

January 2025

December was an exciting and memorable month at our school, filled with both learning and celebration. As the year came to a close, our classrooms were buzzing with activities that reflected not only academic growth but also the joy of the holiday season.

Students worked diligently in their studies, showcasing their creativity and curiosity. December was a month of discovery and achievement. As well as the academic focus, we took time to embrace the spirit of the season. Our school community came together for special events that celebrated the values of love, kindness and gratitude. Whether it was through Christmas activities, acts of service or classroom celebrations, the joy of the season was felt by all.

At the heart of everything we do is our shared belief in God's love, which guides us to grow and learn together as a community. As we move into the new year, we are grateful for the opportunity to nurture and inspire your children. Thank you for your partnership and for being an essential part of our school family.

In God's love we learn and grow together

ADVENT SERVICE



On Thursday 5th December we celebrated the beginning of ADVENT with a Service in the school hall. Father Silviu helped the children to understand this important celebration. The word 'advent' means 'coming'. It is a time of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. All the children joined in with the singing making it a reverent and respectful occasion.



EQUAL ACCESS SCHOOL AWARD

St Finbar's has been honoured with the Equal Access School 2024 Award. This national accolade celebrates schools that demonstrate exceptional commitment to inclusivity, equality, and equal opportunity for all students, irrespective of their backgrounds and abilities.

Well Done Mr Millington and the football team.



YEAR 5 – CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT TESCO

As part of our Christmas celebrations, Year 5 children spread festive cheer by singing Christmas Carols at our local Tesco store on Monday 9th December. They had a fantastic time entertaining shoppers and raised an impressive £62.44 for our school fund.



Following their success, Year 2 children visited the store on Monday 16th December to continue the festive spirit. Their beautiful singing raised £69.42.

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



COVERDALE PUPPETS



On Tuesday 10th December, all children were able to watch a performance by Coverdale Puppets who told us all about the meaning of Christmas. Children thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas treat and we look forward another visit next year.



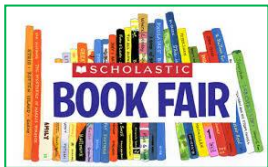
Taste on Dingle Lane have, once again, supported some of our families by gifting Christmas gifts and we would like to thank them for their on-going support at Christmas time.



Thank you TESCO for supporting our Christmas Movie Night.



Thank you to Mrs Flynn who has been busy entering more competitions and has won 6 fantastic copies of 'Stepfather Christmas'. Mrs Flynn says "I love reading and this story is a fantastic read. I cannot put the book down". Thank you to Read for Good for picking Mrs Flynn as a winner.



Thank you for supporting our recent half price, Scholastic Book Fair.

Since September, our Catering Team have been delighted by the children who have consistently eaten all their meals, shown incredible helpfulness and thoughtfulness, and demonstrated polite manners. As a token of appreciation, some of the children were given a special gift from the catering team.



Thank you to our Mellors catering team who provided Christmas dinner for our pupils and staff on Wednesday 11th December.

Our catering team served 432 sprouts, 162 stuffing balls, 600, 190 chipolata sausages, and too many turkey slices and carrots to mention! They also made time to cook trifles and Christmas puddings.



MILL STREET COMMUNITY CENTRE

On Tuesday 10th December, Year 3 / 4 invited members of the Mill Street Yukulele Club into school. Children and visitors had a great time playing and singing Christmas carols together. We are hoping to continue this great intergenerational link we have made in the months to come.



ALFRED STOCKS NURSING HOME

Year 1 and 6 visited Alfred Stocks Nursing Home and brought joy to the residents and staff with their Christmas carols.

Everyone had a wonderful time singing and spreading Christmas cheer. The children also took the opportunity to chat with residents, sharing jokes and talking about what they hope to receive from Father Christmas. The children were given some lovely sweet treats.



KS1 CHRISTMAS NATIVITY

On Friday 13th December our KS1 Christmas Nativity, 'The Innkeeper's Breakfast' took place with the Year 3 choir providing beautiful support.

The children thoroughly enjoyed performing in front of their families, making it a truly memorable event.



CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

On Thursday 19th December we held our annual Christmas Carol Service and it was wonderful to see so many parents, carers and governors in attendance.

The service was filled with the sound of traditional carols sung by the children, along with special performances by our children. The children delivered the Bible readings beautifully, adding a heartfelt touch to the occasion.



We are delighted to share that the children collected, at the Carol Service & Year 1 Nativity, £36.40 for our school fund – thank you for your generous support.

BRASS MUSIC CONCERT

Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended the children's Christmas Concert on 17th December. It was inspiring to see so many smiling faces in the audience, sharing the spirit of the season and applauding the hard work of our students. A special thank you goes to Mr Curtis, who made this concert a success and for fostering a love of music with our children.

The sound of brass instruments filled the hall, and school, with festive joy, as our talented young musicians performed a selection of holiday classics.

A collection raised £32.87 towards our school fund. Thank you.



LUXURY HAMPER PRIZE DRAW

Once again, staff donated items for the Luxury Hamper prize draw which took place on Thursday 19th December. £198 was raised. Thank you to everyone who bought a raffle ticket.

First Prize, Luxury Hamper: Archie & Family

Second Prize, £10: Layla & Family

Third Prize, Box of Biscuits: Alexandra & Family





We had our annual 'Wear a Christmas Jumper Day' on Thursday 12th December in aid of Save the Children.

Staff and children wore a Christmas/festive jumper/cardigan or colourful top and raised £100.00. Thank you.

EYFS CHRISTMAS STAY AND PLAY

The EYFS Christmas Stay and Play took place on Thursday 12th December. It was lovely to welcome so many families at this special time. The children had a great time performing Christmas songs. Children and their families spent a lovely time reading Christmas stories and making Christmas decorations and decorating biscuits.



EYFS CHRISTMAS PARTY



On Friday 20th December, EYFS hosted a magical Christmas party. The children enjoyed a fun-filled day of festive games, music, dancing and delicious treats. The party was a perfect way to celebrate the season and create lasting memories.

DAFFODIL CLASS

It sound like Daffodil class had a wonderful time! Their creativity in making their R.E. branch 2 'host of angels' was lovely to see. Combined with their Christmas party, it seems they truly embraced the Christmas spirit.



Daffodil class have recently been inspired by the recent snow and developed their fine motor skills by creating some fantastic snowflakes.



Remember, most of our school correspondence is not sent home by email. So that all parents/carers are kept up to date, please let us know if you/both of you have made any changes to your contact details, mobile details and especially email addresses. You can email the school office or call in. Finbars-rec@st-finbars.liverpool.sch.uk

This also applies to the emergency contact details you have provided the school with.

Thank you.

SLOW COOKER

We're thrilled to share that we have **slow cookers available for just a £10 donation!** This is a wonderful opportunity to bring home an essential kitchen appliance at an incredible value while also supporting our school. Whether you're looking to prepare hearty meals during the colder months or simply want an easy way to cook, these slow cookers are perfect for busy families.

How to get yours:

- Simply make a £10 donation at the school office.
- Collect your slow cooker and start cooking!

Quantities are limited, so don't miss out! Your generosity helps us continue to enhance learning experiences for all our students.

A CHRISTMAS VISITOR

On 18th December, we were thrilled to welcome a very special visitor – Father Christmas himself! He visited every class, bringing festive cheer and joy to all. The excitement began when the children heard the magical sound of a sleigh bell, signalling his arrival.

The children delighted Father Christmas by singing Christmas songs and asking him a variety of questions. Despite his busy schedule, Father Christmas kindly spent time with us, handing out a present to each child and taking part in snow ball fights.

A heartfelt thank you to Father Christmas for making the day so magical.





CATHOLIC LIFE AND MISSION



A big thank you and well done to all our children and families for your wonderful support during Advent. We managed to raise £206 for CAFOD and purchased some World Gifts for our global neighbours.

The EYFS raffle winners were Nate (1st prize) and Lucas won the 2nd prize.



Our annual Reverse Advent Calendar was a big hit and 25 bags of food was dropped off at St Cleopas' Pantry the day before we finished school for the Christmas holidays. The volunteers there were delighted with your donations and we pass on their thanks to you all for your efforts. Our children are a living and shining example of how to think about others.



On our return to school after the Christmas holidays, Year 1 to Year 6, took part in an Epiphany Service. Our children listened, reflected, sang and respectfully engaged in celebrating the Three Kings and their journey to visit Jesus.



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

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



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

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



If you wish to apply for a **Nursery** place at St Finbar's, please contact the school office on 0151 727 3963 or email Finbars-rec@st-finbars.liverpool.sch.uk We currently have places available for children age 3+.

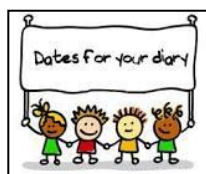
For places in any other year group, please contact the school office and they will inform you of the correct procedure to apply for a place.

Reception Admissions - September 2025

The online application portal is now open for children **starting Reception in September 2025**.

- **Apply Online:** Visit www.liverpool.gov.uk/admissions.
- **Deadline:** Submit your application by **15th January 2025**.
- **Important:** Even if your child currently attends our Nursery, you **must still apply** for a Reception place to ensure you get a place.

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



January 2025		
13 th – 17 th	Monday – Friday	Year 5/6 Bikeability
16 th	January	Themed Lunch: Build a Burger



**Our Lady of Mount Carmel & St Patrick
High Park Street, Toxteth, Liverpool L8 8DX**

olmc@rcaolp.org.uk

0151 272 1463



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

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

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

St Patrick's Table Sale: Saturday 11th January, 10.00 am – 2.00 pm. Lots of bargains for the whole family! Everyone welcome.