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# St Agnes' Weekly News

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

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## NOVEMBER

27th—Year 5 Science  
Museum Trip

27th - Parent Tour 9:30am

29th—Class 2M Assembly  
9:05am

29th—House Captains  
Advent Carol Service AM

30th - Christmas Jumper  
Day

30th - Class 2C Assembly  
9:05am

30th - Christmas Fayre 3:15-  
5pm

## DECEMBER

4th-8th - Christmas Movie  
Week

5th - Reception Concert  
9:30am - RS & 2pm - RB

6th - Christmas Lunch Day

6th- Years 1 & 2  
Change4Life Winter Festival

7th - Year 6 Bentley Priory  
Museum Trip

7th - Nursery Singalong -  
8:50am & 12:30pm

8th - Reception Arts Depot  
Trip

Dear Parents,

*'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, everywhere you go....'*

The children enjoyed the pantomime performance that came into school this week - Pinocchio went down very well with everyone! For some of our children it was their first time at a live performance with actors telling the story directly in front of them - a very different atmosphere to watching something on a screen. Audience participation is very much encouraged and I could hear the screams of delight from my office! Sincere thanks to FOSA for paying for this treat.

The children have been rehearsing their Christmas songs and plays within class over the last few weeks and there is a sense of excitement as the stage has gone up in the hall to practice on, these Christmas offerings will be shown to you in the coming weeks.

The preparations for the Christmas Fayre (Thursday 30th November 3-5pm) are well underway and Margaret in the office and Indy and her team are very busy with the final details. Thank you for your support of today's Mufti Day and sending in your bottles of wine for the adult tombola, the good news is that by coming to the Christmas Fayre next week you can win it back.

We will be hosting our Christmas movie week beginning Monday 4th December - Each year group from Reception to Year 6 will choose an evening to show a Christmas movie after school, children can bring in a onesie or a cushion to snuggle down with and relax - FOSA will provide a treat for all. The schedule of films will go out to you next week and details of payment also.

I would ask all parents to adhere to the Christmas holiday dates when planning travel over the festive period. We break up on Thursday 21st December at 1.45pm and return on Monday 8th January. These dates were given out almost a year ago and our late return enables all families to take advantage of being able to return later and spend the feast of the Epiphany with their families. I completely understand that flight companies push their prices up at peak times but this is for everyone - whilst it is not fair, it is beyond the control of the school and we are not allowed to authorise travel for holidays outside of the school term. Thank you for your support in this and supporting your child's attendance at school.

Wishing you all a great weekend,

Susan O'Reilly



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/kindness?pid=MTA101634&v=110.1>

### **Christmas Fayre**

Parents - Last few days to send in your raffle tickets for the Christmas fayre.

Prizes include £100 Tesco Voucher, Children's games and goodies hamper, adult hamper. In addition we have been gifted an exclusive hamper/advent calendar of festive goodies worth in excess of £200! This will be auctioned off at the Christmas Fayre next Thursday.

Anyone wanting additional tickets please contact the school office.



### **Punctuality & Attendance**

Our EWO (Education Welfare Office) visited school on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November and advised us that although our overall attendance is good we are being let down by our punctuality. She has written this as a message to parents:

Good attendance doesn't just involve being present in school – it also involves punctuality. You also have a responsibility to ensure that your child arrives to school on time, and stays in school during the day.

Class registers will be taken at **8:55 am**. Children arriving between **8:55am** and **9:05am** will be marked late. Children arriving after **9:05am** will be marked **U**. This is an unauthorized absence. Please note, there are a number of children arriving just as the gate is closing each day. By the time they go to class, take off their coat etc they are late and have missed their name in the register.

**Five minutes** late each day means **three** school days missed- 6 unauthorized absence in a 4 week period can lead to legal action.

*Legal action can involve a penalty notice or being taken to court.*

*Parents also face the risk of imprisonment and parenting orders. Parenting orders involve attending a counselling and guidance programme, usually a parenting class.*

A penalty notice of **£60** per adult per child may be issued as an alternative to prosecution, but this will rise to **£120** if it is not paid within 21 days. Failure to pay a penalty notice will usually lead to **prosecution**.



### Queenswell Year 6 Quiz Event

Last Friday (17th November), 5 Year 6 students took part in a quiz event hosted by Queenswell Junior School in Whetstone against 23 other teams.

Hannah, Hanyel, Sofia P, Nectarie and Elissa competed in various rounds, including Geography, Music, Spelling and mental Maths, working together as a team and displaying some wonderful team dynamics!

'It was definitely a scary experience, but I think we did well!' -Sofia

'I think we did very well working together, it was really fun and we enjoyed the experience. There were some hard questions, especially Geography!' - Nectarie

Miss Cloran

### House Captains

Over the last week, The house captains have been busy organising bunting to be displayed at the Royal Free. They have spent some of their lunch hour hole punching and getting the bunting ready to be delivered.

Thank you to everyone who have sent in their decorated bunting. They all look fantastic!

Miss Bashid





## **Anti-Bullying Week**

Last week was Anti-Bullying week. The focus of our PSHE lessons in EYFS and KS1 classes last week was on what bullying is and kindness. In KS2, children learnt about what bullying is, what it is not, how we can stop bullying and ways we can show kindness.

The Anti-Bullying Alliance defines bullying as:

<< **The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online'.**  
>>

St Agnes marked anti-bullying week in a number of ways. 4AM led their class assembly all about kindness. Children across the school have been completing a kindness challenge and last Friday, we all wore odd socks to celebrate our differences and uniqueness. Here are some photos of what we have been up to...



At St Agnes, our school is filled with adults and children who show kindness. However, pupils were reminded of who they can talk to if they are worried about bullying. If you would like any further information, please see the links below.

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/what-bullying>

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/online-issue/online-bullying>

Mrs Abbott-Myles

PSHE Leader



## Competitions:

### KS1: Be Bright... Be Seen

Create a collage or their own bright design with fluorescent and reflective elements. You will need: Black paper/card, white paper, scissors, glue, neon paper, highlighter pens and any reflective materials. We will put our favourites in the newsletter.

### KS2: Slow Down

Design a banner to encourage slower speeds. A winning design will be picked and printed on to a full size pvc banner to display on our school gates. The template is available on google classroom.

Closing date: **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023**



Did you know that a driver can see a pedestrian 3 seconds sooner if they are wearing or carrying something bright or reflective? That's enough to prevent serious injury or save a life!

Now that the clocks have gone back, evenings become dark much earlier and it becomes more difficult for drivers to see pedestrians.

Whilst we want children to get out and about more and have active healthy lifestyles, we also want them to be safe!

Help your child **Be Bright** so they can **Be Seen** by making sure they are wearing something bright for daytime AND reflective for nighttime.

If you are buying a new coat for your child, look out for brightly coloured ones with reflective strips.

For more information and support, please email: [Road.safety@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:Road.safety@barnet.gov.uk)

**Be Bright, Be Seen and Be Safe!**



# Donations Needed

This Christmas, the **Social Action Leaders** are calling for your support for our local Foodbank!

**Colindale Foodbank:** *We don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why we provide three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to us in crisis. We are part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.*



## Urgently needed items:

Tinned fruit  
Tinned vegetables  
Tinned fish  
Tinned meat  
Pasta sauce  
Rice pudding  
Sugar  
Coffee  
Juice  
Biscuits/Crisps/Snacks  
Cooking oil  
Nappies  
Wipes  
Toiletries (Male / Female)  
Shower gel / deodorant / shampoo  
Toilet roll  
Long life milk  
Washing Powder  
Washing up liquid



There will be collection boxes in the School office from **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023** until **Monday 4th December 2023**.

The foodbank will be collecting the donations, weighing them up & distributing to the community for Christmas.

Thank you for your support

*Miss Blooman*



## Top Tips for Safer Online Shopping on

# BLACK FRIDAY AND CYBER MONDAY

Black Friday and Cyber Monday have become established as two of the year's biggest shopping events, giving consumers the opportunity to snap up a stash of stunning bargains. While this is generally good news, of course, the resultant retail frenzy can lead to people dropping their guard – especially online. In previous years, a seasonal surge in cyber-crime has seen schemes such as phishing emails and credit card scams being unleashed on unwary buyers. Our guide has some essential pointers on keeping your details – and your money – safe while you shop.

### ENSURE A SITE'S SECURE

Before inputting sensitive information (like your card details) into a website, check that the site's secure. The key thing is to look for a padlock symbol in the address bar and check that the URL begins with "https://" – the "s" indicates that the web address has been encrypted with an SSL certificate. Without that, any data entered on the site could be intercepted by criminal third parties.

### TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

If a deal seems too good to be true, then it probably is. Be especially wary if a site offering unbelievable discounts doesn't look professional (for example, if it's covered with pop-up adverts or it looks particularly outdated) – this often serves as a red flag that the seller might not be entirely trustworthy. Minimise risk by sticking with well-known, reputable retailers instead.

### REVIEW BANK STATEMENTS

Even if you've followed all our tips, it's probably worth checking your next bank statement for any unusual transactions. Criminals know that on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, lots of people make numerous purchases online: they're hoping that any stolen money will get lost in the crowd of other transactions. If you see a payment or payee you can't identify, raise it with your bank straight away.

### BEWARE OF SUSPICIOUS EMAILS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday often bring a significant spike in phishing emails, as criminals use the events' sense of urgency as cover for stealing personal information. Even if they look legitimate, be wary of emails requiring you to do something unusual or suspicious: providing your personal details in exchange for access to last-minute deals, for example, or clicking on a link to an unfamiliar site.

### CHECK IT'S THE REAL DEAL

It's not just cybercriminals you need to be wary of. Research has shown that some online retailers increase the price of certain items in the weeks before Black Friday and Cyber Monday – enabling them to then advertise "discounts" (which, in reality, have simply restored the cost to normal levels). Use an online price comparison tool to verify whether these "reductions" truly equate to a saving.

### MINIMISE MICROTRANSACTIONS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday promotions extend to digital items as well as physical ones. Some gaming companies will offer discounts on in-app and in-game microtransactions such as loot boxes. If you're concerned about how much your child might spend on these upgrades, you can restrict their ability to make purchases (via their device's settings) or remove any linked payment methods.

### SET STURDY PASSWORDS

A strong, unique password is one of the most straightforward ways to protect yourself from cyber-crime. As most of us have multiple online shopping accounts, it can be tempting to use the same password for them all – but this puts your personal data at greater risk. You could try using a password manager to create a different, robust password for each online retailer that you visit.

### DITCH THE DEBIT CARD

Where possible, it's safest to shop online with a credit card (as opposed to a debit card) because it offers additional protection. If a purchase is made fraudulently on your credit card, there's a fair chance of your bank reimbursing you. Should criminals obtain your debit card details, however, they could empty your account in moments – and it can be difficult to recover your money.

### RESIST THE INFLUENCE

Recommendations from social media influencers are another thing to remain vigilant for on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. While many of these will be legitimate, remember that influencers are often paid to promote products – and to publicise deals that aren't quite as amazing as they might seem. Don't feel pressured into buying purely on their advice; look at everything with a critical eye.

### TAKE CARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media scammers are more active on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, as they know people are hunting for deals online. These scammers tend to concentrate on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, posting malicious links that can compromise shoppers' personal details. Other scammers, meanwhile, falsely advertise products in an attempt to trick users out of their hard-earned cash.

### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and content writer.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

Class		Star of the Week
1B		Nila
1Z		Anna
2C		Jenson
2M		Hanna
3C		Amelia
3G		Mathilde
4AM		Kruz
4D		Hannah
5M		Willow
5P		Zuzanna
6M		Luisa
6S		Sofia P
TT Rockstars		Finnley 4AM
Reading Eggs		Gabriel 2M
AFS	KS1	Raphael 1B
	KS2	Niel 4D

### **Birthdays up to 26th November 2023**

21st Soant 6S & Victoria 6S

22nd Aliden RS & JR 1Z

23rd Eric 4AM, Ewan 1Z & Daniel Nursery

24th Finlay 1Z

25th Naomi 5P



Weekly Attendance		
Class	Attendance %	Number of Lates
RB	92	2
RS	98	2
1B	94	1
1Z	97	5
2C	94	0
2M	95	1
3C	99	3
3G	95	0
4AM	98	0
4D	99	0
5M	95	1
5P	94	3
6M	90	4
6S	93	4
<b>School Target 97.5%</b>		

### **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**

'No act of kindness, however small is ever wasted'

Aesop

