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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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DECEMBER

1st-5th—Christmas Movie Week

2nd—Bishop Douglass DT teachers into see Year 5

2nd—Reception Nativity Concert RM 9:30am & RZ 2pm

3rd—Santa's Grotto

3rd—House Captains Advent Carol Service at Westminster Cathedral PM

4th—Nursery Singalong 8:50am and 12:30pm

4th—Choir singing at Lansdowne Care Home AM

4th—Christmas Fayre 3-5pm

5th—Santa Dash

5th—Final Reception Parents Tour 9:15am for September 2026

5th—Choir at Candlewood Court PM

8th—KS1—Year 3 Reconciliation Service in school 10:45am

8th—Years 4, 5 & 6 Reconciliation in church

9th—Trauma Informed Coffee Morning Part 2 9am



Dear Parents,

Christmas is on the way!

Things are really starting to become very busy in school as we edge closer to Christmas. Rehearsals are in full swing for the various concerts and Nativity plays that you will be attending soon and there are lots of activities that FOSA is organising to help spread the Christmas cheer in school - namely the wonderful Santa's Grotto on Wednesday 3rd December, the Christmas fayre on Thursday 4th December 3-5pm in addition to next week's Movie Night. My thanks goes out to everyone involved in organising these events as they each take a lot of planning and preparation to ensure all runs smoothly.

Thank you to each family who supported the Adult tombola (bottle stall) by donating a bottle of wine today in exchange for their children wearing their own clothes - the good news is if you come to the Christmas Fayre next week you have the opportunity to win that bottle and others back again!

This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent and signifies the **real** countdown to Christmas. Advent marks the start of the preparation for us to be able to receive Jesus on Christmas day with a warm and open heart. At Gospel assembly this week we reflected on the Feast of Christ the King and explored the mercy that Jesus showed others. I discussed with the children times in our lives when we have been shown mercy and we need to be forgiving of others too. If we are to enter into Advent with the right mindset we need to say sorry for what we have done wrong, seek forgiveness and show that same forgiveness to those we may feel hurt by. I would encourage you all to use Advent as a time in your home in the coming weeks to prepare your hearts as a family for Christmas - this may be as simple as a brief prayer each evening to reflect on the day or read a short piece of scripture.

Dates to be aware of in the weeks leading up to Christmas:

Monday 1st December - Movie week begins

Tuesday 2nd December - Reception Nativity (RZ @2pm and RM @ 9:30am)

Thursday 4th December - Nursery Christmas singalong (AM sessions 8.50am/PM sessions @12.30pm)

Thursday 4th December - Christmas Fayre in school 3-5pm

Friday 5th December - Santa Dash Fun Run (wear your Christmas jumper)

Monday 8th December - Reconciliation for children who have made their First Holy Communion (Church at 2.00pm) and for those who have not at 10.45am in school

Wednesday 10th December - Christmas lunch (wear your Christmas jumper)

Friday 12th December - Years 1 and 2 Christmas Concert (Year 1 @9.30am/Year 2 @2.00pm)

Sunday 14th December - St Agnes Parish Carol Service (children to sing) 4.00pm

Thursday 18th December - Year 5 and 6 Carol Service in church @5.00pm

Friday 19th December - Break up @1.45pm (wear your Christmas jumper)

Mrs 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>

Supporting Trauma

Coffee morning @ St. Agnes'
Primary School



Part two on Tuesday

9th December 2025

From 9:00 – 9:30

**Come along, have a coffee
and meet with our
Educational Psychologist,
Dr. Ghowrigah Parameswa-
ran to learn more about
Trauma, what it means and
how we can further support
ourselves and our children.
All parents welcome.**





Last week was Maths Week England (15th – 23rd November), and children were invited to take part in a series of challenges uploaded onto Google Classroom, designed to get them thinking mathematically!

MATHS WEEK ENGLAND Well done to the children who took part– it was such a treat to be visited by an array of children from all over the school. Make sure you've added your award of 3 house points for taking part!!

KS1 – Vyan 1M, Zara 2HK, Charlotte 2HK, AJ 2HK, Josia 2D

KS2 – Lily 3M, Alessio 4I, Fabian 4I, Oli 4I, Jenson 4I, Debbie 4I, Flourish 4I, Hanna 4M, Victoria 4M, Juliana 5A, Aaron 5A, Nick 5J, Kenna 6P.



COFFEE MORNING

REACH OUT
#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

You are invited to come along on Friday
16th January at 9:00 to discuss how
we support behaviour to be good at St
Agnes, our antibullying work with the
children and answer any questions you
may have.

Christmas Movie Week 1st December

Please see table below for movie and collection times for Movie Week.

Payment for Movie Week is £5 which will be set up Arbor next week a message will be sent out once set up.

Date	Year Group	Movie	Collection Time
Monday 1 st December	Year 4	Nativity	4:30pm
	Year 5	Miracle on 34 th Street	4:45pm
Wednesday 3 rd December	Reception	Gruffalo's Child	4:10pm – collect from normal reception area
	Year 1	The Grinch	4:10pm
	Year 2	Troll's Christmas Holiday	4:15pm
	Year 3	The Star	4:30pm
	Year 6	Home Alone	4:40pm

Uniform

As the weather has got colder more children naturally are wearing hats, scarves and gloves.

Please ensure that these are school bottle green in colour. There are a large number of children wearing multi coloured items, including ear warmers which are not permitted.

Thank you for your support.

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.

mary's
meals

a simple solution to world hunger

The Social Action Leaders chosen Christmas charity to support this year was Mary's Meals, this is a wonderful charity that supports children across the world. It costs just £19.15 to feed one child every day for a whole year in school. With the wonderful donations raised by the children for their sponsored run around the school, we have raised £4,393.00 for this incredible charity. We cannot THANK YOU enough for being so incredibly supportive and generous. The children were fantastic at running as a continuous carousel throughout the day around the school motivated by the Social Action Leaders who kept the momentum going. Well done everyone! Mrs Higgins





SUPERKIND



YOUNG CHANGE-MAKER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

Are you aged 4-18 and making the world a better place?
Could your story inspire tens of thousands of other young people?

SuperKind's Change-Maker of Year Competition
is looking for the UK's most amazing young change-makers.

Submissions can be made in text,
a video, or something visual.

Scan the QR code or visit

WWW.SUPERKIND.ORG/YOUNG-CHANGE-MAKER

for more information.

Entries close on December 19th 2025.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about VPNs

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS

VPNs are commonly used by young people to get around blocks on school networks or parental controls. This could include accessing social media, gaming sites or adult content that would otherwise be filtered out.

ACCESSING INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

When a VPN is active, content filters can no longer see which sites a child is visiting. This means they could access inappropriate content without detection. This also makes it harder to intervene when a child is engaging in risky behaviour, as it may be difficult to detect it's happening.

REDUCED TRANSPARENCY

VPNs may make parental monitoring software ineffective, stopping parents from monitoring their child's activities, including their ability to identify potentially harmful or inappropriate content or online contact. This in turn may prevent parents from protecting their children from attempted sextortion or other online threats.

VPN use among UK teens is on the rise – with a noticeable uptick following the introduction of the Online Safety Act's age-verification rules. A VPN – or virtual private network – can boost online privacy by hiding internet activity and masking the user's location. But while this technology has legitimate uses, it can also allow children to bypass safety filters and access inappropriate content. This guide covers what parents and educators need to know about VPNs and how to keep young people safe.

FALSE SENSE OF ANONYMITY

Children believing that VPNs make them 'invisible' online may seek to explore unsuitable internet content, including content which might otherwise be blocked. This may result in them seeking and accessing increasingly inappropriate – or even harmful – content.

INCREASED EXPOSURE TO MALWARE

Many free VPN apps are poorly regulated and may carry hidden malware. Young people installing unverified software could unknowingly open up their device (and home network) to spying, data theft, computer viruses, or even remote access by criminals.

RISK OF MALICIOUS VPN PROVIDERS

Although VPNs may increase privacy from network or service provider filtering and monitoring, this results in providing user and usage data to VPN providers. Some VPN providers may track user activity and sell that data to advertisers – or worse, malicious third parties. Not all VPNs are trustworthy.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EXPLAIN THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF VPNs

Explain how VPNs can help protect user data and therefore may be appropriate when using public or other unsecured Wi-Fi, or while dealing with sensitive corporate or personal data.

EXPLAIN THE RISKS OF VPNs

Discuss online risks, including harmful, disturbing, and criminal content. Inform children about criminal contact, such as sextortion, and how VPNs may restrict adults from monitoring children's internet use and helping them avoid these risks.

FREE ISN'T FREE

Discuss the risk of 'free' VPNs and how they may sell or use people's data, which adds privacy risks. Additionally, discuss the potential for added malware in VPN downloads, and how these compromise devices and apps, leading to potential fraud or theft.

CHECK DEVICES FOR VPNs

VPNs can be installed as both apps and browser extensions, so regularly check these on the devices used by the young people in your care. If they have been using VPNs, discuss it, listen to their reasoning, and inform them of the associated risks. In some cases, it may be appropriate to block VPN use via parental controls and other settings.

DISCUSS ONLINE BOUNDARIES

Reinforce the importance of keeping safe online and how filtering and monitoring helps keep young people safe – explain this to them rather than just 'being strict'. Encourage an open conversation around what they're accessing and why.

Meet Our Expert

This guide has been created in collaboration with Gary Henderson, director of IT at a large independent school in the UK, an ambassador for the Association of Network Managers in Education and the Vice Chair of the Independent Schools Council Digital Advisory Group.



The National College

Class	Star of the Week
1C	Diana
1M	Freya
2D	Eli
2HK	Kaia
3FW	Arion
3M	JR
4I	Liana
4M	Zara
5A	ON SCHOOL TRIP
5J	ON SCHOOL TRIP
6C	Aleah
6P	Nol
TT RockStars	Connor 4M
French Certificate	Madison 3M

Weekly Attendance		
Class	Attendance %	Number of Lates
RM	94	6
RZ	91	2
1C	94	3
1M	95	0
2D	96	5
2HK	97	0
3FW	93	6
3M	95	6
4I	98	2
4M	98	4
5A	92	5
5J	98	0
6C	92	1
6P	96	4
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.

Birthdays: up to 30th November 2025

24th Finlay 3M
 27th Jeffrey RM, Markus 1C & Atarah 2D
 28th Adley 6P, Tayvia 3FW & Caleb 1C
 29th Zefania 6P, Joseph 3FW & Averie 5A
 30th Raffie Nursery & Tala 3FW



Thought of the Week

'Advent is a time of waiting for our Lord, who will visit us all in our own hearts. The Lord is coming. Let us wait for Him!'

Pope Francis

