

ST AGNES NEWS

Spring 1 2025



Welcome

Welcome back to the St. Agnes newspaper!
Our fantastic journalists have been working hard on their articles this term.

We hope you enjoy this edition.



The family of St Agnes loves, learns and grows together as followers of Jesus.

Father John Buckley

by Kenna Adugna

Fr John Buckley has been serving as parish priest at St Agnes Roman Catholic Church for 9 years.

In September 2024 Fr John had stepped down from the role of our parish priest. He was diagnosed with a very serious illness.

He sadly passed away on the 25th of January 2025.



Fr John Buckley facts:

Fr John was a lovely priest that served at many Holy Communions and Baptism ceremonies and has been our parish priest at St Agnes Primary School for 9 years. He blessed our school in 2017 as part of our 125 year anniversary.

He will be remembered for his work and kindness that he showed to us.

Rest in peace.



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SOCIAL ACTION LEADERS

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope



The Social Action Leaders spent a day at Blessed Dominic Primary School this term listening to Sister Judith inspire us with social action ideas during Jubilee Year 2025.

Pope Francis has called this Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope'. It's an invitation to renew our hope, a hope which comes from knowing that God loves each one of us, whoever we are.

He has asked us to be signs of hope for others by caring for the those in need.

We enjoyed spending time with Sister Judith and came away with many ideas for social action, starting with our St Valentine's Day Cake Sale in aid of CAFOD.



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HMPV Virus

by Nol Rozhaja.

What is the New Virus HMPV in China?

Scientists in China have found a new virus that can make people sick, like the flu. Some people might get a fever, cough, or feel tired, but most get better quickly.

How does it spread?

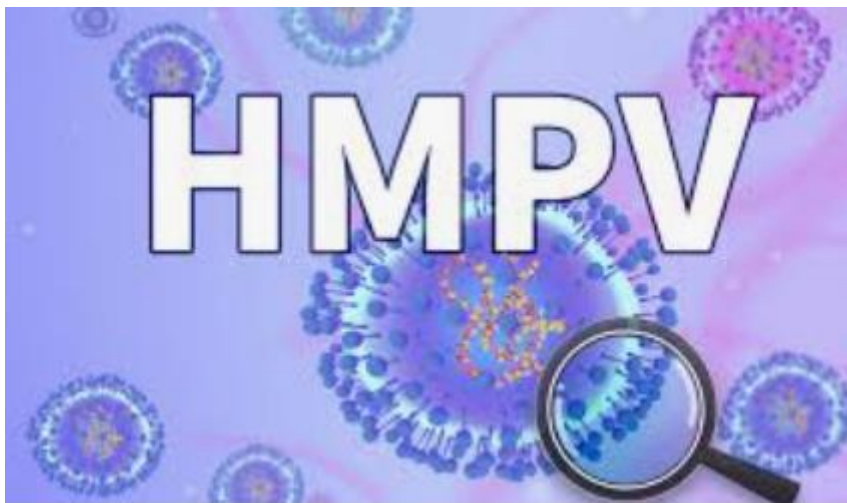
The virus spreads when people cough, sneeze, or touch things with germs on them.

What can you do?

- ~Wash your hands often with soap.
- ~Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze.
- ~Tell an adult if you feel sick.

Should you worry?

No! Doctors and scientists are working to keep everyone safe. Just follow these tips to stay healthy!



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Meeting the Pope

By Tricia Fiel

In our Catholic community, 2,000 years have passed since the first Pope. The Pope is one of the most important figures in our Church community. Over the years, we have acknowledged the significance of the Pope. From St Peter to Pope Francis, Popes have been known to be the closest human to God. However, recently a fellow pupil of St Agnes, specifically Juan-David from 5P, has met Pope Francis while on a trip in Italy.

In Europe, every year on 6th January, the three kings arrive and in the morning Pope Francis does a mass on the three kings from 9AM-12PM. After the mass, Pope Francis goes outside and blesses everyone. On Monday 6th January 2025, Juan-David from 5P made plans with his family to go meet Pope Francis. This was a greatly significant day for him.

Juan David travelled to the Cathedral of Saint Peter, which was where he met the Pope. At the Cathedral of Saint Peter, all the bishops were gathering around Pope Francis around the altar. The mass was regarding the three kings, frequently called as the Magi. While the mass was ending, all the individuals attending the mass appeared outside the mass except the Pope. Instead the Pope proceeded to go to a large, sky high location so he could bless all the people outside of the church. Juan-David said "He spoke in Italian and uttered the words 'I bless you all'.", to all the people standing stationary outside the cathedral. Juan-David and his family were one of those people. After he spoke these four words, he headed back inside. After this, Juan-David and his relations soon left.

Juan-David had enjoyed this significant moment meeting Pope Francis with his family. He has greatly cherished this occasion and after he had left, he carried on his holiday in Italy. It was a huge momentous time of his life.

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Historical London

by Manuela Monteiro.

History in England

Welcome everyone! On this fabulous day we will travel all the way back to 1066 to learn about the History of England. We will then time travel to another time that is currently a secret.. Read on to find out what it is!

1066

Welcome to 1066 my fellow friend! How are you on this finest day in the history of the world? Well, I'm not doing too well.. The battle of Hastings just started a few days ago! It started on the 14th of October 1066 about ten km north of the city of Hastings in East Sussex. William the Conqueror was the king at the time and he wanted a battle.

1509

Welcome to the 16th century, Tudor citizen! We are here on the 22nd of April 1509 to witness king Henry VIII getting crowned! He is getting crowned today since his father, king Henry VII , has died. The Tudors have made many inventions that we have taken and upgraded. For example, flushing toilets and theatres. That's right, the Tudors invented things we use in our everyday life!

1536

Hello everyone! We are in 1536 currently, during the reign of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn! Right now, King Henry has sentenced Anne to death by beheading her. Poor Anne, right? Well Henry seems to not care since he already has a new wife! Anne is heading up the scaffold now- see you all later!



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Historical London

by Manuela Monteiro.

1666

Hi everyone! We are currently in the sad time of 1666- when the great fire of London started! It started in Pudding Lane because of a baker who forgot to turn off their oven and a spark came out of the oven since it was turned on. All of the houses back then were built close together and out of wood, so the fire spread quickly throughout the whole of London.

1837

Queen Victoria became the Queen today! Woo hoo! Did you know that Queen Victoria started the trend of wearing a white dress at weddings? Well now you do. Also, our queen is the first one ever to live in Buckingham palace, a huge palace with over 1000 rooms!

Thank you for time travelling with me, I really enjoyed it and I hope you did too! I also learnt a lot of things, and I hope you did as well! Thank you so much for reading this, goodbye!



Year 1 recently re-enacted the Great Fire of London in the Key Stage 1 playground. Here is a picture of Pudding Lane on fire!

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Chocolate

by Manuela Monteiro.



WHY WAS CHOCOLATE INVENTED?

Chocolate was originally a bitter drink consumed by ancient civilizations such as the Olmecs, Mayans, and Aztecs. The sweet pulp of wild cacao trees in South America attracted animals, allowing cacao to flourish undisturbed for millions of years. Ancient Mesoamericans believed chocolate had mystical and medicinal qualities, using it for sacred ceremonies and funeral offerings. European exploration and innovation transformed chocolate into the sweet confection we enjoy today.

HOW IS CHOCOLATE MADE?

Raw cocoa beans are fermented to develop flavor. After fermentation and drying, the beans are roasted. The hull is removed from the bean, and the inner nib is extracted. The nibs are ground to produce cocoa mass or pure chocolate. The chocolate is tempered and molded. The final chocolate is packaged and presented.

WHEN WAS CHOCOLATE FIRST INVENTED?

Chocolate has a rich history that dates back over 5,000 years. The Olmec civilization (around 1500 BCE) is credited with the early use of cacao, while the Mayan civilization began using chocolate around 400 AD. The Aztecs also played a significant role in the history of chocolate, using it as a beverage and a form of currency. Thus, while the exact "invention" of chocolate is complex, its roots can be traced back to these ancient cultures.

WHAT COUNTRY HAS THE MOST COCOA POWDER?

Ghana is the second biggest cocoa producing country in Africa, with an annual production of approximately 460,000 tonnes in 2023/2024. Ghana lost more than a third of its 2023/24 cocoa output to smuggling, according to Cocobod officials, adding to woes that brought production to a more than two-decade low and helped send global cocoa prices to record highs. Cocoa is the main cash crop of Ghana taking up an estimated 1.9 million hectares of land and supporting over 800,000 people that make a living out of the sector. More than 70% of their cocoa are exported to Europe and America and a quarter of it are processed within the country. But things are set to change as Ghana have announced plans to increase the local processing of their own beans to 50% with a partnership with China and the opening of a new \$60 million factory.

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SPRING 1 FUN



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