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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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DECEMBER

4th-8th - Christmas Movie
Week -Please see timetable

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

8th - Years 1 & 2 Christmas
Concert - 9:30am Year 1 &
2pm Year 2

12th - Years 3 & 4
Christmas Concert - 9:30am
Year 3 & 2pm Year 4

13th - Years 5 & 6 Carol
Concert in church at 5pm

15th - Parents Prayer Group
9am

21st - Early closing 1:45pm

Dear Parents,

Parent Forum Reps

For the last ten years at St Agnes' we have had an active Parent Forum Group. This is made up of one parent representative per class who has put themselves forward to attend the half termly meetings which are held on Friday mornings at 9.00am in the new kitchen (Gill Abbott our Chair of Governors and myself attend). The idea behind the group is that it offers parents the opportunity to raise any issues several parents may have, clarify something which has been unclear and also to feedback good news of what has gone well and what we would like to see more of. Each parent rep contacts the parents of their class in advance of the meeting and requests any agenda items to be sent to them and forwarded onto the office prior to the meeting - therefore giving time to investigate/be able to respond appropriately to each matter.

This is not the forum where any individual child is discussed - indeed names of children will not be permitted as it is a far more general discussion about school life. Any parent contacting you regards specific concerns surrounding their child must always be directed back to the class teacher to be addressed by them. It is by working together and exchanging ideas and opinions, that we can continue to offer the best experiences possible for our children.

Our last meeting was scheduled for 24th November but due to a low parent uptake it did not go ahead. The good news is that since then several parents have contacted the office to offer to be a class parent rep. The list shows each class and who the rep is or if there is a vacancy. If you can spare your time at the hour long half termly meetings please contact the office - please note there is only ONE rep per class. Our next meeting is Friday 26th January 2024 at 9.00am.

Parents can contact their class rep with anything they would like raised at this meeting.

Wishing you all a good weekend,

Class	Parent Rep
Nursery	
RB	Leila Ager
RS	
1B	
1Z	
2C	Stacey Gray
2M	
3C	Lourdes Grundeler
3G	
4D	
4AM	Fiona Garnett
5M	Leila Ager
5P	
6M	Christine Takengny
6S	Jennie McAvoy

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>

Advent

This Sunday marks the real beginning to the countdown to Christmas, as it is the first Sunday in Advent. Advent as we know is a period of four weeks in which we are called to prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Christ.

We are asked to consider our relationship with God, how we make time for Him in the business of life and if we have shown our open and generous hearts to those around us. We will be exploring this with the children in school through liturgy, song, assemblies and within class RE time.

We would ask you to make ADVENT a known word in your own household - make a special effort to take your child to mass every Sunday to see the candles on the wreath being lit each week, see the purple vestments of the priest and the fact that together we are preparing to welcome the Christ Child Jesus on 25th December.

House Captains

This week, the House Captains attended an Advent Carol Service at Westminster Cathedral on Wednesday.

The Nativity had a real donkey and goat, which really brought it to life, and they were lucky enough to get a picture with the Bishop afterwards!

The children greatly enjoyed the event and represented our school so well. Kyla mentioned, "It was exciting to see the animals!" whilst Zoe said, "The singers had really powerful voices!"

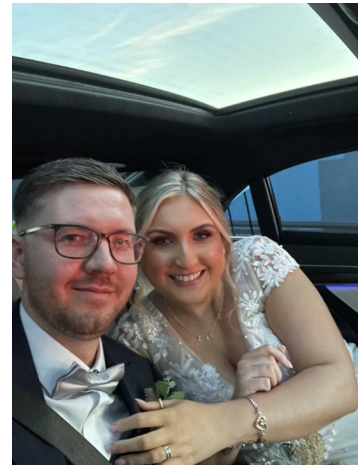


Congratulations

We send our warmest of congratulations to Miss Blooman who got married last weekend - we wish her and her husband Sam all the very best wishes for a long and happy life together.

Miss Blooman's married name is Mrs Higgins, however she has decided that for the sake of ease and to avoid confusion, she will adopt this from September as class names change.

Congratulations from us all xx



Dr Bike

Barnet Council's Parking team has arranged free Dr Bike sessions run by qualified bicycle mechanics in December. Members of the public can take along their bicycles to have a free, full safety check, which includes the condition of tyres, rims, gears, brake function and tyre pressure and adjustments can be made if required.

The sessions will take place on the following dates between 9am and 3pm.

Lodge Lane Car Park, North Finchley, N12	02/12/2023
Watling Avenue Car Park, Burnt Oak, HA8	03/12/2023
Stapylton Car Park, Barnet, EN5	09/12/2023
Marsh Drive Car Park, West Hendon, NW7	10/12/2023
Watling Avenue Car Park, Burnt Oak, HA8	16/12/2023
Lodge Lane Car Park, North Finchley, N12	17/12/2023
Marsh Drive Car Park, West Hendon, NW7	23/12/2023
Stapylton Car Park, Barnet, EN5	30/12/2023

Note: Both adult and child bicycles can have the free safety check.



Barnet Bar No-One Event

On Wednesday 29th November, students from Years 1 – 6 attended a Barnet BarNo-one Event at Hendon Leisure Centre.

They were able to take part in a multi-sports festival, where they could rotate around a series of activity stations. Pupils experienced: Rowing, Golf, Cricket, Rugby, Dance, Athletics, Futsal, Boccia and Speed Stacking!

The pupils were given different opportunities to those they may already experience within school and had an excellent time. Thank you to all the staff who took them.



Miss McSweeney
PE Leader



Christmas Movie Week

Please see table below for movie and collection times for Movie Week.

Payment for Movie Week is £5 and includes Christmas treats for children. Please send money in envelope to class teacher. Unfortunately we are unable to change the days.

Date	Year Group	Movie	Collection Time
Monday 4th December	Year 2	Arthur Christmas	4:30pm
	Year 5	Guardians of the Galaxy - The Holiday Special	4:45pm
Tuesday 5th December	Year 4	The Bad Guys - A very bad holiday	4:45pm
Wednesday 6th December	Year 1	The Yummy Gummy Search for Santa	4:15pm
	Year 3	The Santa Clause	4:45pm
	Year 6	The Grinch	4:45pm
Thursday 7th December	Reception	Boss Baby :Christmas Bonus	4:15pm

The Year 5 Science Museum by Ashez Rahman

ALTHOUGH it was quite a cold and rainy day, the morale was sky-high. Everyone was buzzing with excitement, as finally, it was the day we were going to the Science Museum!

We entered the museum through the back of the building and as soon as we opened the door, countless historical space exploration objects came into sight. We glided across the floor into the Space Exploration zone and immediately stopped as there was a display of a replica of the Eagle (the vehicle used to land the astronauts, Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins on the Moon in the Apollo 11 mission, 1969).

With our mouths open, we kept walking and we saw a stall that had "IMAX 3 DIMENSIONAL MOVIE". Soon, we found a cinema screen the size of four double-decker buses stacked on top of each other! Suddenly a muffled voice came from the speaker. It said "Take a seat, relax, put your glasses on and prepare for the best space movie!" We looked as if we were in a space pod, moving through the Milky Way until we zoomed into a star, which was the sun. The narrator explained how the Sun was the only habitable star system we have ever found (yet). Then we zoomed into Earth and it explained how beautiful it was. They also showed us how lucky we were to live on such a planet. They zoomed through the atmosphere into the melting glaciers and ice sheets in Antarctica. Then they amplified the ISS satellite and showed how the astronauts arrived, did their project, and left after about 8 months.

One of the major projects were initiated by a botany researcher and a scientist. He grew lettuce in space, which is, important as in the future people will inhabit distant planets and grow crops there. Lastly, it showed us how they celebrated Christmas, drank espressos and got their resources (through little pods arriving from Australia and Japan). After eating our lunch, we explored the space gallery and saw some out-of-this world objects such as rockets, satellites, probes and landers. We arrived at Cricklewood station soon enough, and headed back to our school. We thanked the parents and got picked up around 15 minutes later.



Thank you

A very big thanks to Miss Cloran's dad who donated and delivered our beautiful Christmas tree to us on Wednesday this week- just in time for the Christmas Fayre. We are very grateful to him- thank you!



A big FOSA Thank You

A big thank you to all of our parents who supported the Christmas Fayre in any way - buying raffle tickets, donations of wine and items for the tombolas and of course coming along last night to lend your support.

A huge shout out must go to Margaret & Angie in the office, Denise, Indy and Ewelina who have put in a lot of effort in recent weeks to ensure the event was well organised.

Raffle prize winners :

- | | | |
|-----------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1st Prize | £100 Tesco Voucher | Fkri Tecklemariam |
| 2nd Prize | Children's Hamper | Ian McDonnell |
| 3rd Prize | Christmas Hamper | Adriel Fernandes |
| 4th Prize | £10 WH Smith Voucher | Luana Hannes |

Thanks to your generous support we raised £2009 from the Christmas Fayre which will go to all the little extras for all the children to enjoy.

Many thanks for your continued support.

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 Schools Need to Know about THE ONLINE SAFETY ACT

The Online Safety Act was passed into UK law in October 2023, with the aim of establishing major new layers of protection for children when they're online. The government has pledged "a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm" – and the act certainly includes more powerful legislation which should help to safeguard young people in the digital world. Our guide summarises the key points for schools –

WHAT THE ACT WILL DO

HARMFUL CONTENT

Social media sites must rapidly remove illegal and/or harmful content such as bullying or harassing comments; pornography; and content that supports extremist activity or encourages or depicts violence, suicide, self-harm or eating disorders. If they fail to do so, they can be fined up to 10% of their global revenue while their executives may even face jail time.

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Content featuring cruelty to animals is now prohibited, even if it originates from abroad (where the law may be different). Again, it is the platform's responsibility to remove this.

MORE TRANSPARENCY

Sites must be transparent about the hazards that any children using them could encounter – by publishing risk assessments for their platforms, for instance.

HOSTING MISLEADING ADVERTS

Scams and fraudulent adverts must be blocked or removed, or the hosting companies are liable to be fined.

NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING

It's now easier to convict online abusers or people who share intimate images without consent, while legislation on the criminality of deepfakes has been clarified. The new laws also relate to any individuals who even threaten to share such images. This should help to protect women and girls in particular online.

REPORTING AND FILTERING

Sites should have easy reporting mechanisms for children (or their parents and carers) to flag up problems quickly. They must also provide options to filter out unwanted content.

AGE-RESTRICTED MATERIAL

Sites must prevent children from accessing age-inappropriate material. This includes enforcing age limits and implementing robust age verification.

What this means for you

The act has some specific implications for schools: it's essential that leaders understand the new legislation's scope and limitations. The act is certainly a positive step, but as artificial intelligence and other advances in tech continue to produce new challenges, schools will still need to remain extremely vigilant.

KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Look out for the Code of Conduct that Ofcom is creating in response to the Online Safety Act. Note that the new legislation doesn't mean an instant change; many of its elements will only come into force at the end of 2023. An Ofcom consultation on 'protecting people from illegal harms online' will be running until February 2024.

REMEMBER THE ESSENTIALS

Remain mindful of your organisation's own online activities: the legal duty for schools to maintain appropriate software monitoring and filtering, for example, will not change.

WATCH FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There are some issues on which the legislation remains less clear for now: whether it's possible for Ofcom to scan encrypted private messages (such as on WhatsApp) has yet to be resolved, for instance – making this an area where, for the moment, young people have less legal protection.

UNDERSTAND AND EXPLAIN

Staff should learn how to raise concerns with tech companies whose platforms contain anything upsetting or unpleasant. Students also need to be made aware of the newly strengthened laws relating to cyber-bullying, sexting or posting inappropriate content. Young people do make mistakes online – so the clearer their understanding of the possible consequences, the better.

ENGAGE WITH PARENTS

Schools should also explain to parents and carers the new possibilities that the Online Safety Act affords them in terms of protecting their children. Many parents may have previously felt that there was little they could do about changing online platforms' content; they now have a far greater level of support when complaining about a company or the behaviour of an individual.

Meet Our Expert

Like Ramanen is Senior Deputy Headmaster and Director of Safeguarding for the St Benedict's family of schools. He is a regular speaker at conferences and writes in the 7th (senior) other (journal) on school leadership, pastoral care and safeguarding. In 2022, he was named National Teacher of the Year at the National Awards for Professional Care in Education.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety



@national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 29.12.2023

Class	Star of the Week
1B	Evangel
1Z	Maya
2C	Chris
2M	Charlie
3C	Abigail
3G	Rita
4AM	Louise
4D	Menelik
5M	Hussein
5P	Ashez
6M	Elissa
6S	Celia
TT Rockstars	Menelik 4D
Reading Eggs	Madison 1Z
AFS	KS1 Alexandra 1Z
	KS2 Klara 5M

Birthdays up to 3rd December 2023

November

27th Markus Nursery & Atarah RS

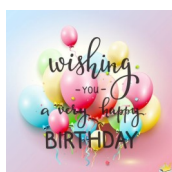
28th Adley 4D, Anne 5P, Abbie 5P & Tayviah 1B

29th Zefania 4D, Joseph 1B & Averie 3G

December

1st Fehi 5P

3rd Kyla 6S, Avner 3C & Iannis 5M



Weekly Attendance		
Class	Attendance %	Number of Lates
RB	92	5
RS	94	4
1B	94	4
1Z	91	7
2C	98	2
2M	95	2
3C	95	2
3G	95	2
4AM	95	3
4D	97	2
5M	97	1
5P	93	1
6M	94	2
6S	96	7
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

'Advent is the time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes to encounter us and also to verify our longing for God, to look forward and to prepare ourselves for Christ's return'.

Pope Francis

