

# 'IN OUR SCHOOL'

St Austin's Termly Newspaper - 1st Edition, Christmas 2018

**Goodbye Mr Francis - the school bids a sad farewell to our site manager (page 7)**

**Lest we Forget - St Austin's remembers (pages 10-11)**



## St Austin's Having a Wonderful Christmas Time!

**Christmas Festivities have been in full swing in St Austin's as the children and staff prepare for the season of good-will.** This week our Early Years and Key Stage 1 children brilliantly performed their annual Christmas show for their proud families; there was musical talent in abundance at our Key Stage 2 Christmas Music Night; and children throughout the school have held class Christmas Parties. On Wednesday we were treated to a scrumptious Christmas lunch cooked by our wonderful kitchen staff; last Thursday afternoon, members of our school community were wined and dined at our annual Community dinner; our Key Stage 2 choir spread a little bit of

Christmas cheer by performing carols for the residents of Mersey Park Care Home; and way back on 30th November, we launched the festive season with a record breaking Christmas Fair. For full reports of these events, plus a round up of other stories from our school, see pages 4-7.

On behalf of everybody in the St Austin's family, we would like to wish you all a happy, healthy and holy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

See you in January!



HELLO AND WELCOME TO THE VERY FIRST EDITION OF OUR SCHOOL NEWSPAPER, 'IN OUR SCHOOL'!

Over the past couple of months a team of year 6 children have been working extremely hard to bring this newspaper to you and we really hope that you enjoy reading it as much as we have enjoyed making it.

**The first thing we had to do was decide what our newspaper was going to be called, and after lots of deliberation we went for: 'In Our School' as we liked the idea of our school mission statement being at the forefront of our newspaper. Also, the purpose of our newspaper is to report on everything that is going on 'in our school'. Indeed, this newspaper will provide you with an in depth guide to life in St Austin's.**

Almost every report in this newspaper has been written by the children of our school and this newspaper wouldn't have been possible without the hard work of our pupils. Overseeing the project though have been a fantastic team of year 6 writers who have attended meetings as well as planning and writing the majority of the articles and interviews that you will read today. We couldn't have done it without them and we are so proud and thankful for their efforts.

When undertaking this project, however, we did not just want it to be a task for year 6 alone and contained in this newspaper are reports and stories written by children throughout our school.

Inside the first edition of our newspaper you will find reports on a Chistmassy last few weeks of term; you will read about how our school, together with schools across Europe, marked the centenary of the end of World War One; there is a tribute to our departing Site Manager, Mr Francis; there are reports on sports competitions that we have been involved in, and there are puzzles, reviews, interviews with staff and stories that everybody will enjoy.

Happy reading!

Mr Hints - 20.12.18



Our Year Key Stage 1 children loved performing the Christmas Story to their proud families and friends. Read all about their performance on page 4



# Meet the team!



Niamh, Interviews. Favourite subject: English



Niamh, Reviews. Favourite subject: Art



Olivia, Interviews. Favourite subject: Maths



Mikey, Interviews. Favourite subject: Maths



Gabby, Photographer. Favourite subject: History



Shea, School News. Favourite subject: Maths



James, School News. Favourite subject: Maths



Katelyn, School News. Favourite subject: Geography



Scarlett, Interviews. Favourite subject: English



John, School News. Favourite subject: Geography



Vanessa, Photographer. Favourite subject: PE



Georgie, Sports News. Favourite subject: PE



Mollie, Reviews. Favourite subject: English



Adam, School News





Iona, School News



Nya, Sports News



John, Sports News



Harry, School News



Michael, Story/Comic



Adam, Comic/Story



Amshavi, Interviews



Amelia, Photographer



Freya, School News



Aniela, School, News

**Thank you to everyone on the team for making this newspaper special. Now turn the page to read their fantastic reports and stories...**



**School News - a round up of all the latest goings on in St Austin's**

# Stars Shining Bright in School and in Bethlehem

**FREYA GHORBAL and IONA CURRAN review this year's Key Stage One Christmas Performance**



Every child in year 2 helped to retell the traditional Christmas Nativity, with singing, dancing and one or two twists along the way!

**By Freya Ghorbal and Iona Curran**

On Monday the 17th and Tuesday the 18th December the Key Stage 1 children of St. Austins gathered to share the story of Christ our Lord. It was a fantastic performance and a great opportunity to have some fun.

This year many talents were shown including the Spanish language, singing, dancing and drama.

This year we had the addition of Nursery who gave us an adorable show. In the show they performed Rudolph the red nose Reindeer, it's common to get red noses in winter, but Nursery had them all.

Next in the show we had the Reception performing and hopefully they've all posted their letters to Santa! There was a variety of costumes this year, from Mary and Joseph to a Christmas tree. Everyone certainly knows how to decorate a Christmas tree, though unfortunately their services are unavailable. Their singing in Spanish was flawless and the glorious sound could be heard all around.

The Greatest Snowman. A classic. There were power-

ful messages in this performance by year 1, especially in 'This is Me,' a worldwide famous song. Year 1 teacher Mr. Hughes stated that it was his favourite because it celebrates that everyone is different. A Million Dreams, there will be loads of them now. The Spanish was an enjoyable surprise in 'Let it go', with help from our Spanish teacher, Pachi.

Miss Barret, who helped put together this performance, said that it took a lot of practice as the songs were lengthy and wordy and the practices on the stage were a great help.

Miss Sullivan and Mrs Kelly appear to have duplicated. This year is very clever especially at the end their performance they performed 'Snow is Falling' but it wasn't the ordinary one, as they used sign language. 'Away in a Manger' had perfect Spanish and it could not be better. In case you didn't know, Miss Sullivan is Irish, so when the camels started Irish dancing it was hilarious. The angels had fabulous dance moves, and the whole performance was a success.

There wasn't a dry eye in the school in either performances well Done everyone!



Ellis and Isabella loved playing the lead roles in Year 1's performance of 'The Greatest Snowman'.

**Here's what the children had to say about their performance:**

*"My favourite part was The Red Letter Box song because I liked doing the actions (Saoirse - Reception)*

*"I was the Christmas Tree wearing a star on top" (Feranmi - Reception)*

*"I liked singing the Spanish song" (Patrick - Reception)*

*"I liked singing 'A Million Dreams'" (Maisie Faulkner - 1PB)*

*"I loved singing all the songs" (Anna Jaheteh - 1JH)*

*"I liked the end of 'Santa's Coming to Town' because we did jazz hands!" (Edward Abraham - 1JH)*

*"I was an angel and I loved dancing on the stage" (Charlotte Sutton - 2AK)*

*"I was an inn-keeper and I liked standing up and saying 'no' to Joseph!" (Jaden Smedley - 2AK)*



# A Record Breaking Christmas Fair!

By Aniel Crane and Adam Bolland

On the 30th November St Austin's held their annual Christmas Fair and it was another fantastic night for all involved.

In total a whopping sum of £3518 was raised for the school and Mr Carney told us that it was the most that we had raised in a very long time. In the fair there was a Christmas grotto with Santa Claus paying us a visit. There were also lots of stalls to keep people entertained like: Tombola, Face Painting, Raffle, Toy stalls, Books and DVDs and Groceries

A big thank you to SAPTA for organising a great event and to all the helpers and volunteers who helped to man the stalls. Some of the money we raised will go towards the Year 6 residential to Bewerly Park and other school trips.



There was a fantastic atmosphere in school during the Christmas Fair with children and adults volunteering to help out on stalls



There was something for everyone at the Fair

## Year 6 Choir Spread a Little Christmas Cheer



Last Friday a group of year 6 choir members sang carols and entertained the residents of Mersey Park Care Home. The children were fantastic ambassadors for our school and they sang their hearts out to a delighted audience. They even got a surprise visit from Father Christmas himself! Well done to all involved.

## St Austin's Has Talent

JAMES ION, SCARLETT NIBLOCK AND OLIVIA HUGHES LOOK BACK ON A FANTASTIC NIGHT OF MUSIC AT ST AUSTIN'S

On the 13 of December 2018, St Austin's Catholic Primary School held their annual music evening. The night included samba drummers, singers, guitarists, the orchestra (including piano violin and flute) and the choir.

First up was the orchestra who played 'Merry Christmas Everyone' by Shakin' Stevens and 'Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree'. Then next up was the samba band which were very noisy. Afterwards the guitarists played - there were many of them, some playing solos, some in groups. Mollie Ion stated "It was fun doing a solo but I was a bit nervous." Next up was the singers they included some from year 4, 5 and some from year six. Afterwards it was the Key Stage 2 choir who sang 'Walking in a winter wonderland', 'Its Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas' and a beautiful song with soloists in called 'Angels.' All of the children performing on stage were amazing- St Austin's truly has got talent!



The KS2 choir, led by Miss McVey closed the show

## KS2 Share the True Meaning of Christmas



The RE ambassadors retold the Christmas story to Key Stage 2

Key Stage 2 came together on Thursday morning to take part in a special service celebrating the true meaning of Christmas. Led by Miss Valley and the RE Ambassadors, the Christmas Story was retold through Bible readings and traditional Christmas Carols. There was an extremely calm and reflective atmosphere in the hall as everyone remembered the true message of Christmas - The Birth of Jesus Christ our Lord. The story was told beautifully by the RE ambassadors who led the readings and singing. The service was finished by our Key Stage 2 choir who performed the Christmas song, 'Angels Sing'. Miss Valley said how proud she was of all the children involved and thanked the Key Stage 2 children for sitting and listening so well.



## School News - a round up of all the latest goings on in St Austin's



Mr Carney and guests tucking into a delicious Christmas Dinner at our annual Community Dinner last Thursday.

### St Austin's Community Christmas Dinner

Last Thursday, friends of St Austin's were invited to share a Christmas Dinner in our Key Stage 1 hall. This has become an annual event and it brings together families, friends and members of the St Austin's Community. In attendance were members of our governing body; Father Joe; as well as invited guests of SAP-TA and local residents. Year 6 children provided table service and the kitchen staff excelled themselves with another fabulous feast!

The guests were even treated to some music as our year 3 children took to the stage to perform two Christmas Favourites. First up they sang a beautiful version of 'Away in a Manger' using Makaton sign language; and then finished with an entertaining version of The Twelve Days of Christmas.



The children then tucked into their Christmas Dinner on Wednesday. Mr Carney and Mrs Doran even popped into the kitchen to help!

## Rotary Shoebox Appeal - St Austin's Comes Together To Help Those Less Fortunate

**KATELYN WILLIAMS is one of many children in our school who generously fill shoeboxes every year for families in Eastern Europe who desperately need our help at Christmas. In this article she tells us a little bit about the appeal, why it is such a good cause, and why we, in St Austin's, give what we can at this time of year.**

In our school we fill Rotary Shoeboxes for people in other countries that are less fortunate than us.

We get given a shoebox in class to take home and fill with all sorts of lovely things. There are categories that you have to choose from. You can't mix categories or include any edible items. The categories are baby, toys, teenager and household. You also have to include what age you want your box to go to and if you want a boy or girl.

Here are some examples of what you could put in for each box:

Household Box - Cleaning up liquid, cloths, shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toiletries, shower gel etc.

Teenager - Hairbrush, clothes, flashlight, fidget toys, hair bobbles, toiletries, towels, sanitary towels etc.

Baby - Bibs, clothes, baby wipes, baby shampoo, nappies, dummies, baby soap, baby comb, baby conditioner, baby toys, books, blankets etc.

Toys - Toy car, kids clothes, toothbrush, watch, toothpaste, doll, plastic recorders, yoyos, colouring book, paper, highlighters, notepads, notebook, diary, books, felt tip pens, markers, pens etc.

A pick-up van arrives at school to pick up the boxes to travel to less fortunate parts of Europe. This year our boxes are going to Ukraine. Sometimes you may get feedback from the people your box went to. Sometimes you may receive a picture or a video or just a thank you card. The best part of giving a box is the fact you know it's going to someone who really needs it.



We packed all of the boxes into a van and sent them off to Ukraine



The true spirit of Christmas was captured by the caring and giving nature of our children

**Liberty Joy Aslanian from year 4 and Michael Jones from year 6 explain why they think the Rotary shoebox appeal is such a worthy cause:**

*Liberty said: "It is important that we think of others and we are helping people get gifts at Christmas who really need it."*

*Michael said: "It's a chance to make less fortunate people happy at Christmas."*



# Goodbye Mr Francis

**Today we bid farewell to Mr Francis. NIAMH QUINN and AMSHAVI PAHERATHAN look back at his time at St Austin's and pay tribute to the hard work that made him such a valuable member of our staff**

Today we say goodbye and good luck to our fantastic site manager, Mr Francis. Mr Francis has been part of the St Austin's staff team for the past six years and in that time he has become an invaluable member of our school community.

We can always rely on Mr Francis to fix a problem when something goes wrong; he keeps everybody in the school safe and always does his work with good humour and a smile on his face. Mr Francis is usually the first to arrive in school before most of the children have even got out of bed, and he is always the last to leave at night. He is an unsung hero of our school and the St Austin's machine would not function without his hard work. Some of the children of our school were asked about their memories of Mr Francis and they spoke of his reliability, his ability to fix a problem, his good humour and his all round caring nature

Mr Carney paid a special tribute to Mr Francis, saying: "Mr Francis is a much loved member of our staff who will be sadly missed. As well as being a great caretaker he is a very generous person who gave up three days of his holidays to drive the school minibus to support staff and parents who did the coast to coast cycle challenge in 2015 raising over £1000 for Clatterbridge hospital. We all wish Mr Francis well in his new job and he is always welcome to visit our school."

Mr Francis is leaving us to take on a new role at a school closer to his home and we wish him lots of luck and success for the future.

**Mr Francis took five minutes out of his busy day to chat to us about his time at St Austin's. This is what he had to say:**

*What is your favourite memory of St Austin's*

**I don't really have one specific memory, I will just remember being part of such a fantastic team.**

*What is your funniest memory?*

**I'll always remember the day I went down to Early Years to do a job and I was greeted by a child who shouted up at me: "you've got no hair!" That made me laugh - I love the sense of humour of the children in our school.**

*What are you going to miss about working in St Austin's?*

**I'm going to miss everyone I work with.**

*Are you going to continue to be a caretaker in your new job? What is different about your new job?*

**Yes, the role is fairly similar. The main difference is that it is much closer to home and it will increase**

**my quality of life.**

*Finally, do you have a parting message to the children, staff and families of St Austin's?*

**Yes...be strong and 'keep the faith'!**

**Thank you Mr Francis, we are all going to miss you!**

*Holly Hutchinson: "He's kind and he always makes me laugh on my way in to school."*

*Amelie Patrick-Heselton: "He fixes things when things go wrong."*

*Jack Reid: "He always looks after us"*

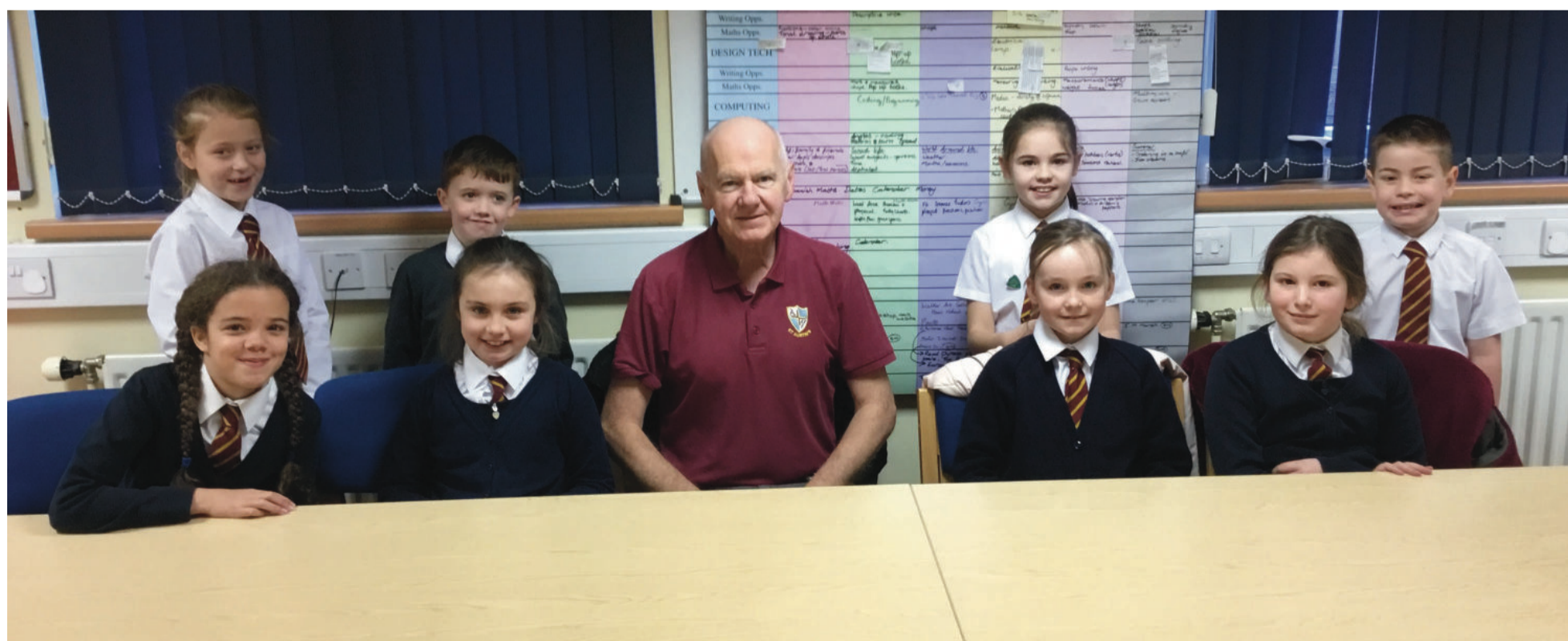
*Lois Webb: "He's there when we need him."*

*Tilly Blackburne: "He keeps us safe."*

*Matthew Bowers: "He makes the school safe."*

*Millie North: "He is very helpful and always does jobs around school."*

*Kara Blackmore: "When something goes wrong he's always there to help - he is part of the St Austin's family."*



Mr Francis pictured with some of our Key Stage 2 children: Millie, Jack, Amelie, Holly, Lois, Tilly, Kara, Matthew



# 'Write a Story in 100 Words' - The Christmas Box

The first edition of our story writing competition kicked off with a Christmas theme. Here are some of our favourite stories

## *The Christmas Box*

*It's Christmas Day and you and your family gather around the Christmas tree to open presents. Your mum buys your dad those new slippers he'd been pining for; your dad buys your mum the wrong perfume (again!) and, as usual, you have received everything you could possibly wish for. It's another perfect Christmas.*

*But, what's this? There's still one present left unwrapped. You're sure it wasn't there before. Sitting proudly underneath the tree, it is delicately wrapped and perfectly placed and nobody knows how it got there. Nobody knows who it's from.*

*But there's something hypnotic about it. Something about it that you sucks you in, and you can't resist the urge to open it...*

*What happens when you open it? What could be inside the Christmas box?*



## **The Christmas Box - By RUBY ROBBIE-MOGAN (YEAR 3)**

A little boy named Andy raced down the stairs on Christmas morning excited to open his presents.

First he opened a brand new lego set that he had always wanted. After that, he opened a brand new toy car to play with.

But there was a mystery box that he had not seen before and he wondered what might be inside. He ripped off the wrapping paper and to his surprise there was a puppy inside. He could not believe it.

All of the family took the puppy outside for a walk and it licked Andy all over his face. It was the best Christmas ever.

## **The Christmas Box - By HOLLY ARNOLD (YEAR 3)**

It was Christmas morning and the Gill family were fast asleep. But there was Leah, she is only 5 years old. But Leah looked at the clock and she found that it was 3 in the morning. But she didn't care, she also didn't care about Jesus being born! The only thing she did care about was presents!

So she rushed to the presents and inside was coal. But there was something else in the bottom of the box - it was a feather and it reminded her of her grandad in heaven. Since then she was always a sweet girl.

## **Santa's Busy Night - By ISLA DOCHERTY (YEAR 3)**

Santa's very busy Elves were getting ready for Christmas. Tom was making the wooden toys, Julia was wrapping them and Charlie was putting the glittery, sparkly bows on. Sam's job was to calm the reindeers down on Christmas Eve, especially Rudolph.

But one thing changed on December 24th - the day before Christmas. Sam got sick! Who would calm the reindeers down? This is a job for SUPER SANTA.

So Santa dashed through the Elves and gave the reindeer their carrots. This calmed them down and Christmas was saved!

## **The Mouse That Saved Christmas - By AMBER TAGGART and ISABELLA LEE**

Once upon a Christmas Eve there lived a mouse called Jerry. Jerry was a special mouse but he did not know that yet. He sneaked out one night into a forest not far from home, he did this before the annoying cat woke up to chase Jerry. Jerry has a sister who is very annoying called Chloe. This time of day it is around where Snta comes, oh I did not tell you but you probably noticed from the title it is Christmas Eve. Santa got stuck in the snow when he was landing at a house and this is where the mouse called Jerry saved Christmas Eve. He spotted Santa in the distance and Santa looked like he was stuck. So he ran to Santa and his sleigh and he said "Ho ho ho, I'm stuck can you help me little mouse?" The mouse said to Santa, "I can't get you up but I can take your sleigh and deliver all of the presents for you, would you like that?" "Yes, that would be great," replied Santa. So then Jerry went all around the world and delivered every present in the sack, including dogs and cats and every other animal. But there was one present left, who could that be for? He read the name tag and it was for...Jerry! So he went back to Santa and told him the good news. The End.

## **How Alex saved Christmas! - By MICHAEL JONES (YEAR 6)**

### *Chapter 1; The list*

Our journey starts in little old Gainesville, Norway. Little old Alex Parker was picked on and now he became very happy because it was December 18th, the day his school breaks up for winter. He was heading home to find out that his mum had already put up the tree,

**(Story continued on page 12)**

## Meet the winner : Ruby, year 3

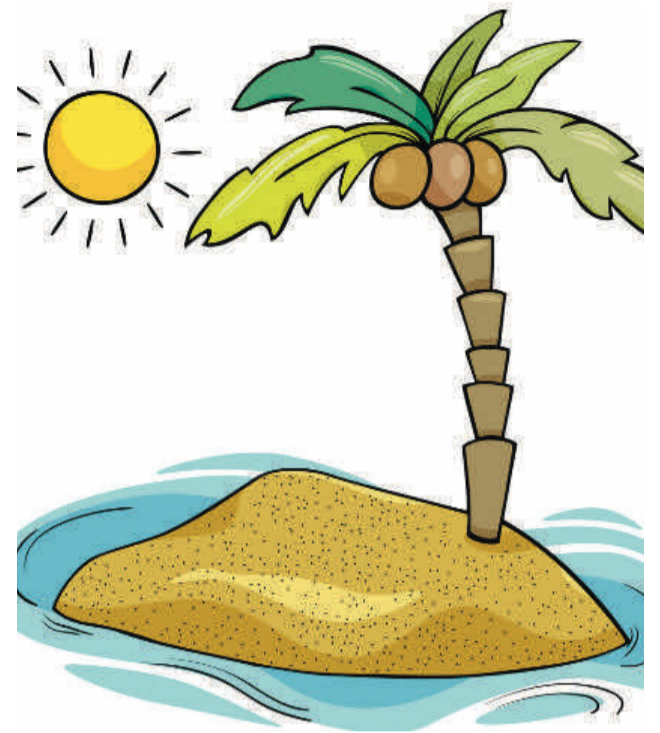


Ruby became the inaugural winner of our story-writing competition. In this picture she proudly holds the £10 book token that she received for winning the competition. She can now use this voucher to buy any book or books of her choosing. You can read her story, along with other Christmas stories written by our children, on this page. Well done Ruby



# Desert Island Books

Each edition of our newspaper we will chat to a different member of staff about their love of reading. This time round our Key Stage 2 English lead, Mr Hints, tells us about his favourite books



*Why do you think reading is important?*

I love how reading allows me to forget all of the troubles in my life and transport me to another world. You can become who you like, where you like and I love that. I also think that by seeing the world through the eyes of someone else, we become more empathetic to people's feelings and emotions and ultimately more rounded human beings. Plus, reading is dead good fun!

*What is your favourite book?*

There are so many to choose. Growing up I loved 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe', and as an adult, I have many books that I re-read every few years. I'll always have a soft spot for To Kill a Mockingbird because it reminds me of GCSE English and my fun times as a student, plus, Atticus Finch is my literary hero! But if I had to pick one favourite book I'd go for 'One Day' by David Nicholls. It tells the story of a boy and a girl who meet on their last day of university and become best friends. The book then takes us through the trials and tribulations of their lives with each new chapter taking place on the same day exactly one year since the last (hence the title 'One Day') I really loved the characters in this book - I felt like I was living their world. It was also 'laugh out loud' funny but also very moving in parts.

This is just one of many amazing books though and there are some books that I think everybody should read in their lifetime. Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks is a tough read but a beautifully told story that really encapsulates the horrors of World War One. I also recently re-read Ninety Eighty Four by George Orwell and it's scarily accurate to the world we live in today! It's one of the most haunting but fascinating stories ever written.



*What are your earliest memories of reading?*

I don't actually remember the first time I picked up a book and read to myself, but I do remember my mum reading to me as a child. And I used to love reading Enid Blyton's 'Famous Five' books when I was growing up.

*Where is your favourite place to read?*

I love curling up in bed with a good book after a long, hard day (if I'm not too tired!) I must say though, my favourite place to read is probably lying on a sun lounger, next to a swimming pool, in 30 degree heat! That's when I feel at my most relaxed and I can really get stuck into a good book. I went to Mallorca with my wife for four nights last summer and managed to read two books in that time!

*What types of books do you read?*

I love crime fiction and fast paced thrillers that keep me on the edge of my seat. I also love historical fiction. One of my favourite authors is Robert Harris - he writes fictional stories set during real events in history. Currently I'm reading a book of his called 'Munich' which takes place just before World War Two. Away from fiction, I enjoy reading sports autobiographies - I've recently finished reading the autobiography of Everton legend, Peter Reid.

*What books make you laugh?*

I still find some of Roald Dahl's books hilarious even as an adult. I think David Walliams is the modern day Roald Dahl and I love his writing style. I also enjoy the books of Bill Bryson.

*What kind of book would you write?*

I studied Ancient History at University so I would probably go back in time to Roman Britain and write a story set in that time period.

*If you could meet a character from any story in real life, who would it be?*

Good question! There are too many to choose. I'd love to meet Willy Wonka - he's so mysterious and strange and I'd love to find out what he's really like.

*Book or film?*

I'd have to say 'book'. Don't get me wrong, I love a good night at the pictures but I'm yet to see a film that is as good as the book. I like to read the book first and then watch the film to see if the way it is portrayed, and the characters in the film, are the same as how I imagined them in the book. Usually they're not

and I come away disappointed!

*Tell us a book you couldn't finish?*

This might be controversial but I really couldn't get into 'The Lord of the Rings'. I gave it a try but about half-way through the first book I got bored!

*What three books would you take with you to a desert island?*

I'd love to take a whole library with me but if I had to narrow it down to three I'd go for 'One Day' by David Nicholls because it's my favourite book; Fantastic Mr Fox because it was the first book I fell in love with as a child; and 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe' because I could transport myself to the land of Narnia and forget the fact that I was marooned on a desert island!

*What luxury item, apart from books, would you take with you to a desert island?*

Another one of my big passions (as well as sport) is music. So I would probably take my iPod. That way I could relax with my favourite music and favourite books (until the iPod ran out of battery!)



Mr Hints said that if he could meet any character from a book in real life he would like to meet Willy Wonka



# 'Lest we forget' - St Austin's Remembers

The children and staff of St Austin's came together in November to remember fallen soldiers. It was particularly poignant this year as it marked 100 years since the end of World War One. In class, children learnt about the horrors of World War One and the sacrifices that were made by British soldiers who fought and died to keep us safe. Some children even shared

stories of family members who had fought for their country in the Great War. Each child in the school then coloured in a poppy to symbolise our thanks and appreciation and these were put on display in the Key Stage 1 hall. *'They gave up their tomorrow so that we could have our today'* - we must never forget that.

## Mr Carney and Mr Burke visit Paris

**ON THE WEEKEND OF REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY MR CARNEY AND MR BURKE WERE INVITED TO PARIS TO BE PART OF A SPECIAL SERVICE IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR ONE. HERE, MR BURKE GIVES HIS FIRST HAND ACCOUNT OF AN EMOTIONAL WEEK-END IN THE FRENCH CAPITAL.**

### Our Visit to Paris: Remembering World War I

By Mr Burke

Our first full day in Paris was a very special day in world history as it marked the centenary of the armistice which ended World War I on 11th November 1918. After an early start and breakfast with our partner schools from Spain, Romania and France we headed to the Jean Jaures Gymnasium for a commemorative ceremony which involved performances from our partner schools, readings from letters sent by soldiers from the First World War to their families and speeches by several local dignitaries including the mayor of the 19th Arrondissement (similar to a district like Allerton or Garston).

In England we wear poppies but in France we were all given a blue and white cornflower instead) At the end of the ceremony we were invited to look at some original magazines called 'Le Miroir' and 'L'illustration' which were a record of the war in France with lots of pictures showing the terrible conditions that the soldiers had to deal with.

We were then invited to a ceremony at a memorial stone outside of the Town Hall where several different groups of people laid wreaths by the stone. Our Erasmus partners from Romania laid a wreath on behalf of our partner schools. Although we got very wet it was a very special occasion where everybody showed total respect. We finished the morning with refreshments in the beautiful Town Hall

The commemoration of the end of the First World War continued into the afternoon with a ceremony which was held under the walls of one of the most famous cemeteries in the world, Pere Lachaise. Among a host of other famous people from the worlds of art,

music, literature and politics,

the playwright Oscar Wilde, the composer Chopin, the singer Edith Piaf and the rock star Jim Morrison are all buried. This ceremony not only marked the 100th anniversary of the war's conclusion but also acknowledged the creation of a new monument to the 94,415 Parisians who died during the conflict. The memorial stretches the whole way along one of the cemetery's walls and contains the names of all those soldiers who died in the chronological order of their deaths.

The ceremony began with an impressive parade led by a marching band and comprised of branches of all the French armed forces, including armed firemen! It was attended by the Mayor of Paris, Madame Hidalgo, as well as the Minister for the Army and the commander of the military garrison of Paris. Before the dignitaries made their speeches to the specially invited crowd, actors read poems and highly emotional letters from young soldiers who had fought and died in the defence of their country.

On a big screen, footage from the war itself was shown which emphasised

the terrible conditions those soldiers endured and the terrible dangers they faced. There was also beautiful, solemn music provided by a cellist, a pianist, a female soprano singer and an excellent choir. The memorial was lit up in several places with beacons of fire and the dignitaries walked the length of the memorial, studying the names of those who had made the ultimate sacrifice.

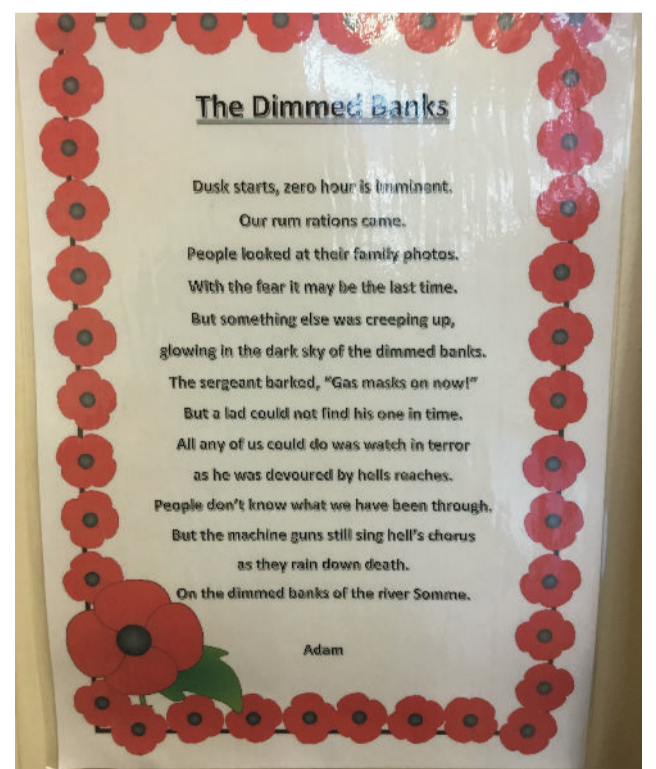
Following this, the Mayor and the Minister for the Army made two speeches, which were followed by a rousing rendition of the French national anthem,



We are proud of our Remembrance display in the Key Stage 1 hall. It contains poppies coloured in by every child in the school and emotive poems written by our year 6 children

"The Marseillaise." The constant rain did make life a little uncomfortable, but it certainly didn't ruin the occasion.

On our second day we had the opportunity to present the war poems which had been written by class 6B to our partner schools. We shared the video performances of the poems and distributed booklets containing all the poems that had been written. Our partner schools particularly appreciated the fact that we had gone to the trouble of translating a number of the poems into their own languages, which meant that they could show them to their own classes when they returned home. The teachers were interested in how we had taught the topic of war poetry and indicated that they were keen to do similar work with their pupils in the future.



The Year 6 children have been writing poetry inspired by the harrowing events of World War One



## Mr Carney spoke to MIKEY MAY and HARRY TENANT about his experiences in Paris. This is what he had to say about the Remembrance Commemoration and the ongoing Erasmus Project

*How did you feel when you received the invite for our school to be part of the Commemoration in Paris? Why do you think we were asked?*

It was a great honour to have been invited to such an important occasion. The pictures of life in the trenches that we saw both in magazines at the first ceremony and on big screens at the final ceremony brought home again to us the sacrifices that so many brave people made to protect the freedom of their countries. I think we were asked to represent the UK because of the support that our soldiers gave to the French people during the first world war.

*Where did the Remembrance Service take place*

There were three services altogether. The first one was held in a large gymnasium in the 19th arrondissement (Arrondissements are a bit like our postcodes). Here representatives of various local organisations including schools remembered the people who had lost their lives during the First World War- the service involved poems, singing and a final tribute led by the Lord Mayor. The second service was held at the memorial stone outside of the beautiful Town Hall where representatives laid wreaths in memory of those who had died. A wreath was laid on behalf of the Erasmus team by four pupils from the Romanian school who had travelled to Paris with their teachers. The final service was held at a famous Paris cemetery, 'Pere Lachaise' where a wall was inscribed with the names of every Parisian (94 717) who died in the war. This involved the Mayor of Paris, senior peo-



Mr Carney observed a number of lessons going on in the Parisien school including this PE lesson. He won't be introducing fencing to St Austin's though!

ple from the army, war veterans and specially invited guests.

*What are your memories of the service?*

The respect shown by all people who attended was very obvious. There was total silence throughout as everyone listened to the tributes being made. After



Mr Carney and Mr Burke were invited to a special Commemoration in Paris

the first ceremony there were hundreds of original copies of two magazines which were produced by the French in world war one - one was 'Le Miroir' and the other was 'L'illustration' and both showed the terrible images through photographs of what it was really like to fight in the war. Please look at the 'Bandes Desinees' on our Erasmus notice board in school to see a comic strip of the ceremonies.

*Was there any music playing during the service?*

The French National anthem, a particularly rousing tune called 'La Marseillaise', was played at all three services. In addition a bugler played the last post at each service. During the final service various French military bands marched as they played some music.

*How did you spend the rest of your time in Paris?*

We arrived on Saturday afternoon so as we both like sport we decided to see if there were any big sporting events on. PSG were playing away however there was a big international rugby match on at the Stade de France so our French partners were able to get us tickets and we spent the evening watching France lose narrowly to a very good South African team. We had very little free time as the whole of Sunday was taken up with the various events linked to the centenary of the armistice while most of the days were spent in meetings with the partner teachers in the school. We did have a little bit of free time in the evening where we looked at some of the famous Parisian sites like the Arc de Triomphe, the Champs Elysees and the Eiffel Tower. We also had a fantastic tour of Paris led by the teachers from the French schools and we learnt so much about the history of the city and how it was rebuilt with wider streets to combat the terrible diseases caused by overcrowded houses and poor.

*How are the schools in France different from ours?*

The first thing we noticed was that the children do not wear uniform. Classrooms are very similar to ours though they still use the chalkboard quite a lot and

there weren't many computers, whiteboards or visualisers in the classrooms. PE lessons were certainly different and I saw a lesson where the children were taught fencing, a sport designed to show your skill with a sword. I won't be introducing that to St. Austin's! One of the things that reminded me of how alike we were was the excellent behaviour of the children in their lessons and the wonderful care shown to the pupils by all of the teachers.

*What are the future plans for the Erasmus Project?*

The projects in year two will include each country researching the lives of women who have made a big contribution to their city or country and producing a brochure for each. We are very lucky in Liverpool as so many famous women have links with our city. Try and find out about Kitty Wilkinson! Some year groups will write as pen pals to children in other schools. We are also going to share how each country teaches history. All of the teachers like using the internet but we all want everyone to be safe when using it so on safer internet day in February we will all share how we make the internet safer - I know that Mr. Hughes is already planning this day! In the summer term we will be exploring UNESCO sites in our cities and countries (Can you find out what UNESCO means?)





## How Alex Saved Christmas - By MICHAEL JONES

(Continued from page 8)

December 24th, Alex was already up, he loved Christmas and he spent the most part of the morning and afternoon putting up hidden cameras so he could catch Santa. December the 25, 1:57 Alex heard a bump, it must have been the traps he had set. He legged it downstairs and just spotted Santa hop out of the chimney and into hundreds of others. He saw Santa's sleigh high in the sky well, not really that high so he decided to climb up a pole and hop in and he saw a list that had everyone in the worlds name and he found his name said good which was a relief for him.

Chapter 2: The North Pole!

Santa hopped in his sleigh and zoomed of to the North Pole. Alex was Freezing and then he was boiling, he had entered Santa's HQ, it was beautiful he went unnoticed until an elf noticed him hiding in a corner he knew he had to go home. Chapter 3: the journey home. He got to meet Santa but then had to go home Santa gave him some magic dust to sprinkle on himself for some confidence and to call him if he needed any more he went to bed and woke up to find loads of presents under his tree he had also got photos of his bullies doing embarrassing things ha ha ha he had a fantastic day and loved every minutes of it. From that day on he was known as the luckiest boy in the world!!!!

## The Escape -By ADAM JAMES

This is a story about a pack of raptors surviving a lot of stuff. The pack leader is Claw. They were trapped in the hole. here is their story through Claw's perspective



Chapter 1: The corrupted lands

Day 1 I told the others its time to break out of this land seeing we found the portal. Now we must move I said our first encounter with danger was the canyon of the rex.

But the rex had been killed and I never knew that. We went in strong but came out weak. I led us through I saw a bird Dark Tooth shouted raven and we got ready but not well.

Chapter 2: The Raven

It wasn't a normal raven it was in human form. Dark tooth and me went in while the rest all tried to escape. Dark tooth liked to bite anything edible so he started pouncing on the raven and biting. I clawed onto it and I started moving to the neck and I just clawed it. My name was given to me because of me being able to defeat anything with a claw or so we thought. We kept

moving until we found a lone anykylosaurus. We were hungry so the whole pack went in blind of danger. There was one other raptor with a name and he was Death Tail because his tail was hard and strong.

Chapter 3: Did we know?

I went for my normal move. I should have knew that anykylosaurus had bone plates as full body armour even the eyelids. As any raptor would do I tried another way. The anykylosaurus broke Dark Tooth's jaw now it was on. I ran and Death tail got into one of his tail fights it was a fight of dangerous tails. Until a Allosaurus pack came in and distracted it Dark Tooth was not in a good mood he had to be spoon fed baby food which is not very chewy like how he likes it. He got angry and kicked me. We left the canyon and the portal was one metre away. But it lead to a other world a sort of link between two places it was the ice moon. **TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT NEWSPAPER...**

## REVIEWS - Our Year 6 experts MOLLIE ION and NIAMH STARKEY cast their eyes over the latest film releases...

### Aqua Man Review - By MOLLIE ION

**SPOILER ALERT (Some important parts of the story will be revealed in this review).**

Aqua Man is a new movie that came out a few weeks ago. It is about finding the true king of Atlantis. Basically the queen of Atlantis runs away from an arranged marriage; she gets injured and a light house keeper finds her and they have a child. Then one day the Atlantis army comes and captures her. When her half breed son grows up he de-



Mollie Ion gave Aqua Man 10/10 and would recommend it to anyone who loves a bit of action and thrill

votes his life to saving people in the sea. His horrible brother tries to start a war between the Atlantis people and humans. The only way aqua man \ Arthur can stop the war is to go on a life threatening journey on land and off land to find the first ever king of Atlantis trident. On his journey he finds his meant to be sacrificed mother who survived when aqua man returns to Atlantis he gets hailed the one true king of Atlantis. My favourite scene was probably where aqua man puts his horrible brother in jail. I would rate Aqua Man 10 /10 stars. The age was 12 a which means 12 year olds can watch it by them selves and under 12 s can watch it with anyone over the age of 12. My least favourite part was when the pirate dad got killed and when Aqua Man got burnt I thought he was going to die. I did love the movie and would recommend it to any one that loves a little bit of love thrill, action, mystery and the story of Atlantis. I think it should really be watched from the age of 10 or 11 12 and above.

**If you're a dab hand at writing and would like a story printed in the next Newspaper at Easter, please send them into school and give to Mr Hints, or alternatively email them to the school office**

### Fantastic Beasts the Crimes of Grindelwald Review - BY NIAMH STARKEY

If you want to see Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them but you want a more recent movie, I would suggest that you watch Fantastic Beasts the Crimes of Grindelwald. This movie is great, it's filled with action, mystery and if you're a Harry Potter fan this definitely gives you a magical feeling of excitement. It is set in Paris and it really makes you think about how big the wizarding community is. It makes you want to learn more about the wizarding world not only in your country but in others to. The main character is Newt Scamandar played by Eddie Redmain. The character is loveable in many ways but they introduce many new characters, who make the viewer eager to know more. You will find that the movie has some unexpected turns, surprises, cliff hangers and many new creatures such as baby nifflers and and also some old creatures like the swooping evil. But one thing is for sure by then it will leave you hanging off the end of your seat with your jaw dropped. But if you want to find out more you will have to go and watch the movie, won't be disappointed. I rate this movie 9/10. I didn't give this movie full rating because in my opinion it wasn't set out perfectly but I still loved it. I think this movie would be suitable for 12 and over because there are some spell battles and there are some parts that squeamish people may find scary.



Eddie Redmayne as Newt Scamander in Fantastic Beasts Crimes of Grindelwald - Niamh Starkey found his character 'loveable in many ways'



# News From Around the School

**Children from every year group were invited to write a report about an activity they had done outside of school. These are the responses - It looks like our children have been having lots of fun!**

## Hunting for Snowmen! By EMILY GRADY

By Emily Grady (year 2)

Last weekend I went to Manchester to stay with my Aunty Katherine. We went to see the 'Walking with Snowmen' event and we had to spot different giant snowmen.

The event was to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Raymond Briggs' book 'The Snowman.'

It was good fun and we found all twelve snowmen. If you would like to visit yourself check out the website for more details. <https://walkingwiththesnowman.co.uk> The event is on until January 6th so it would be a good fun day out over the Christmas holidays.



Emily and her mum pose with one of the snowmen that they found on their hunt!

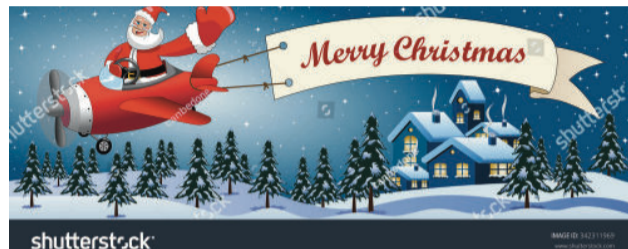
## Santa and his Elves are coming to Liverpool - By HOLLY ARNOLD

By Holly Arnold (year 3)

There is a very important message and it's going around the whole world! Santa is coming to Liverpool and when I checked my Santa tracker he's in Liverpool now! Don't tell anyone though, it's top secret

Last night I went into my room and I saw an elf, I did not know what to do, say or think and I definitely didn't know what to tell my mum and dad!. The elf

must have been magic - I mean it even said a word, it said "he he!" My elf is crazy!



Santa and his elves are on their way to Liverpool

## My Swimming Lessons - By FAYE DANIELS

By Faye Daniels (Year 4)

I started off in Stage 1 and I found it quite easy because I had to do the front crawl with a float but I just kicked my legs for backstroke and I found it quite hard. Finally I got into Stage 2. In Stage 2 it was a bit harder. I had to do front crawl without a float and backstroke without a float but after one week the swimming instructor asked me, "Do you're ready to go in the deep pool?" I agreed straight away, I was excited.

In Stage 3 I did mermaid on my front which I'd never done before but it wasn't as hard as it looked. The instructor said, "Well done for your first try." I was very proud. Weeks went on and I began to feel like a professional swimmer with how well I was doing! One week we were doing breaststroke with a float when the instructor said, "Could you just duck under the rope into stage 4." I couldn't believe it, I was in Stage 4 now.



Faye has loved her swimming lessons so far

In Stage 4 I have to do swimming on my front for 15m, on my back for 10m and breaststroke for 5m. As well as this, I will have to recover an object from the bottom of the pool and show that I know water safety. I go to Garston Lifestyles every Friday from 4pm-6pm. If you are interested in doing swimming lessons like me, their number is: 0151 233 5433.

Give it a go!

## Chester Zoo Light Show - By LOUISE DUDLEY

By Louise Dudley (year 4)

On Friday after school I went to Chester Zoo for the Light Show. I went with my sister, mum and dad. I saw lots of animals including a giraffe, butterfly, bird and emu. But the real reason I was there was to see Father Christmas! He gave out lots of gingerbread biscuits but he also gave me these really cool glasses that I could see rainbows inside. When I got home I painted the gingerbread biscuits with icing and put decorations on them, it was so much fun!



The Chester Zoo Light Show was simply spectacular

## Osset Trials - By DEXTER STEELE

By Dexter Steele (Year 4)

The Oset Trials is a motorbike course where you have to stand up and not touch the floor on your bike. Points are not good so the fewer points you can get the better. I managed to come 10th out of 24 competitors. First place was a boy called Connor Thompson.



Dexter loves the thrill of the Oset Trials



# What's been going on in your year group?

**In this section year groups update us on all the learning that has been happening in their year group this term. From the sounds of it, our children have been very busy!**

## **This half term we have been busy bees in Reception.**

During our phonics lessons we have begun to learn lots of different phonemes, in fact we have learnt all 23 Phase 2 sounds. The children have begun to recognise and use these sounds in our reading and writing tasks in class.

We have also had two different reading focuses, "Hooray for Fish" and "The Gruffalo". During the Hooray for fish, we explored lots of different patterns, created our own underwater scene, listened to soothing underwater sounds and even created our new patterns for the fish. During The Gruffalo, we went on a treasure hunt and found some very unusual items. Also, a parcel was delivered to school, addressed to Reception, when we opened it we found the characters from the Gruffalo inside. Then children enjoyed talking about the characters and using them to recreate the story in their play.

In Maths, we have continued to develop our counting skills. We have tried to count to bigger numbers each week. We have begun to use our counting skills to add two small groups together. Also, we had a fantastic day where we explored all things height, weight and capacity. We developed an understanding of tall and short, heavy and light and, full and empty.

Saoirse Breen - Measuring Day - Weighing activity  
"How can this be light it is so big"

Edward Garnell - Gruffalo - The Treasure Hunt "This is the best day ever"

## **Year 1 have had a great time this term and we have done lots of exciting activities.**

During our 'Families' topic in RE, we talked about how families are all different but are held together with love. In English, we have read stories like 'Naughty Bus' and 'Man on the Moon', and enjoyed 'hot-seating' the main characters. We also had fun making dream catchers and creating our own 'lickable' wallpaper. In maths, we can count in 2s, 5s and 10s, and we have improved our addition and subtraction in practical and written activities.

Our afternoons have been spent learning about everyday materials, wheels and axles, toys from the past as well as sequencing our own dance moves to the song, 'Me and My Teddy Bear' by Rosemary Clooney.

We have had some new additions to Year 1 and we're not talking about Grace and Daniel or even Sophie. We're talking about the Elves! The Elves have been up to all sorts of naughty things so Miss Barrett and Mr



Miss Barrett's class with some unwanted visitors!

Hughes are looking forward to them returning to the North Pole on 24th December. And speaking of elves, some of us dressed up as elves (or fairies) and helped Father Christmas in the grotto during the Christmas Fair.

Oh what fun we have had! We can't wait to see what next term brings!

## **It's been a busy term in Year 2! Here are just a few of the things we've done:**

In English we've read a lot of stories; we've read stories about wild things, an enormous crocodile, Goldilocks and the three bears and, our favourite, a storm whale.

We've written our own stories, poems and letters. Our skill at writing has spread so far and wide that we've been asked to write shopping lists for Professor Star, a description of Father Christmas' workshop and a letter apologising to the three bears for Goldilocks for her bad behaviour!

Addition, subtraction multiplication and division have been practised in Maths and we've put this to good use solving word problems.



Martha from 2AK designed this amazing mask!

In Art lessons we've looked at self portraits by Van Gogh, Leonardo Da Vinci and Matisse and have designed, painted and decorated Mardi Gras masks. They are amazing!

Please check out our class page on the website to see all the learning from this term- the Great Fire of London, Baptism, Judaism, Rosa Parks and much much more!

## **Year 3 have made a great start to life in Key Stage 2. Look at everything we have done!**

Year 3 have crammed so much into this term and we are all ready for a well earned Christmas Break!

In our English lessons we have been reading the story of 'Noah Barleywater Runs Away' by John Boyne which tells the tale of an 8 year old boy who decides to run away from home. Through the help of a kind old man, Noah realises that it was a mistake to run away and he goes back home to face up to his fears. The year 3 children loved reading this story and they



Year 3 enjoyed making giant number lines in maths

produced a fabulous piece of writing predicting what might happen in the final chapter of the story. Some of our predictions were incredibly close to the actual story!

In Geography this term we have been learning about 'Our European Neighbours'. The children all used Atlases to locate countries and cities in Europe as well as writing holiday brochures and researching physical and human facts about countries. We also set a homework project linked to this topic and the children, along with their families at home, all produced amazing posters, powerpoints and projects about a country in Europe.

We have already done two science topics this term, 'Rocks and Soils' and 'Forces and Magnets'. The children loved learning about the different types of rocks; we learnt how fossils are formed and even had a go at



making our own (some more successfully than others!) In our forces and magnets topic we were introduced to the word 'friction' and carried out an investigation to see how far a toy car travelled across different surfaces. We also learnt about magnets looking at how they repel and attract and investigating the materials that are attracted to magnets.

Next half term we are looking forward to learning all about the Ancient Greeks in History which will include a visit to the World Museum, so stay tuned for more updates in the next Newspaper!

Bye for now and happy Christmas!

*Amelia Speksneijder: "I really loved reading Noah Barleywater Runs Away, my favourite character was the Old Man because he was kind to Noah."*

*Kian McKnight: My favourite topic this year has been Rocks because I loved making fossils out of clay, even though mine didn't end up very good!"*

#### **Year 4 have had a very busy and fun term!**

In our English lessons we have looked at adverts and how to produce an effective and persuasive advert of our own for our chocolate bars we designed ourselves. We had a lot of fun coming up with slogans and jingles of our own as well as creating fantastic adverts with lots of persuasive techniques!

In Maths we have worked really hard on addition and subtraction skills. We have done lots of work on multiplication and division the past few weeks also, some of us have even become rock legends on times tables rock stars!



Year 4 learnt all about life during the time of the Mayans

In Geography this term our topic has been 'All around the World'. We have looked at the continents and countries within them using atlases and researching facts about different places using the internet.

During Science, we have looked at states of matter and how materials change state in different environments. We have also studied sound this term which was very interesting, finding out how sound travels and how our ears register sound!

We have had a lot of fun in our D.T lessons the past week. We have had lots of practice making levers and linkages to create an amazing card. We designed what would be moving on our cards and we helped each other really well during this process. We can't wait to take them home and give them to our families!

Next half term we are very excited to learn about the Tudors in History and of course... fantastic fractions!

Quite a few of us in Year 4 have our own reports and stories we have written at home for the newspaper so look out for some of our exciting pieces!

Merry Christmas from everyone in Year 4!

*Ava Clifton "I really enjoyed our science topic of sound and finding out about volume!"*

*Ellis Burke "I really liked our Art topic looking at shading with different colours!"*

#### **Year 5 can hardly believe we have almost completed our first term.**

In our English lessons we have been reading quality whole texts and have really enjoyed reading and being read to. The children have voted and their favourite book so far was Moonfleet. Lily and Tilly liked it best because it was full of adventure and it was an interesting read.

Maths has presented some challenges this term, however, we are all proud of the progress we have made. Our focus mainly has been on improving the accuracy and speed of our calculating skills. We look forward to lots of decimals, fractions and percentages at the start of next term, therefore, keep an eye out for real life examples of these whilst you are out and about over the holidays.

*"I am much faster at times tables because the more I repeat them the better I know them." Evie H 5D.*

We started Year 5 researching the Ancient Egyptians. We discovered a lot of information and presented our findings to our class.

*"I liked how each god has a different meaning. My favourite Egyptian god is Ma'at because I like her wings." Eve 5C*

Throughout Advent we are reflecting upon waiting hopefully and using this time preparing for a special guest. The children are enjoying discussing how we can wait and use the time to prepare ourselves for Christmas.

'Extreme Earth' has been an interesting topic to study in Geography. The children encountered a lot of new terminology for the extreme weather patterns across the globe. We were surprised to discover the power and force of nature during earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions.

*"I think it's odd that the tectonic plates beneath the ground just move by themselves." Ben 5C*

Earlier this term we were learning about the different lifecycles of mammals, insects, amphibians and birds and the importance of them. The children enjoyed watching videos of a butterfly emerging from a chrysalis and a chick hatching from an egg.

*"I never thought that something so small could be so interesting." Aimee 5C talking about the butterfly.*

Mrs Daniels was (voluntarily) dragged out of retirement to introduce Year 5 to their Art topic. She helped the children to understand the process of still life

drawing and with her help the children produced fantastic pieces of art that they were all really proud of. Their work will be showcased on the website and will feature on their unique Christmas cards.

*"I liked it because it was fun and I learned a new skill; drawing by rubbing out." Lily 5C.*

We are designing and making electronic board games in D&T. Watch this space, and the website. They may be wrapped and under your tree as a gift for Christmas!

*"I liked the way we explored electrical circuits. On the day we were making we found lots of new methods for construction." Sam D 5C*

Next half term we are looking forward to learning all about Invaders and Settlers in History, so stay tuned for more updates in the next Newspaper.

Year 5 would like to wish you a happy and holy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all ready for more fun and challenges in January.

#### **Year 6 can believe how quickly this term has rolled by. It seems like yesterday when the new Year 6 classes were lining up on the yard, waiting to begin the new school year.**

In our English lessons we have been studying "Goodnight Mr. Tom" a wonderful book about an evacuee and the man who takes him in and looks after him. We have produced character profiles of people in the book and explored the theme of friendship, looking at the relationship between William and another evacuee, Zach. It linked very well with the history we've been studying, but more about that later. We've also produced some work based on the books of Roald Dahl. If that wasn't enough we've been researching, investigating sources, making notes, constructing timelines and finally writing biographies. We've also been learning what it takes to write an excellent news report, just in time to contribute stories to our new school newspaper!

In History we have been learning all about the Second World War, with a special focus on the impact



Year 6 have been writing their very own war poems inspired by World War One poets like Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon



war had on the city of Liverpool and its people. As well as evacuation, we have investigated rationing, war work, air raid precautions and air raid shelters. During Black History month we looked at the life of Olaudah Equiano, a former slave who won his freedom and campaigned for the abolition of the slave trade. We wrote a slavery narrative based on his experiences of the horrific "middle passage" across the Atlantic that African captives were forced to undergo.

In Science we have been finding out all about how our bodies work, in particular our circulatory system and our digestive system. We have also looked at dental hygiene as well as nutrition and we have planned a sequence of meals designed to provide a balanced diet containing all the nutrients necessary for maintaining energy levels and general good health. Following on from that we have looked at evolution and how different species have adapted to suit the environments they live in and the food they eat.

In Geography we have focused on the continent of North America, locating the many countries that are part of it and identifying the many and varied climate types that can be found there. We've also looked at some of the most prominent geographical features on the continent, some of them, like the Grand Canyon, natural and others, like the Hoover Dam (cont. on next page)

or the Panama Canal, man-made. In Art we have been designing and making some incredibly inventive (and in some cases plainly crazy) hats. We made frameworks out of rolled up paper and sellotape and then we went to town on them, decorating them with all sorts of individually coloured and shaped card, sequins, buttons and who knows what else. The results were impressive - check them out on the Year 6 web page!

In R.E. we are currently focusing on Advent, but earlier in the year we studied the topics of "Loving" and "Vocation and Commitment". Just recently we attended a wonderful carol service in the Metropolitan Cathedral. It was hosted by Archbishop Malcolm and the celebration was ably led by the students from the Academy of St Francis of Assisi. The children brought gifts which were to be passed on to less fortunate members of the community by Nugent Care. Prior to this, as part of our "Vocation and Commitment" topic, Father Joe gave a talk to both classes about his own vocation for the priesthood. He went through the ceremony and the symbolism of the Sacrament of Ordination and went on to answer a wide range of questions from the children. One feature of R.E. the children have loved is the opportunity they have had to become prayer buddies with the children from Early Years, teaching them our school prayer.

In addition to all of this the children have also received Young Leaders training and have also had the opportunity to help out with the new nursery children.

Next term is shaping up to be just as busy as this one has been, perhaps even more so! We'll keep you posted in the next issue of the paper. In the meantime, have a fantastic Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year!

*Iona Curran: "The subject I've enjoyed most this year so far has been History. I've found the Second World War*

*fascinating and I know so much more about it now than I ever did before."*

*Michael Jones: "Making the hats was legendary - I particularly enjoyed decorating the hats with bows, fish shapes, doughnut shapes, Toblerone shapes and lots of other stuff. We really let our imaginations run riot!"*



Year 6 have been giving up their hard earned time to read with some of our children from early years. What great reading ambassadors they are!



In Wednesday's assemblies, Mr Carney and Mrs Hickey gave certificates to children with 100% attendance this term. A big well done to 4RC who were our attendance winners with a whopping 17 children achieving 100% attendance this term!

## Christmas Quiz!

Can you work out these Christmas phrases from the numbers and initial letters?

Eg...12 D of C = 12 Days of Christmas

- 1) 3WM =
- 2) 25 of D is CD =
- 3) W in a WW
- 4) SC is C to T
- 5) 4 S in A
- 6) B J W B in a S

**IN OUR SCHOOL, WE LOVE A PUZZLE! CAN YOU SOLVE THIS 'ANYWORD CROSSWORD' USING ONLY WORDS ASSOCIATED WITH CHRISTMAS? GOOD LUCK!**





# Five Minutes with...Miss Sullivan

**Our newest staff member, Miss Sullivan, gives us an insight into her life beyond teaching, including her love for pizza and her artistic talent. OLIVIA HUGHES and SCARLETT NIBLOCK ask the questions**

*Why did you want to come and work in St Austin's?*

I have been brought up as a Catholic so I liked that it was a Catholic school with a real caring and spiritual ethos. The staff also made me feel very welcome and are very friendly. It's a special community and everyone wants to support one another

*We know you haven't worked here long, but what do you like best about our school?*

I love how supportive and kind everyone is. If I need help there will always be someone who will support me. The children are so enthusiastic, polite and hard-working as well.

*What was your favourite subject when you were in school?*

I loved art. For A-Level art I created large silk paintings and made ceramic bowls.

*What is your favourite subject to teach?*

It's funny because when I was in school I really hated History but now that I am a teacher I absolutely love teaching History. Year 2 learn all about The Great Fire of London and we have also learnt about Rosa Parks. I think it is important that children know what went on in the past and I have loved travelling back in time with my class.

*Who inspires you?*

My mum back home in Ireland will always be my biggest inspiration and role model. She is always positive, she supports me every day and she is my best friend.

*What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?*

I love to use my talent for art in any way I can - I paint as a hobby and I enjoy making and designing things. I also love spending time doing my make-up when I'm back home in Ireland!

*What kind of music do you like listening to?*

I love a little bit of everything but especially Beyoncé. Who doesn't like Beyoncé?!

*What is your favourite film?*

I love Disney so I would have to say 'The Little Mermaid'. I have always loved that film and even now I still love watching it with my niece and get excited by it - maybe even a little bit more excited than her!

*If you had to eat one meal every day for the rest of your life, what would it be?*



Pizza and garlic bread

*If you could invite three people, alive or dead, round for tea - who would you invite?*

My Grandad - I would ask him how he is because sadly he has passed away a few years ago. Albert Einstein so I could chat to him about his life and work; and Bradley Cooper because he's my favourite actor and I could ask him what life in Hollywood is really like. Plus he's drop dead gorgeous!

*What are you watching on TV at the moment?*

Sabrina the Teenage Witch on Netflix!

*What is your dream for the future?*

To just be happy every day and to make a difference.

*Favourite holiday destination?*

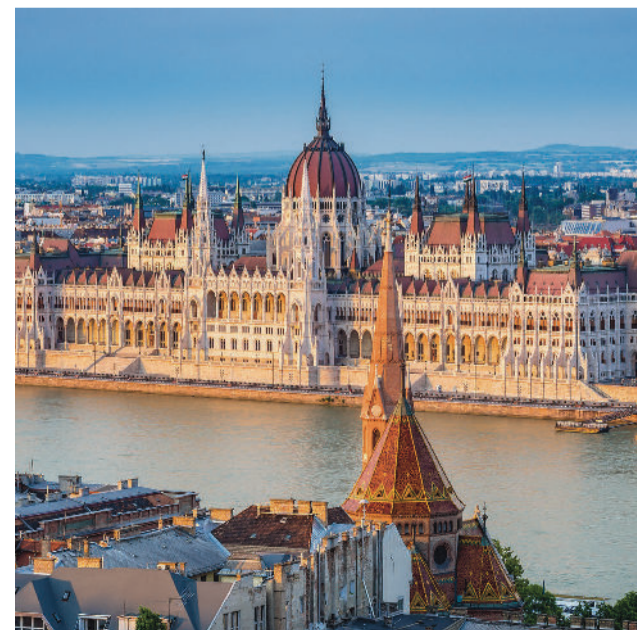
Florida and Budapest. I love Budapest because it has some beautiful landmarks and places to visit, but it also has a man-made beach so after a hard day's sight-seeing I could relax on the beach!

*If money was no obstacle, describe what Miss Sullivan's perfect day would look like. What would you do? Where would you go? Who would you be with?*

I'd like to take all of my best friends on a helicopter ride around Europe stopping to explore some of the cities and places I have never been to, like The Colosseum and the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

*Red or blue?*

I don't really follow football. I could stick my neck out and say one of them but I don't want to offend anyone so I'll just say neither!



Miss Sullivan's favourite holiday destination is the beautiful city of Budapest



# Christmas Jumper Day 2018!

It was Christmas Jumper Day and Party Day on Thursday, raising money for 'Save the Children'. Here are some snaps of the day, can you spot yourself??





# Even Father Christmas came to join in the fun!





# ST AUSTIN'S SPORTS NEWS

## Our team of Reporters bring you the latest sports news from around our school



St Austin's recently took part in an indoor athletics competition at ESLA. You can read Nya Alpha's report about this event on the back page

- First you sit down
- Second you bowl a white ball if its your turn
- Third you try and hit the white ball or get close to it
- Next sit back and fun and try and win.

St Austins got in to the city finals because we won and drew in the quarters. We are looking forward to the city finals where hopefully we can bring a trophy home to St Austin's.

Well done Georgie and all of the team and good luck in the city finals

## Staff bowled over by the turnout at Cricket Training!

Despite the cold weather and dark nights, and in an effort to get one over on their competitors, Mr Burke and Mr Hints have been busy training the boys and girls cricket squads in preparation for the summer tournaments. Girls cricket takes place with Mr Hints on Monday nights until 4:30pm and Mr Burke trains his boys team on Friday nights until 4:30pm. The turnout for training sessions so far has been excellent and the progress of all the children has been astounding. Hopefully the hard work will pay off when the Kwik Cricket tournaments take place at Sefton Park in the summer term. Nya Alfa has attended all of the sessions so far and she said, "I love how we play fun games to help us to learn new techniques." Cricket training takes a break over Christmas but it will return in the Spring Term so stay tuned for more updates.

## Anyone for Boccia?

Boccia might not be a sport you are familiar with but it turns out St Austin's are pretty good at it!

Year 6 pupil **GEORGIE ION** was part of a successful St Austin's Boccia team that entered a recent tournament at ESLA. Here is his report of the event, with a step by step guide to playing this unfamiliar sport.

By **GEORGIE ION**

The boccia event at ESLA was a great success.

Everybody was super nice and really helpful. People were helping and good sportsmanship was really shown by everyone

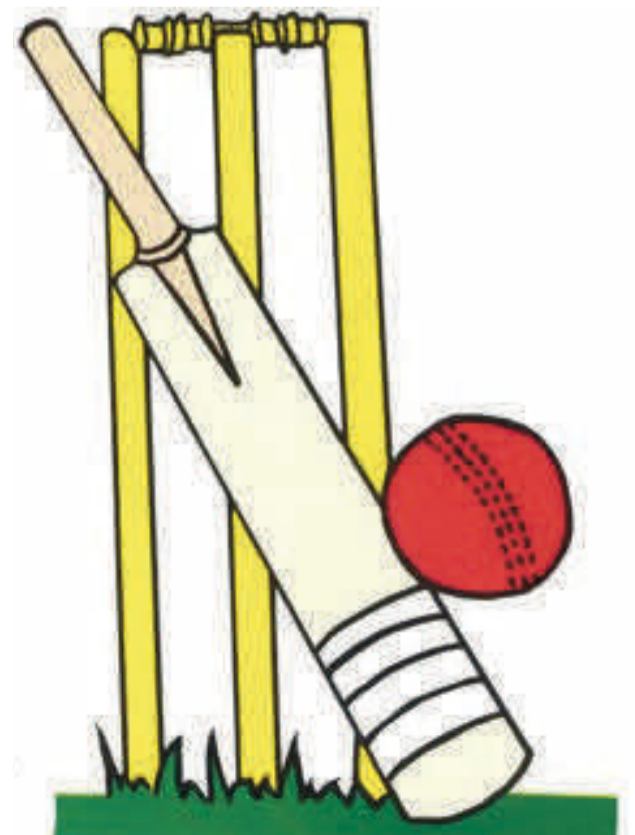
I think the helpers should get rewarded because the whole time they were concentrating really hard so we could get a good game.

Right, time to talk about how you play:

## Lacrosse Comp at Cricket Club



Earlier this month St Austin's Lacrosse team entered a tournament just down the road at Liverpool Cricket Club. They had been training hard for weeks during lunch time in school, learning the skills of this technically demanding and, for most of them, unfamiliar sport, and excelled at the tournament coming a fantastic 3rd place. On an extremely cold day, Mr Rocks who accompanied the team, was extremely proud of the performance levels, commitment and sportsmanship showed by the team. Well done everyone





# They Shoot, They Score - 3rd place for years 3 and 4!

## Girls footballer's do St Austin's proud

Earlier this term a group of Year 3 and 4 footballers took part in a tournament at the Liverpool FC Academy. They had been trained in school by our Sports Coach, Mr Evans and set off to the tournament with high hopes of doing well. They did not disappoint coming a fantastic 3rd place out of eight schools. Mr Evans was incredibly proud and impressed by the teamwork and togetherness of the girls - they supported each other really well and showed great sportsmanship throughout the day. They also demonstrated lots of skills, both in attack and defence.

One of the star players of the team, Millie Fitzgibbon said: *"I loved the fun of the games and the teamwork we all showed. I managed to score 10 goals in the tournament and I was very proud of our efforts."*

Well done girls!



Our fantastic year 3 and 4 football squad. Back row: Millie, Lilia, Emmie, Millie, Faye, Ava. Front row: Emma, Lily, Bethany, Isla



The girls performed a number of challenging but extremely entertaining dances

## Step aside Stacey and Kevin, the St Austin's girls are in town!

A team of St Austin's dancers quickstepped their way to stardom at a recent dance competition. They performed a number of technically challenging but extremely entertaining and perfectly choreographed routines and impressed everyone with their timing, their teamwork and the sheer joy with which they danced. I think we have some Strictly stars of the future in our school!



The St Austin's dance ensemble



# Go Get 'Em!

## Emily runs for Liverpool!

**Year 6 pupil Emily Marley was recently chosen to represent The Liverpool Schools Cross Country Team.** She was selected due to her consistent top 3 finishes in the Competition League races this season. Emily has been part of the school cross country team for over two years and she has improved year on year. She constantly pushes herself to the limits and challenges herself to get better and better each race. She is a shining example to the other children in the team and we are very proud of her.

This is her report on the Liverpool Schools race:

*On Saturday the 24th of November 2018, I was competing in one of the biggest races of my life. I enjoyed cross country and had competed in little competitions before but never as big as this one. I did this race a year before but only for fun so I had a little picture in my head what the course would look like. I was picked to run for Liverpool schools this year and it was not just for fun it was to win but unfortunately I finished 39/241 but I will try next year again.*



Miss Clarke and Miss Rowe have been training the Cross Country team every Wednesday morning, even during the cold weather of late. Well done to everyone who attends and new comers are welcome to start coming after Christmas. Numbers at training have been consistently high and it is this dedication and hard work that will help us to achieve great results in the races. Training will start up again after Christmas in preparation for the final two league races in February and March.



Emily proudly shows off her medal for finishing 2nd in the first race of the season at Wavertree in September

## Indoor Athletics

**YEAR 6 PUPIL NYA ALFA IS A STAR OF THE TRACK BOTH IN SCHOOL AND FOR HER CLUB, THE LIVERPOOL HARRIERS. RECENTLY SHE HAS TAKEN PART IN TWO INDOOR ATHLETICS COMPETITIONS. FIRST SHE REPRESENTED A VERY STRONG ST AUSTIN'S TEAM AT ESLA, AND SECONDLY SHE RULED THE ROOST ON THE TRACK FOR THE HARRIERS. HERE IS HER REPORT OF BOTH COMPETITIONS**

By NYA ALFA

On Friday last month I represented St Austin's at an indoor athletics competition in ESLA. There were lots of events, but not your usual outdoor athletics events. There was the standing long jump and the standing vertical jump. There were different running events that involved you running up and down the PE hall. I took part in the relay the relay and 20m sprint, I came second in the sprint and 3rd in the relay. Overall our team came 3rd which meant that we just missed out on qualification for the next round. Everyone really enjoyed the day though and we came back to school very proud of our efforts.

I also recently took part in another indoor athletics competition for the Liverpool Harriers. In this competition I did the vertical jump and 75m sprint. In vertical jump I came 5th place and in the sprint I came 1st, I could not believe it!

## Cross Country Update

The Cross Country season is already 4 races old and St Austin's have performed admirably in all four races. JOHN MAIRS has been a regular in the boys cross country team and this is his report on the season so far:

By JOHN MAIRS

In year 5 and 6 there are cross country races every month to represent our school. There are about 150 or 200 children running for a mile in each race. Our school run as part of the Intermediate category. It is very hard to run for a mile it is breath taking but everyone tries their very best and finishes the race. My best place in cross country is 16th place and I am very proud of this. I try not to run too fast at the start of the race because you will lose your energy, it's always good to save some energy for the home straight when your adrenaline takes over and you are cheered home by all the spectators. In year six I took part in a cross country race at Clarks Gardens and it was really hard, the course was very muddy and there were some uphill bits. The other locations of the cross country races this year have been Sefton Park, Newsham Park and Wavertree. Our team have scored consistently well. The boys work together well as a team and push each other to finish as high as possible. The girls have outperformed the boys so far and they have some outstanding runners in their team. I am looking forward to the races starting up again after Christmas when hopefully we can push on to achieve something great.



The girls cross country team have outperformed the boys so far this season



The boys team at the first race of the season at Wavertree in September







