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Issue: 6

St Agnes' Weekly News

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

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OCTOBER

15th—Class 6C Assembly

9:05am,

16th—Year 2 Tower of London Trip

16th—Cross Country Event at Copthall

17th - Just One Tree Day—
Non-uniform in exchange for £1

17th—Class 5A mass in church at 2:30pm

20th—Flu Vaccinations Day 1

20th—Parents Evening Years 1-6 only—3:30-6pm

21st—Class 6P Assembly
9:05am

21st—FOSA meeting 2:15pm in hall

21st—Girls Football match v Golders at The Orion Primary School

22nd—Parent Forum Meeting
9am

22nd—Years 3 & 4 Dodgeball event at Copthall

22nd—Reception Zoolab Workshop

22nd -Parents Evening Years 1-6 3:30-6pm

Dear Parents

School Values

Our long standing school values at St Agnes School have been respect, perseverance, equality and honesty. Over the course of this year we are going to examine some of these values in greater detail so that they are truly understood by the children and what they mean in their everyday lives.

Our Social action Leaders (led by Mrs Higgins) prepared a wonderful assembly on the value for this half term which is **RESPECT**. They told us that respect is showing that we care for the feelings and well being of others. Regardless of people's beliefs, backgrounds or heritage we need to treat everyone with respect as it is the will of God. We are all created in the image and likeness of God.

They shared scripture from **John 13:34-35** 'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another'.

The Social action Leaders helped us to reflect on ways in which we can show respect whilst in school and in our homes and everywhere that we are present. They reminded us of many people whom had shown respect to others in their lives including St Francis of Assisi and St Teresa.

Within school staff and pupils will be watching out for actions that really show the value of respect being carried out and children that show this will be receiving special green star stickers. Should your child come home with one, please ask them about it and celebrate it with them. At the end of the half term there will be a value postcard *(one per class) which will be sent home to recognise supreme efforts within that value.

Listening to the news in recent months and years with so many reports of areas in the world where differences are not tolerated and there is little respect for others, leading to war and displacement for many is not what we want our children to think the world is like. We can show them that respect is a value we show to all and our actions make a positive difference to our community and our position within the wider world.

Regards for a good weekend,

Susan O'Reilly



Just ONE Tree Day

Friday 17th October is Just One Tree Non-Uniform Day (green or brown) in exchange for £1 donation.

Money needs to be brought in, in the morning and handed to the class teacher.

Miss McNulty

Geography Leader

Our school will be taking part in **JUST ONE Tree Non-Uniform Day.**

Each child will be encouraged to bring in £1 to plant a tree – uniting children, parents and schools across the world in taking positive action for our climate.

Together let's plant a future for our children.

JUST ONE Tree is an award winning non-profit removing CO2 from the atmosphere and reversing biodiversity loss through global reforestation.

JUST £1 plants 1 Tree



JUST ONE Tree supports reforestation projects in Madagascar, Haiti, Indonesia, Mozambique, Nepal, Kenya and Zambia.



JUST ONE TREE.

And in the process helps to provide training, agricultural education and stable, fair incomes....



...reducing extreme poverty within local communities.

www.justonetree.life

The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal

From Monday, after school in the KS1 playground we will begin supporting The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

You will be able to make a donation in exchange for a paper poppy or other items in the collection.

The donation can be small or large all are accepted; however, a suggested donation would be £2 per poppy. **Cash only please.**





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>

St Agnes' Parent Prayer Group.

Every Thursday morning 9:00am- 9:20am.

This is an informal parent group which will meet weekly.

It is a wonderful way of meeting others, praying the Rosary, praying for intentions.

Those wishing to attend please congregate at the Grotto on Thursday at 9am.

Many Thanks

Mrs Gale



Maggie's Bake & Brew Morning

A SINCERE and well deserved thank you to everyone who supported us last Friday for our coffee morning. Your generous cake donations, popping along to the coffee morning and donations at the impromptu cake sale in the rain after school helped to raise a huge **£466**.

I know that Maggie's as a local charity at the Royal Free Hospital will be able to put that money to excellent use. Our money is enough to provide 15 sessions with a psychologist for a family living with cancer, where a child may be affected. This really is life changing.



MAGGIE'S

Everyone's home of cancer care

Half Term Holiday

Please note when booking travel arrangements for the forthcoming half term that school breaks up on **Friday 24th October** (NOT early closing) and children return on **Tuesday 4th November** (Monday 3rd is a Teacher Training Day).

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 a duty to discuss the issue with Social Services to seek further advice. This is the statutory obligation of all schools.

Parent Forum

Parents, we are looking for one parent per class to join the Parent Forum group. This role requires you to attend an hour meeting once per half term (typically the Wednesday at 9.00am prior to half term). You will join with the Head and Deputy, bringing forward items to be discussed to further strengthen and celebrate school life. There is only ONE vacancy per class.

Classes without Reps include– Nursery, 2HK, 4I, 4M, 5J & 6P.

If you have been a rep before it does not prevent you from being considered, however we understand if you would like to allow someone else the opportunity we welcome new members. Please contact the office and give your name if interested.

The first meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd October at 9.00am.



Congratulations

Congratulations to George 4M who came second place at the British Open 2025, in British Kyukoshin Karate, which is one of the most historic full contact knockdown tournaments in the world.



Reception Parents - Chatty Children Workshop

All Reception parents are invited to the Chatty Children' workshop on **Tuesday 14th October at 9.00am**. As we explored with you in our recent meeting - talking to your children is vital in helping to build up their own language, vocabulary articulation and confidence in speaking.

If a child cannot express themselves clearly it leads to frustration and really does affect their learning in the short and long term. We have spent over £300 on beautiful books to give away at this meeting and each family who attends will receive a story book to share at home with their child. We want a packed hall - please do make every effort to come along.

SNAP STREAK

97
DAYS

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

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/snapchat-2021>

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 27.11.2024

Class	Star of the Week
1C	Marlis
1M	Luca
2D	Valentino
2HK	Daniel
3FW	Kaiya
3M	Alexander
4I	Dylan
4M	Isaac
5A	ON SCHOOL TRIP
5J	ON SCHOOL TRIP
6C	Tanuja
6P	Olivia
Reading Eggs	Alexander V 2HK
TT RockStars	Clare 4M
French	Alia 4I

Weekly Attendance		
Class	Attendance %	Number of Lates
RM	96	3
RZ	94	6
1C	99	0
1M	96	1
2D	98	2
2HK	95	2
3FW	95	1
3M	97	8
4I	99	1
4M	97	3
5A	99	0
5J	96	2
6C	91	1
6P	92	5
School Target 97.5%		

Birthdays: up to 12h October 2025

7th Valentino 2D & Evalucia 2HK
 9th Noah 1M
 10th Shireen 4I
 11th Evangel 3FW, Siera 2D & Zara 2HK
 12th Nathalia 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

'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another'.

John 13:34-35

