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Issue: 5

St Agnes' Weekly News

The family of St Agnes loves, learns and grows together as followers of Jesus.

Head: Susan O'Reilly

Deputy Head: Jennifer Hourihan

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OCTOBER

10th—Primary Cross
Country Event Years 4-6

11th—Class 4D Assembly
9:05am

12th—Individual Photo Day

13th—Year 4 Times table
Workshop 9am

13th—Year 1 Park Trip

16th—Positive Relationships
& Behaviour at Home
Workshop 9am

16th—Parents Evening Years
1-6 3:30-6pm

17th—KS2 Cross Country
Event

18th—Class 3C Assembly
9:05am

18th—Parents Evening Years
1-6 3:30-6pm

19th—Reception parents
Phonics Workshop 9am

19th—Gymnastics Event
Years 1-4

19th—Year 6 Travel
Workshop

19th—Football Match V
King Alfred School

20th—Parent Forum 9am

Dear Parents

It was 5M's turn to perform their class assembly this week and the children didn't disappoint.

They narrated, acted and sang beautifully and really did themselves proud. Their assembly was based on their History topic Dynamic Dynasties, which was all about the ancient civilizations of China ranging from the Xia dynasty to the Eastern Han dynasty. They explained how the ancient Chinese dynasty of Xia first came into existence with the help of the Yellow Emperor who was the first person to unite the warring tribes. He introduced many good things to their society and was rewarded by being carried up to Heaven by the Golden Dragon.

They also taught us about Emperor Shun who charged General Yu with solving the problem of flooding. He solved the problem by building a series of canals to allow the flood waters to abate. General Yu was made a king by the emperor and this was the first example in the world of dynastic succession. Not all of the kings that followed were popular though. The final king of the Xia tribe was King Jie who was so disliked, his own subjects turned against him and he was defeated by Chang Teng, which began the reign of the Shang dynasty.

Here's what some children in 5M thought of it. Savannah learnt that "King Jie (the last ruler of the Xia Dynasty) was a very cruel and unpopular leader and was overthrown by Chang Teng (Shang Dynasty)." Iannis learnt that, "The Yellow Emperor was the first Chinese emperor and united the tribes who were in conflict." Jordan went as far as to say that, "It was the best assembly of my whole life. This assembly was really special because it was really fun to do."

Thank you to all the children for doing so well and to all the parents who attended.

Mr Masterson



Please see the information below where you can celebrate the weekly gospel at home with your family.

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/messenger?pid=MTA101634&v=105.8>

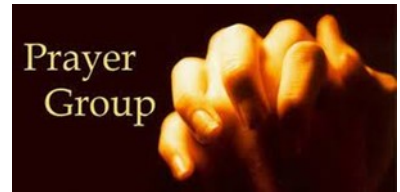
Parental Prayer Group

We have an exciting opportunity for parents and carers of St Agnes to take part in a prayer group in our school.

It would be an opportunity for you to reflect together and put forward any intentions you or the community may have.

It would be held on a Friday morning once a month and led by parents themselves using the rosary or other prayers that you wish.

Please let Miss Moran know, via the office, if you are interested in this.



Catholic Practice Forms

Catholic Practice forms are available from St Agnes' Parish office, please ring on 0208 452 2475 to arrange a time and date to collect forms.

Wanted: Artists!

We have an exciting opportunity for all artists in our school! Our gallery in the corridors need to be updated and we need you to fill them. Draw your understanding of what heaven looks like and hand it to your class teacher by Monday 9th October. More details can be found on your Google Classroom.

Miss Moran

Maggie's Coffee Morning & PJ Fundraiser

Thanks to everyone who brought cakes and attended our coffee morning for Maggie's we raised an amazing sum of £417.65 together with the £365 that was raised by the children for the pyjama day we raised a grand total of £782.65.



Hello from Mrs O'Reilly

I hope everyone is well and I have been thinking of you all. I have been in very regular contact with school and Mrs Gale has kept me up to speed with all that has been happening. I would like to thank her for ensuring all is running smoothly in my absence.

It has been three weeks since my knee replacement operation and I am recovering at home. I am using my crutches to get about the house and doing my physio exercises daily. Things are all heading in the right direction! I will be unable to drive for a further three weeks but once I receive the go ahead to do so I look forward to returning to school.

Wishing you all a good weekend and looking forward to seeing you after half term.

Individual Photos

Children will be having their school photo's taken on Thursday 12th October, please ensure all children are wearing their FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM.

Bronze Ambassador Training

On Wednesday 4th October, the Year 5 Play Leaders went to Hendon Leisure Centre for a Bronze Ambassador Training afternoon. The children really enjoyed themselves.

They each received a Sports Leader badge and 4 skipping ropes for school. Throughout the afternoon, they took part in a few different playground activities and participated in some team building activities too.

Thank you to Kerry and Ms Klog for taking the children on this enjoyable experience.



School Council

Congratulations to the following children who have been elected to represent their class in our School Council

Class	
2C	Carmel & Marcos
2M	Hanna & Alex
3C	Abigail & Cairo
3G	Eloise & Perry
4AM	Tanuja & Yusur
4D	Zachary & Manuela
5P	Zuzanna & Abbie
5M	Kacper & Savannah
6S	Celia & Lola-Louise
6M	Zayn & Alexandra



The school councillors hold class meetings and gather as a council to feedback any views and suggestions. They are easily identifiable by their shiny, new badges!

Mrs Abbott-Myles

The **Social Action Leaders** have organised a donation for the Little Village Winter Warmer Campaign.

The charity needs the following items:

Winter coats, jumpers, sleeping bags, boots and blankets

Please donate to the box in the Office between **Monday 2nd October – Monday 16th October.**



Registered charity number 1169735

Love • Solidarity • Thriving • Sustainability



Dear parents,

We are looking for some 'book influencers' for our X social media.

This is to spark excitement with reading and get the children talking and recommending books to one another.

If your child would like to make a short video talking about a book recommendation it can be sent to office@stagnes.barnetmail.net

Miss Sheridan will then be in touch to check if you give permission for it to be uploaded to our X (Twitter) page.

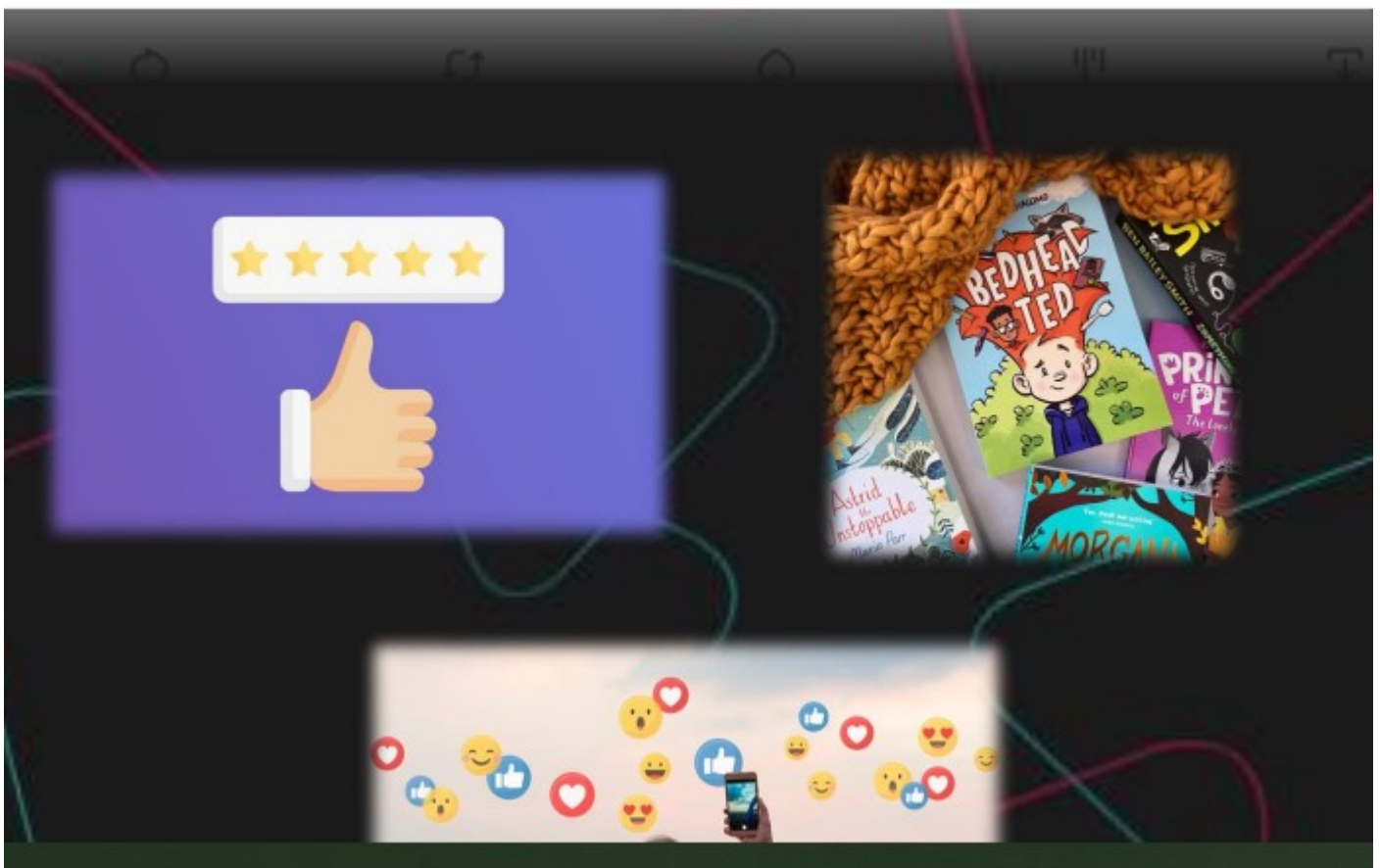
Your child's name/age will not be shared with the video.



St Agnes Catholic Primary School NW2 @stagnesnw2 · 1s



St Agnes' book influencers needed! Read a book, make a video review and post on our school Twitter. 📖😎



DONATE A BOOK



I often get asked how parents can donate books to the school. So I have created an Amazon book wish list. This is a way for you to donate a book that we need for our wonderful school reading library.

You will find the list at

<https://amzn.eu/biEs0qi>

At delivery if you pick the option to send the book to the "List Donation's gift registry address" the book will be delivered directly to the school. Alternativley you can get it delivered to your home address and bring it into school.

**Many Thanks as always for your ongoing and wonderful support
Mrs Gale**



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMONG US

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 60 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.

AGE RESTRICTION
7
PEGI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as The Traitors, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord, a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grislier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

CHAT ABOUT CHATTING

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same Wi-Fi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site *GEEKMAN* and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including iDK and TechRadar.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Class	Star of the Week
1B	Diana
1Z	Aaradhya
2C	Bianca
2M	Gabriel
3C	Chloe
3G	Eloise
4AM	Sienna
4D	Manuela
5M	ON SCHOOL TRIP
5P	Anne
6M	Sofia A
6S	Victoria
TT Rockstars	Isabella 4AM
AFS	KS1 Bianca 2C
	KS2 Elijah 4AM
Reading Eggs	Julia 1Z

Birthdays: up to 8th October 2023

2nd Emilie 4AM

3rd Ruby-May 5P & Erinayo 2M

4th Sofia 2C & Arion 1B

7th Christopher 2C, Daniel Nursery, Valentino RS
& Evalucia RB



Weekly Attendance		
Class	Attendance %	Number of Lates
RB	94	1
RS	97	0
1B	97	1
1Z	93	5
2C	93	2
2M	96	2
3C	97	0
3G	96	1
4AM	94	7
4D	97	3
5M	98	3
5P	94	0
6M	95	3
6S	92	10
School Target 97.5%		

Safeguarding

The wellbeing of our children is of paramount importance to all staff. Should any person (parent or staff) have a concern regarding a child's wellbeing, please inform one of the school safeguarding team (Mrs O'Reilly, Mrs Hourihan, Mrs Gale, Mrs Breslin or our Chair of Governors Gill Abbott). In cases where school staff have concerns, they have a duty to discuss the issue with Social Services to seek further advice. This is the statutory obligation of all schools.

Thought of the Week

"The future starts today, not tomorrow."

Pope John Paul II

