

Date: 08/12/2023

Issue: 13

# 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](http://www.stagnesnw2.co.uk)

## DECEMBER

12th - Years 3 & 4

Christmas Concert - 9:30am

Year 3 & 2pm Year 4

13th - Dental visit Reception  
& Year 1

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

14th - Choir visit to  
Magnolia Court

15th - Parents Prayer Group  
9am

21st - Early closing 1:45pm

21st December - 5th January  
- Christmas holidays

## JANUARY

8th - School reopens for  
children and staff

11th & 12th - Years 3 & 4  
Bikeability Level 1

15th - 19th Years 5 & 6  
Bikeability Week

19th - St Agnes' Feast Day

23rd - Year 3 trip to St  
Albans

23rd - Year 1 Trip to BAPS  
Shri Swaminarayan

Dear Parents

### Christmas edges closer....

Christmas feels like it is finally here as we have begun our Nativity performances for parents this week. We were treated to a beautiful performance of 'Away in a Manger' from our Reception children on Tuesday. It really is amazing to think that they have only been in school with us for a few short months and already they are showing increased confidence, maturity and such enthusiasm for school life. Each child was able to speak out in front of a large audience and sing a whole repertoire of new songs so well - we were very proud of you all.

Yesterday was the turn of Nursery who invited parents in to watch them and join in their 'Christmas Singalong' - this was such a lovely time to see children for the first time performing Christmas songs that will remain in their memories for life. Congratulations to the team in Nursery for helping the children to prepare and perform so well.

Today Years 1 and 2 collaborated to perform 'Born in a Barn' and once again, it was a lovely reminder of the Christmas story told through narration, songs and actions. It really is quite a challenge to prepare such performances with such large numbers of children but the staff have worked incredibly hard with the children to make this happen. I know that you as parents really treasure these times and they become a really valuable memory for you - I still remember those days from when my own three children were in their Nativity play - it stays with you forever!

Christmas lunch was enjoyed by everyone on Wednesday and it was scrumptious! Myself and Mrs Gale helped to serve lunch to over 460 children and staff as is one of the school traditions. Huge thanks must go to Mary, Beverly, Beserat, Alex & Michael in the kitchen who were in early to do the cooking and to our MTS staff who gave of their time to ensure lunchtime went smoothly - this is a massive challenge and one I struggle to understand as I find it difficult enough at home serving dinner to our family of six people!

Reception were out this morning at the Arts Depot to watch a performance of 'Dear Santa'. This is a lovely Christmas treat and it was so lovely to see them coming back into school buzzing with excitement and wanting to tell everyone about it!

As we light the second candle on the Advent Wreath in church this Sunday, we are reminded that we are edging closer to receive Christ into our lives once more. We are called to receive Him with a pure heart and a desire to be close to Christ in our actions, thoughts and words.

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/hope?pid=MTA101634&v=113.2>

### **Parent Governor Election**

Thank you to all who voted for the candidates at our recent Parent Governor ballot. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Ewelina Magnaye onto St Agnes Governing Body.

Many congratulations to her as she begins her term of office. This is a very rewarding and interesting position for parents to undertake.

As governors we set the school's vision, ethos and strategically help to raise standards. We hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance, safeguarding of pupils and overseeing the financial performance making decisions that the money is well spent. There are many more roles as a governor, but these just to name a few!

On behalf of St Agnes Governing Body, we wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Gill Abbott  
Chair of Governors



### Lateness

Parents, there is an ever increasing number of children arriving late for school in recent weeks.

On Tuesday, there were over 30 children who were late for morning register.

This is disruptive both for them and the class. I would ask you as parents to really make an effort to ensure your child arrives at school in time for the register at 8.55am.

If your child is late for school you MUST sign them in at the School Office and give a reason (the only exception is a lone traveller child).

Thank you.

Mrs O'Reilly

### Parents in School - Safeguarding

For safeguarding reasons parents are not permitted to enter the school beyond the Reception area at any time of day unless they are arriving for a scheduled appointment.

This is the case for all schools. I have been made aware that a number of parents are entering the school building particularly at drop off or pick up times and when a member of staff has reminded them of the rule they have not been happy. Parents should only enter the school via the main Reception area.

Staff are asked by myself to be vigilant to keep all of our children safe and part of this relates to parents in the building. Thank you for adhering to this and our safeguarding request.

Mrs O'Reilly

### 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.

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.



# Thank you



*The Social Action Leaders have been collecting donations for the foodbank. We cannot say enough the biggest thank you for the outpouring of donations and support! We are awaiting the final number of the weight we collected but your incredible help ensured that the entire van was full!*



Miss Blooman



## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# DISNEY+

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The Walt Disney Company's streaming service, Disney+ combines entertainment from the famous animation studio itself with Pixar, Star and National Geographic, plus the Marvel and Star Wars franchises. With access to the latest releases, Disney classics and original series, there's plenty of content to explore. While parents may have noted that adverts have now been introduced on some versions of the service, the platform is – unsurprisingly for a Disney product – designed to be appropriate for the whole family.

### LESS SUITABLE CONTENT

While Disney+ is predominantly family friendly, there are some movies and shows in its library which are aimed at an older audience: these may scare younger ones or contain themes or language that your child may not be exposed to. You could avoid such situations by enabling Junior Mode (see 'Adjust content settings', below) or specifying a content age rating for your child's profile.

### BINGE WATCHING

With the option to view content on any internet-enabled device and a growing catalogue of movies, cartoons and documentaries, Disney+ can make managing screen time difficult. This could result in children binge watching content, distracting them from activities like homework or socialising. Too much screen time has also been shown to negatively impact mood, sleep patterns and weight.

### PHISHING EMAILS

Be especially cautious if you receive emails or text messages purporting to be from Disney+. There have been numerous reports of online scammers impersonating Disney+ staff in an attempt to gain access to subscribers' personal information. Disney+ states it will never email or call customers asking for their payment details, their private information or their password.

### ENCROACHING ADVERTS

Disney+ has introduced a new subscription package – Disney+ Standard with Ads – which plays commercials before movies and during shows (like many TV channels). There are no adverts in Junior Mode, but profiles with a content rating of 8+ years will see ads appropriate for that age category. Adults who give consent will see personalised adverts based on their location and viewing history.

### ACCESSING ADULTS' PROFILES

If adults don't set a PIN for their profile, children could access it and encounter content which isn't age appropriate. In the settings, Junior Mode has a toggle titled 'Kid-Proof It!', which requires the user to read four words (numbers, spelled out) and enter them to switch profiles. For older children who can read, though, this isn't secure enough – so using a PIN for adult profiles is recommended.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### ADJUST CONTENT SETTINGS

When setting up an account, there's an option to create profiles in what's called Junior Mode. This generally covers material that's suitable for children up to age 8 and is therefore fairly limited. You can give older children a wider choice of viewing by building a standard profile, then going into the settings and choosing a content rating from one of the pre-set alternatives: 4+, 9+, 12+ or 15+.

### ADD PIN PROTECTION

Disney+ enables you to effectively lock profiles behind a four-digit PIN. In particular, some of the shows on the platform's Star content hub are far more oriented to adults (including several hard-hitting dramas from US networks), so protecting parents' or older siblings' profiles with a PIN will help to prevent younger children stumbling across material which isn't intended for them.

### TURN OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a cartoon, show or movie finishes, Disney+ uses algorithms to identify content with similar themes, which it thinks your child will also enjoy. This suggestion will then automatically begin to play by default. There's an option to turn off this auto-play function in the profile settings, which will encourage your child to take a break from the screen and move on to a different activity.

### ENJOY AS A FAMILY

When your child watches a movie or show on Disney+ for the first time, you may want to sit with them to ensure it's suitable. You could do the same when introducing them to older films that you haven't seen for years: your perception of what's appropriate has very probably changed, and some of the language and attitudes in movies from your own childhood may seem quite shocking today.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Sarah Turner is a child and family safety, carers, trust, education and research expert with her own consultancy and independent research, including online safety, digital literacy and the role of parents in children's digital lives. She is also a senior advisor to the UK's leading government department for children and young people's services, DfE, and a trustee of the National Online Safety Centre.



**NOS** National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday



@natonlineafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlineafety



@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: 06.08.2023

Class		Star of the Week
1B		Tayvia
1Z		Oziel
2C		THE WHOLE CLASS
2M		Matteo
3C		Megan
3G		Michal
4AM		Nathalia
4D		Daniel
5M		Matthew
5P		Fehi
6M		Hannah
6S		Sam
TT Rockstars		Class 4D
AFS	KS1	Jenson 2C
	KS2	Abigail 3C

Weekly Attendance		
Class	Attendance %	Number of Lates
RB	87	2
RS	90	0
1B	90	1
1Z	93	6
2C	96	0
2M	98	2
3C	98	2
3G	92	2
4AM	94	2
4D	95	3
5M	98	1
5P	96	7
6M	98	2
6S	95	3
School Target 97.5%		

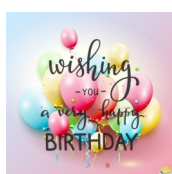
### **Birthdays up to 10th December 2023**

5th Aisha 6M, Joseph RS, Federico Nursery & Lina 5M

6th Melissa 2M

7th Daniel 4D & Olivia 4AM

10th Ellie-Rose RS



### **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**

'What you are is God's gift to you, what you become is your gift to God'

Hans Urs von Balthasar

