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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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JANUARY

15th - 19th Years 5 & 6
Bikeability Week

17th - Class 1B Assembly
9:05am

18th - Cricket Taster Day
Years 4-6

19th - St Agnes' Feast Day -
Mass 11am in church

23rd - Year 3 trip to St
Albans

23rd - Year 1 Trip to BAPS
Shri Swaminarayan

24th - Year 2 Tower of
London Trip

24th - Class 5M Assembly
9:05am

25th - EYFS Bedtime Story
Evening 5-5:30pm

26th - Parent Forum 9am

26th - Year 6 Mass 2:30pm

31st - Class 4D Assembly
9:05am

Dear Parents,

Welcome back and Happy New Year to all

I sincerely hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas break and the opportunity to spend time out of the usual busy routines we all have and relax with family and friends. It was a lovely break, despite the wet conditions we had and from speaking to the children I know that they very much enjoyed their holidays. I know too that there were a lot of bugs circulating around over the last few weeks and many staff and children have been unwell. Please encourage your child to wash their hands regularly, use a tissue if needed (send them in with a packet) and cough into a tissue or their arm to prevent the spread of germs. Let's hope that the Spring will bring with it an end to these bugs.

This is a very short half term - it is only five weeks till February half term and there is a lot to be achieved. Teachers have been very proactive in booking trips for the next two terms and have been mindful to make every effort to keep costs to a minimum by opting for less expensive and in many cases free sessions, coupled with using public transport to reduce costs from becoming too high. I strongly encourage the teachers too offer as many memorable experiences as possible to bring the learning to life and provide an opportunity to give the child a chance to participate in something they would not ordinarily do. I would ask you parents that you ensure that you pay your contribution for such trips, even if we are asking for just a few pounds. If you are in financial difficulty you are asked to make contact with me so we can discuss your circumstances confidentially. I know that Angie contacted many parents in the week before Christmas, as we were closing the termly accounts and asked for the outstanding contributions of between £3.50 and £7.00 to be paid for trips that the pupils had been on in the Autumn term - several of which to date remain unpaid. We do not want to stop booking trips (many of which need to be paid for in advance at the time of booking) and we ask for your support.

As per the calendar dates sent out in September there will be parents evenings held on Monday 5th and Wednesday 7th Feb prior to half term and the booking system will go live next week. Please ensure that you make an appointment on one of these evenings to meet with your child's class teacher and celebrate all that your child has achieved at the halfway point in the year.

The term dates were sent out this week to you all - these are given so far in advance to help you plan your travel arrangements well into 2025 so with that in mind there will be no need for families to travel outside of the school holidays as you can book and plan so far ahead of time.

Wishing you all a good 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/new-start?pid=MTA101634&v=115.2>

St Agnes Feast Day

We will be celebrating the feast day of St Agnes on Fri 19th January.

As a school we will be going to mass in the Parish church at 11.00am which will be led by class 4AM. Parents are most welcome to join us - we would advise sitting in the gallery as downstairs will be packed!

FOSA have ordered Krispy Kreme donuts for each child as a treat - if you do NOT wish for your child to have one or if they have any allergies to them please inform the office by Wednesday 17th January and feel free to provide an alternative treat.



Class Assembly Dates

Please see below for this term's assembly dates for each class - we hope that by giving you these in advance you can make any necessary work arrangements needed to be able to attend.

Assembly Date	Class
17 th January	1B
24 th January	5M
31 st January	4D
7 th February	2M
21 st February	3C
28 th February	5P
6 th March	1Z
12 th March	3G
14 th March	2C
20 th March	4AM

Parents Evening - Feb 2024

Booking will go live on Monday 15th Jan at 9am and will be cut off on Monday 29th January for bookings on Monday 5th Feb 3.30-6pm and Wednesday 7th Feb 3.30-6pm. If you have any issues please ring the school office and ask for Mrs Kamel..

If you have not booked by 29th January you will need to contact the class teacher to arrange a booking. We advise early booking to get your most convenient slot.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert; potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat. Instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing Internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



NOS
National
Online
Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Class	Star of the Week
1B	Raphael
1Z	Lily
2C	Sophie
2M	Alex
3C	Mason
3G	Averie
4AM	Olivia
4D	Elias
5M	Jake
5P	Michael
6M	Veronica
6S	Jake
TT Rockstars	Abigail 3C
AFS	KS1 Shireen 2C
	KS2 Aldrich 3C

Birthdays up to 14th January 2024

8th Kenna 4D & Efe 2M
 9th Eli RS, Elise 6M & Joel 6S
 10th Alriz 6S, Temi 2M & Zachary 4D
 12th Diana 1B
 13th Martina RS & Mathilde 3G
 14th Haben 3C & Megan 3C



Autumn Term Attendance		
Class	Attendance %	Number of Lates
RB	96	2
RS	93	1
1B	93	3
1Z	97	4
2C	97	3
2M	92	1
3C	96	1
3G	95	1
4AM	97	2
4D	97	2
5M	94	0
5P	84	1
6M	96	3
6S	94	8
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

'Each new year we have before us a brand new book containing 365 blank pages. Let us fill them with all the forgotten things from last year - the words we forgot to say, the love we forgot to show and the charity we forgot to offer'

Peggy Toney Horton

