that artist. Mr Burke did it really nicely with us. It was at the time of when 2023 Eurovision was on. Mr Burke did it so nicely with us and he answered every single one of our questions. I don't think anybody here would like any other music teacher that is not Mr Burke. He is amazing and he taught us so so much, so I think he deserves the whole world for giving up his time to teach us. Mr Burke is so kind and great at teaching it will be hard to lose him, though we all have tough times in life. Mr Burke really understands people and treats them how they want to be treated. He is a teacher none of us will forget, thank you Mr Burke – **Meabh 4JH**

Thank you for the endless fun and learning. Thank you for making Maths, English and practice tests fun. Thank you for always giving us a new type of music to discover and learn about. Thank you for not only being a teacher, but a friend. Thank you for all the funny history lessons. Thank you – **Charlotte 6DH**

Mr Burke had a lasting impact on many pupils. When it was announced that Mr Burke was retiring, lots of former pupils got in touch to offer their memories and tributes...

Mr Burke understood how stressful SATS could be and my class could be quite a silly bunch at times. One time the class started singing a bunch of silly songs such as Bob the Builder and rather than telling us to focus, he picked up his guitar and started playing these songs. Everyone felt relaxed around him and we all loved him for it. I know going forward, I would have given anything to have him be my teacher again cause he was the best. - **Charlotte Forse class of 2009**

Thank you so much for making my last year at St Austin's so special and memorable from the WW2 history to the end of year production! Many thanks for such an enriching experience that me and many others won't forget.

My family and I hope you have a lovely retirement. Very well deserved after all those years of children's singing! - **Rosie Galvin class of 2017**

Mr Burke was a great teacher, he actually inspired my love for all things history! It was in his history lessons that I first started to become really interested in the world war, and so I went on to study it at university and graduated with a first class degree! I always said it was Mr Burke who got me so interested in the subject from such a young age and I would always look forward to his history lessons in class. I wish him a healthy and happy retirement – **Eve Humphries class of 2007**

My favourite teacher!! Mr Burke was a very good story teller. History lessons in particular were both interesting and entertaining. A sound fella! – **Thomas Manning class of 2003**

I always remember when Mr. Burke would get out his guitar during the day. All the kids loved it and I remember he had a habit of playing Postman Pat haha. He was such a good teacher and I'm so grateful that he made my last year of primary school so fun! – **Katie Dolan class of 2009**

Message from Mrs Hickey

Mr Burke certainly had an exciting life prior to starting St Austin's, touring the world with his band meeting some very interesting people along the way. In 1995 he left the rock n roll days behind and started his NQT year at St Austin's a far cry from playing pinball with Sir Paul McCartney. He is as quick witted then as he is now.

Mr Burke is a calming influence in the staff room, no panic needed! I suspect that was due to his upbringing. Mr Burke always knew what was important and what wasn't, what really mattered and what didn't. He knew how to grab the attention of a classroom and hold them with his storytelling of historical events.

Mr Burke moved into Y6 in 1997 and only managed to escape when he requested semi-retirement in 2019. He has attended countless year 6 residential visits, year 6 performances, music nights, discos, summer fayres and end of year Masses over the years. His dedication and commitment

to our school has been unwavering and was always a dependable body if called upon.

To sum up Mr Burke - humorous, intellectual and modest. He could always surprise you with his knowledge of the most obscure! I am glad he reached the finish line sharing his other great passion with our children - music!

It has been a privilege to work alongside Mr Burke as a colleague, a parent and as a friend. On behalf of the governors, staff, teachers and pupils, past and present, we all wish you the very best of health for a long and happy retirement, one which is truly deserved!

Good luck and congratulations

Mrs Hickey

Q&A with Mr Burke **Hallie and Ceira from year 5 put some questions to Mr Burke about his time at St Austin's and about his passion for music. Here's what he had to say...**

What is the best memory that you have made at St. Austin's?

There are so many memories that spring to mind that it's hard to confine myself to one. I suppose all my best memories are of the many occasions in the classroom when the children were learning and laughing at the same time. Learning isn't always fun, so those lessons where there's entertainment and education going on simultaneously are definitely the most precious.

What did you enjoy the most during your time at St. Austin's?

I've always been keen on History, it's what I studied at University, so I loved teaching that. I also enjoyed teaching maths - I wasn't great at it when I was at school, but I think that helped me as a teacher because I could sympathise and be patient when anyone found themselves stuck! The last few years teaching music have been great too, it's been a very rewarding way to finish my career in teaching.

When you were growing up, did you always want to be involved in music?

Funnily enough, I only really started to appreciate music when I was around 15 or 16. Before that, like most of my friends at the time, I was only interested in football.

(continued on next page...)

Mr Burke Q&A cont...

When punk and new wave music came along in the mid 1970s, I started to develop an enthusiasm and started a record buying habit I still have today! It helped that my older brother and sister as well as my parents couldn't stand the music I was listening to (or the clothes I was wearing, or how messed up my hair was). If you can't be rebellious when you're a teenager when can you be?

Will you miss St. Austin's?

I will absolutely miss St. Austin's and I will have to find many things to keep me busy otherwise I might go mad. The very best thing about teaching is that every single day is different - one thing I have never been in the last twenty-seven years is bored! It's the children who make every day different and it's the children who make every day interesting.

When performing with Echo and the Bunnymen, what was your favourite song?

This time I will pick one of my own songs - my favourite is called "False Goodbyes" and it's the last song on the one album I did with them, "Reverberation". It's about four minutes long on the record, but when we played it live we used to keep it going at least twice that long. It always gave me a great opportunity to thrash away on my guitar (and usually break a string or two in the process).

Comment from Mr Burke

We will give the last word to Mr Burke himself, as he brings the curtain down on his near 28 year career at St Austin's:

By MR BURKE

There's going to be a very big, St. Austin's shaped hole in my life come September. Now don't get me wrong, I'm not saying I won't enjoy the extra lie-ins on weekday mornings or that I won't be taking the opportunity to go on holiday during term time, when it's cheaper, but I will most definitely miss school, my colleagues and of course the children I've taught.

Twenty-seven years seems like a long time to stay in the same job and, considering I'd never managed to last

more than a year in the many and varied jobs I'd had before, it's quite an achievement I suppose. Having said that, I can remember my early days as a wet-behind-the-ears Year 6 teacher as if they were yesterday. It's hard to believe that I've stuck around long enough to teach different generations of quite a few families, to teach pupils who went on to teach at St. Austin's themselves and to watch both my own sons' progress through the school.

I'm eternally grateful for the generous support I've been given by fellow-members of staff, both teaching and non-teaching, from my first days as a newly qualified teacher right up to the present day. I'm also immensely grateful to the children who've passed through my class over the years for making every working day different, for keeping me enthusiastic about my job and keeping me young... well, young at heart at least!

I'm now looking forward to listening to and playing more music, reading more history books and going on more long walks but I do solemnly promise to pop back every now and again to see how everyone is getting on – at the very least I will expect every one of you to have developed an impeccable and highly sophisticated taste in music!

Bike-it-Breakfast returns

We held another successful Bike it Breakfast this term. Despite the wet conditions, children and families cycled and scooted to school and then enjoyed their breakfast in the school hall. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.



Poly-tunnel Growing Project a huge success

By Ms York

As we approach the end of this academic year it's a great time to reflect on the success of the poly-tunnel growing project. From year 1-6 all the children have planted, propagated and nurtured a huge variety of flowers, fruit and vegetables. From wild flowers to potatoes, pumpkins, courgettes, sweetcorn, broad-beans, peas, beetroot and many others. The children have explored how the poly-tunnel effects the rate of growth of produce compared to our outside beds. They have also learned lots about how and why plants produce flowers, seeds and fruit and how important pollinators are to our food production. This has clearly inspired our young growers as many are now reporting the things they are growing at home. The children can now identify a wider variety of vegetables and are keen to try them as part of a healthier diet. We are now in the throws of our first St Austin's Harvest and are grateful to all the parents who have taken produce home and donated to the poly-tunnel for next year. The funds collected will help fund next year's seeds, equipment and further developments around the poly-tunnel area. I'm sure many of you took vegetables home and were wondering what to do with them so here are a few ideas for ways to use your beetroot.



[How to cook beetroot recipe - BBC Food](#)

Personally, I just boil them like potatoes, let them cool and eat them cold.

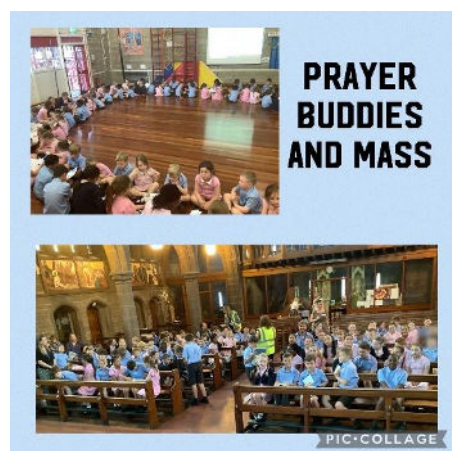
Thank you for your support and keep an eye out for our future crops of tomatoes (we have many varieties) sweetcorn and even pumpkins.

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

On this page, 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.’

Spirituality Day

In a first for our school we held a Spirituality Day as part of our ‘Well Being Week.’ The day began with all classes listening to a message from Archbishop Malcolm; years 3, 4 and 5 celebrated Mass in church and KS2 children became ‘prayer buddies’ for our younger children. It was a wonderful day, allowing us all to reflect on our faith, and it was a great way to begin our ‘Well-Being Week.’



RE Ambassadors Cathedral Visit

During Spirituality Day, our school RE Ambassadors were given the opportunity to go on a tour of our magnificent Catholic Cathedral. Mrs Baird accompanied the children and she had this to say about the experience and the wonderful conduct of our children:

It was a privilege it was to take the RE Ambassadors to the cathedral yesterday. They were amazing, their behaviour and manners were exemplary. The cathedral guide was so impressed with them that she allowed them to sit in the choristers seats, go into the baptistery and walk up onto the main altar. They don't usually allow tours in these areas! Special mentions to Aoife year 1, Darcy year 2 and Ethan year 6, their answers were amazing! Thank you to Miss Vallely for organising such a wonderful experience for our children.

May Procession

During May, the month of our Lady, Father David invited us to church for a May procession and mass. It was a wonderful morning and the children were extremely well behaved and respectful as they processed around the church singing hymns in honour of Mary. Etta in year 3 had the privileged task of placing a crown on the head of a statue of Mary and all of the children laid flowers next to the statue as a mark of respect. Thank you to Father David for organising this event and reminding us how special Mary is.



Earthquake Appeal

Many thanks to all the parents/carers who donated recently to the Turkey/Syria disaster fund, we are delighted to inform you that we raised a fantastic **£982**, which will now be sent to support the many families affected by the earthquake.

Year 4 Communion



Congratulations to the year 4 children who have made their Holy Communion this term. This is a huge step in their journey with God and we are very proud of them all. Millie in class 4JH said: ***“When I had my holy communion, everyone was really friendly. Having it makes me feel more mature and confident with my prayers and when I do pray I feel like he does help me when I'm sad.”***

Catholic Life cont...

Big Lent Walk 2023

This year we have raised money for CAFOD and Zoë's Place by completing the 'Big Lent Walk'. Each year group went on a walk around our local area, with some year groups walking over a mile down to Otterspool Prom. We are delighted to inform you that the total amount raised was a fantastic **£5344.23**, which will be split evenly between the two charities. Thank you to everyone who contributed. In the summer term, we invited both CAFOD and Zoë's Place into school to receive their cheques from the children during assemblies.



Year 6 Pilgrimage to Ladyewell Shrine

On Wednesday 12th July, Father David organised for the year 6 children to visit the Ladyewell shrine, just outside Preston. It was a lovely day, allowing us to reflect on our faith. Alexia in 6DH said, *"It was a wonderful shrine to Our Lady, Mary. There were mosaics on the walls, we all lit a candle and said a prayer for someone special and then blessed ourselves with the holy water from the well. There was even a gift shop where you could buy rosary beads and crosses. It was a very holy and peaceful place."*



St Austin's Shine at Big Eurovision Welcome

In May, our school was invited to take part in a concert at St George's Hall to launch Eurovision week in Liverpool. We were delighted to be invited and knew that it would be a prestigious concert but little did we know just how massive and incredible that concert would be. Performing on the steps of St George's Hall to 25,000 people and with the TV cameras rolling, fifteen of our year 5 and 6 children teamed up with the Liverpool signing choir to perform the Beatles classic 'All You Need is Love' to the admiring crowd. It was an experience our children will never forget. A huge well done and thank you to the children and parents involved for giving up many hours of practice time over the past few weeks to prepare for the concert. An even bigger thank you to the Liverpool Signing Choir for inviting us to be a part of this once in a lifetime experience. If you have not seen the concert yet, you can find it on BBC iPlayer by searching for 'Eurovision Welcomes the World.'



Three of our year 6 children: ADA, AMELIE and MARTHA now give their first-hand accounts of this wonderful experience...

Many weeks before the welcome party occurred we were told some very exciting news, that a selected few from each year 6 and 5 class were going to be able to perform in the Eurovision welcome party. My heart pounded, could I be chosen? A piece of paper was put in front of me...I got chosen! In preparation for the welcome party we had to attend weekly practices where big BBC producers helped and directed us. Learning the song in sign language was a great chance to expand my knowledge of another language I now know SO many new

words! We had an extra special big practice the day before the real thing on the 6th of May and even rehearsed with Birdy! We met so many celebrities but I hugged Shirley Ballas and high fived Zara Larson. This was a privilege and I was so lucky to be given such an amazing opportunity. Performing in front of 30,000 people was nerve wracking but when I stepped onto the platform which I knew so well and looked to the people watching us all my nerves melted away, and it was perfect. – **By ADA**

I took part in an amazing opportunity to be on the welcome song contest for Eurovision 2023! It was a great experience being with lots of other children from different parts of Liverpool and learning such a life skill lesson today, sign language. It took lots of lunch times and after school practicing and getting it perfect for the night, but it was so worth it! It was over two nights the 6th and the 7th May. The 6th was just a practise on the real stage to get a feel off what it was going to be like, but the 7th was the real thing were 30,000 people came to watch outside St George's hall. We got to meet lots of famous celebrities such as: Birdy, Shirly Ballas, Rylan, Zara Larsson and many more! We were all very tired after those two days because the Saturday the 6th was 6pm-12am and the Sunday the 7th was 5pm-10pm! It will definitely be a memory I will treasure forever! – **By AMELIE**

Me and many other children from across year 6 and 5 were chosen for take part in the Eurovision song contest welcome party 2023. We were asked to sign language all you need is love by John Lennon, every Tuesday we practised at a church in Dovecot so we could get it perfect for the night. On the 6th of May we made our way to St George's Hall in Liverpool for a dress rehearsal, it was a very long and hard night but it was definitely worth it! But the 7th of May was the night of the night, it was very exciting as we met many celebrities. It was definitely a night to remember. – **By MARTHA**



More News from around school...

Summer Fayre

On Friday 14th July, the St Austin's Summer Fayre returned with a bang. The overcast skies and drizzle did not dampen our spirits and the fayre proved to be a huge success with everybody having a great time. Organised by our fabulous team at SAPTA, the fayre featured a whole host of stalls, activities and fun, including: face-painting, tombola, hook-a-duck, cakes and popcorn. We even had a 'guess-the-baby' competition with children and families tasked with guessing the baby photos of current teachers and staff! As well as this, our amazing Samba band kept the energy and enthusiasm strong with regular performances during the fayre. And, as if that wasn't enough, we also had a petting farm on the yard featuring goats, rabbits and guinea pigs. It was a fabulous event and much loved by the children and families that attended. But don't just take our word for it, here's what some of the children had to say:

I really liked the guess the teacher game because when you find out the answers you can really see the teachers in the babies' faces. Mr Hughes was obviously the easiest and I think Ms Campbell was the hardest to guess – Saoirse (4JH)

It was good because there was a lot of stuff to do. Me and my friend Thomas got cupcakes. We saw tortoises and rabbits – James (2AK)

I liked the face painting the best because I got Elsa! - Annabelle C (RRM)

The total raised was a staggering **£3,000.48** – what an incredible amount! This money will go straight back to the children, helping to pay for educational trips and resources. A huge thank you to SAPTA and everybody who helped to make our Summer Fayre such a great success.



4JH Cake sale raises £160

This term in PHSE, 4JH have created their own business. They came up with the idea, branding and advertising, made the stock and planned what to do with the profits (donated to SAPTA). On Friday they ran a cake stand, taking full charge of it themselves and it went brilliantly, raising over £160! A huge well done to the children of 4JH for an enterprising venture.



Class of '73 Reunion

A few weeks ago we welcomed former pupils from the class of 1973 into school for a reunion. For some of the past pupils it has been fifty years since they last stepped foot in St Austin's. They were taken on a tour around the school by our year 6 pupils and then enjoyed tea and coffee and a chance to reminisce in the school hall. Peter Taylor (pictured back-right), one of the class of '73 who attended the reunion, loved his afternoon in St Austin's and had particular praise for the 'polite and welcoming' year 6 children who showed him round.



Spanish Day 2023

By Miss Docherty

It's been a long time coming but finally, for our Hispanic Day 2023, we were able to invite family and friends of St Austin's to watch our show live. A large amount of planning and preparation goes into each and every performance so we were delighted to be able to showcase the many talents and fantastic language skills which our pupils gain on their journey through St Austin's. From nursery through to Year 6, the children performed brilliantly and we are so proud of their confidence and impressive linguistic, musical and performance skills. They really are a credit to their families and teachers! There is always a hive of activity and a buzz of excitement during our Hispanic day which stretches from the stage and into classrooms where children and staff, all dressed in Hispanic colours and outfits, and in between performances, participate in a wide variety of Hispanic themed activities. From the geography of Spain to Hispanic food tasting, from Hispanic music and art to flag making, the children always have a lot of fun learning and celebrating this culture which has become such a part of the fabric of St Austin's. We were delighted and very grateful to receive so many positive comments and compliments from all those who managed to watch the entire show this year. Thank you and watch this space...we are already planning Hispanic Day 2024!

Joe Redfern in year 6 loved Spanish Day. This is what he had to say: *'On Spanish day this year everyone dressed up in something Spanish related. For this years the year 6 song a song called 'Volar' which is all about being free and brave. Also for this year Spanish day the year 6 did a Spanish A-Z to celebrate Spanish day. This year lots of parents lined up out outside the school to watch all the amazing Spanish plays. Have an amazing and happy Spanish day when it comes.'*



World Book Day Day and World Poetry Day

This year's World Book Day was another great success. It was lovely to see children embracing the joys of literature and sharing their favourite books with each other. It was also great for the children to spend some time in our fabulous school library.



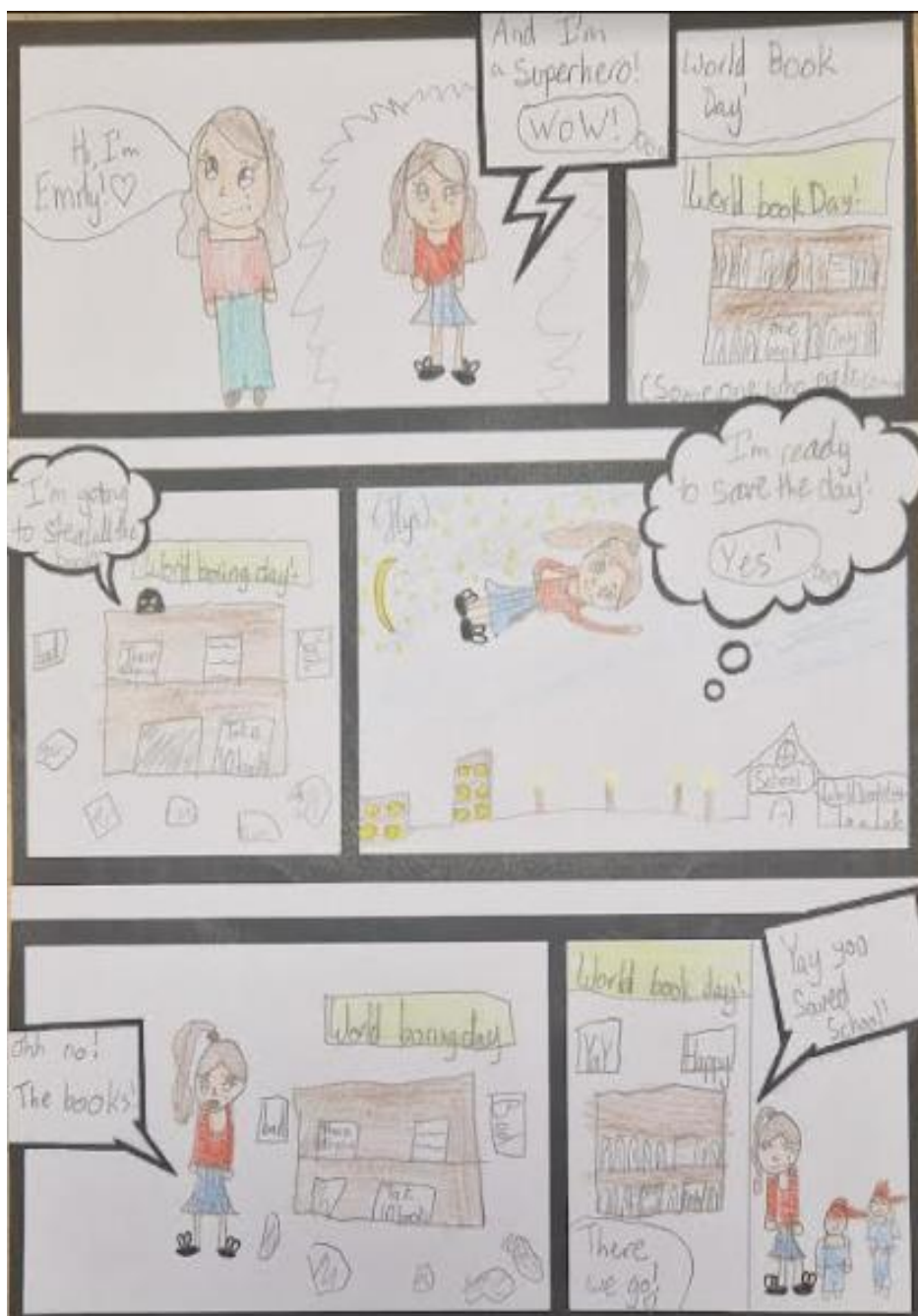
On Tuesday 21st March we celebrated World Poetry Day. This was a first for our school but what a fabulous day it turned out to be. We encouraged children to use their imaginations and dress up as a word of their choice. We had some weird, whacky and creative word choices. The fun didn't stop there though, the children were then challenged to use these words in a class poem. We love celebrating all things literature in St Austin's and it was fantastic to see the children (and staff) embracing these two wonderful, immersive days.

Daniel Pariz in year 6 loved World Poetry Day, saying: *On World Poetry Day we all dressed up as a word.. We spent time guessing each other's words and then wrote a class poem including all of the words we had dressed up as. We did lots of other fun activities and it was a great day.*



Comic Strip Comp...

As part of our World Book Day celebration, we invited the children to enter a competition to design their own comic strip. First, the children had to come up with a super-hero and then create a story around their super-hero. We had some fantastic entries from children throughout the school. But the two winners were GRACIE in 3RC and ELIZA in 5EV. Well done to both girls. Here are their incredible winning comics...



Hi my name is
Livia and I'm
a Super Hero
because I
save the ocean



I help
the
ocean and
the world



Lets Celebrate
because we
saved the
world

Who are
you?



Hi my name is
Strawbs
the Strawberry



Eat Healthy
Eat Healthy
Eat Healthy
Eat Healthy



Camino de Santiago Pilgrimage

School governor Ged Gibbons has recently walked the Camino de Santiago, a 500 mile pilgrimage across Northern Spain to the historic town of Santiago. Six of our year 6 pupils, OTIS, CHARLOTTE, IMOGEN, MATT, OTIS and DANIEL K chatted to Mr Gibbons about his experience.



In April and May one of our school governors, Mr Gibbons, walked the Camino de Santiago, a 500 mile pilgrimage from the foothills of the Pyrenees mountain range in France to the city of Santiago in Northern Spain.

Mr Gibbons was raising money for Alzheimer's and Motor Neurone Disease charities and managed to raise over £4000.

The walk began in the Pyrenees Mountain Range in France. There are a few different routes that you can take – Mr Gibbons took the challenging Napoleon route which took him through the mountains.

Mr Gibbons walked approximately 15 miles a day. He said that after a few days his body was used to the strenuous walking and it just felt like normal walking. The journey took him through many towns and villages in Northern Spain, including Pamplona which is famous for its Bull-run. He also visited a town made famous by the writer Ernest Hemmingway, as well as staying overnight in monasteries on the route.

His journey finished at the wonderful Gothic Cathedral in Santiago in Northern Spain. After 34 days and over 1 million steps he had completed the pilgrimage!

Although this is a fantastic achievement, Mr Gibbons did point out that his brother once managed to complete the pilgrimage in just 26 days – 8 days less than Mr Gibbons. The world record for completing the walk is 21 days.

Nevertheless, St Austin's is very proud of our Governor Mr Gibbons and we would all like to wish him congratulations on a fantastic achievement.

Educational Visits

Year 4 history trip to Chester – by Meabh

Earlier this year, 4JH and 4HD went to Chester! We went to a Roman education centre where we learnt many things about Romans. It was a long bus ride but it was worth it. When we arrived at Chester, a Roman Legionary showed us many things about Romans from the past. First, we went inside a long, dark hallway that he lead us to. Green, hanging vines hung from the sides of the narrow walls. We entered through and there was a large room. We were separated from 4HD and went to the bathing room first. We sat down on the floor and the leader explained how Roman people went to the toilet! They didn't have separate cubicles, it was just a long line of poop holes. They used a sponge on a stick to wipe and they didn't get cleaned until the end of the day! The way they showered was that they oiled their bodies then they scraped it off to wash themselves! I think I would rate the trip a 5 out of 5. We had lunch next. After lunch we went out to the ruined amphitheatre where Mrs Brown (on her third day at our school), got harshly defeated by Mr Hughes. After that, we went on a big march outside the Roman centre, and we marched all the way downtown, chanting "Sin,sin,sin,dex,sin," which means "left,left,left,right,left!"

The time at Chester was really fun, I thought it was one of my favourite trips I have ever been on with school. I think our class really enjoyed the trip and we would love to go again and do everything again. We got our own fake armour! It was really amazing.

Year 3 trip to Sefton Park Palm House

Year 3 enjoyed a trip to the Palm House in Sefton Park this term. We had a tour of the Palm House from an expert who talked to us about the different plants and how they look after them. We then sketched what we could see around the palm house as we found lots of sculptures that we could talk about which was our year 3 art topic. We then enjoyed a lovely game of rounders in the sunshine after having a picnic style lunch on the grass. Here are some quotes about our day:

'We got to play rounders on the field all together in the sun, it was so fun!' - Darcie S

'We learnt more about the trees and plants in the palm house' - Charlie G

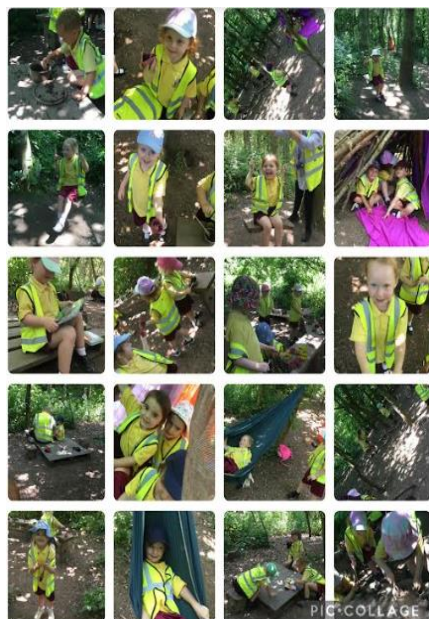
'We got to see what different plants look like, some we have never even heard of!' - Stevi P

'We learnt about what plants are dangerous and what to look out for!' - Jack D



Nursery trip to Delamere Forest

This term in Nursery, the children had a fabulous Forest School Day at the delightful Delamere Forest. The children experienced an amazing adventurous day which included four hours of inexhaustible fantastic fun in the forest. They enjoyed freedom in their own private educational area of Delamere Forest, in a true natural forest environment, and were lucky enough to be supervised by their very own personal Ranger to guide them throughout the day. The children began their day learning about different animal habitats and even got to build an animal habitat of their choice. Following that they went on a mini-beast hunt where they found worms, slugs, snails, spiders and millepedes to name but a few. They then found a shaded picnic area under an old oak tree where they sat and ate their delicious lunches whilst listening to the birds singing in the trees around them. After they were refuelled and ready to go again, they headed deep into the forest and made their own dens to hide in using natural materials. Their ranger 'Vicki' had also left activities that they could choose from including forest art, books, a mud kitchen, a music tent, and whilst Mrs O'Shea and Mrs Guy weren't looking, they swung from hammocks amongst the trees.



Year 5 Visit to CLAC – By Eva



When we arrived at school on a warm Tuesday morning, we waited on the playground, and strolled into the KS2 hall. Everyone was buzzing with excitement. Mr Ayre and Mrs Vallely told to go to the toilet, and check we had everything we needed in our bags for our CLAC (Crosby Lakeside Adventure Centre) trip. Mr Ayre's class (my class) went forward to make a line first. Everyone was squirming with excitement, and desperate to go first in line. We then set off as Miss Vallely's class followed on behind.

Both classes tramped to the coach/bus. We each got into partners and picked our seats on the bus. Miss Vallely stood up, and told us, before we set off, that it was going to be a 30-minute journey. We all gasped and chattered excitedly. Many minutes later, we arrived at CLAC. The sun was shining strongly, big beam of light shining upon us, and we all roasting as soon as we stepped, half asleep, into CLAC.



As soon as we got into the main building, we got a sudden introduction by an instructor named Paddy, he was very friendly. When we were finished listening, and asking questions, we were told to go and get changed into our swimsuit and life jacket/ and buoyancy aids, when we came back from the chaotic, hectic changing rooms, we got assigned into 5

different groups. Groups 2 and 3 did Bel Boating and kayaking, group 5 did paddle boarding etc etc.

My activity was Bel Boating, and my instructor was named Andrew. 8 people per boat. We went round the lake, and started doing head, shoulders, knees, and toes on top of the seats of the Bel Boat! We also paddled standing up, which was really fun. Our arms were aching so after that.

My last activity was kayaking. The instructors were Steve 1 and Steve 2. We went 2 per boat, we were very fast, and nimble. We had to sharp corners and travel long distances. At the end, we had a surprise. We could jump off the pontoon! We paddled as fast as possible. Mr Ayre took pictures of us as we were jumping in. It was very deep! The water was refreshing and cold.

We got dry very quickly and had our lunch. I excited to see what was next. Mr Ayre announced we were going to the nearby park. We only had 20 minutes, for the weather was dangerously warm. We headed back to the bus, and set off. When I came home, I was full of the stories of Crosby Lakeside Adventure Centre. Something that will be remembered for a long time.

I would recommend it as a little holiday, to get wet and enjoy the sun.

Sport and Extra-Curricular

Cassius the Champ!



Earlier this year, Cassius Achilleos of 5CA represented Great Britain at a wrestling competition in Estonia.

Cassius, who represents Kaobon in Liverpool, has been wrestling for four years and first represented his club in 2021 at a competition in Birmingham, placing second. A year later, he returned to the same competition and this time, he placed first, defeating his opponent by pinning their shoulders to the mat.

As a result of his continued success at national level, he was selected to represent Great Britain and did so, in Estonia, placing ninth in an extremely competitive field, with opponents from countries including Latvia, America and Italy.

Cassius said, "Sometimes, if you do sport, it gets to a hard point, and when you meet that point, you shouldn't give up and you should keep going because if you do, you'll get opportunities to succeed and that's what happened for me. Representing Great Britain was a dream come true."

Cassius now hopes to continue representing Kaobon and also return to action for Great Britain as soon as possible.

Year 5 boys football tournament

Two of our year 5 boys football stars, JOE and JOSH recently took part in a successful football tournament.

In the Y5 football tournaments we came second in both tournaments behind Childwall who won both of them. I had lots of fun in both the tournaments stopping the other teams from scoring goals.

In the first tournament we did not lose or concede a goal until the final because we made it to the final we qualified for another tournament where all the best school teams played against each other in a mini league in this tournament we won 4 games and drew 2 so we went unbeaten but unfortunately Childwall only drew 1 so we came second again. The training sessions were also really fun I am proud of us because we are the second best school in the city. We all gave 110%. – By Joe

In the year 5 football tournament I had loads of fun scoring goals and defending as well. I was really happy in finishing second in both but I know that we can come first. I liked the training sessions that Mr Hints did, especially the match at the end and I can't wait until we do it again. It was really nerve racking but we pushed through all the teams and tried our very best all the players were giving it 100 percent. I know that we can beat Childwall, the kits were really cool and we looked like a real football team. – By Josh



St Austin's Clubs

There are a whole host of clubs on offer for the children in school. We asked some of our year 6 children to tell us about some of their favourites:

I do sensory circuits. It's a fun and tiring experience and it always helps me focus on work – Joe

Every Thursday Mr Burke does a quiz for years 5 and 6. We are put into teams. It's so fun because it isn't just one topic, the questions are random which makes it more fun. Mr Burke is so thoughtful for doing it for us. – Aoibheann

Every Tuesday after school, years 4, 5 and 6 children go to the KS2 hall to play samba drums. We all like Mr Preston and he never fails to put everyone in a good mood.



As well as these amazing clubs, there is also: choir with Mr Hints, girls football with Miss Clarke, play-leaders and cross-country with Mrs O'Shea, boys cricket with Mr Burke and boys football with Mr Hints. There really is something for everyone

Girls Cross Country Team

Sprint to Victory!

Successful St Austin's Cross Country team crowned winners of Primary Cross-Country League

Mrs O'Shea would like to thank all the children who have shown commitment, resilience and self-discipline to their weekly cross-country training sessions this season. Year 5 and 6 children participated in The Liverpool and District Primary Schools' Cross Country League which consisted of 6 races beginning in September and finishing in March. The girls secured first place in the league out of 32 separate schools that took part, this is a massive achievement and one that everyone at St Austin's is extremely proud of!

Esme Cameron in year 6 is a key member of the girls' cross-country squad. Esme has finished no lower than 2nd in any race this season. She also runs successfully for the Harriers outside of school. This is Esme's report on a successful cross-country season:

By ESME

I did cross country this year and everyone trained and raced so well. The y6 girls won the league this year [we came 2nd in the league last year as y5 girls but improved a lot this year and won!]

Me [Esmé] and my classmate, Elsie ran for Liverpool in the Cross Challenge this year in Sefton Park and last year too, Liverpool won last year as y5 girls and also this year as y6 girls. I even made it on the Merseyside team last year and ran in nationals at Market Harborough I can't remember exactly where I placed, but it was somewhere in the early 30s, Merseyside y5 girls came 2nd that year which I was happy about but not completely thrilled. This year I also got into the Merseyside team we ran at Loughborough, it was raining and really muddy which is just how I like it for my races. When we were warming up there was thunder and lightning, I was terrified as we had to run through trees in the race and I thought we were going to get struck. Luckily, there were only two strikes and it ended before the race started. As the conditions were amazing for me, I did so well and came 8th, a big improvement from last year! I was elated when I found out that Merseyside y6 girls had won!



Wavertree

Athletics Comp

In June a team of children from years 3-6 represented our school at the annual Liverpool Catholic Schools Athletics Competition with great success. With multiple top three finishes, our children really did themselves and our school proud.

Molly Copeland in year 6 won her 135m event and runs successfully for the Liverpool Harriers. This is what she had to say about a wonderful evening of track and field:

By MOLLY

Athletics competitions are always challenging, each year we go against multiple schools hoping to get top three.

From 75m to high jump each important as the other, everyone hoping to gain even more points for their school.

Sprinting, jumping and relays, long jump, hurdles, cheering and supporting your fellow athletes. Supporting one another is always a big highlight even if you don't place, you still know you competed for **your** school.



Goodbye and Good Luck

Today we bid a fond farewell to our amazing year 6 children as they embark on a new adventure in Secondary School. For a thorough run-down of all the year 6 end-of-term activities, see the commemorative pull-out included with this term's newspaper



A Fond Farewell Year 6!

As we come to the end of another year our year 6 children are nearing the end of their time together. I would like to thank the year 6 children for all their hard work and efforts since starting St Austin's school since September 2016

Their journey was very different from one that was anticipated but our children have shown great resilience and determination to arrive at the finish line! In allowing our children to overcome challenges it would be pointless to remove them. They have been a credit to their parents and themselves. I wish them the very best as they move onto their secondary schools.

Well done and congratulations to all!

Happy Holidays!

I would like to wish all of our families a happy and restful summer break and I look forward to seeing you all again in September in a new St Austin's uniform.

Thank you for another memorable year.

Mrs Hickey