

# IN OUR SCHOOL...

Where everyone is special...

Issue 14: December 2023

## It's Christmas!



Children from Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y2 have been stealing the show recently with exceptional performances for the children and staff of our school during their dress rehearsal and for their families in their final retellings of the birth of Jesus.



Each show began with a performance from the wonderful children of Nursery.



Nursery were followed by Reception who continued the show exquisitely and showed such confidence.



Y1 were up next, they spoke clearly and sang amazingly well.



Y2 completed the performance with an incredible finale!

Well done to the wonderful children and year group staff for all of your hard work!

Also, a big thank you to Mr Edwards, our ICT Technician, for filming. We can't wait to watch it!

# Messages

**Mrs Hickey**

## **Merry Christmas and a happy new year!**

What a year 2023 has been at St Austin's. We began the year with a Catholic Schools Inspection in January and we have completed the year with a very positive Ofsted inspection with many more shenanigans in between.

There is always a festive atmosphere around school at this time of year as well as tonnes of glitter with Christmas creativities underway.

From the Fayre, KS1 Christmas performances, Year 4 nativity to our community Christmas dinner, a welcome SAPTA party and KS2 Advent Masses, we pack, ram, shove and squeeze lots into the final weeks of term. It certainly shows on the last day.

A special Christmas wish to our wonderful Lollipop Lady - Mrs Murphy - who has jumped feet first into her new role. Thank you for keeping our families safe each day!

Finally, I and the governors would like to thank our families for your continued support over the last 12 months in making our school, where everyone is special, so special!

As another busy term draws to a close, on behalf of myself and all the staff, we wish you all a very happy, healthy and holy Christmas.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

**Mrs Hickey – Headteacher**

**Mr Ayre**

## **December edition of In Our School...**

Wow! Is it almost Christmas? Already? How the time flies! But yes, we're almost there...

Firstly, I'd like to say a huge thank you to Mr Hints for his hard work, dedication and commitment to running the school newspaper. You did a great job!

Primary schools truly are special places to be and this term has only provided more proof of that. From Nursery through to Year 6, the children have shone like the brightest of lights and in the dark nights that are now upon us, it's been more than welcome.

In this term's edition of IN OUR SCHOOL..., you'll find articles galore from Mrs Hickey's termly address, which includes exciting developments at our school; a 'meet and greet' with some very helpful, newspaper writing elves; an interview with a new, Beagle owning member of staff; and lots, lots more...

So, find a comfortable chair and somewhere to put your mince pie because you won't want to stop reading for a while...

And you may wish to mute Last Christmas too.

Merry Christmas and all the best for 2024!

**Mr Ayre – Editor of In Our School**

# Messages

## **Anna Hosey-Davis**

My connection with the school goes back a long way. I attended the school in Year 5 and 6 when Miss Whittaker was the Headteacher. In those days, there were outside toilets in the playground and children were given the cane if they behaved badly. They were also given lines to write as a punishment. A child might have to write, "I must not forget my homework." two hundred times.

My three daughters also came to St. Austin's and I was elected as a Parent Governor when my eldest daughter was about 8 years old. I very much enjoyed being a Parent Governor. It was so interesting seeing what went on behind the scenes.

When my term was up, I was asked to be a Foundation Governor and I've been one ever since. I can't remember how long I've been Chair but it's probably about six or seven years.

Governors have responsibility for appointing the Headteacher and checking that their job is done properly. We also have a duty to uphold the Catholic ethos of the school and ensure that all the children are happy and safe. Each governor has responsibility for different curriculum areas, and mine is for SEND and maths. I have regular meetings with Mrs Hughes and Mrs Doyle so I can keep up to date.

During the recent Ofsted inspection, the inspector asked me a lot of questions about SEND and thanks to Mrs Hughes, I could answer them all.

Because I'm retired now, I'm able to have more contact with the children in school and it's a pleasure to help out on educational visits from time to time.

**Anna Hosey-Davis – Chair of Governors**

## **Fr David Potter**

The other day, someone gave me a Christmas card with a label on the envelope. The label said, "Keep Christ in Christmas". Among all the celebrations and festivities, which we associate with Christmas, we should remember that it is a feast of faith in the first place. We are welcoming, and giving thanks for, the birth of Jesus the Saviour of the world. He is the reason for the joy we feel at this season, and for the peace and goodwill, which flourish at this time of year.

We can keep Christ in Christmas by coming to church for one of the Christmas Masses. At St. Francis of Assisi in Garston, we will be having three Masses: 7.00 pm on Christmas Eve, 12.00 midnight (with carols at 11.30 pm) and 10.00 am on Christmas Eve.

In our homes, we can maintain a focus on Jesus by putting up a Christmas crib and gathering around it to say prayers. This is a significant year for the Christmas crib, as the first ever crib was assembled by St. Francis of Assisi (the patron of our church) on Christmas Eve in 1223. Exactly eight hundred years ago.

If you would like the Baby Jesus figure from your crib to be blessed before Christmas, you can bring it to church this weekend (16/17 December), when crib figures will be blessed at the end of the 6pm Mass on Saturday and the 9.30 and 11.15 Masses on Sunday.

I wish you and all your family a happy, blessed and holy Christmas, with Christ at its heart and its centre.

**Fr David Potter – Parish Priest**

# So here it is, merry Christmas...

## All I want for Christmas is...a wonderful Christmas fayre!

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December saw our annual Christmas Fayre take place and as ever, it was a great success! SAPTA – St. Austin’s Parent Teacher Association – were on hand to organise and run the festivities.

Mrs Hickey said, “What a wonderful way to end the week! The children were so excited from the moment they entered school. The event did not disappoint. All the proceeds will be going towards the ongoing refurbishment of the school playgrounds. Great job SAPTA!”

The atmosphere was a truly wonderful one, and at this very special time of the year, when the dark nights are upon us and the air is crisp and cold, the event brought warmth and happiness to all who attended.

St. Austin’s would like to express their deepest gratitude to SAPTA for their hard work and commitment during the organisation and running of the event, as without their help, events such as this, would simply not be possible.



## Advent Masses

This week, Y3 and 4 and Y5 and 6 visited St. Francis of Assisi Church for our Advent Masses.

On Wednesday, Y5 left school at 9.30 to get to church and it took between 15 – 20 minutes to get there. Once we got there, we dipped our finger in holy water as we entered to bless ourselves.

Our service was wonderful and it’s always great to visit our church.



Luca – Y5

# Community Christmas Lunch



Recently, the RE Ambassadors visited local people's houses and posted them letters with invitations for our Community Christmas Lunch. People came and had a wonderful roast dinner! The choir also performed Christmas carols for all who came and festive cheer was spread to all.

**Polly – Y5**

# *Your news team*



Florence – Y1

Reporter



Heath – Y1

Reporter



Oliver – Y2

Reporter



Edie – Y3

Reporter



William – Y3

Reporter



Sophie – Y3

Reporter



Jacob – Y3

Reporter



Charlie – Y4

Reporter



Lily – Y4

Reporter



Esmay – Y5

Reporter



Emmie – Y5

Reporter



Jolene – Y5

Assistant to the Editor



Polly – Y5

Reporter



Bethany – Y5

Reporter



Macie – Y5

Reporter



Ben – Y5

Children's Editor

# Nursery

**A warm welcome to our Nursery children! Where have those 14 weeks gone?**



We painted a flower. We found it really fun and we used pink and some black. We also used green. We also painted self-portraits of ourselves. We LOVE to play with torches and playdough. Outside, we like to play in the mud kitchen and the farmer's house. We all like to read The Gruffalo and we like to read The Rainbow in My Heart. We like to play with bricks, arts and crafts and we LOVE to read different types of books. We like to play with the toy dinosaurs. We like to sing Christmas songs too!

**Saoirse and Leo - Nursery**

**By Ben – Y5**

## **A prayer from Nursery**

Dear God,  
Thank you for our school.  
Thank you for our teachers.  
Thank you for Christmas.  
Amen

## **Our favourite things so far...**

1. Finding elves in Delamere Forest - George
2. I love Nursery - Harry
3. I loved going to Y5 to see my big brother - Saoirse

## **Thank you!**

It's been a busy, fun and exciting term in Nursery and we are so proud of your wonderful children and how they've settled into our St. Austin's family. We'd like to say a huge thank you for all of your help and support and we wish you a healthy, happy and merry Christmas and all the very best for the new year! From, team Nursery

# Reception



We learned about the festival of Diwali in November and made our own diva lamps.



We've been learning to code, having fun with a sphero indi robot.



In PE, we've been enjoying using the gym equipment.

## A prayer from Reception

Dear God,  
We hope for a nice Christmas.  
We look forward to being with our families.  
We look forward to giving and receiving presents.  
Amen

## Our favourite things so far...

1. Knights and castles outside - Tyler
2. Learning to write my names - Francesca
3. Santa's grotto - Francesca and Tyler

## Thank you!

We're all really proud of the amazing start reception have made to their school life. Thank you to all the parents and carers for your help and support. Enjoy the break, Merry Christmas!

# Y1

## Florence and Zog – part 1



Florence is good princess. Zog is a good dragon. One day, they went to the beach to have a picnic. They go on a picnic with Daisy the dolphin, Joseph the unicorn and his wife Rose. They also had Bell and Rainbow as children. They had sandwiches, chocolate cake, sausage rolls and grapes. They had a great time! After they finished their picnic, they went in the sea with a mermaid called Ariel, a merman called Francis, Daisy the dolphin, Joseph the unicorn and Rose.

By Florence and Heath – Y1

For part 2, check out our next school newspaper...

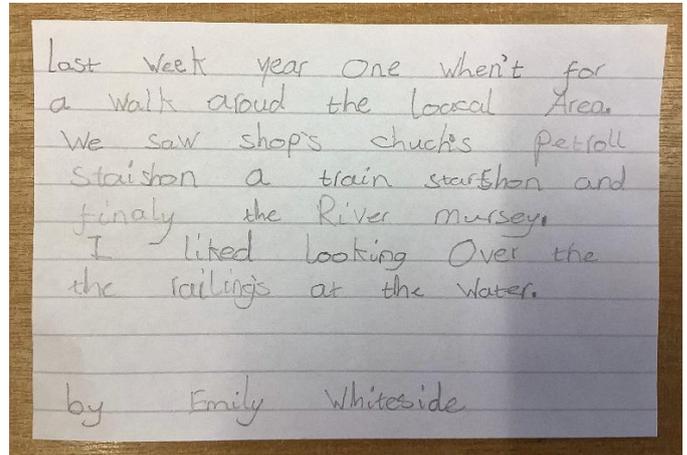
## A prayer from Y1

Dear God,  
On the countdown to Christmas, can you guide us?  
We will try to help one another through Advent.  
We will do our best to help others.  
Amen

## Our favourite things so far...

1. Counting numbers – Matilda
2. Colouring in – Lola
3. Reading Rapunzel - Charlotte

## Local area walk



## Thank you!

The Y1 team would like to thank all of the children and their families for all of their hard work and support this term. It's been a busy term filled with excitement including a trip to the museum and walking to see the River Mersey. Merry Christmas!

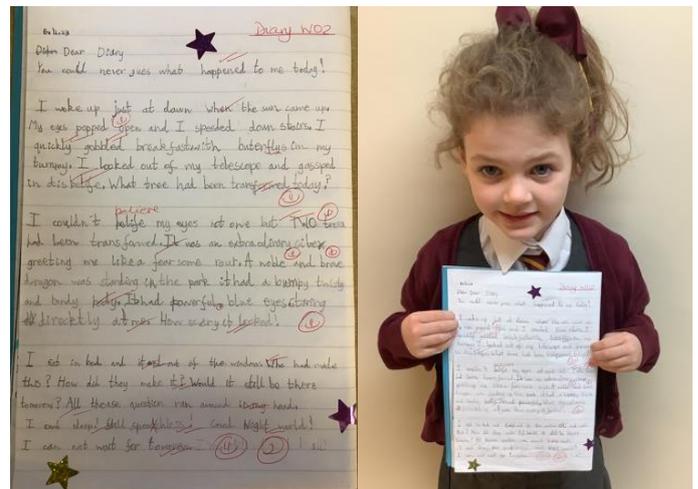
# Y2



The children loved creating their very own masks for our Art topic, Day of the Dead.

## A prayer from Y2

Dear God,  
Thank you for the special time of Christmas.  
Thank you for the lovely, white snow.  
Thank you for helping us follow in Jesus' footsteps.  
Amen



Well done to Alice! Your writing this term has been very impressive!

## Our favourite things so far...

1. Proud of being a School Councillor - Harry
2. I love English because I like writing stories – Ellie
3. I like Computing because I like gaming – Vinnie

## Thank you!

We'd like to say a huge thank you to our parents for all of their support this term. The Year 2 children have had a brilliant first term and are so excited for the upcoming Christmas holidays! We wish everybody a magical Christmas and a lovely new year!

# Y3

## Fabulous fossils

This term, we were learning about fossils. These are the instructions (see below).

You will need:

- Water
- Clay
- Pretend dinosaur, which is made of plastic
- Salt
- Flour
- Patience

How to make:

1. Pick a pretend dinosaur.
2. Pour flour into a bowl.
3. Make flour into clay by mixing it with water so it hardens.
4. Put the plastic dinosaur in the clay and leave it in there for a day.
5. Then, the next day, take it out of the clay.



By Sophie and Jacob – Y3

## Breaking stereotypes



This term, in our PSHE topic 'Stereotypes', we have explored what these are, times when we may form opinions based on assumptions we make and the ways in which we can challenge stereotypes.

It was fun to think about stereotypes in some traditional tales, then challenge these by creating 'non-stereotypes'.



We also learned about some people who have broken stereotypes in amazing ways. Elizabeth found that one of these people was Marie Curie who broke stereotypes by attending university when women were not allowed to in Poland, becoming a successful female scientist at a time when it was mainly men who were successful in this field, inventing x-rays for soldiers in World War 1 and being the first woman to win two Nobel Peace Prizes.

By the children of Y3

## A prayer from Y3

Dear God,  
Thank you for this wonderful advent period.  
Thank you for all of the joy and happiness.  
May our Christmas time be full of peace.  
Amen

## Thank you!

The Year 3 team would like to thank all our families for the support you have given throughout what has been a fun and successful autumn term. We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy 2024! Hope you've all made it onto the 'good list'!

# Y4

## Let's talk about swimming

Y4 have been busy learning how to and advancing their swimming skills this term.

Dive into our Sports section for the full article.



## Vibrant violins

For the past 6 weeks, Year 4 children and their teachers have been learning how to play the violin. Our violin teacher is called Miss Rooney. So far, we have learned a couple of songs including: the Christmas Cokey, Mr Cool, Jingle Bells, G String Rock, D String Rocks, A String Rocks and E String Rocks. Miss Rooney has taught us rhythm songs, beat songs and warmup songs. To help us remember the string names, we have a mnemonic: Greedy Dogs Always Eat. In January, we will be starting to use the bow as we have only been plucking so far. Mr McRae has gone freestyle and has done happy birthday with the bow (he still needs more lessons). We all get our own violins and we will be performing a concert later in the year.

## A prayer from Y4

Dear God,  
Please help us to remember that Christmas is not about the gifts, but about the birth of Jesus.  
We gather around to celebrate his birthday.  
May he live forever for us all.  
Amen



By Beatrice and Sophia – Y4

## Our favourite things so far...

1. University trip – Lily
2. Making jewellery out of paper - Charlie
3. Meeting our lovely new teachers - Lola

## Thank you!

We're so grateful for all of the help and support that you provide the children of Y4 from making sure that they have their swimming kits to reading with them every night. We hope you all have a very well-deserved break and come back refreshed for the new year. Merry Christmas and happy holidays!

# Y5

## Into Film Festival



We went on a trip to the cinema because Speke Cineworld invited us to the tenth anniversary of the INTO FILM FESTIVAL. The name of the film was Epic Tails. It was about a mouse that wanted to become a hero and went on an adventure with her heroes, Jason and the Argonauts. We got to bring our favourite sweets and chocolates and it was a great trip!

By Emmie, Esmay and Ben – Y5

## Superb scientists

In science, we have investigated the life cycle of animals, insects and birds. We learnt many things including that the honey bee starts off as an egg and then, if it is fed royal jelly, it can become a queen bee.

We also learnt about forces. We learnt about Newton Meters and that they are named after Sir Isaac Newton and that they measure in Newtons. We also learnt about pulleys and that if you use more of them in a simple machine, it is easier to lift the load.



By Milo – Y5

## Black History Month

We went to the Sefton Park Palm House as part of Black History Month 2023 and when we got there, there were lots of pictures of black people including Michael Jackson and his family. Then, we had a tour of the palm house and learnt about its history. It was very exciting! After that, an author named Patrick read us his book, which he had written himself.



By Henry – Y5

## A prayer from Y5

Dear God,  
Thank you for making us all unique and in your image.  
Thank you for sending Jesus to us, so that he can teach us your ways.  
Help us to follow in your footsteps.  
Amen

## Thank you!

Y5 would like to say a huge thank you to the children for their hard work, dedication and bubbly, joyful and kind personalities! They have been true credits to their families and wonderful ambassadors for our school. We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

# Y6

## Opportunities galore

There have been plenty of fun opportunities and once in a lifetime chances including meeting and completing a workshop with Author Matt Oldfield, the 500 word competition to have the chance to publish your own story, visiting the enclosed Carmelite Monastery in Garston, completing the advanced classes in Harriers (PE) and visiting the cathedral recently for an Advent service.

Another fantastic opportunity was when the Young Shakespeare Company came into our school to put on a performance of Romeo and Juliet.

We also got to visit the Metropolitan Cathedral for an Advent Mass. It was wonderful!



By Charlotte – Y6

## Best term of my life!



Let me tell you more about it...

Since our class love football and reading, Miss Clarke organised a surprise for sure! The author of famous football books (Matt Oldfield) came into our school to deliver workshops and an assembly about his work and how we can plan/write our own football books. We even had the opportunity to buy a book from him and have it signed.

In English, we have been learning about William Shakespeare's play 'Macbeth'. When we got to a major twist in the play, we were challenged with the task of creating our own chapter. We could be really creative. Writing opportunities in English are perfect practice for when you want to be an author when you are older.

By Eva – Y6

## A prayer from Y6

Dear God,  
Help us bring joy to our loved ones at Christmas time.

We pray for those that need it most.

Please let Jesus look over us.

And let us have a good new year.

Amen

## Thank you!

We are so proud of our Year 6 children and how they have settled into their final year at St. Austin's. Our children have worked so hard and faced every challenge head on; from prefect roles to secondary school admissions. We are looking forward to the new year with our children and all the fun lessons and activities planned.

Have a restful, happy and holy Christmas!

# Meet the team

## Mr McRae

**What is your favourite subject?**

Maths because it's everywhere!

**Do you have a pet?**

Yes, I have a dog called Albie. He's a Beagle and he's very naughty for stealing treats!

**What's your favourite sport?**

Rugby.

**What rugby team do you play for?**

Mossley Hill.

**Do you like teaching PE?**

Yes, I really like it!

**Where do you spend your weekends?**

On walks and in restaurants.

**What's your favourite colour?**

Navy blue.

**What do you like to eat?**

A little bit of everything.

**Do you like St. Austin's?**

Yes of course! How could I say otherwise?

**By Charlie and Lily - Y4**



# Competitions

## Holiday photo

Fancy yourself as a budding photographer? Well, we've got the competition for you! Take and submit a photo from over the festive period and submit by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to the 5CA Newsroom helpers. A prize will be awarded on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The theme is 'ELVES'. Entries must be printed in colour.



## Resolutions

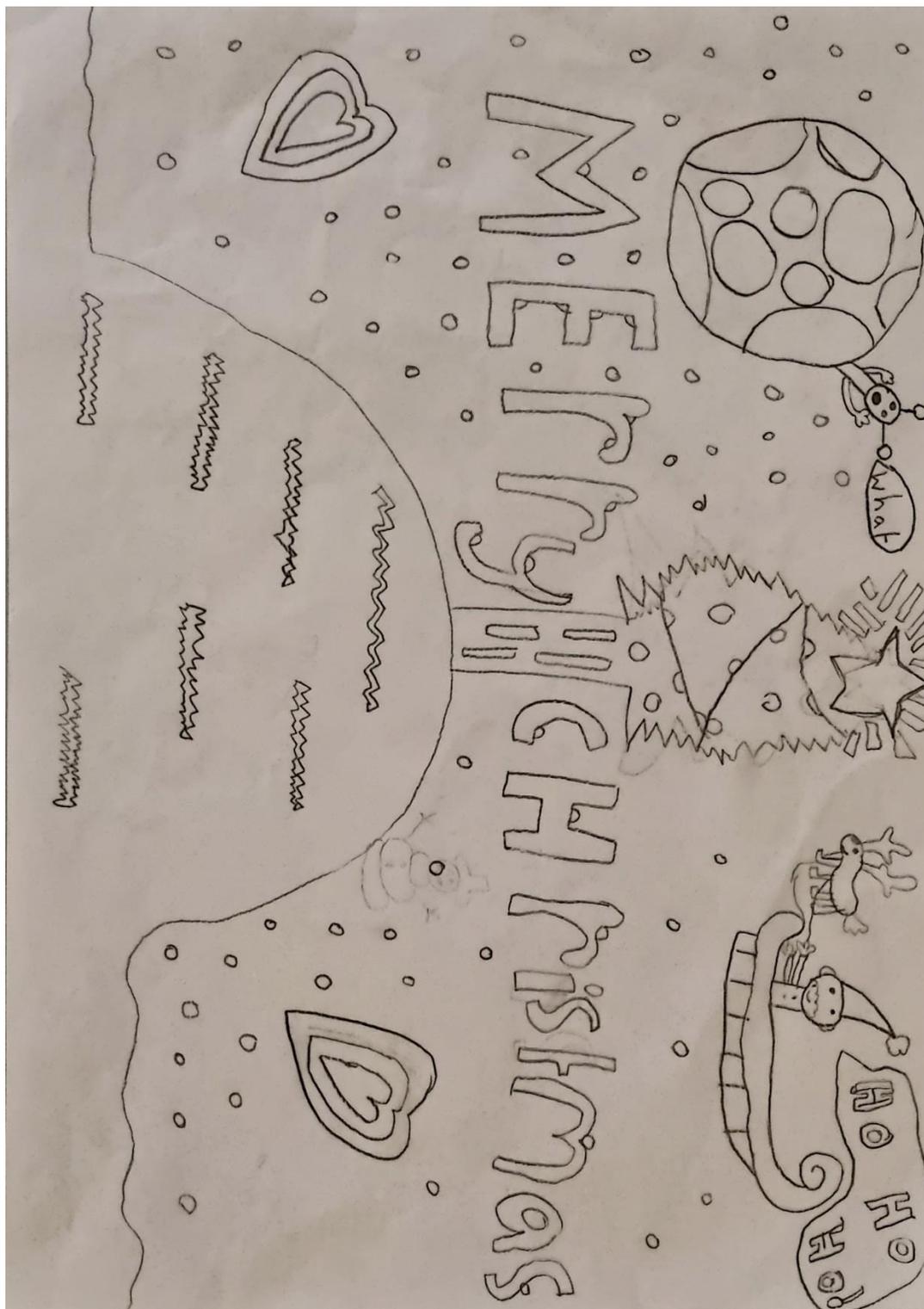
A new year is a great time to start new things! For this competition, you should list five resolutions in beautiful handwriting and decorate accordingly. A prize will be awarded for the entry that has the most sincere and thoughtful resolutions. Also, we love nice pictures, so please make sure that your entry is decorated well. Please submit by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to the 5CA Newsroom helpers. A prize will be awarded on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024. Entries can be handwritten or word processed and may include illustrations.



# Competitions

## Colouring in

This Christmas, why don't you give this competition a go? Colour in this beautiful picture, which has been created by Edie from Y3, for a chance to win. Please submit by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to the 5CA Newsroom helpers. A prize will be awarded on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024.



# **Extra-curricular clubs**

## **Mindfulness Club**

Our Mindfulness Club has proven to be a great success, offering a diverse range of activities aimed at fostering a sense of well-being among its members. From engaging in peer massage and yoga sessions to exploring the calming world of mindfulness colouring and meditation, our club has become a haven for relaxation and self-discovery. Connie commented, "I enjoyed the bubble blowing breathing because it made feel happy and peaceful."

One particularly impactful aspect has been the incorporation of guided breathing techniques. Participants have attested to the profound impact on their bodies, experiencing a heightened state of relaxation. The emphasis on diverse mindfulness strategies has been instrumental in helping regulate emotions, providing valuable tools for navigating the complexities of daily life.

Beyond the practices themselves, our discussions delved into the power of cultivating a growth mindset. Encouraging a can-do attitude and fostering a culture of kindness emerged as key elements. Members recognised the ripple effect of positivity that follows such an approach. By embracing these principles, our Mindfulness Club has not only become a space for personal growth, but also a source of inspiration for spreading positivity throughout our broader community.



**By Miss Sadiq**

# Extra-curricular clubs

## Choir

It's been a busy half-term for our KS2 choir, wowing audiences at a number of Christmas-themed events. This year, the choir has increased in size as we have incorporated Year 4 children to sing alongside Years 5 and 6. The commitment to choir practices has been fantastic with at least fifty children turning up each week.

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December, the choir sang for parents and children during our hugely successful Christmas Fayre. Singing around our Christmas tree in the KS1 hall, the choir performed a number of traditional carols as well as some upbeat numbers that got the party atmosphere going. On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, we held our annual Community Christmas Dinner and choirs from Year 2 and KS2 performed wonderfully for our guests. Finally, on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December, we held a Nativity Carol Concert in school for parents. Year 4 performed the Christmas Nativity complete with carols and music before the choir took over to complete our show. The choir sang three Christmas numbers: 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town', 'Angels Sing Gloria' and 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas'. They brought the house down and sent the parents away full of Christmas cheer.

Daniel, Poppy, Lyla and Millana from Year 6 are all important members of the choir. They had this to say about our choir practices and performances this year so far: *"I enjoy learning songs I have not heard before like 'Angels Sing' as well as getting better at the songs I already know."* – Daniel; *"I have enjoyed being part of the choir. I love singing all of the joyful Christmas songs and performing to our guests. I would definitely recommend for others to join!"* – Poppy; *"When we learn new songs, we will do it bit-by-bit and Mr Hints and Mrs O'Leary will give us tips that help us to learn the song. I love all the Christmas songs we have been practising and it's great how we put actions to the songs as well."* – Lyla; *"I enjoy choir because we perform in front of people and I can see the smiles on their faces when we sing. I also really enjoy signing because it allows me to express all of my feelings."* – Millana.

Choir will continue after Christmas and new members are always welcome!



By Mr Hints

# Exciting times at St. Austin's

## Visual Signing Choir

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November, Miss Sullivan, Mrs Foster and children from across Key Stage Two, took part in 'The Visual Signing Choir' at the Anglican Cathedral. This event was organised by the staff of Knotty Ash School's deaf resource base. This very special event was organised to give children confidence, resilience and ultimately stand up against bullying.

We used sign language to perform three different songs alongside a range of schools across Merseyside. The songs performed through sign language were 'This is me', 'No matter what' and 'Beautiful'. The children worked extremely hard to learn the signs and it really paid off as the event was a huge success.

At the event, there were some special guests such as John Lennon's sister Julia Baird and Liverpool's previous Lord Mayor. They shared some beautiful poems and personal stories of their own about bullying.

Mia Johnson from Year 3 said, "The event was so fun and I enjoyed it because I got to use sign language with lots of other schools."



By Miss Sullivan

## Romeo and Juliet

In November, a company called The Young Shakespeare Company, came to our school and performed Romeo and Juliet for us. Romeo and Juliet is one of Shakespeare's tragedies and tells the story of two young lovers from two families who hate each other. The story was brilliantly told. They used the real Shakespeare script, but they explained some of the words and meanings to us because, at times, it was a little bit hard to understand. Some children even took part in the show and performed one of the smaller parts, but I didn't, I'm not the best at acting, so I decided to sit back and enjoy the show and it was brilliant. It went on for most of the morning, but it kept us on the edge of our seats throughout. There were only four actors, and they did a really good job. It was fantastic and I would love to watch it again!



By Liam – Y6

# Exciting times at St. Austin's

## Computing



This year in Computing, we've learnt all about branching databases, coding with Scratch and we've also played some fun computer games as well like Fire Boy and Water Boy, Garden Gnomes and Santa Tracker.

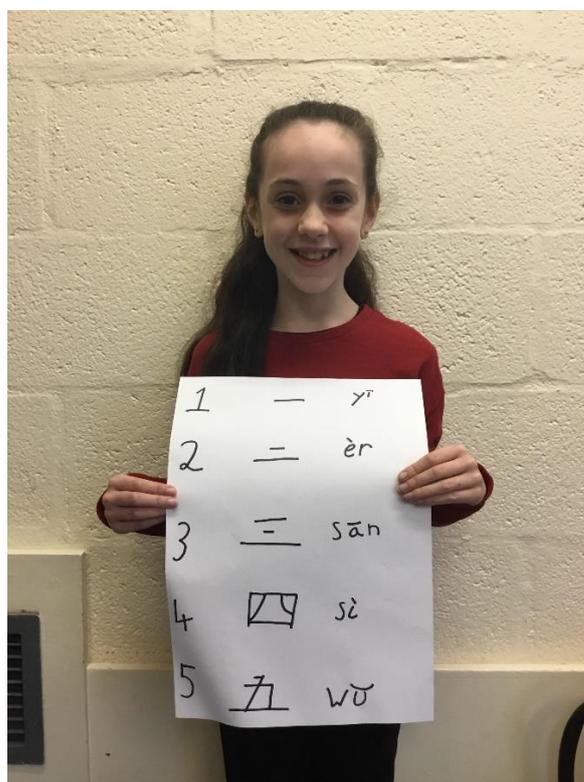
We do Computing each Thursday at 11.15am and come back very happy from our great lessons! Miss Rogan is a great teacher and she has helped us to learn about online safety, which is very important. We hope Miss Rogan stays with us until we leave in Year 6 as we have a great time with her.

**By Findlay and Chester – Y4**

## Mandarin

Miss Wang is our teacher and she's lovely! She comes here from Belvedere to teach us each Thursday. She has taught us many things including numbers, family members, body features and birthday and Christmas traditions.

Here are some of the numbers that we've learnt.



We've really enjoyed Mandarin so far and we can't wait to carry on in the new year.

Thank you Miss Wang!

**By Bethany – Y5**

# European Day of Languages

In September, we celebrated 'European Day of Languages' with the theme 'The language of food'.

Encounters with iconic international dishes and regional specialities often provide us with our first opportunities to expand our language vocabulary and deepen cultural understanding. Learning about the food of a country helps us to understand aspects of its life, society, climate and culture. All of these and more were explored during our day's celebration of world languages and cultures.



Amongst the dishes they tried, Year 1 enjoyed tasting the typical Portuguese cake 'pastel de nata' and spotted the language similarities between Portuguese and Spanish.



Pachi enjoyed helping Year 2 learn about some typical dishes from her home country of Colombia, with its tropical climate, avocados and exotic fruits grow well there, so children made guacamole and 'salpicon', a typical drink using a variety of juices and fruits.



Year 3 travelled to the Middle East, designing menus in Arabic for some typical middle eastern dishes. After making our own flat bread and falafels, the children enjoyed these in a typical *mezze* with olives, hummus, pomegranates and chickpeas.



After taking part in Greek dancing, Year 4 explored the Greek alphabet, comparing and contrasting it with the alphabet we use, then learnt the words of some well-known Greek dishes, which they then tasted.



As Year 5 are currently learning Mandarin as well as Spanish, they explored the language, food and culture of China. They took part in a cookery class to make their own spring rolls.



Year 6 had a truly multicultural day celebrating not one but three international cultures and cuisines: Brazil, Romania and Poland. Our Year 6 international ambassadors said that learning about and tasting food from different countries, especially the polish bagels and Brazilian pancakes was wonderful!



**By Mrs Docherty**

# **Fabulous fundraising**



My brothers and I have been selling Christmas cards, that we have made, to family and friends and we would like to donate the money that we have raised to our school. We raised just over £45.

Merry Christmas and happy new year!

**By Findlay of Y4, Dylan of Y2 and Aidan of Nursery**

**St. Austin's would like to say a big thank you to the boys and their family for their generosity, kindness and goodwill. Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2024!**

# Sports, sports, sports...

## Hooray for Harriers

During autumn term, Year 6 have taken part in specialist PE lessons with coaches from The Liverpool Harriers. The sessions have focused around athletics.

During the sessions, the children have learnt a variety of techniques and skills to up level their knowledge and understanding of the world of athletics. Some of the skills have included learning how to pass a baton on correctly in a relay race, how to do a standing sprint start for a 100m race, using a starting block, and how to correctly plant their feet for the high jump/long jump.

Pupils have also enjoyed some fitness sessions focusing on their cardiovascular endurance as well as learning how to use medicine balls to improve their throwing technique. We are grateful to the coaches for their knowledge and expertise.



By Miss Clarke

## Let's talk about swimming

**Skills you learn:** you learn lots of tricks and skills, but these are my favorite strokes. Firstly, front crawl; secondly, back stroke; thirdly, breaststroke.

**What we do:** each child will be placed in a different level depending on their swimming skills to learn the things they need to know.

**What you need:** to go swimming, you need a swimming costume, but not a two-piece set. You can choose if you need goggles or not and you also need a swimming cap and a coat just in case it rains.

**What I enjoyed:** I enjoyed it when we jumped in the pool! I also enjoyed learning about under water safety.

**When it is:** In Year 3 and 4, you will go swimming and most likely it will be in the morning. We swim from half past 9 and finish at 10 o'clock.



By Mena and Lola – Y4