

Date: 12/12/2025

Issue: 14

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

DECEMBER

18th—Reception Arts Depot
Trip PM

18th—Years 5 & 6 Carol
Concert in church at 5pm

19th—Early closing for all
children 1:45pm

22nd December—2nd January
School Closed Christmas
Holidays

JANUARY 2026

5th—INSET Day—school
closed for children

6th - Children Return

Dear Parents,

Christmas is getting closer...

During mass on Sunday this week we will watch the third candle being lit on the Advent wreath. This time it is traditionally the pink candle which is set alight signifying it is 'Gaudete Sunday' meaning REJOICE. We are reminded that on this Sunday we are filled with joy at the coming of Christ in his human form and we look forward with hope and love to the joy of Christmas. The entrance Antiphon that you will hear in church on Sunday is Philippians 4: 4, 5 which says 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice'. By now we should be well down our Advent path of prayer and getting ready to receive the Christ Jesus, we have only one more week to go until his birth on Christmas Day.

My thanks goes to Fr Chinedu for taking the time to come into school on Monday afternoon to lead a Reconciliation service for pupils in Years 1-6. He used Scripture, reflection and song to encourage the children to examine their hearts in this Advent season. He reminded us that in order to be ready to celebrate Christmas we need to repair our relationships and be sorry for things we have done wrong. We need a clean heart to really celebrate the birth of Christ.

We were treated to a wonderful performance this morning from Years 1 and 2 who worked together to produce 'Born in a Barn'. This really was a special retelling of the Christmas story and it was heartwarming to see that 120 children can work together effectively (not a task for the faint hearted!). Year 1 led the singing and Year 2 led on the acting and narration. It was so pleasing to see how much the children had grown in both their confidence and in their ability to articulate their words during what was a long performance. My thanks goes to all the staff involved in preparing the children so well for these events and managing to make it all look effortless - I absolutely know from my own years as a class teacher that this is not the case!

St Agnes church is holding it's Parish Carol Service on Sunday 14th December at 4pm, which will feature a group from the school choir singing some Christmas hymns. Please feel free to come along to this event when we can be one with the parish community - there are refreshments being served afterwards in the Parish Centre.

We look forward to seeing our Year 5 and 6 parents in St Agnes' Church on Thursday 18th December for their Carol Service which starts at 5.00pm. I know that there is always something so special and atmospheric that goes with being in the church - the staff and I look forward to sharing this with you.

Regards,
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>

Value Champion Award Winners

We are delighted to announce that several of our children have been selected as this term's **Respect Values Champions**. These pupils have consistently demonstrated kindness, consideration, and positive behaviour towards others, both in and out of the classroom. Their actions set a wonderful example for our school community, and we are incredibly proud of the way they uphold our core values each day.

To celebrate their achievement, each Respect Values Champion will receive a special postcard sent directly to their home, recognising their effort and commitment.

Congratulations to all of our deserving champions—keep up the fantastic work!

Class	Value Champion Award Winner
1C	Alessandro
1M	Serah
2D	Ellie-Rose
2HK	Dolcie-Rae
3FW	Celine
3M	Basil
4I	Carmel
4M	Georgina
5A	Juliana
5J	Rita
6C	Tanuja
6P	Nol

Santa Dash 2025

On Friday **5th December 2025**, children from **Reception to Year 6** enthusiastically took part in the **National Santa Dash**.

Every pupil joined in, filling the day with festive fun as they ran, jogged, and dashed in their colourful **Christmas jumpers and accessories**, spreading Christmas cheer through exercise.

The event was filled with smiles, energy, and a wonderful community spirit.

A big shout-out to our fantastic Play Leaders, whose brilliant organisation and support helped the event run smoothly and made it an enjoyable experience for all!

Miss McSweeney

PE Leader



School Uniform

If you are buying uniform items over the Christmas break, including shoes or trainers, please check that they are in line with the school uniform policy. Trainers need to be plain white or plain black only - these are very easy to find. The uniform policy is on the school website for your reference.

Year 5 and 6 Girls Football with Bishop Douglass

Every Friday for the last four weeks, the girls have had a football club with Mrs Green from Bishop Douglass. She has been a great coach and always lightens the mood. We have been learning a variety of skills such as dribbling, passing, intercepting and the techniques to shoot. Sometimes we play a special game where we have to pass the ball three times before scoring, which helps us work as a team. It always feels fun because everyone encourages each other. We have really enjoyed the classes as Mrs Green has made us want to learn more. Friday football is really, really fun and I look forward to it every single week!

By Kendra, Malak & Fatima. Emilie
Year 6



Year 5 Rocket Workshop!

On Wednesday, the Bishop Douglass DT teachers visited our school and delivered an exciting and inspiring workshop for Year 5 on how to make rockets. Students had a great time designing and building their creations using a variety of materials, including card, paper and tape. They then proudly launched their rockets in the playground and eagerly observed which one travelled the furthest.

Nick – “It was amazing! We made rockets out of paper and launched them on the playground”.

Emilia – “It was really cool! I really liked when we got to shoot the rockets”

Miss Batchelor

D&T Leader



School Holidays

A reminder of the forthcoming Christmas holidays - we break up on Fri 19th December at 1.45pm and we return on Tuesday 6th January (Monday 5th is an Inset day).

We are receiving a large number of requests to take children out of school early to travel and visit family abroad. Whilst we fully appreciate that the cost of travel increases the closer it gets to Christmas, this is experienced by us all.

Parents are not permitted to take their children out of school to travel and almost all requests (with the exception of bereavement with evidence) is not authorised and you will be issued with a fixed penalty notice from Barnet.

A promotional poster for a 'Coffee Morning' event. The background is a blurred image of three cups of coffee on a wooden table, with a small potted plant on the right. A black banner at the top left reads 'COFFEE MORNING' in white capital letters. Below it is a logo for 'REACH OUT' with a black arrow pointing right and the text 'REACH' in white and 'OUT' in purple. Below the logo is the hashtag '#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK'. The text of the invitation is in the bottom left corner.

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.

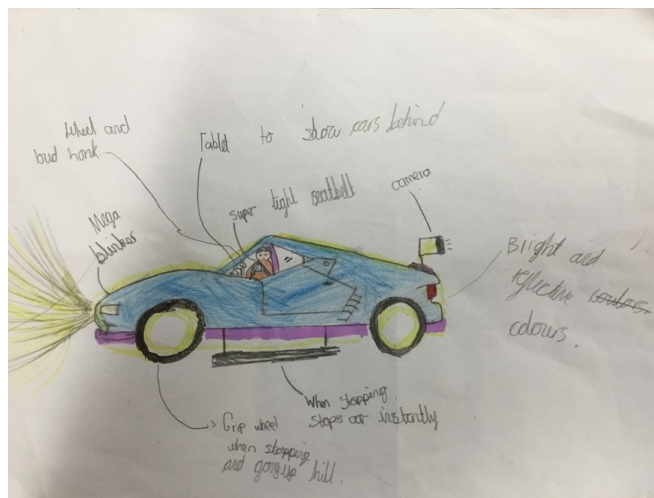
Safeguarding

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.

Road Safety Week competition winner!

For Road Safety Week the children were asked to take part in a competition where they needed to design a safe vehicle. We got some fantastic entries but the winner of the competition and a £10 WHSmith voucher is... **Haben 5J!**

Congratulations!



Christmas Lunch Day

On Wednesday this week Mary and her team in the kitchen served a grand total of **490** Christmas lunches to both pupils and staff. As you can imagine this takes a huge amount of preparation and is not an easy task.

The children and staff would like to say a big thank you to everyone involved to both the cooks, those who served the food and our meal time supervisors whom stayed on for extra time on Wednesday to ensure everyone was taken care of.





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 GROUP CHATS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are one of the most popular ways that children connect. Group chats allow messages, images and videos to be shared in one place and help friendships flourish; however, they also come with a number of risks.

TEASING AND BULLYING

Children of all ages are keen to fit in socially, and group chats can sometimes complicate that process. While group chats can foster connection, they can also give way to mean comments or jokes at someone's expense, especially when others join in for laughs. When bullying happens publicly, in front of friends and classmates, it can intensify the emotional impact – adding to embarrassment, anxiety and feelings of isolation for the child being targeted.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Children often can't control who is added to a group, which can lead to privacy concerns. Sharing personal details in group chats can be dangerous, and children have no control over what others do with the material they send. Some members of the chat might even decide to use such information maliciously.

PEER PRESSURE

Children may feel they have to constantly stay engaged just to be included and keep up with the conversation. In some cases, they might partake in inappropriate behaviours – like sharing explicit photos, jokes or teasing – just to fit in. Group settings can also encourage children to act in ways they normally wouldn't, or stay silent when they know something is wrong, out of fear of being excluded. Some children may find it difficult to leave toxic group chats.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some group chats may include inappropriate language or imagery. Even if a child isn't actively participating in the conversation, they may still be exposed to this content simply by being part of the group. Some apps have disappearing messaging features, where content is only available once or for a few seconds, which makes it harder for children to report something they've seen.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

Exclusion in group chats is common and can take several forms. Sometimes a new group is created specifically to leave one child out on purpose. In other cases, the chat may happen on an app that a child doesn't have access to, making it impossible for them to join in. This can cause feelings of being left out – even unintentionally.

VIDEO AND LIVE CHATS

Many popular apps allow children to engage in live streaming with interactive chats or have group video chats. Anyone can be added to these streams, and often children tag peers in the comments and have conversations which are unmoderated. There's a risk of being exposed to inappropriate or violent content and offensive language, either in the group videos or via the group chats.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for children to compete for social status. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave unkindly. If a child does upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

SET SOME GROUP CHAT RULES

Discuss safe group chat practices, such as asking a peer for consent before adding them to a group chat, or leaving a group chat if a stranger is added. Tell children that if they're added to a group they didn't agree to beforehand, it's OK for them to leave immediately.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child encounters inappropriate content or feels uncomfortable in a group chat, encourage them to block and report the sender and leave the group. Make sure children know it's OK to leave a group chat if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being bullied.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

It's vital for children to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Ensure they understand the importance of not revealing personal details – like their address, their school, or photos they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they can't be certain where it might end up or how it might be used.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Being bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of a group chat while disabling notifications. In fact, it would be healthier for them to do so, helping them avoid the pressure to respond immediately.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware, who has developed anti-bullying and cyber-safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government, comparing the internet use and online behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College®

Class	Star of the Week
1C	Markus
1M	Meghan
2D	Gianna
2HK	Abbas
3FW	Elisiana
3M	Julia
4I	Natalie
4M	Charlie
5A	Sean B
5J	Rain
6C	Manuel
6P	Daniel
Reading Eggs	Piotr 1M
TT RockStars	Class 2D
French Certificate	Liseli 2HK

Weekly Attendance		
Class	Attendance %	Number of Lates
RM	98	8
RZ	93	4
1C	99	1
1M	98	2
2D	99	7
2HK	95	0
3FW	93	7
3M	96	7
4I	96	2
4M	92	3
5A	98	5
5J	95	0
6C	94	4
6P	93	1
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 14th December 2025

10th Ellie-Rose 2D

11th Austin 4I & Lesego 3FW

13th Aarna Nursery,

14th Alex 4M, Isaiah 5A & Adam RM



Thought of the Week

'Listen to my words, O Lord and hear my sighs. Listen to my cry for help, my God and King. I pray to you, O Lord: you hear my voice in the morning: at sunrise I offer you my prayer and wait for your answer'

Psalms 5:1-3

