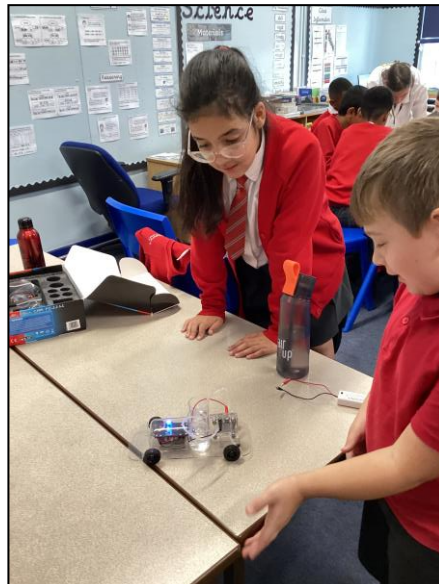


October 2023

Thank you for your continued support for our school and for helping us make the term such a success.



Year 5 had an exciting visit from Mad Science on Thursday 4th October. They learnt all about how harmful fossil fuels are for the environment and how hydrogen is the fuel for the future. The demonstrations were very impressive and year 5 were amazed at all of the things hydrogen can do.





Education is too good to miss!

All pupils are expected to reach attendance levels of 97% and above to be able to access and achieve their full potential at school.

As a school we take a zero-tolerance approach to poor attendance and punctuality.

We expect children to be in school every day unless they are too ill to come in.

Our school does not authorise holidays during term time. Pupils only attend school for 190 days per academic year (this means that the other 175 days they are at home with you!)

Persistent absence from school will be investigated by the Education Welfare Service and fines could be implemented for each child, to each parent.

The percentages below will help you understand our expected attendance levels:

97% and above	Excellent Attendance
95% - 97%	Good Attendance
90% - 95%	Be Aware - Your child's attendance is being closely monitored
80% - 90%	Worrying - less chance of success. Your child's attendance is being closely monitored daily.
Less than 80%:	Serious Concerns - Referred to the Education Welfare Service.

If you have any questions or queries, please see Miss Williams.



Since June, Mrs Flynn has been working alongside @BigGreenBookShop, to raise money to help renovate our school library.



The Big Green Book Shop ran a raffle to win a huge selection of signed books. The raffle was drawn and one lucky winner was announced. The money raised from the raffle is being donated to our fabulous school.

We are so happy to share with you that £1,818 was raised and Mrs Flynn will be busy ordering lots of amazing books for our children.





Thursday 5th October was National Poetry Day. Children celebrated by sharing poems, writing and performing them.



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

TESCO
Community Grants

We recently submitted an application to the TESCO Grant Scheme and our application, to improve and enhance our Early Years garden for the children to grow fruit and vegetables, has been successful but we now **need your help**.

The project with the highest number of votes across the region will receive £1,500. Voting has commenced and will continue until mid-January 2024.

To vote, you need to make a purchase within a TESCO store of any value. You will receive token/s per transaction and it is not necessary to purchase a carrier bag in order to receive a token.

If we won, this would make a fantastic opportunity for our children. Please ask all your friends and family to vote for us. Thank you.

HARVEST FESTIVAL & CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

CAFOD
Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

Autumn is the season of harvest and CAFOD Family Fast Day, the time of year when we give thanks for the food we eat and consider those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

On Friday 6th October, we celebrated with a collective assembly with all our children.

Food donations were given to our local food bank and monetary donations were forwarded to CAFOD. Thank you for your support.



PARKING

The Road Safety Team from Liverpool City Council would like to make you all aware of the dangers of Parking on the School Keep Clear (Zig Zag lines) when parents/carers drop off and pick up throughout the day. Please remember you could be issued a penalty notice, and most importantly it is creating a danger to the children attending school.



OCTOBER FEAST DAY

The months of May and October are special months on the Catholic Church's liturgical calendar, dedication to the Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus. The feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on 7th October.

According to a Dominican tradition, in 1208 the rosary was given to St. Dominic in an apparition by the Blessed Virgin Mary in the church of Prouille, France. He used this as a 'tool' to explain the Catholic story to his congregations.



ASTHMA & MEDICAL INFORMATION

We have recently sent out Asthma Forms and/or Medical forms to parent/carers whose children have asthma or a medical condition. If you child has asthma or a medical condition, confirmed by a doctor, and you have not received a form, please let us know as soon as possible.

All forms should be returned to school ASAP.



WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY



World Mental Health day took place on Tuesday 10th October.

Talking to your child about how they are feeling can be tough, especially if you are concerned that they are having a hard time. You might not know what to say, or feel worried about how your child will react. It does not matter what topic the conversation starts with – it is about the opportunity it gives you to talk about feelings and provide comfort.

What is the best way to encourage your child to open up? Have a look at some of our conversation starters.

Here are some things you could ask to get the conversation started:

What was the best bit of your day?

What was the worst bit of your day?

What did you do today that made you proud?

How are you feeling?

What would you like to take about?

If your child is having a hard time, you can try to find out how they would like to be supported by asking gentle questions like:

How can I help you through this?

Do you want to talk about what is going on?

Is there anything you need from me? Space, time to talk, time to do something fun?

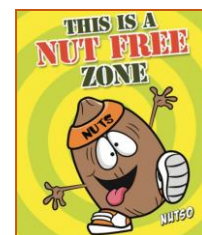
What was the biggest problem you had today? What helped?

SNACK FUND

In Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, we kindly ask parents/carers to contribute £1 per week towards 'snack fund'. This can be paid directly to the class teacher, weekly, half termly, termly or yearly. We receive no funding for children's snacks.

Our snack fund is very important – the money parents/carers donate allows us to provide a variety of healthy snacks each day for your child.

We would be grateful if you could pass your donation to the class teacher as soon as you can. Thank you.



We encourage all other classes to bring in a healthy snack from home.

Please remember we are a **Nut Free Zone**.



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+.

The online application portal for children **starting Reception in September 2024** is now open. Please apply on-line now. The closing date for those interested in a Reception place is **15th January 2024**. www.liverpool.gov.uk/admissions

Year 6: Online application for currently Year 6 children (**Year 7 in September 2024**) is currently open. Please apply on-line now. The closing date for all application is **31st October 2023 at 11.59 pm**. www.liverpool.gov.uk/admissions

St Finbar's
Catholic Primary School

FREE PLACES FOR 3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS

At St Finbar's we greatly value the important role that the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) plays in laying secure foundations for your child's future learning and development.

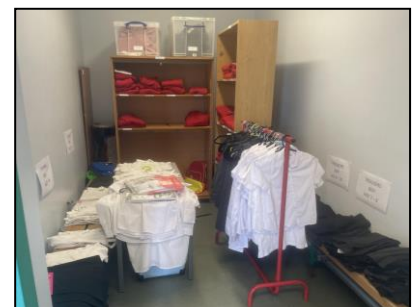
If you are interested in joining the 'St Finbar's Family', please contact the school office and they will arrange a visit for you.

CONTACT US
0151 727 3963
finbars-rec@st-finbars.liverpool.sch.uk



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

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



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



OCEANS OF FUN HALF TERM EVENT

Thank you so much for allowing us to visit your school Finbar's recently to deliver the Olympian Water Safety Assembly talks, it has been great seeing lots of your pupils arrive at our swim venue for their swimming lessons.

I am letting you know of a fantastic further **FREE** opportunity for your pupils that we are offering this October half term.

swim! Liverpool South Presents our Oceans of Fun Event on the 2nd November

Oceans of Fun gives children an opportunity to try out different types of swimming in our **FREE** to attend event such as water polo, rookie lifeguarding, swimming, and pool games.

Every child will receive a free-swimming hat and medal for attending.

Address: Triumph Way, Liverpool L24 9GQ

Ages: 3–11-year-old children

Time: 2 sessions available (9-11am or 12-2pm)

9-11am - <https://swimliverpoolsouthoof1.eventbrite.com>

12-2pm - <https://swimliverpoolsouthoof2.eventbrite.com>



We hope to see many more of your pupils this half term at our event and get them swimming safely this half term.

LIVERPOOL PARENTING NEWSLETTER

Please find below the link to the latest edition of the Liverpool Parenting Newsletter.

<https://sway.office.com/6NA9wLMtrB2Q6eKu?ref=Link>

You will find new information to support Parents/Carers, Families and children in Liverpool, along with information regarding events and activities on offer running from September to November 2023.

The Newsletter includes information on services that support parents around;

Ante Natal Services, Children Centres, Childcare, Child mental health support, Debt Advice, Domestic Abuse, Education, Employment Support, Events, Foodbanks, Fostering in Liverpool, Mental Health, Money Management, Parenting Programmes, SEND, Parental Mental Health Support for Fathers



The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched **The Big Ambition**, a national survey of children and young people across England.

The Big Ambition aims to hear from children across England on what they think is important! In the lead up to the next General Election, the Children's Commissioner wants to take children's thoughts, opinions and ideas to decision-makers, to make sure that the Government hears young people's voices on what they think needs to be done to make children's lives better in England.

The Big Ambition survey will be open until Friday 15th December and is open to children up to the age of 18. Parents/Carers are encouraged to complete the survey on behalf of their children who are under 6 years old. The survey should take less than 10 minutes. The survey link is below:

www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition



National Autistic Society
Advanced 2018



Liverpool City Council

The Liverpool ASD Training Team Face to face or Virtual Q & A Sessions

Our team are offering schools and parents an ASD question & answer session. They can be arranged in your school or on a virtual zoom session. The sessions are an opportunity for parent/carers to talk in a school group setting and ask any questions they may have or discuss concerns about their child.

The sessions are targeted at parents/carers who have concerns with Social Communication & Social Interaction, if your child is awaiting an ASD assessment or has an ASD diagnosis.

Schools must book these sessions
There are morning sessions available for booking and afternoon sessions.

November 2023	December 2023
Morning 17 th , 21 st , 27 th , 29 th 9.30am- 11.30am Afternoon 1pm – 3pm 8 th , 13 th , 21 st , 23 rd , 24 th , 27 th , 28 th , 29 th , 30 th	4 th , 5 th , 6 th Morning 9.30am- 11.30am Afternoon 1pm – 3pm



Date: 12th October 2023

Dear Parent or Guardian

The October Half Term Eat 2 Meet programme starts on the 30th October and there are lots of great activities happening over the school holidays. Children and young people, from reception to age 16 (including year 11 leavers), who are eligible for benefits related free school meals, will be able to access hundreds of activities throughout the half term holidays including specific provision available for children with SEND or additional needs, at no cost. There's a great range of activities across the city including Halloween themed activities such as pumpkin carving, apple bob, halloween crafts making spooky masks, boxing, football, music, dance, cycling, cooking, podcasting, basketball, arts and crafts, drama, ~~zumba~~ trips out and much more! Every day there will be a range of fabulous meals available with many schemes holding family events as well.

To find out where the nearest scheme is click on this link [October Half Term 'Eat to Meet' – Merseyside Play Action Council \(merseyplay.com\)](#) or go to <https://www.merseyplay.com> and click on the October Half Term Eat 2 Meet link.

When a parent/guardian/carer has chosen the activity/scheme they will need to contact that organisation to book a place. Each organisation will have either a telephone number, email address or online booking system. If the child has any additional needs or dietary requirements then please discuss this with the organisation when booking. There is no central booking system so please read the details of the programmes on the website and contact the providers directly.

- ☒ If you want to know how to register or how to check if your child is eligible for free school meals then please click on the link <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>
- ☒ You will need your national insurance number or an asylum seekers support number.

Liverpool City Council

Cunard Building, Water Street, Liverpool, L3 1AH

T: 07525 388559

E: sally.dobbing@liverpool.gov.uk W:liverpool.gov.uk



- ☒ If you are struggling with the cost of living then please click: <https://www.liverpool.gov.uk/cost-of-living/>
- ☒ If you're more than 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under 4, you may be entitled to get help to buy healthy food and milk. Click on the link to find out how to register <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/>
- ☒ If your child is not eligible for benefits related free school meals you may be eligible for support with childcare costs - <https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator>

Liverpool City Council is working with Mersey Play Action Council, the local schools, voluntary and community organisations, and childcare providers to deliver the October Half Term Eat 2 Meet programme.

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

Regards

Sally Dobbing

Sally Dobbing - HAF Project Manager



OCTOBER		
25 th	Wednesday	Parents' Evening, 3.30 pm – 6.00 pm
26 th	Thursday	Parents' Evening, 3.30 pm to 6.00 pm (not Year 2)
26 th	Thursday	Flu Vaccinations
30 th	Monday	School Closed for Half Term
31 st	Tuesday	Closing date for Year 7 applications (children currently in Year 6). Please submit your application before 11.59 pm
NOVEMBER		
6 th	Monday	All children return to school, 8.45 am
7 th	Tuesday	Themed Lunch: Bonfire Treat
10 th	Friday	Remembrance Day
13 th	Monday	World Kindness Day
13 th – 17 th	Monday - Friday	Anti-Bullying Week (Details to follow)
15 th	Wednesday	School Photographs – Individual, Nursery to Year 6 (Details to follow)
27 th – 1 st	Monday – Friday	Book Fair (Details to follow)
30 th	Thursday	KS1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal (Details to follow)
DECEMBER		
1 st	Friday	Start of Advent
		Reverse Advent Calendar (Details to follow)
		Year 1 – Year 6 Christmas Movie Night, 4.30 pm – 6.30 pm (Details to follow)
4 th	Monday	KS1 Nativity and School Choir, 1.45 pm – 2.45 pm (Details to follow)

13 th	Wednesday	School Christmas Dinner (Details to follow)
		Wear a Christmas Jumper (Details to follow) Coverdale Puppets visiting School
19 th	Tuesday	Year 4, 5 & 6 – Christmas Brass Concert (selected pupils), 2.15 – 3.00 pm (Details to follow)
20 th	Wednesday	Special Visitor in School!
21 st	Thursday	Christmas Party Day (Details to follow) Last Day of Term
22 nd	Friday	School Closed – Staff Inset Day
JANUARY 2024		
8 th	Monday	School Closed – Staff Inset Day
9 th	Tuesday	All children return to school, 8.45 am
15 th	Monday	Closing date for Reception applications for September 2024



NHS

9 out of 10
unvaccinated children
can catch measles
if someone in their
class has it

**Check your child is up
to date with their
MMR vaccinations**