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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

Acting Deputy Head: Sophie Gale

Thorverton Road, Cricklewood, NW2 1RG
Tel: 020 8452 4565

www.stagnesnw2.co.uk

NOVEMBER

13th—Year 1 Parent Phonic Workshop 9am

13th—Book Fair

13th-17th Anti-Bullying Week

14th—Year 6 SATs Information Evening 5pm

15th—Class 4AM Assembly 9:05am

16th—Years 5 & 6 Football Tournament at Mill Hill

17th—Odd Socks Day for Anti-Bullying Week

20th—Panto Day—Pinocchio

22nd—Anti-Bullying Ambassador Training

22nd—Class 5P Assembly 9:05am

24th—Mufti Day for Bottle stall for Christmas Fayre

24th—Parent Forum 9am

27th—Year 5 Science Museum Trip

29th—Class 2M Assembly 9:05am

29th—House Captains Advent Carol Service

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, 6S delivered their class assembly and focused on World Kindness Day. The children shared the importance of being kind to everyone, the power of a smile and how one small act of kindness can be a ripple effect.

They also spoke about wanting our school to be filled with colourful words such as: kindness, honesty, forgiving, respectful and not grey words such as: unkind, mean, dishonesty and disrespectful. As part of the assembly, some children spoke to the adults in our school and asked them what would make our school even more colourful. Miss Sheridan mentioned that if all children held the door open for each other it would be kind and Mr Masterson explained that if everyone put others before themselves, the world would be a better place!

In the assembly, we also looked at the story of Jesus and the Leper. The children carefully explained that Jesus showed kindness because he was not afraid to help someone who is usually outcasted and that we can also do the same. We should follow in His footsteps and look for those who are being left out and show them kindness.

After the assembly finished, 6S were filled with excitement. Daniel said, 'Our assembly was amazing- we all remembered our lines are shared the message about kindness so clearly.' 'Thanks to our teachers, it was enjoyable to watch!' quoted Alriz.

To finish our assembly, the children sung, 'I can see clearly now the rain is gone'. As a class, we hope the children in our school bring a 'bright, sunshiny day' where ever they go!

Thank you to the children for trying their best and to all those who attended.

Miss Moran



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/wisdom?pid=MTA101634&v=108.1>

Remembrance Day

November is the month for remembering those that died. Next Sunday, will be Remembrance Sunday and a chance for us to gather in our churches to pray for those that died fighting in wars for their country and to remember those facing conflict currently.

The social action leaders thought it would be a good idea to have a remembrance book for those close to us that we want remembered. This will be available for you to write in your intentions, if you would like, in the reception area. We will place those people in to our prayers.



Anti-Bullying Week

13th - 17th November 2023

Next week is anti-bullying week. Children will focus on anti-bullying and kindness in their PSHE lessons. On **Friday 17th November**, all children are invited to wear Odd Socks to school to celebrate our differences.

Andy and the Odd Socks have released a new song for this year's anti-bullying week theme, *Make a Noise about Bullying*. We would like children to learn this song at home! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UU_jOiway0

Competition

Create your own anti-bullying song and upload it to Google Classroom. The song can be up to one minute long. All entries will receive 2 house points. Please upload your entry by Thursday 16th November. Good luck!





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 29th 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

Be Bright, Be Seen and Be Safe!



On Monday we had a special school assembly from members of the 'Green Our Neighbourhood' group. They talked about the problems of air pollution and how having plants in the area can help. They explained why we have a special planter outside school and how the eco-warriors helped to set it up. Afterwards, they looked at designs from the children on how they think we could make the neighbourhood greener.

Miss Duggan



For more information, please see the flyer below:



Reading Dogs

The children in KS1 enjoyed bringing their reading dogs into school last week.

Chris: It's fun to read to my reading dog and my brother. It makes him happy and it's a bit more fun to do
Tayviah: I love my reading dog he's so cute



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 6th 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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions (often abbreviated as "MTX") are digital purchases made within an app or game to unlock extra features or additional content such as new levels. A popular sub-set of these are loot boxes, which contain a selection (usually random) of virtual items: from character skins to game-changing equipment like better weapons. Microtransactions (and loot boxes in particular) are now widespread in apps and games; but concerns persist that they normalise gambling and can foster addictive behaviours – especially among younger players.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GATEWAY TO GAMBLING?

Microtransactions have been criticised for promoting gambling-adjacent behaviour in children. Research has also suggested that exposure to the loot box system could affect the likelihood of a young person suffering gambling harms later in life: children who purchased or used loot boxes in the last 12 months were found to be more likely to have gambled during the same period, as well.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Microtransactions (and loot boxes especially) could lead to young people displaying compulsive behaviours. Loot boxes are designed to be addictive, and the sought-after prizes they contain are dispensed at random. This means that young gamers might not get what they want straight away, causing them to spend more money as well as additional time gaming.

PAYING TO WIN

In many popular games (the FIFA series being a notable example), microtransactions make it far easier to succeed – which is a concern because children can often find it difficult to keep track of their spending. Once a child starts making in-game purchases, they may continue buying to keep up with their friends and other players – sometimes without recognising the mounting real-world cost.

EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

DATA COLLECTION

To allow a young person to complete microtransactions, many app and game developers collect personal data such as their name, address, email, geolocation information, photos, payment details and so on. Even if this data remains secure (which is by no means guaranteed), there's always the chance that it will be used – and possibly sold on to third parties – for marketing purposes.

AFFECTING DAILY ROUTINE

Online games tend to revolve around repeated loops of activity that can affect purchasing decisions and potentially influence children's spending patterns. This could lead to your child not only handing over more money but also adjusting their daily routine to match the game's schedule – potentially impacting more important elements of their day, such as homework and family time.

SATELLITE SPENDING

If you've linked a payment method like a debit card or a PayPal account to your child's game or app, it's wise to keep a close eye on their microtransactions to ensure they aren't racking up a large bill. Letting a child have access to your card (if they're still too young to have their own) or other means of payment could also lead to them spending beyond the apps and games they normally use.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's important to have a serviceable idea of whether the games your child plays use the loot box system (even if it goes by a different name) or include the option of buying items, equipment and so forth. If so, it's crucial to help your child understand that this costs actual money, and that they shouldn't feel pressured into making any purchases.

CHAT ABOUT 'CHANCE'

It may help to explain to your child that many microtransactions involve an element of chance: they could pay money and still not get what they want in return. Emphasise that – while not usually costing much individually – these in-app and in-game purchases can soon add up. Talk to your child about how spending their money in a game or app means they have less to use in the real world.

(GIFT) CARDS ON THE TABLE

Investing in an in-game currency gift card can be a useful way of helping your child get to grips with budgeting. If you buy, say, a £10 V-bucks Fortnite gift card, monitor how long it takes them to spend it. When they come to you asking for more, you could make it the starting point for a conversation about how quickly that money went and how they could earn their next gift card.

STOP SPENDING AT SOURCE

You might decide that the wisest strategy is to remove the potential for spending money on microtransactions. If so, most games, apps and devices have options in their settings to help you manage what your child can spend – or to disable that function altogether, preventing them from buying additional items for their games or boosted functionality for certain apps.

WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

If you're worried that your child's passion for a particular game or app may tempt them into habitual spending on microtransactions, it's important to remember the indicators of addictive behaviour. Irritability, a lack of concentration and prioritising recreational screen time ahead of homework or mealtimes could all be signs that you need to have a conversation about a more balanced routine.

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 tool site The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and columnist.



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Class	Star of the Week
1B	Joseph
1Z	Leen
2C	Namiah
2M	Beatrice
3C	Arnav
3G	Binisha
4AM	Finnley
4D	Nikollas
5M	Klara
5P	Sariah
6M	Nectarie
6S	Daniel
TT Rockstars	Vaughn 3C
Reading Eggs	Lena
AFS	KS1 KS2
	Carlin 1B Zara 3G

Birthdays up to 12th November 2023

6th Zara A 2M

7th Matthew 5M

9th Alia 2C, Azzura 1B, Seth RB & Caddi 1Z



Weekly Attendance		
Class	Attendance %	Number of Lates
RB	93	3
RS	97	0
1B	98	0
1Z	95	5
2C	98	5
2M	95	0
3C	94	1
3G	96	1
4AM	97	1
4D	95	1
5M	98	4
5P	97	2
6M	97	2
6S	98	9
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



They shall not grow old,
as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them,
not the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.

Laurence Binyon

