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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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## MARCH

25th - Nursery Zoolab Workshop

28th- Stations of the Cross

28th - Early closing for Easter Holidays 1:45pm

29th March - 12th April Easter holidays

## APRIL

15th - Children return

22nd-26th Year 6 Mock SATs Week

26th - Class 5P Mass 2:30 in school

1st - EYFS Parents Workshop 'The Importance of Talk with Very Young Children'

2nd - Year 2 RNLI visit

6th - School Closed May Day Bank Holiday

13th - Year 6 SATs Week

15th - RB Hearing & Vision

16th - RS Hearing and Vision

17th - Class 4D Mass 2:30pm

20th - Walk to School Week

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy week here at school with several events taking place.

On Tuesday our KS1 pupils were involved in a road safety workshop which was delivered by an outside provider. It is essential that from a very young age we teach our children the importance of road safety and understanding the dangers that are present with roads and traffic. This message is clear for our older children too and I urge you as parents - particularly if your child travels to and from school alone to reiterate HOW to be safe. All too often children can be engaged in conversation, on their phones, have headphones in, weave on the road whilst on their scooter, all whilst crossing the road. I have recently reminded several children upon leaving school that they need to take greater care - although Thorverton Road is closed to all but permitted cars there are still dangers present.

The highlight of the week was the Voice in a Million concert at Wembley Arena - 29 children from the choir accompanied by Miss Duggan, Mrs Gale and Miss McSweeney went to Wembley to sing their hearts out after months of preparation. The event aims to raise the plight of children in care and encourage fostering. There are quite high costs associated with taking part but the school was happy to pay these as it is such an incredible experience. I must say the excitement of the children was incredible and they were buzzing when leaving here at lunchtime. I know that Miss Duggan will prepare a special feature on the event for the newsletter and I will not spoil it for you, however my sincere thanks goes to the children for representing their school as wonderful ambassadors, the staff who gave of their time and the parents who attended the show or arranged to pick their children up on time.

Yesterday was class photograph day - these were taken outside by our usual photographers (Versa) and they will be in touch in the coming weeks regards purchasing them. It was as though the weather knew we needed a little sun and came out just in time for us!

This morning we hosted our Parent Forum Meeting with the various class reps - a good discussion was had. All answers to questions raised will be placed on the Parent Board for all to see next week. The next meeting will be Friday 24th May and any items for the agenda need to be with your class rep by Monday 20th May.

Wishing you all a great weekend and of course we will be enjoying the wonderful celebration of Palm Sunday in church in preparation for Easter Week ahead - please take your child to mass this weekend so they can experience the full celebration of Easter and bring to life all they have been learning about in school.

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/follow?pid=MTA101634&v=123.5>

### ***Stations of the Cross***

As part of our Easter preparations the children in school will be taking part in a Stations of the Cross service on Maundy Thursday. We will be having separate sessions for EYFS/KS1 and KS2.

This is always a very solemn and reflective occasion and encourages the children to consider the struggle and pain Jesus went through for us on Good Friday.

### ***Good Luck Miss Batchelor***

Our Nursery teacher Miss Batchelor will be beginning her year long maternity leave next week as we break up for Easter.

She is looking forward to having a well deserved rest before the arrival of her baby in three weeks time. We wish her well and very much look forward to her visiting with Baby Batchelor in the coming months



### ***Neurodiversity Week***



This week at St. Agnes' we celebrated Neurodiversity Week. Through our PSHE and Collective Worship we celebrated that all our brains are different, which makes us think and act in unique ways. We discussed how we are all different and how this is welcomed and celebrated in our school.

### ***Early Closing***

Reminder - school closes at 1.45pm on Thursday 28th March - we ask that all children are collected promptly.

### ***AFS After School Clubs***

Please note if your child attends an AFS After School Club they all finished this week.

Please ensure your child is collected at normal time for the week commencing 25th March

- KS1 3:10pm
- KS2 3:15pm

### Year 3 Trip

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March year 3 visited the fabulous Kew Gardens. While there, we brought all our science learning to life looking at the different way's plants grow and got ideas for our DT greenhouse designs. The children were impeccably behaved from start to finish and the Year 3 team were very proud to take them out and about!





### Year 5 Expressionism Portrait Painting Workshop & Exhibition

Last week for their 'Expression' topic in Art, Year 5 enjoyed a portrait painting workshop with artist Georgie McEwan. The children explored proportion, colour and they learnt new painting techniques to enable them to create their own imaginative and expressive self-portraits.

After the workshop Year 5's parents came into school to view and celebrate their children's artworks. The turnout was fantastic and it was lovely to see and hear the children share their excitement about their day with their friends and family, while exhibiting their stunning Expressionist-style portrait paintings.

We are very fortunate that we have been able to give our pupils this memorable experience, funded by the Arts Depot in Finchley. Judith commented, "I loved that Georgie taught us different painting techniques!". Jack added, "She taught us about a lot of different Expressionist artists". Ashez said, "She helped us understand the concept of art". A big thank you to the Arts Depot and Georgie (the artist) for enabling our pupils to develop their skills in Art and thrive in their creative learning.





# What Children & Young People Need to Know about **FREE VS HATE SPEECH**

Everyone in the UK has the right of "freedom of expression". That's the right to voice your opinions and share information and ideas with others. It's not the right to say whatever you want without regard for others' feelings and values. We all have a responsibility to use this right properly: being respectful and inclusive to those around us, rather than making offensive and threatening remarks. That's called 'hate speech' and knowing the difference is incredibly important.

Free speech is a person's legal right to share information, opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship or legal consequences. This freedom of expression is recognised in international human rights legislation, and here's what it does for us in our day-to-day lives ...

The Human Rights Act 1988 states that everyone has the right to express themselves freely – even if their views are unpopular and might offend others.

Freedom of expression encourages listening to others and allowing opposing views to be heard. It's important to respect someone's opinion, even if we disagree with it. Free speech lets us engage in meaningful discussions with people who feel differently.

Any concept could potentially offend someone. Galileo's theories were incredibly offensive to many at the time, while not everyone agrees with Darwin, even today. A frequent exchange of ideas is vitally important for a healthy society.

Free speech allows us to engage people we disagree with in a debate. The ability to challenge others' views is healthy – while having ours challenged helps us learn how to deal with criticism and think deeply about what we say and believe.

Freedom of expression includes the right not to do something, like not standing up for – or singing – the national anthem. Even though some people would find that offensive, it isn't illegal. By law, nobody can force you to say anything you don't want to.

Free speech is a powerful tool for change, justice and reform. Many modern UK rights – such as women being allowed to vote, decent working conditions or same-sex marriage – couldn't have been achieved without it.

Hate speech refers to any communication – like talking, texting or posting online – that negatively targets a group or an individual because they are perceived to be different in some way. Demonsing and dehumanising statements, threats, identity-based insults, offensive name-calling and slurs would all count as hate speech. Here are some common forms it takes...

Targeting people or groups because of a protected characteristic – like race, gender identity, sexuality, nationality, religion or a disability – and verbally abusing them with slurs and name-calling. The Equality Act 2010 has more information on this.

Content that dehumanises people based on the same characteristics: referring to them as if they were animals, objects or other non-human entities, for example. Separating the target from other human beings is usually an attempt to justify the speaker's bigotry.

Calling for violence or hatred against certain people or groups and justifying and glorifying those actions. Suggesting that a certain group should be removed from society could be seen as a call to arms, for example – potentially putting people from that group in danger.

Claiming that specific types of people are physically, mentally or morally inferior (or even that they are criminals) to encourage others to view them in the same way. This kind of thinking is always incorrect – but can be incredibly harmful to the group in question.

Spreading damaging misinformation about a person or group that the speaker views as "different" – essentially, trying to turn others against them by lying. Someone might claim that a recent tragedy is the fault of this entire group, when this is simply not possible.

Promoting the segregation of certain groups, or discrimination against them, because of who they are. This has been illegal in the UK for a long time – but some people still try to promote the exclusion of others, which can cause a huge amount of distress.

## Meet Our Expert

The Global Equal by Collective is an online community for homes, schools and businesses, a collective of hundreds of subject matter experts in diversity, equality and inclusion, and the organisation behind the GEC app, the world's first app for diversity, equality and inclusion.

GLOBAL  
EQUALITY  
COLLECTIVE

The  
National  
College

NOS

National  
Online  
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Class	Star of the Week	
RB	Christel	
RS	Saviour	
1B	Carlin	
1Z	Amaya	
2C	Sofia	
2M	Lena	
3C	Nick	
3G	Ryan	
4AM	Isabella	
4D	Juan-David	
5M	Eirinn	
5P	Olivia	
6M	Kauan	
6S	Olivier	
TT Rockstars	Zefania 4D	
Reading Eggs	Lois RB	
AFS	KS1	Gracia 2C
	KS2	Megan 3C

Autumn Term Attendance		
Class	Attendance %	Number of Lates
RB	95	1
RS	97	0
1B	94	1
1Z	88	3
2C	95	1
2M	97	0
3C	97	0
3G	93	1
4AM	91	0
4D	93	0
5M	96	0
5P	93	3
6M	93	1
6S	98	3
School Target 97.5%		

### ***Birthdays up to 24th March 2024***

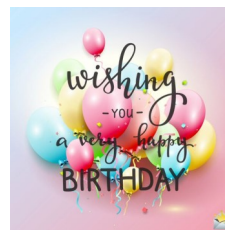
18th Daniel 6S, Sienna 6S & Clare 2M

19th Hanyel 6M

21st Adriel 1B

22nd Eva 2M

24th Oziel 1Z, Mason 3C & Rayan-Daniel RB



### **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**

'Hosanna. Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heavens'

Mark 11: 9-10

