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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

21st December - 5th January
- Christmas holidays

JANUARY

8th - School reopens for
children and staff

10th - Year 6 SATs meeting
9am in hall

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

24th - Year 2 Tower of
London Trip

26th - Parent Forum 9am

26th - Year 6 Mass 2:30pm

29th - Athlete Freya Levy
school visit

Dear Parents,

Hello Christmas Holidays....

Today we break up for our well deserved Christmas holidays after the longest term of the year and both children and staff are ready to embrace the break!

I would like to thank the team at St Agnes' who really believe in offering such high quality learning experiences to your children each and every day as they all share the ambition of every child receiving the best primary education possible, creating learners for life. When I say 'team' I include everyone with a role within the school as it is only by everyone working together means all runs so smoothly and efficiently. This was evident yesterday in our first 'St Agnes Pathways' day which had been in the planning stages since June - where children in years 2-6 were offered opportunities to undertake a course in something beyond the curriculum and work with a range of pupils from across various year groups. The courses offered included:

Henna, Baking, Lego, Interior Design, Origami, Video Editing, Pirates,
Terrible Tudors, Samba, Chess, Sewing, Detective for a Day, Carnival, Chocolate &
Puppets

This was a huge undertaking and also a considerable financial investment - however it was SO worth it. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day as you can see further within this newsletter in Miss Sheridan's report.

I would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and enjoy the break from routines, spending time with family and friends. Let us hope that the new year to come in 2024 will bring health and happiness for all of us. Let us keep in mind the words of Pope Francis as he says 'Christmas is a reminder that God loves us and wants to be with us'.

The staff and I would like to thank you for your support this term and for your generous Christmas gifts, they really are appreciated. We look forward to seeing everyone return refreshed ready for the Spring term on Monday 8th January - there is no Inset day.

With every blessing,

Susan O'Reilly





Congratulations

We send our best wishes to Miss Sheridan who is getting married on December 29th in Ireland.

She will return after her honeymoon on January 15th as Mrs Carey.

We as a school wish her every best wish for her special day and I know we can share photographs with you in the new year as several staff are travelling to attend the wedding.



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/christmas-holiday-special?pid=MTA101634&v=114.2>

Considerate Parking Please

We have been contacted by an irate neighbour who has justifiably complained regards inconsiderate parking. She has seen cars parked on the zig zags and parents in cars with engines on. Both of these are incredibly dangerous for our children - the Zig Zags are there to STOP people parking and allow for people to cross/move in that area safely and idling engines obviously cause pollution directly around the area of the school.

Please can we ask you to be considerate of all when parking locally.

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.

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.

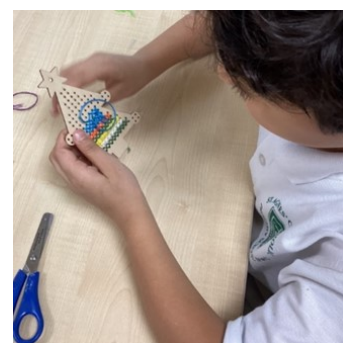
St Agnes' Football Team

Congratulations to the St Agnes Football team for winning 4 - 2 against All Saints.



Christmas Sewing Club

This half term a group of children at St Agnes' took part in an after school 'Christmas Sewing Club' They made a variety of beautiful Christmas decorations/gifts to take home and enjoy during the holiday season.



Well done to all the children for their hard work and wonderful stitched Christmas creations!

Miss Batchelor (Art and DT Lead)

Well done & thank you!

The **Social Action Leaders** set up a collection for the local foodbank (Colindale) this is the closest foodbank in Barnet to our school.

Everyone was extremely generous and donated items in need. We raised a whopping 343.90 kg!

THANK YOU so much to everyone who donated and took the time to bring in any items. This will make a massive difference to the families who rely on the foodbank especially at Christmas time.

A message from the Foodbank: *Thank you all so much for the amazing donation. The grand total came to 343.90 kilos! We have only just finished sorting and weighing it all. Please convey our gratitude to everyone who donated. This will indeed help a lot of people through the coming winter months. God Bless.*

Miss Blooman



Road Safety Week 2023:

Road Safety Week took place on the **19th to the 25th November**.

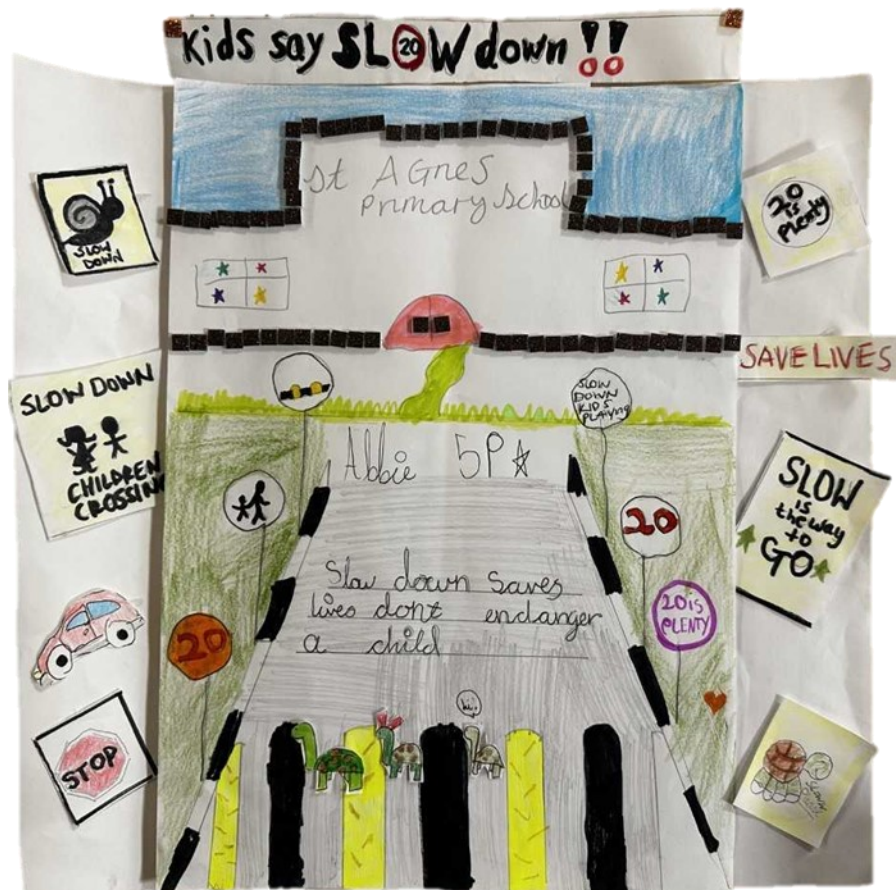
This year's theme was **Let's Talk About Speed**. One in four fatal crashes involve someone driving too fast.

In class, we discussed the importance of staying safe on school roads. We looked at the story, **Staying safe in the dark: Ziggy's Halloween wish**. With the clocks going back, it is vital that we wear bright clothing so that drivers can see pedestrians crossing. It is also important that drivers slow down and stay vigilant whilst driving in the dark.

The story is available to read here: <https://roadsafety.scot/children-and-educators/early/go-safe-with-ziggy/ziggys-halloween-wish/#0>

We had many poster entries from many classes across the school. Thank you for sending these in. I am delighted to announce that **Abbie in 5P** has won the competition and received a wonderful prize from Barnet's Road Safety Team. To those who did not get selected, we will share a poster in the School Newsletter each week to remind us to safe on Barnet's busy roads.

Miss O'Connor
School Travel Ambassador



St Agnes' Pathways



Yesterday the children from Years 2-6 embarked on a new adventure in school. Some weeks ago, the children were given the choice of several options to take part in on a half a day course called 'St Agnes' Pathways. The children had the choice of Latin dance, sewing, terrible Tudors, baking, Lego, life of pirates, henna, detective for a day, video editing, chess, origami, carnival, interior design, chocolate making and puppets.

The children had to choose their four options and were given one of their choices. After break yesterday, they set off to find their new classroom and teacher for the day with great excitement. First, they learnt some background information about their chosen course before partaking in lots of practical activities. It was lovely to hear the children chatting and buzzing with excitement in the lunch hall as they shared their experiences of the morning so far, and it was a great opportunity to make new friends as each group had a mix of ages. The idea of St Agnes' Pathways was to inspire and give children an experience or possible future interest they may not have already been exposed to, it was a very successful day indeed!

Cairo 3C: This is the best day of my life!

Is there anything you would change?

Mason 6M: No because it was absolutely perfect.

What was your favourite part?

Eloise 3G: I didn't have one because it was all good so I don't have a favourite part.

Oliver 5M: Making our own bathroom because I made one that cost 28,000 pounds

What did you learn?

Isabella 5M: I learnt how chocolate is made out of and how chocolate has changed over the years.

Tricia 4D: Lots of rich Tudors ate tarts and pork pie. They wore ruff and the poor people's houses were made out of wood and straw. Rich people's houses were made out of bricks.

Julia 6S : How to use evidence correctly and how to solve a case.

Lola 6S: How to edit videos and how people made videos a long time ago

Theia 4D: I learned how to play chess

Daniel R 4D: I learned the story of a carpenter who made lego

Fatima 4D : How to cross stitch

Luisa 6S : We made a full carnival outfit including headbands necklaces and masks

Natalie 2C: My favourite part was the chess tournament because I played against Alessio and I won.



Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At my.account.sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password is protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCS

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

SMART TVs

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years' experience of working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a tech pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Road to Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of internet safety.



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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 20.12.2023

Birthdays up to 7th January 2024

December

18th Jeremy 2M
20th Raffie RB
22nd Eva 1B
23rd Chantelle 5M
24th Savannah 5M
26th Siena 3G, Leo 2C & Maks 5P
27th Micah 5P
29th Charmi 4AM, Florence RS & Ylenia 3C

January

5th Isabella RS



Autumn Term Attendance

Class	Attendance %	Number of Lates
RB	91	28
RS	95	17
1B	95	30
1Z	94	73
2C	97	15
2M	96	24
3C	97	18
3G	95	13
4AM	96	20
4D	97	33
5M	97	26
5P	95	24
6M	95	24
6S	95	84
School Target 97.5%		

Thought of the Week

'The Holy Spirit will come down upon you and you will have a child who will be called the Son of God. 'I am the servant of the Lord' Mary replied. 'Let it happen just as you have said'.

Luke 1: 7-38



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.

