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Issue: 1

St Agnes' Weekly News

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

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SEPTEMBER

8th—House Captain
Elections

25th—Reception Information
& FOSA Coffee morning 9am

25th—International Evening
3-5pm

29th—Year 4 Swimming
starts for 10 days

OCTOBER

2nd—Nursery Information &
Coffee Morning 9am

2nd—Year 1 Science Dome
Workshop

3rd—St Faustina Feast Day

3rd—Maggie's Coffee
Morning

9th—Individual Photo Day

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new school year

I sincerely hope that you all had a good summer break and managed to enjoy a break from the usual routines and some well earned relaxing time. It was great to see the children return on Tuesday, looking so much taller and refreshed and eager to start in their new classes. Walking around the school during lesson time has been an opportunity for me to see the children happy and settled with learning once again taking place. Our Year 3 pupils have very much enjoyed coming over into the 'big' playground and they have loved their opportunity to play in the MUGA. One of the loveliest aspects of my week was observing the children playing together and having fun and thoroughly enjoying being reunited with their friends.

Our Year 6 children received their special jumpers today which distinguishes them from the rest of the school - an outward sign of their maturity and their last year within primary school. Thank you to FOSA for buying them. They have also been invited to consider putting themselves up for nomination for the roles of House and Vice Captain - writing their pledge/manifesto over the weekend and delivering it to all the children from the rest of the school within their house on Monday. This really is a brilliant opportunity for our oldest pupils to take on a responsibility and show initiative. I look forward to announcing our new House Captains next week.

During the summer holidays we had quite an extensive range of works undertaken which included:

- A brand new KS2 MUGA pitch and line markings £37, 000
- New Reception outdoor area flooring £15,500
- Refurbishment of staffroom £16,000
- New fire doors in the school kitchen £2,000
- Rephasing of existing electrics (to avoid future power cuts as experienced last year) £7,000
- A raft of other smaller services and repairs £10,000

The above works will all help to keep our school in great condition and ensure it remains a pleasant place to learn and work in for everyone. As parents your contributions towards the school building fund help to allow us to undertake such projects. My thanks goes to Chris for his help in facilitating these works over the holidays.

We look forward to begin welcoming our Nursery and Reception children as they start arriving from Tuesday onwards, with a few more joining on allocated days over the next few weeks.

Wishing you all a great weekend,

Susan O'Reilly



St Teresa Feast Day

The children from St Teresa's house went to the Parish Church for mass today to celebrate their feast day.

It was a great opportunity to give thanks for the life of St Teresa and the lessons she taught us throughout her humble life of service and charity. She is a modern day saint which makes it so much easier for us to relate to her as she lived in recent times and was understanding of the world's problems and more importantly part of the solution to resolve these.



New Parish Priest

We are very excited to learn that St Agnes' Parish and school have been allocated a new Parish Priest - Fr Chinedu.

As I understand it, Fr Chinedu is familiar with the parish, having spent some time here some years ago. We very much look forward to working with him in the future and further strengthening our school/parish links.

Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to Miss Minihan who has joined our teaching staff this week, she will be taking class 1M for the full academic year. This has enabled Miss Bachelor to return to Nursery.

Parents in year 1 and Nursery have been informed of the change earlier this week.

Breakfast and After School Clubs

Please note that both clubs are run by our outside provider - LBL at St Agnes, although some of our staff do work in the clubs. All bookings must be made directly via LBL and payment made directly to them - not the school. If you need to contact LBL you can do so by accessing their website <http://www.lblclub.co.uk/>.

The link for the iPal booking system: <https://lblclub.ipalbookings.com/>

Please note that all payments must be made via Arbor. If you have any issues accessing Arbor, please contact the school office.

Celebrating Birthdays

This book will have a special addition on the front page, saying who donated it on the special occasion of their birthday.

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 Gale, Mrs Breslin or our Chair of Governors Gill Abbott). In cases where school staff have concerns, they have



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 19% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

ONLINE GROOMING THREATS

Predators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. This may quickly develop into grooming or exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2023, UK police recorded nearly 34,000 online grooming offences – an 82% increase in just five years.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while interacting with online contacts – especially via TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 45% of children aged 8 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or upset.

PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS

Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 15-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they'd only spoken to online.

COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY

Meeting an online 'friend' in real life risks placing a child in serious danger. From abduction to coercion, the consequences can be devastating. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

Online harm – such as cyberbullying, grooming or exposure to disturbing content – can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. 'Sexortion' gangs, who threaten to release sexual information about a person unless they pay them money, have reportedly targeted children as young as 11, leaving them traumatised and ashamed.

LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS

Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent, or self-worth. In a recent case, a 26-year-old posed as a girl on Snapchat to befriend children aged 10 to 16, manipulating them into sexual activity and causing profound emotional distress. One 12-year-old tragically died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological harm online friendships with strangers can cause.

26 FRIENDS ONLINE NOW

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS

Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning, like pressure tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share – and whom they're talking to.

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from opening up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to disclose problems before they escalate.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS

Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with over 30 years' experience in supporting children, families, and adults across education, local authority, and mental health settings – both in the UK (including at Parliamentary level) and internationally.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Class	Star of the Week
1C	Alessandro
1M	Sarah P
2D	Michelle
2HK	Liseli
3FW	Kamil
3M	Philip
4I	Emily
4M	Connor
5A	Zain
5J	Chloe
6C	Mark
6P	Benjamin
Reading Eggs	Luka M 1M
TT RockStars	Victoria 4M

Weekly Attendance		
Class	Attendance %	Number of Lates
1C	94	0
1M	94	2
2D	95	3
2HK	96	0
3FW	100	0
3M	89	7
4I	97	0
4M	100	1
5A	96	3
5J	96	0
6C	95	1
6P	93	3
School Target 97.5%		

Pupil Premium:

The school receives additional funding for some families. This funding is used to enhance your child's learning in many different ways e.g. additional support, learning experiences and may help with payments for school trips. This funding is a vital part of the school's budget so please read the criteria below to see if you qualify.

If either parent is on income support, job seekers allowance, is in receipt of child tax credit but not working tax credit and has an income less than £16,190 or is an asylum seeker supported by the NASS or the local council.

Birthdays: up to 7th September 2025

- 1st Kassem 3FW
 2nd Rain 5J
 5th Ysaac 2HK
 6th Laurence 6C & JJ 2HK
 7th Freya 1B, Hanna 4M, Natalie 4I & Zara 5A



Thought of the Week

'Summer's lease hath all too short a date'

William Shakespeare

