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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

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

7th - Class 2M Assembly  
9:05am

7th - Year 4 Royal Opera House Workshop (virtual)

7th - Parents Evening (Years 1-6) 3:30-6pm

8th - Year 4 Royal Opera House Workshop (virtual)

9th- SCIENCE DAY

9th - Class 5M Mass 2:30pm

9th - Break up for half term- normal school closing time

Dear Parents

### **It's been a busy week!**

It has been a very busy week here at school with several trips taking place over the last few days. On Tuesday Year 3 went to the Verulamium in St Albans in conjunction with their topic being studied.

Year 1 undertook a visit to the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir temple which I heard was simply stunning. On Wednesday our Year 2 children were out at the Tower of London, several children upon their return reported it to be 'the best day ever!' There was also a sports event for some pupils in years 5 and 6 this week which staff accompanied them to. You can read more about these trips in the newsletter today, along with photographs of the day. My sincere thanks goes to the staff for organising such experiences to make the children's learning memorable, which is one of our main aims with the curriculum offered at St Agnes and I would also like to thank the parents who give of their time to go with the class as adult helpers - it really is appreciated.

### **On Monday 26th February we will be hosting our termly Governors**

**Morning** - where an aspect of the curriculum or school life will be looked at closely - with input from a subject leader or member of the Senior Leadership Team in addition to a learning walk in classes to see that aspect in practice. On this occasion the focus is 'All things Early Years' and Mrs Carey will give a presentation and facilitate governor visits to both Nursery and Reception. On these mornings we always include parents and you are ALL welcome to pop by and drop in for a coffee to meet a few governors of the school, this is your opportunity to ask a question, give feedback or suggest something to be considered by the Governing Body. Parents are most welcome to come in between **8.40am and 9.10am on Monday 26th February.**

We look forward to seeing all parents at the parent evening consultations on 5th and 7th February, the vast majority of parents have made an appointment with a 92% uptake - we still need the other 8% to choose a slot to meet their child's class teacher too.

Wishing you all a great weekend- the last one in the long month of January!

Regards,

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/teacher?pid=MTA101634&v=117.3>

*Date for your Diary*

Our next Sunday family school/parish mass will be held on Sunday 24th March at 10.30am. Please keep this hour free as it would be great to see a packed church with our children leading the mass.



**Year 1 Trip to BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Temples**

On Tuesday, Year 1 visited BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Neasden. This was a great opportunity for them to explore another faith and to see how they worship. The children were amazed at how grand the Mandir is and everyone was made to feel welcome during their visit. This is what some of the children had to say:

Maraki: I liked the ceiling in the prayer room.

Afiya: I liked the statues in the temple.

Maya: They used marble to build the temple, it is really hard and cold.

Julia: It was beautiful on the walls and the ceiling, there were flowers and curly things.

Lily: There is a giant elephant statue outside, it is really big!

Anna: My favourite was the big golden statue.

Jojo: We had to take our shoes off when we got in.



Next half term, Year 3 will be visiting Westminster Abbey. We are looking forward to the children exploring this famous building and seeing any differences with our church.

Parent comment from trip:

"Just wanted to pass on a quick message to say how much our child enjoyed her temple visit on Tuesday. I know the RE themed trips are a new initiative and it sounds like it's set to be a successful one. She recounted so much of it to me - how the building had 'three St Pauls' domes on top', that it took three years to build, was made of marble and brick, had two elephant statues inside, and was like a church for 'those people with the red dots on their foreheads.... Hindus!'

It was a great insight for her into another faith, and one she really enjoyed and got a lot from - a big thumbs up here!"

Miss Moran

### 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

The Parent Forum group met today and all the issues that had been added to the agenda were discussed and answered. Copies of the minutes will be emailed to each class rep and posted on the Parents Board.

Our next meeting will be held on Friday 22nd March at 9.00am and class reps will remind parents of the cut off point for submitting questions.



Year 2 and Year 5 took part in Fire Safety workshops last week. The children enjoyed the sessions and left knowing more about how to keep themselves and others safe.

"I really enjoyed it because it taught us about safety, electricity gets hot and can cause a fire" Olivia

"I loved it because it taught me not to cause a fire at home" Francesca

"I liked it when they told us that if the fire is in another room you have to touch the door handle to feel if it's hot" Daniel

"It taught me that if I'm doing something with candles I should stop it because it can cause a fire" Micah

"It taught me that I don't need to charge my device over night as it might overheat" Isabella

Home fire safety visits can be booked here: <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home/book-a-home-fire-safety-visit/>

Visits will be carried out either by Firefighters from the closest local fire station or by Community Safety Officers from London Fire Brigade. They will provide fire safety advice to the adults and children in the home and fit smoke alarms where needed. The visits and smoke alarms are completely free of charge.

Mrs Abbott-Myles  
PSHE Leader



### *Early Years Bedtime Story Session*

The children in reception and nursery enjoyed a special bedtime story evening last night. They came back to school in their pjamas and their teacher read them bedtime stories.

Thank you to the parents who attended, reading is so important and we hope it helps to inspire and create a love of reading and books.







## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# WHATSAPP

UK AND EUROPE  
**16+**  
13+ REST OF THE WORLD

WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls. Its end-to-end encryption means messages can only be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 (involving sharing data with parent company Facebook) caused millions to leave the app, but the new policy was widely misinterpreted – it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### SCAMS

Fraudsters occasionally send WhatsApp messages pretending to offer prizes – encouraging the user to click on a link to win. Other common scams involve warning someone that their WhatsApp subscription has run out (aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details) or impersonating a friend or relative and asking for money to be transferred to help with an emergency.

#### DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Users can set WhatsApp messages to disappear in 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days by default. Photos and videos can also be instructed to disappear after the recipient has viewed them. These files can't be saved or forwarded – so if your child was sent an inappropriate message, it would be difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot and save that as evidence.

#### ENABLING FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India in 2019, some outbreaks of mob violence appear to have been sparked by false allegations being shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### POTENTIAL CYBERBULLYING

Group chat and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

#### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a WhatsApp chat, you only need the mobile number of the person you want to message (the other person also needs to have the app). WhatsApp can access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts also use the app. So if your child has ever given their phone number to someone they don't know, that person could use it to contact them via WhatsApp.

#### LOCATION SHARING

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." It is a useful method for a young person to let loved ones know they're safe – but if they used it in a chat with people they don't know, they would be exposing their location to them, too.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

CLICK HERE

#### CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though someone would need a child's phone number to add them as a contact, it's also worth altering a young person's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are 'everyone', 'my contacts' and 'nobody' – choosing one of the latter two ensures that your child's profile is better protected.

#### EXPLAIN ABOUT BLOCKING

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them using 'settings' in the chat. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list – so they also need to be deleted from the address book.

#### REPORT POTENTIAL SCAMS

Young people shouldn't engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they'll be given the option to report it as spam. If the sender claims to be a friend or relative, call that person on their usual number to verify it really is them, or if it's someone trying to trick your child.

#### LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is in a group chat that is making them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they don't want to be part of, they can use WhatsApp's group settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once; if they leave a second time, it is permanent.

#### THINK ABOUT LOCATION

If your child needs to use the 'live location' function to show you or one of their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives a range of 'live location' options, and your child should manually stop sharing their position as soon as it is no longer needed.

#### DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child posts a message they want to delete, WhatsApp allows the user seven minutes to erase a message. Tap and hold on the message, choose 'delete' and then 'delete for everyone.' However, it's important to remember that recipients may have seen (and taken a screenshot of) a message before it was deleted.

#### CHECK THE FACTS

You can now fact-check WhatsApp messages that have been forwarded at least five times, by double-tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your child can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was true or not.

### Meet Our Expert

Parveen Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



**National Online Safety**

#WakeUpWednesday



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



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Class	Star of the Week
RB	James
RS	Ellie-Rose
1B	Arion
1Z	Arvyn
2C	Alia
2M	Laura
3C	Ada
3G	Thomas
4AM	Mark
4D	Edson
5M	THE WHOLE CLASS
5P	Isabella
6M	Zayn
6S	Nicolly
Reading Eggs	Eva 1B
TT Rockstars	Leo E 4D
AFS	KS1 Chris 2C
	KS2 Sam 6S

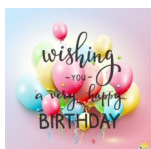
Autumn Term Attendance		
Class	Attendance %	Number of Lates
RB	78	3
RS	90	1
1B	95	4
1Z	93	3
2C	96	2
2M	96	1
3C	90	1
3G	98	0
4AM	93	3
4D	95	1
5M	98	1
5P	93	2
6M	97	1
6S	98	4
School Target 97.5%		

### 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.

### *Birthdays up to 28th January 2024*

25th Dagme 5M  
 26th Lois RB, Asher 3C, Gianna RS & Eloise 3G  
 27th Kauan 6M  
 28th Ryan 3G



### *Thought of the Week*

'Perseverance is not one race; indeed it is many short races to be ran, one after the other'

Walter Eliot

