

Date: 19/01/2024

Issue: 17

# 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)

## JANUARY

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

## FEBRUARY

1st - Reception 'Independence and Next Steps' Parent Workshop 9am in hall

2nd - Years 4-6 Junior Disco 1:30-3pm

5th - Children's Mental Health Week

5th - Parents Evening (Years 1-6) 3:30-6pm

6th - Safe Internet Day

6th - Girls football match v The Hyde



## St Agnes Feast Day



Today we celebrated the feast day of our Patron Saint — St Agnes. We began the day with mass at our parish church —led brilliantly by Class 4AM who through readings and prayer reminded us of the qualities of St Agnes. Fr John gave the children a very thorough background and history to the short life of St Agnes, who sadly died at only 13 years. He reflected that Agnes was a very selfless, determined and courageous young lady. Despite many around her wanting to marry her, she chose to be a servant of Christ and truly devoted herself to him she said she was a 'bride of Christ'. It was lovely to see the children gathered as a community in church and as always their behaviour was wonderful.

Upon returning from mass, each year group participated in a RE lesson which focused on the life of St Agnes, her characteristics and all that she achieved in her short life. This session was different for each year group, so the children can build on their existing knowledge of their school patron saint.

EYFS- Collective worship.

Year 1: To recognise the life and work of St Agnes.

- Who she was and what she did?

Year 2: To recognise that people act in a certain way because of their faith in God.

- Who she was, what did she do and why?

Year 3: To understand why St Agnes devoted her life to God.

Who she was? What did she do and why? How can we follow in her example?

Year 4: To understand why St Agnes devoted her life to God.

What did she do and why? Who can you link her to- Fr John/St Teresa/ Pope?

Give reasons for beliefs and actions of these people.

Year 5: To explain why St Agnes belongs to the church community.

- What is the church community?

- What did St Agnes do?

- How can we be a part of the community?

- Link to source of revelation- Human experience

Year 6: To explain why St Agnes's actions were a consequence of her belief in God.

- What did she do? Link to sources of Revelation- Scripture and human experience.

- Link to Sacrament of Eucharist and Divine Mercy (her actions were as a result of her belief in Jesus and what he did for us).

In addition, everyone was treated to a Krispy Kreme donut to continue on the celebrations - many thanks to Indy & Ewelina for going out and collecting 480 donuts and to FOSA for paying for them. I know the children very much enjoyed them!

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/community?pid=MTA101634&v=116.3>

### *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 <sup>th</sup> January	1B
24 <sup>th</sup> January	5M
31 <sup>st</sup> January	4D
7 <sup>th</sup> February	2M
21 <sup>st</sup> February	3C
28 <sup>th</sup> February	5P
6 <sup>th</sup> March	1Z
12 <sup>th</sup> March	3G
14 <sup>th</sup> March	2C
20 <sup>th</sup> March	4AM

### *FOSA News*

FOSA are hosting a disco with DJ Dan for pupils in Years 4-6 on Friday 2nd February. It will be in the school hall in the afternoon. The cost per child is £6 which includes a snack and a drink. Pupils may wear their own clothes on that day also.

Please note payment must be made in advance with the **correct cash amount in an envelope which has your child's name on it**. The office is not able to take money **NOT** in an envelope and cannot give change.



### *Congratulations*

We were delighted on Monday to welcome back Miss Sheridan as the new Mrs Carey following her recent wedding and honeymoon. We wish her and her husband Darren a lifetime of joy, health and happiness.



### *Uniform reminder*

There is a number of children whose parents are not adhering to the school uniform policy and this is particularly seen in coats, scarves, gloves and hats. Whilst we understand that we have been experiencing a very cold snap in the weather, the colours permitted are bottle green only - as per the uniform policy. Please also note that boots are not permitted.

Please do not send your child to school with items which are not uniform.

### *Parent Forum*

Please let your class rep know if you have any items which you would like discussed at the next meeting.

These need to be submitted by Monday 22nd January at 2:30pm





**Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP**  
Minister for Schools

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT  
tel: 0370 000 2288 [www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfe](http://www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfe)

Mrs Susan O'Reilly  
St Agnes' Catholic Primary School  
Thorverton Road  
London  
NW2 1RG

08 January 2024

*Dear Mrs. O'Reilly,*

I am writing to congratulate you on your school's outstanding achievement in the 2023 Phonics Screening Check.

We want to ensure every child develops a firm grasp of phonics as the basis on which to improve standards of reading. As such I was delighted to see your results.

With 95 per cent of pupils in Year 1 at St Agnes' Catholic Primary School meeting the expected standard in the check, your school is in the top 5 per cent of all primary schools in the country.

The latest figures show that 83 per cent of pupils who met the expected standard in the check went on to achieve at least the expected standard in reading at key stage 2 in 2023, which underlines the importance of developing the ability to decode words effectively at an early age.

Your particular success in teaching phonics and early reading so effectively means your pupils are developing a firm foundation, from which they can become increasingly fluent and develop a lifelong love of reading.

I would like to thank you for your commitment and success in this vital area of a child's early education and congratulate you, your staff and pupils again on all you have achieved.

Yours sincerely,

**Damian Hinds**  
Minister for Schools



## **Bikeability**

Bikeability is a cycle training programme designed to give pupils the skills and confidence to ride their bikes on the road.

### **There are three levels of Bikeability training:**

- Control and master your bike in an off-road environment
- Cycle on-road and deal with traffic on short journeys
- Tackle a wider variety of more challenging road and traffic conditions (suitable for competent cyclists of secondary-school age).



Last week, children across Year 3 and 4 took part in the Level 1 bikeability training. Despite the frosty weather, the children thoroughly enjoyed the training they received. Here is what they had to say:

**Olivia 4AM – My favourite part was riding in a circle and playing games because it helped me learn and it was fun.**

**Emilie 4AM – I liked when we were riding our bikes and we had to carefully turn our heads to see the colour.**

**Jason 3C – The obstacles were my favourite part.**

**Mason 3C – When we played ‘red light’ and ‘green light’. It prepared me to use my breaks on busy roads.**

This week, it was Year 5 and 6’s turn to take on the Level 2 bikeability training. The instructors were very impressed with the level of skill and knowledge the children had. We hope to have the instructors in again to teach KS1. More details to follow.



**Miss O'Connor**

**School Travel Ambassador**



# SMARTPHONE SAFETY TIPS

## for young people

7

You may have been lucky enough to have unwrapped a smartphone at Christmas, or you might be eagerly anticipating getting a new one at some point during this year. Whether it'll be your first ever phone or an upgrade on your old model, it's always useful to have a refresher about how to set it up and adjust the settings to keep yourself – and your valuable personal info – safe and secure. We've collected some expert tips to help you enjoy your smartphone in the healthiest way possible.

### NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSCODE

Alongside face or fingerprint recognition, your passcode is crucial to unlocking your phone and accessing your apps and personal information. You shouldn't give it out, even to close friends – after all, you wouldn't hand them a key to your house and let them go in for a nosey around! If a friend wants to use your phone, ask them why and make sure you can see what they're doing with it.

### RESPECT PARENTAL CONTROLS

If you're allowed to have a smartphone, it's because your parents or carers feel that you're mature and responsible enough to use it safely. They might set controls and boundaries on your device – not to spoil your fun but to help you avoid hazards like too much screen time or costly in-app purchases. Following these rules means you can enjoy using your phone while respecting their wishes.

### TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT

Whether it's to listen to music, play games, create content or chat with friends, using a smartphone should be fun. If you're ever feeling anxious, worried or scared about going on your phone, then something isn't right. It's important not to ignore these feelings; instead, talk to a trusted adult about what's happening and how it's making you feel.

### STAY ALERT

Two words: look up. It might sound obvious, but it's so easy to get immersed in what we're looking at or listening to on our phones that we can become unaware of our surroundings – or who might be around us. People often walk with their head down, focusing on their phone, and forget to check for obstacles in their path, cars or other pedestrians coming towards them, which is clearly dangerous.

### DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS

Phones offer a vast amount of content and the chance to chat with friends whenever we feel like it, which can make it difficult to take time away from the screen. If that's something you struggle with, you could try setting time limits on certain apps. Putting our phones down for a while gives us more time to interact with others or do something physical that helps keep us fit and healthy.

### IGNORE UNKNOWN NUMBERS

There are some scammers who might call or text asking you to share personal data or to click on a link and provide your details. Some may claim to be from a genuine company, but trustworthy businesses don't spontaneously call or message to ask for your information. It's safest to ignore calls or texts from unknown numbers, and never give your personal details out over the phone.

### ONLY USE AGE-APPROPRIATE APPS

Before downloading a new app or game, check what age rating it has. Don't feel pressured into getting a particular game or app just because your friends are using it. If it's intended for older people, there's a definite risk that it could include content (which is violent or frightening, for instance) or language which isn't suitable and may leave you feeling upset or disturbed.

### REMOVE TEMPTATION

A good night's sleep is so important for concentration, mood and overall health. Unwinding properly before going to bed – which means not staring at a screen late at night – can often improve sleep quality. Put your phone on charge overnight, but not in your room. This means you'll have a lot less temptation to check any notifications, reply to messages or get caught up scrolling on social media.

### THINK ABOUT OTHERS

Watching videos, listening to music or calling someone can all help to pass the time while we're on the bus, waiting in a queue or walking down the street. It's important to remain mindful of other people, though; they might not want to hear your tunes or your conversation. Likewise, if you're calling from a public place then don't forget that anyone could overhear something personal about you.

### SWITCH OFF GEOLOCATION

In your phone's settings, you'll be able to disable geolocation for individual apps and photos; this means that people online (including strangers) can't see information about where you are when you share or post a pic. On the subject of images, it's also important to ask permission before taking or sharing a photo of someone – and don't share embarrassing images of your friends with others.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Butler 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 articles on research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



*O Holy St Agnes,  
When you were a young girl  
You gave your life to God  
Because you loved him so much  
Pray for us as we try to love God as you did  
And help us to love our neighbor as Jesus taught us  
St Agnes our Patron Saint, pray for us  
Amen.*

### Autumn Term Attendance

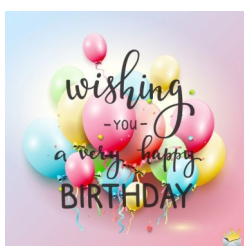
Class	Attendance %	Number of Lates
RB	95	4
RS	92	1
1B	95	4
1Z	97	6
2C	97	3
2M	95	3
3C	98	1
3G	99	0
4AM	97	0
4D	97	1
5M	97	0
5P	94	2
6M	98	0
6S	94	5
<b>School Target 97.5%</b>		

### 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.

### **Birthdays up to 21st January 2024**

15th Zoe D RS & Isabella 4AM  
16th Zoe 6S  
17th Maya Nursery & Sarah Nursery  
18th Sean 3G  
19th Luca Nursery & Bianca Nursery  
20th Bryan 5P  
21st Finnley 4AM



### **Thought of the Week**

'Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world'

Nelson Mandela

