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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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OCTOBER

27th— 31st Half Term School
Closed

NOVEMBER

3rd—INSET Day—school
closed for children

4th—Children return

5th—FOSA Bake Sale after
school in playground

6th—BOCCIA event at Burnt
Oak Leisure Centre

6th—FOSA planning meeting
2:15pm

7th—Jubilee Colours Day

7th—Prospective New
Reception & Nursery Parents
tour 1:45pm

7th—Class 6C mass in church
2:30pm

Sunday 9th—Family Mass
10:30am in church

10th—Anti-bullying Week

10th—Prospective New
Reception & Nursery Parents
tour 9:30am

11th—Class 5J Assembly
9:05am

Dear Parents,

Happy Half Term

We have come to the end of a very long half term - it is unusual to have a half term of 8 weeks and I think we are all ready to have a well deserved break. Once we return to school it will be a seven week half term and will as always in the run up to Christmas be incredibly busy.

FOSA meeting

On Tuesday we held our first Friends of St Agnes (FOSA) meeting of the year - unfortunately there were only 4 parents who attended. Clearly this is not enough to move forward with and we cannot create a committee out of such low numbers. I have explained the work of FOSA in a previous newsletter - how it works and what the money is used to support once raised. Without FOSA there will not be a Christmas Fayre, Santa's Grotto or other traditional events for the children which are much looked forward to and enjoyed by all. We will give it a final push in the hopes that more parents will get involved and to that end we are hosting a Christmas Fayre planning meeting on **Thursday 6th November at 2.15pm**. Please pop the date into your diary and try to attend - if work commitments make it impossible but you are able to support in another way (a raffle prize from your neighbour or work place, or support on the Christmas Fayre day itself (Thursday 4th December 3-5pm) please let the school office know.

Whilst December may feel like a long time away, it is essential that the preparation for such events starts as soon as possible if they are to be successful.

Parent Forum

We held our first Parent Forum meeting on Wednesday this week - it was great to have a large number of classes represented with a parent Rep in attendance. The classes still without a rep are Nursery, 2HK, 4M, 5J & 6P. It was good to see a mixture of new parent reps in addition to some who have come back again - we are grateful for your time. A reminder that the group is here to facilitate sharing information, ensuring new parents are welcomed and items which are of general concern or causes for celebration are raised. It is not a platform to discuss individual staff or children or a problem experienced by one person, it is for general matters. Parent Reps have been advised to refer parents with specific concerns onto the class teacher. Our next meeting is **Wednesday 26th November at 9.00am**, so anything you would like discussed at the meeting can be given to your rep in advance.

Bonfire Bake Sale

We are celebrating Bonfire Night on **Wednesday 5th November** with a cake sale after school. We would be grateful for your support in both donations of cakes (one item per family would be great) and a group of parents to set up the table in the playground at 2.45pm and sell until 3.15pm once school is finished. Please let the office know if you are able to help set up.

School/Parish Mass

We will be having our first School/Parish mass on Sunday 9th November at 10.30am in St Agnes' Church. Please make every effort to attend and it would be wonderful to have a full church of children and their families to celebrate Remembrance Sunday. It will be a great opportunity to gather together as a community and give thanks for the freedom we have in our lives due to the sacrifice of others.

Wishing you a restful half term - see you on Tuesday 4th November.

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/holiday-booklet?pid=MTA101634&v=167.5>

The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal

We are selling poppies in school.

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.**



Arbor Payments

When making payments via Arbor please ensure that payment is made for the correct item. If payment is received for the incorrect item, it will be refunded to your account which can take between 7-10 days.

You will then need to make the payment to the correct account.

SAVE THE DATE - Governors Morning

Our termly Governors Morning will next be held on **Thursday 20th November**, where they will focus on the enrichment opportunities offered at St Agnes. As always parents are welcome to pop in for the first part of that session - **8.40-9.05 am** and meet a few of the governors over a coffee.

It is an opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions and celebrate strengths of the school.

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.



The half term holidays are just around the corner and Libraries have some great activities lined up. Children can learn how to DJ and explore Afrobeats sounds at Superstar DJs. For Green Libraries Week, take part in Seeds of Change, an eco-craft activity with seed planting.

There's a Sing, Story and Sign session for children to learn some simple British Sign Language and a solar system coding and robotics workshop. There are craft events to celebrate Halloween and a spooky drama workshop based on the book 'Room on the Broom'. Like a Choose Your Own Adventure book, 'Lose the Path, Find Your Way' is an interactive show with enchanting movement, music and puppetry. Booking is required for some events. All events are free or low cost.

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/events/all?f%5B0%5D=type%3ASchool%20holiday%20event&page=1>

Parent Tours - Reception September 2026

Should you know of any friends or neighbours considering St Agnes as a school for their Reception Child for next year, please can you let them know that our tours for prospective parents will be held on Friday 7th November at 1.45pm and Monday 10th November at 9.30am.

They do not need to book a place but can simply come along on either of the given dates.

Secondary School Applications

As per the many messages sent out - all year 6 parents must ensure that they have applied to the secondary schools of choice and submitted their online borough applications by **October 31st** - please be aware that this is during half term.

Any applications received after that date are treated as late and go to the bottom of the pile to be dealt with after all the others received on time.

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.

Year 2 Tower of London Trip

Last week Year 2 went to The Tower of London. We learnt all about the story of Guy Fawkes as we were guided round during our workshop. Children acted out The Gunpowder Plot and had a wonderful time exploring!

I loved the crown jewels. Jhia

I thought the sparkly jewels were amazing. Eva

My favourite part was when we chanted the rhyme, 'Remember, Remember' Josia

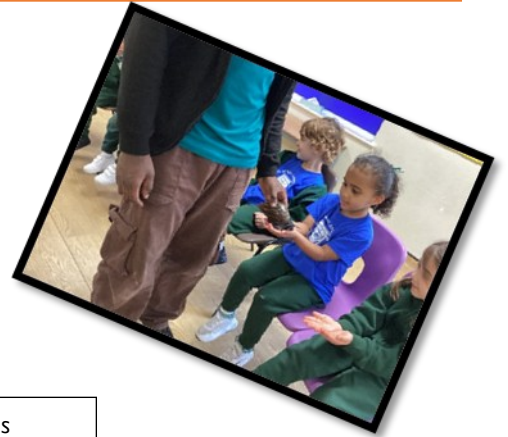
Miss Duggan



Reception: On Wednesday, the children participated in a fantastic workshop delivered by Zoolab.

They met Flash the giant African snail, Fredo the tree frog, Gary the Madagascar hissing cockroach, Legsly the tarantula, Samantha the giant millipede and Prince Bilal the leopard gecko. They learnt about different habitats (grass, river, forest etc) and discovered what the creatures need to live in these habitats.

Mrs Zarri



Matilda: I loved the spider because it has 8 legs

Martha: I thought geckos were only in fairy tales. I saw one for real!



Halle: I learnt that frogs swallow the food with the

Ayla: the frog gets the food with the tongue



Alexa: the spider has hairy legs

Emily: I liked the colour of the gecko

Aidan: I liked feeling all the animals



St Agnes Pathways



On Thursday, the children from years 2-6 had a brilliant day attending their chosen Pathways activity (a bi-annual event). As always, the children could choose from a huge range of activities such as: chess, Lego, coding, carnival, mandala, baking, hocus pocus, drama, travel, quiz masters, life of a pirate, travel, artworks, stop go animation, health and wellbeing, comic making and Broadway





'It was really fun when we made the costumes' – Bianca 4I (Drama)

'I liked going treasure hunting' - Shireen 4I (Pirates)

I loved Lego because we got to make different creations and took part in competitions to make the best bridge and tower. – Dylan 6C (Lego)

I loved drama because we got to create our own costumes – Aleah 6C (Drama)

I created a plane then went outside to test it.- Josia 2D (travel)

We made a picture called Starry Night which is a painting by Vincent Van Gogh. - Azwad 2D (artworks)

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by erasing hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms. Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 6 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Class	Star of the Week
1C	Daniel A
1M	Anthony
2D	Zoe
2HK	Dolcie-Rae
3FW	Kassem
3M	Afiya
4I	Aveah
4M	Temi
5A	Ylenia
5J	Juliana
6C	Keagan
6P	Manuela
Reading Eggs	Maya 1C
TT RockStars	Eliza 4I
French	Juliana 5A

Weekly Attendance		
Class	Attendance %	Number of Lates
RM	90	6
RZ	94	3
1C	95	3
1M	99	4
2D	93	7
2HK	97	2
3FW	95	5
3M	92	7
4I	98	1
4M	99	0
5A	95	1
5J	97	2
6C	92	2
6P	96	0
School Target 97.5%		

Birthdays: up to 2nd November 2025

OCTOBER

20th Debbie 4I & Bela 1M
 21st Zaen 1C & Celine 3FW
 22nd Ava 6C & Manuela 6P
 23rd Abbas 3M, Dylan 3FW & Lena 4M
 24th George 4M
 26th Ghohunmi 5J & Nila 3FW
 27th Amaya 3M, Ayla RZ & Freya RM
 28th Juliana 5A
 29th Perry 5A
 30th Santino Nursery

NOVEMBER

1st Delsha 6C & Jordan 3FW
 2nd Anthony 1M



Thought of the Week

'Do you want your companions to respect you?
 Always think well of everyone and be ready to help others. Do this and you will be happy'

St John Bosco

