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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

22nd December—2nd January
School Closed Christmas
Holidays

JANUARY 2026

5th—INSET Day—school
closed for children

6th - Children Return

16th—Anti-bullying Workshop
for Parents 9am

16th—Year 5 British Museum
Trip

21st—St Agnes Feast Day

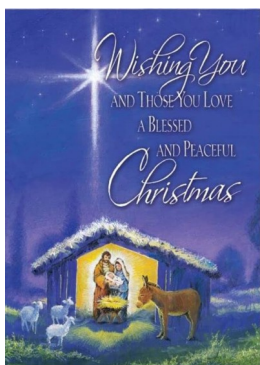
28th—Parent Forum meeting
9am

FEBRUARY

5th—Year 3 Trip to
Verulamium Museum St Albans

9th—Parents Evening 3:30-
6pm Years 1-6

11th—Parents Evening 3:30-
6pm Years 1-6



Dear Parents,

The end of the Autumn Term....

We have finally come to the end of the long Autumn Term - this is the longest term of the whole academic year and this term was 15 weeks in total. During that time your children have immersed themselves in a huge amount of new learning in class, all have had opportunities to attend trips, many pupils have participated in sporting events and collectively the children have had other enrichment opportunities during the term.

As always Mrs Gale and myself met with each class teacher for the 'Pupil Progress' meeting at the end of term and this is an opportunity for us to discuss each individual child, examine their progress in year to date, in addition to outlining the areas in which further support may be needed. This is always a really productive meeting and there is always a direct correlation between the support a child receives at home and how well they achieve in school. Your contribution as parents - reading with your child each and every evening, signing their reading record, support to learn weekly spellings and multiplication tables as well as overseeing homework tasks is fundamental to your child's success.

As we approach the Christmas holidays I reflect on the preparation we have offered the children to prepare them for Christmas - we have offered all children the opportunity to journey through the season of Advent with a focus on preparing themselves in the 'real' sense to celebrate Christmas. This has included an understanding of the significance of Advent, the opportunity to talk to God in reconciliation and the chance to give back to others on a global level with the fantastic sponsored run event held for Mary's meals. Every child in school has a deeper understanding of the Christmas story and what the birth of Jesus Christ really means for us. Please make every effort to bring your child to mass on Christmas Day so that they can complete their Christmas journey by celebrating the birth of Christ in church.

I would like to wish you all the happiest of Christmases and sincerely wish you and your families a holiday of friendship, love and peace. Please enjoy yourselves and all that the magic of Christmas offers whilst giving thanks for the abundant wealth we have in our lives - particularly for our friends and families whom enhance our lives. May Christmas blessings come into your hearts and homes and remain with you long after the season is over.

I look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 6th January (Monday 5th January is an inset day) to begin the Spring Term.

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>

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.



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.



Poppy Appeal 2025

Thank you to everyone who supported the Poppy Appeal. We raised a fantastic £235.50 which will go towards the work the Royal British legion aim to do to provide lifelong support to the UK Armed Forces community, including serving personnel, veterans, and their families.

Mrs Gale

Welcome Back

We warmly welcome Mrs Abbott-Myles back after the Christmas holidays, as she returns from her year long maternity leave.

She has already popped into school this week and said hello to class 1C as she will be taking them for the remainder of the academic year.

Parish Carol Service

Thank you to members of the choir and their parents for attending the St Agnes Parish Carol Service on Sunday afternoon at 4pm.

This was the idea of Fr Chinedu as a new event in the parish - it was a lovely occasion and the songs and scripture readings were very moving.

The choir sang 'Infant Holy' beautifully - it brought a tear to my eye! Thank you for supporting your child in this weekend event. My thanks must also go to the children in Year 5 and 6 who undertook the final Christmas service of the year in church last night.

The singing was simply stunning and their retelling of the Christmas story was uplifting. A most fitting way to enter into the Christmas holidays.

Cooking Club

Fabiana and her creative team of pupil chefs brought their sessions of cooking club to an end last week.

Over the last six weeks they have made a variety of foods from around the world, enjoyed learning about new foods and where they are from in addition to tasting them each week.

Fabiana embraced the season of Advent with her own Advent Calendar with tasks, treats and surprises for the children.

Their 'graduation' from cooking club was a lovely moment for all to reflect and celebrate all of their new learning and skill set.



Lesnes Abbey Lodge – Year 4 Viking Trip

On Thursday 11th December, Year 4 travelled by train to Abbey Wood to visit Lesnes Abbey Lodge, where they stepped back in time to become Vikings for the day.

The trip began with a range of hands-on and memorable activities. The children baked authentic Viking bread, learned how fires were lit and practiced lighting their own, examined Viking armour, and explored the types of food Vikings would have eaten. These practical experiences brought their history learning to life and captured everyone's interest.

The excitement continued as the children took part in a Viking battle and learned how the Vikings raided England.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and Year 4 represented the school brilliantly. We are extremely proud of their enthusiasm, behaviour, and curiosity throughout the trip.

Miss McSweeney



Reception Trip

On Thursday 18th January, Reception went to the Arts Depot to watch 'A Night Before Christmas'. Although the day had relentless rain (which meant we have very few pictures!) the children displayed excellent behaviour and enjoyed the memorable experience. Thank you to the parents who supported us on this trip.

Emily Sofia: I loved it all!

Matilda: I loved the show

Freya: Everything was my favourite part

Orlan: my favourite thing was the songs

Florence: I liked the reindeers dancing

Elis: I liked the snow best. I was surprised.

Aris: I liked the house with the lights

Sean: I liked going on the bus

Miss Moran



12 Top Tips for Children & Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Term Attendance		
Class	Attendance %	Number of Lates
RM	95	72
RZ	95	58
1C	96	42
1M	97	20
2D	97	63
2HK	96	42
3FW	96	56
3M	95	101
4I	97	27
4M	96	47
5A	96	28
5J	97	26
6C	93	35
6P	94	45
School Target 97.5%		

Birthdays: up to 4th January 2026

DECEMBER

15th Aleah 6C
 17th Stella Marie Nursery
 18th Sean Jerecho RZ & Benjamin RM
 19th Emily RM & Jessica 6C
 20th Raffie 2HK & Ariya RZ
 21st Ares RZ
 22nd Eva 3FW & Francesca Nursery
 26th Martha RZ, Siena 5A & Leo 4I
 27th Emmanuel RM
 29th Charmi 6C, Florence 2D & Ylenia 5J
 30th Adriano RZ

JANUARY

2nd Basil 3M



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.



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.

Thought of the Week

'Gaze upon Christ, consider him, contemplate him and desire to imitate him'

St Clare of Assisi

