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# St Agnes' Weekly News

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

Head: Susan O'Reilly

Deputy Head: Sophie Gale

Thorverton Road, Cricklewood, NW2 1RG  
Tel: 020 8452 4565

[www.stagnesnw2.co.uk](http://www.stagnesnw2.co.uk)

## SEPTEMBER

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

10th—Year 5 Golder Green  
Park Trip

16th—Year 2 Tower of Lon-  
don Trip

20th - Flu Vaccinations Day  
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Dear Parents,

### House Captain Elections

On Monday of this week we held our annual house and vice captain elections. This is both an exciting and daunting prospect for our Year 6 pupils as they are pushing themselves out of their comfort zone and it takes a lot of courage to stand up in front of your peers and canvas their votes!

Each pupil that put themselves forward had prepared a speech outlining why they wanted to be considered for the role of House Captain and what they would do as the House representative. Once the children from the rest of the school had heard all speeches, each had a vote to cast.

I am very pleased to announce that our House and Vice Captains for this year are as follows:

**St Alban** - Olivia A Captain & Adley Vice-Captain

**St Faustina** - Leo E & Jasmine Vice-Captain

**St John Southworth** - Sara Captain & Nol Vice-Captain

**St Teresa** - Olivia R Captain & Zachary Vice-Captain

We would really encourage the children chosen to bring something new to the role and I know that Miss Francis Williams who has the responsibility of liaising with the pupils is very much looking forward to working with them too. We have asked for each house captain/Vice to plan an event for their house prior to the October half term—this allows them 7 weeks to plan and implement it! For the remaining Year 6 pupils there will be a variety of other roles on offer which many can become involved in.

Wishing everyone a great weekend,

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/wednesday-word/good-news?pid=MTA101634&v=163.4>

### **Holy Communion Applications**

Holy Communion Application forms will be available to collect from the Parish office from Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Please collect them during our office hours of 9am-1pm.

The deadline for returning forms is Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September. Any forms handed in after this time will not be accepted.

There are limited spaces this year, so once the program is full, they not be able to accept any more children.

### **Secondary Transfer Catholic Practice Forms**

Fr Chinedu will be signing Catholic Practice forms by appointment on:

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Sept - 10am-1pm

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept - 10am-1pm & 5-6:30pm.

Please call the parish to book an appointment on 0208 452 2475. Office hours are now Monday through Thursday, 9am-1pm.

### **Beginning of New School Year Mass**

We will be celebrating the start of the new academic year with mass in the Parish Church on **Friday 19th September at 11.00am.**

Fr Chinedu will be saying his first mass for us as a school, with the help of class 6P.

All parents are welcome to join us but we would ask that you sit in the gallery upstairs as the pews downstairs will of course have the pupils in. We look forward to seeing you there - what a great way to begin the new year!

### **Reading Dogs**

This week, the children in year 1 adopted their very special reading dogs and promised to read to their dog for 15 minutes every night! The children were very excited and inspired to go home and read a story to their new pet.



Mrs Carey



### **Well Done**

During the summer holidays Ciara decided to cut her extremely long hair and a total of 19 inches was donated to The Little Princess trust

The Little Princess Trust's mission is to give Hair and Hope to children with cancer.

The charity marks its 20th year of providing wigs to young people with hair loss

The Little Princess Trust provides free real hair wigs to children and young people up to the age of 24, who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or other conditions.



### **Welcome to our School**

We would like to give a warm welcome to the following children who have joined our school this week.

**Nursery**—Elena, Kacie, Milo, Noah, Thomas, **Annabelle, Charles, Elisa, Enzo, Fatima & Lia.**

**Reception**—Eilla Nicoletta, Olivia, Natalia, Melissa, Charlie, Benjamin, Laylani, Daniel, Yona, Emily Sofia, Luna Matilda, Kaylum, Kenzley, Sarah, Aidan, Gabriel, Orlan, Raylen, Zuzanna, Suzette, Maya, Jhon, Alexa, Kabir, Aris, Florence & Raphael.

Georgi, Delsa, Jude & Matheus have also joined us in Years 5 & 6.



### **Contact Information**

Could you ensure that the school office has all your up to date contact information ie mobile number and email address in case we need to speak to you or send emails/text messages to keep you updated on school life. It is important we also have up to date emergency contact details should your child have an accident at school.



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

Your co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

### **Celebrating Birthdays**

This is a reminder that we ask parents who wish to celebrate their child's birthday with their classmates to either send in fruit/raisins to share or even better liaise with the class teacher to buy a book that can be donated to the class library.

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

This will be enjoyed by the children throughout the year.



### **International Evening**

We are very much looking forward to our annual evening of food and drink representing all of the countries our families come from.

This will be held on Thursday 25th September 3-5pm. This is being organised by Miss McNulty and a consent form has been set up on Parentapp if you are interested in taking part. The closing date for applications is Monday 15th September.

### **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 WHATSAPP

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

WhatsApp is a free messaging service owned by Meta which allows users to send text and voice messages, make video calls, share multimedia – such as images, videos, documents and polls – and have group chats. WhatsApp messages are encrypted, meaning only the sender and the recipient can view what is sent. While this privacy may sound attractive on paper, this app comes with several associated risks that must be considered – especially for younger users.

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

### GROUP CHATS

Group chats let friends talk together but can pose problems for young users. They might feel excluded – like discovering events they weren't invited to. Hurtful comments can also escalate quickly, as more people join in, amplifying the impact through a wider audience.

### EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it attractive to scammers. Tactics include impersonating a child in an 'emergency' to request money, or triggering a login code, then pretending to be WhatsApp and asking for it – giving them access to private messages and personal data.

### CHANNELS

'Channels' let users follow topics anonymously, interacting only through polls or emoji reactions. However, fake channels can mimic real ones, spreading misinformation, hate speech, or phishing for personal data. WhatsApp may also collect and share channel-following info with third parties, raising privacy issues.

### DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Disappearing messages help share sensitive info, but young people may wrongly assume they're fully private. Senders can opt for their message to vanish after 24 hours, 7 days, or 90 days – or for media, after one view. However, recipients can still save them by bookmarking or taking screenshots, reducing their privacy.

### FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's simplicity makes sharing news quick – accurate or not. To help curb misinformation, messages forwarded over five times now show a 'Forwarded many times' label with a double arrow. This alerts users that the message isn't original and may be unreliable.

### CHAT LOCK

The new 'Chat lock' feature lets users store specific messages in a separate passcode- or biometrically-protected folder. While useful for privacy, it could be misused by younger users to hide conversations or content they know parents and educators might find inappropriate, including age-restricted material.

### VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature helps friends meet up or parents check a child's route home. However, anyone in a child's group chats can track their location, potentially revealing their home address or regular travel patterns to strangers.

### AI INTEGRATION

Meta AI on WhatsApp poses risks to children, including exposure to misinformation, inappropriate content, and data privacy issues. AI responses may be inaccurate, and kids might share personal information unknowingly. It can also hinder critical thinking by offering ready-made answers.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution. Get them to consider, for example, whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

### THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content sent to one user to then be shared more widely, and even publicly on social media. Encourage them to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

### ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. To do this, go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups'. You can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if the child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

### CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Have a conversation with youngsters about how they're using WhatsApp, emphasising that it's for their own safety. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of messages that are in there, who they're with and why they have been hidden. Also, if a young user has sent any 'view once' content, discuss their reasons for using this feature.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland 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 carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp-2025>

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Class	Star of the Week
1C	Hiram
1M	Ali
2D	Kiara
2HK	Ysaac
3FW	Hassan
3M	Arvyn
4I	Alessio
4M	Gabriel
5A	Perry
5J	Rain
6C	Delsa
6P	Kenna
Reading Eggs	Juaquin
TT RockStars	Adam 3M

Weekly Attendance		
Class	Attendance %	Number of Lates
RM	98	1
RZ	91	4
1C	96	1
1M	95	2
2D	94	5
2HK	98	7
3FW	94	7
3M	89	16
4I	95	6
4M	99	5
5A	98	4
5J	97	6
6C	96	4
6P	93	10
<b>School Target 97.5%</b>		

### **Birthdays: up to 14th September 2025**

8th Isabella 1B  
 9th Otavio 1C  
 12th Elijah 1M  
 13th Michelle 2D  
 14th Olivia A 6P & Grace 6C



### 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.

### **Thought of the Week**

'To be always united with Jesus, this is the plan of my life'

Blessed Carlo Acutis

