



ST AGNES NEWS

Autumn 2 2023



'TIS THE SEASON

By Ms Phillips

If you thought last half-term was busy, you won't believe how much we've managed to pack in to this half-term! Sports matches and events, class assemblies, class trips, panto, bunting making for the NHS, Christmas fair, Santa's grotto, movie night, Nativities, carol concert, Christmas cards for Ashford Place, foodbank collection, carolling at Magnolia Court and the launch of St Agnes Pathways! Phew!!!

Thank you for your feedback and for taking part in our first survey: Should the clocks change back to daylight saving time? One hundred and one children took part and gave their opinion. Eighty of you voted YES- the clocks should turn back. You said you prefer coming to school when it is lighter in the mornings.

Look out for the next survey in the article written by Ashez. On page 3, he discusses what AI is and how it is already used today. Tell us what you think about AI? Is Artificial Intelligence a good thing or a bad thing? Leave a comment after completing the survey.

We also asked for your help in choosing the name for our school newspaper. So many of you like the name St Agnes News, we are keeping it!

The Newspaper team wish all at St Agnes School a peaceful and restful Christmas holiday.

INTERVIEW

By Poppy-Mae & Sofia P



Ms Blooman, Year 1 teacher.

If you were a character from a book who would you be? *Rabbit from Guess How Much I love you.*

Favourite flower? *Roses.*

Cats or dogs? *Cats, I have three! Ace, Cali and Baby.*

Have you ever broken anything? *Yes! I broke my toes when I fell down the stairs.*

Morning person or night owl? *Night owl.*

Do you have brothers or sisters? *I have one brother.*

Favourite Christmas tradition? *Decorating the Christmas tree.*

What is your star sign? *Sagittarius.*

When you were a pupil at St Agnes did you imagine you would work here? *No, but when I realised I wanted to be a teacher, I really wanted to come here!*

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SCHOOL CHARITY WORK

Whole school comes together to donate to local food bank

By Julia

On Monday 4th December, the whole school came together for the final day of donations for the Colindale Foodbank. Miss Blooman and the Social Action Leaders and deputy's did a fantastic job by making poster of the items needed as well as encouraging us all to donate and support our local community .

The Colindale Foodbank is a project founded by local churches led by Jesus House for all Nations. It has been operating since 2012, working towards stopping hunger in Colindale and the surrounding area. They are part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust. They won the 2022 Barnet Civic Award for service to the community.

Thanks to the kindness and generosity of local volunteers and donors, they are able to help many people who find themselves in unplanned crisis situations.



Donations from St Agnes School



House and Vice Captains made posters listing the items on the charity's December Wish List

Over 90% of the food distributed by foodbanks in The Trussell Trust network is donated by the public. This is the reason why food donations are vital to support them in giving everyone referred a balanced and nutritious three day supply of food.

You can continue to support this project by using the donation points at Tesco Brent Cross and Asda Colindale. Adults can also volunteer time or donate any amount of money.

We look forward to finding out the total weight of donations from St Agnes to the Colindale Foodbank.

If you are in financial crisis, please call the free national helpline, Help through Hardship on 0808 2082138 for free (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm) to talk confidentially with a trained Citizens Advice adviser.



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WORLD NEWS

AI

By Ashez

Have you ever heard of Alexa or Siri? Have you ever wondered how iPhone's face recognition works? All of these technologies have something in common- they use artificial intelligence or "AI."

Artificial intelligence is the ability for a computer to think and learn. With AI, computers can perform tasks that are typically done by people.



Computer scientists predict artificial intelligence will be even more prominent in the future.

Chat GPT is an essay writing program that was released late last year by the company OpenAI, founded by Elon Musk. It is already well known and widely used across the world. It can generate a 500 word essay in less than 30 seconds. It is being used by students for homework and online tasks. This might affect humans as they become lazy and sluggish because they rely on AI. On the other hand, many people support the extensive use of it, as it provides explanations on more complex topics and can be used as a virtual teacher.

In the USA, engineers have already created an AI-powered humanoid robot prototype called SOPHIA. One of the more widely known humanoid robots, it has facial features and can simulate human expressions to show emotions.



Sophia can process visual, emotional and conversational data.

SOPHIA has travelled the world, been on the cover of magazines and addressed the United Nations. It also has a particularly sharp sense of humour and joked about taking over the world.

Another concern about AI is that if robots and computers become very intelligent, they could learn to do jobs and replace humans, leaving some unemployed. AI is expected to replace 85 million jobs worldwide by 2025. Doctors use AI to diagnose patients based on medical scans, like X-rays.

For technology to continue to advance, we need resources and energy. If we keep using oil, coal, radioactive/ nuclear components and fossil fuels we will run out of those energy producers very soon. These resources also emit carbon dioxide when used in the production of energy so it would also affect us due to climate change and our carbon footprint.

Take part in our survey- What do you think about AI? Is Artificial Intelligence a good thing or a bad thing?

For further information search <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/49274918>

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WINTER FESTIVALS AROUND THE WORLD

Boxing Day

By Maksimilian

Boxing Day is a holiday celebrated after Christmas day. It became a public holiday in the UK, and is now celebrated across much of the commonwealth countries, particularly in Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

Some people call it Offering Day. During the Age of Exploration, a blessed Christmas box was placed on a ship by a priest before a voyage for good luck.

In the past, Boxing Day was the day when servants, tradespeople and the poor were traditionally presented with gifts. It was also the day where servants would be given time off and thanked for their hard work with a "special box" of treats. The servants would then head home and use the 26th December to spend with family and share the presents they had just received.



Now, Boxing day has become a day associated with shopping and sporting events.

There are only a handful of bank holidays left in 2023. For England, Wales and Northern Ireland, there are two in December- Christmas Day (25th) and also Boxing Day (26th).

Thanksgiving

By Jack

Thanksgiving is a national holiday mainly celebrated in Canada and the United States of America. It always takes place on the 4th Thursday of November.

Long before settlers came to the East coast of the United States, the area was inhabited by many Native American tribes. The area surrounding the site of the first Thanksgiving had been the home of the Wampanoag people for over 12,000 years, and had been visited by European settlers before the arrival of the Mayflower*.



Thanksgiving is a celebration of the harvest and other blessings of the past year. Friends and families gather for a feast of traditional foods. This usually consist of turkey, stuffing, sweet potato, mashed potato, gravy, cornbread, cranberry sauce and sometimes pumpkin pie.

Thanksgiving is also a great time for people to help out others who might not be as fortunate. Some volunteer to help at homeless shelters. Others donate to charity or participate in community kitchen projects.

*The Mayflower was an English ship that transported a group of English families, known today as the Pilgrims, from England to the New World in 1620.

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Bamboo bon voyage!

By Sofia P



Male panda Yang Guang translates to 'sunshine' from Chinese

Britain's two giant pandas, the only pair in the country, munched bamboo stalks in front of crowds at Edinburgh Zoo for the final time on Thursday 30th November. Yang Guang and Tian Tian came to Edinburgh in 2011 as part of a ten-year agreement between the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) and the China Wildlife Conservation Association (CWCA). The deal was extended for two years due to the pandemic.

It had been hoped female panda Tian Tian and male Yang Guang would breed while they were at the zoo, but they weren't able to produce a cub.

In the October half-term, I had the privilege to travel to Edinburgh to visit the famous pair of giant pandas. On my visit I found out some interesting facts to share with you.

Although giant pandas are called "giant," they are actually the second-smallest bear species. Pandas are very popular as they are very cute and cuddly, however they have very sharp claws. If you try to give a giant panda a cuddle, it's probably the last one you're going to get..!

The word panda translates from the Nepali word "ponya," meaning "bamboo eater" or "bamboo footed." At Edinburgh Zoo, the pandas were fed about 50kg each of bamboo every day. You get the same amount of nutrition from cardboard, which is why they have to eat so much of it! Pandas are herbivores. Even though bamboo makes up for 95% of their diet, the other 5% is meat. If a small rodent was to scuttle past, it would get gobbled up! Pandas have an extra finger or "false thumbs" which is simply for the use of grasping bamboo.

The giant pandas 12-year stay has come to an end and they have returned home to China. Zookeepers have spent the last few weeks making sure the two pandas became used to crates in preparation for their long journey, expected at some point in early December. "They're China's national treasure" said Mr McGarry, head of living collections RZSS, which runs the zoo.



Female panda Tian Tian translates to 'Sweetie' from Chinese

Watch a video of the panda in your Google Classroom!

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Panto

By Daniel, Maksimilian & Raphael

On Monday 20th of November 2023, the Wizard Theatre came to our school to perform a pantomime- Oh yes they did!!! Our school is lucky to have a panto performance every year and every year they don't fail to impress us.

The theme of the panto was the popular fable Pinocchio. Many people enjoyed it and were very impressed. This was because there were only 3 actors and they did a great job! They made amusing puns and acted brilliantly. Many people found it hilarious when Pinocchio lied and his nose grew. Even teachers found it hilarious! We also learnt an important lesson- telling the truth will set you free.



Here are some reviews:
Judith 5P- "it was the best show of my life and I loved it!"
Mathew 5M- "it was fun and enjoyable!"
Leo 4D- "The panto was very good and I enjoyed it!"
Quandavid 4AM- "it was nice and I loved it!"
Ashez 5P- "it was very good, the actors did a great job and I am very grateful to experience this wonderful show!"



Did you know,,,

Pinocchio was created 140 years ago by author Carlo Collodi in 1883!

Pinocchio's name translates to "pine eye" in Italian- "pino" (pine) and "occhio" (eye),



EURO Qualifiers

By Olivier



The UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying tournament is a football competition that is being played from March 2023 to March 2024 to determine the 23 UEFA member men's national teams that will join the automatically qualified host team Germany in the UEFA Euro 2024 final tournament.

The draw for the finals took place on Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 12pm in Hamburg, Germany. The groups are:

Group A: Germany, Hungary, Scotland, Switzerland

Group B: Spain, Albania, Croatia, Italy

Group C: England, Denmark, Slovenia, Serbia

Group D: France, Austria, Netherlands, Play-off winner A

Group E: Belgium, Romania, Slovakia, play-off winner B

Group F: Portugal, Turkey, Czechia, play-off winner C.

The first game of the tournament will be on June 14, 2024 and the final will be on July 14, 2024.

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C
GERMANY	SPAIN	SLOVENIA
SCOTLAND	CROATIA	DENMARK
HUNGARY	ITALY	SERBIA
SWITZERLAND	ALBANIA	ENGLAND
GROUP D	GROUP E	GROUP F
PLAY-OFF WINNER A	BELGIUM	TÜRKİYE
NETHERLANDS	SLOVAKIA	PLAY-OFF WINNER C
AUSTRIA	ROMANIA	PORTUGAL
FRANCE	PLAY-OFF WINNER B	CZECHIA

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Christmas Treats

By Jaida, Naomi & Olivia

Melting snowman biscuit



Ingredients

- 200g fondant icing sugar
- 6 white marshmallows
- 6 large cookies
- 24 mini chocolate beans
- 6 pretzel sticks
- tube black writing icing

STEP 1 Add a teaspoon at a time of cold water to the icing sugar until the mixture is runny but thick enough to coat a spoon.

STEP 2 Ask an adult to snip the marshmallows in half using wet scissors.

STEP 3 Spoon a little icing onto each cookie and attach half a marshmallow. Drizzle a little more icing onto the cookie to make melting snow.

STEP 4 Place the pretzel sticks on the cookie for arms. Stick orange chocolate buttons on for the noses. Stick three chocolate buttons.

STEP 5 Pipe small dots of the writing icing, for the eyes and mouth. Leave to set.

Kitchen Safety Rules for Kids

1. Ask an adult's permission before cooking.
2. Wash hands often with soap and water.
3. Start with clean surfaces and clean cooking tools.
4. Fasten hair back if it is long.
5. Wear a clean apron.

Hot Chocolate Buddy



Ingredients

- 3 regular sized marshmallows
- tube black writing icing
- pretzel sticks
- Any small (orange) sweets

STEP 1 Squeeze on eyes and a mouth to one marshmallow using your black writing icing. Cut a slit in the middle and press in a sweet for the nose. Cut another slit in the backside and press the marshmallow on the edge of your mug.

STEP 2 Add 2 dots of icing to another marshmallow and press 2 pretzel sticks in the sides.

STEP 3 Add another dot of icing on your last marshmallow and press in 2 pretzel sticks to the bottom. Place them in your mug and watch your snowman relax in his hot cocoa bath.

Ingredients

- 250ml milk of your choice
- 1 tbsp cocoa
- 1-2 tbsp soft light brown sugar

Heat the milk, cocoa and sugar in a small pan over a medium heat until steaming. Whisk to dissolve the cocoa.

TIP: Using the pan and a whisk method instead of the microwave will get the lumps to mix in.

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FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS GIFT

By Julia

Receiving presents on Christmas goes back to the 1800's. One of the first presents children received was a doll made by a relative. People were inspired by the gifts brought to Jesus by the three kings - gold, frankincense and myrrh. However, presents have changed very much since then. These are some of the favourite gifts the adults at St Agnes received on Christmas morning...

***My dolly
Pam!
Maureen***

***A magic set!
Mr Masterson***

***I got a rabbit. His
name was
Freddie!
Lorraine***

***A doll's house my
grandfather made
for me!
Miss Bachelor***

***A Barbie!
MJ***

***A Scalextric
set!
Chris***

***A sewing kit!
Margaret***

***A doll's house with a
doll that moved!
Mrs Nicolaou***






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BACK PAGE FUN

Movies

By Angelina & Cruz

Are you wondering what movie to watch on Christmas day? We have various recommendations for you to choose from our survey of the top 3 Christmas movies from all of us at St. Agnes'!

-  **Elf** Buddy, a human raised by Santa's elves, who learns about his origins and heads to New York City.
-  **Home Alone** An eight-year-old troublemaker mistakenly left home alone, must defend his home against burglars on Christmas eve.
-  **The Grinch** A revenge-seeking Grinch plans to ruin Christmas for all of the citizens of the town.

Other family friendly movies recommended for the festive season are: Jack Frost, Princess Switch, Santa Buddies, Klaus and The Flight Before Christmas. Mr Masterson recommends 'It's a Wonderful Life' but be warned, it is a black and white movie. Hope you enjoy !



GAMES

by Bryan & Francesca

When it comes to Christmas activities, what are some of your family's favourites? Do you like to bake together? Are you the type of family that prefers to stay in your pyjamas and binge Christmas movies all day? Or do you enjoy playing a ton of Christmas games with each other to keep the fun going throughout the day? If you answered play games, you're not alone. Here are three of the best Christmas games!



Reindeer Antler Ring Toss This is a really fun game! Start by cutting antler shapes from a cardboard box. To create the headband, stick two strips of card together using sticky tape. Attach the antlers to the headband. The rings can also be cut out from the cardboard box or made with pipe cleaners. One player wears the antler on their head, the other players toss the rings on to the antlers.

Christmas Charades This is a word guessing game. The player acts out a word or phrase (for example a Christmas themed movie or a book), while other players guess the word or phrase. Christmas Charades can be played with the 2-3 players or the whole family! The person with the most correct guesses will win.



Blindfold Christmas Drawings A game that can be played with any number of players. Just grab scarves, a pencils and a few sheets of paper. Challenge your family and friends to draw the Christmas items described to them while blindfolded with the scarf. Players score points for the drawing that looks most realistic. Prepare to laugh a lot!

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Jokes & Riddles

By Zac

What direction
does Santa
travel when he
leaves his
workshop in the
North Pole to
deliver presents?



The only direction you can travel
from the North Pole is South.

Why did no one
bid for Rudolph
on Ebay?
Because he
was to deer!!!



Why
don't
you
ever
see Santa in hospital?
He has private
elf
care!



Who hides in a bakery
at Christmas?
A mince SPY!!!



Fleece
Navidad!

How does a
sheep say
Merry
Christmas?



GET INVOLVED

The newspaper team value your voice!
Please send us articles about interesting
trips, art, crafts, poems, recipes, reviews
and school news. Let us know what you
liked about the newspaper and any
suggestions for our next issue out in
February.

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Half-Term in Photos



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