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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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MAY

4th—SCHOOL CLOSED MAY
BANK HOLIDAY

5th—Parent BICS Workshop
'Understanding Anxiety in your
children' at 9am

11th—15th SATs Week

12th—Reception Handwashing
Workshop with school nurses

13th—Year 3 Trip to Natural
History Museum

20th—Parent Forum 9am

20th—Year 6 School Journey
Meeting 2:15pm

22nd—Pathways Day

22nd—Break up for Half
Term—normal collection time.

25th—29th—School Closed for
Half Term

JUNE

1st—School Closed Inset Day

2nd—Children return

Dear Parents,

Weekly News Round up

Once again it has been a busy week here at school, the below gives you a taste of some of what has been happening in addition to great learning:

Year 6 MOCK SATS Week

Our Year 6 children will be sitting their national SATS tests week beginning 11th May, alongside all other Year 6 pupils in the country. They have been preparing for these over the past months and have this week undertaken practice tests in SATS conditions. By doing this we know that there is reduced stress and anxiety for the children as they are more familiar with the process and what to expect. The pupils and staff have worked very hard in preparation and we wish them well in these final few weeks before 11th May.

Blessing of the Prayer Garden

As you will be aware we have a prayer garden in school, which we created in 2017 naming it 'Kevin's Corner'. This was created in memory of Kevin Sawacki a much loved Year 6 pupil who passed away very unexpectedly over the Christmas holidays. The creation of the prayer garden at that time allowed us a school to focus our energies behind a project for the future, whilst grieving the loss of Kevin. We have refreshed the space in the last few weeks, with new plants and flowers, new prayer walls and a lovely outdoor crucifix. The plaque to remember Kevin is still there, inviting us all to 'Stay a while, pray a while' and we were delighted to welcome Fr Chinedu into school on Wednesday to bless our refurbished space. Should any parents wish to donate some plants or flowers to bring even more colour to the area we would gladly accept them and rest assured they will be watered and cared for by our Eco-Warrior pupils.

Crowning of Mary

We were delighted to be able to bring back to life a old tradition of the crowning of the statue of Mary in the section between the KS1 and Ks2 playgrounds. Mary is always revered as the mother of Jesus but we devote the month of May to honour her as His mother and our spiritual mother. The children gathered to process to her statue, lay flowers, sing and listen to the word of God which recognises Mary and the fundamental role she has in our faith. Please feel free as parents to stop by Mary's statue at anytime in your daily drop off and pick up times but particularly during May as we celebrate her as the Queen of May. From my own childhood I recall this tradition whilst I was at school and can still hear the words to the hymn 'Oh Mary we crown thee with blossoms today, Queen of the angels and Queen of the May...'



Wishing you all a great bank holiday weekend - enjoy the extra day!

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/good-news?pid=MTA101634&v=163.4>

Kevin's Corner

On Wednesday we had our blessing and celebration of the beautiful revamp of our beloved prayer garden, *Kevin's Corner*. This special space has been thoughtfully refreshed to offer a peaceful and welcoming environment for reflection, prayer, and community gathering.

A big thank you to Fr Chinedu for his heartfelt blessing, he led us in prayers which filled the garden with a renewed sense of purpose and spiritual warmth and calm.

We look forward to seeing the garden continue to grow as a place of comfort, hope, and community spirit for all.

Mrs Gale



Peter Pan Workshop

Years 1 and 2 had a very exciting drama workshop on Monday. The children had a wonderful time exploring the theme of Peter Pan and using drama, dance and singing to help develop their confidence, concentration and social skills.



In the workshop, we were trying to get the treasure from Captain Hook and we froze like one of his treasures so he couldn't see us!" Eliana

"We were moving in different directions around the room and using different movements. We were learning about the friends of Peter Pan." George

"We had to close our eyes and pretend to be a pirate or a mermaid!" Luca

"We had lots of fun. Captain Hook didn't know why his treasure kept moving! We tricked him!" Gabriela

"The workshop was amazing because we got to pretend to be in a pirate ship". Valentino

"In the workshop, we got to play games and have fun. We could choose to be a mermaid or a pirate." Atarah

Mrs Abbott-Myles

Quiz Night Save the Date

FOSA invite you to save the date for the St Agnes quiz - 12 June from 6:30pm.

Tickets go on sale soon.

Looking for volunteers to help on the night, make food, and form a team..

All welcome



Jewellery

Please note that the only permitted jewellery in school is a wrist watch and a pair of PLAIN stud earrings in silver or gold. Coloured earrings are not permitted. Please do not send your child in with hooped earrings or those that are not studs - this is for health and safety reasons as in a busy playground they may get caught and a nasty accident happen.

If your child has pierced ears they will need to have earrings removed on PE days or they must be covered up with a plaster from home upon coming to school. This rule extends to mufti day and hooped or dangly earrings are not to be worn.

In addition children should not wear bracelets or chains into school (including a crucifix) as these are a health and safety hazard - please ensure these items remain safely at home.

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 Lisa Pate).

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.

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.

London Mini Marathon
Saturday 25th April 2026

What an unforgettable experience! The atmosphere in London was nothing short of incredible, with energy and excitement filling the streets from start to finish. Every single child gave it their all, showing determination, resilience, and true team spirit throughout the race.

We are so proud to celebrate each participant who crossed the finish line with such courage and enthusiasm: Aleah, Elias, Noah, Abigale, Aldrich, Alex, Amiryran, Beatrice, Finnley, Jason, Manuela, Melissa, Nick, Oli, and Zara.

Moments like these remind us that it's not just about the race itself, but the confidence, perseverance, and joy that come with taking part. Well done to everyone involved—you represented us brilliantly and made it a day to remember!

Miss McSweeney
PE Leader





St Agnes' Catholic Primary School and Nursery

School Business Manager

Hours: Monday–Friday 8:00am–4:00pm (Term Time Only)

Scale: Barnet Unified Reward Grade K (dependent on qualification and experience)

Salary: £49,586-£54,230 [\(£56,376-£61,653 FTE\)](#)

The family of St Agnes' Learns, Loves and Grows together as followers of Jesus.

We are a highly regarded school in the local community, based in a vibrant location in North West London with excellent transport links. Our school is recognised as Ofsted outstanding (March 2025) for the second consecutive inspection and also in our Diocesan Section 48 Inspection (February 2022).

Team players are essential, as collaboration is at the heart of our school ethos. The Governors are seeking to appoint an outstanding, highly motivated, and proactive School Business Manager with excellent interpersonal skills to join our dedicated staff.

We can offer you:

- A warm and welcoming Catholic community where the well-being of all is highly regarded
- children who love coming to school, whom demonstrate resilience and enthusiasm for learning
- A supportive and friendly staff team
- A modern stimulating working environment
- An extremely well-resourced school.
- Great quality CPD
- Good transport links
- On site car parking
- Enthusiastic governors and supportive parents
- The opportunity to become part of a dynamic, professional and friendly team.

We are looking for someone who:

- Is willing to support the strong Catholic ethos of our school.
- Will work collaboratively in conjunction with the Senior Leadership Team and governors to contribute to the strategic direction and development of the school
- Will take overall responsibility for the effective management of the school's business function, including financial management, health and safety, human resources, compliance and administration.
- Can promote the school and maintain strong, flourishing pupil numbers across all key stages, including nursery provision.
- Has experience of successfully managing people in the workplace.
- Will advise on and implement the day-to-day support that enables the school to operate effectively and efficiently, and that allows other members of the leadership team to focus on teaching and learning
- Will build and maintain positive and professional working relationships with staff, governors, parents, and external stakeholders

Please feel free to look at our detailed website to get a flavour of who we are, in addition visits to the school are strongly encouraged. Please contact us to arrange a convenient time.

Closing date: Thursday 21st May 2026 (Noon)

Interview date: Thursday 4th June 2026

CES application forms are available from and returnable to the school. Please phone or email for an application pack. *St Agnes is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Appointment is subject to an enhanced DBS check.*

SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

10 Conversation Starters for Parents

Talking about mental health to children is sometimes hard. To the point that we can put off raising the subject, not wanting to unearth problems or raise overwhelming subjects that we perceive our child is too young or not ready for. But rather than keeping children in the dark, this guide is designed to help you confidently talk about mental health, so they feel comfortable talking about their own worries and end any stigma before it begins.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

1 LISTEN

This sounds obvious, but it is not something we are always great at. Active listening is where we listen without interrupting or making judgements and shows interest in what is being said. If your child feels listened to in the 'smallest of problems' they will become confident that you will listen when the 'biggest of problems' arise.

2 ASK TWICE

The campaign from time to change is great. <https://www.time-to-change.org.uk/support-ask-twice-campaign>. Be tenacious about your child's wellbeing. Children instinctively know when your questions and support come from a place of wanting to help and care.

Are you sure?

3 THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A STUPID QUESTION

This advice also relates to the first point. If your child can ask you any questions about the smallest of things and you listen and answer without shaming or belittling, then they will have more confidence to ask the biggest of questions.

6 TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH NATURALLY

Speak about mental health as part of everyday life, so that talking about our feelings and those of others is normalised. If the usual 'are you ok?' is not creating an opportunity for dialogue then say something like 'I know when something like that has happened to me I felt like this... is that how you are feeling or are you feeling something else?'

7 EMPATHISE

'It makes sense that you would feel this way, it is understandable'. Children often worry about things that we, as adults, might see as trivial or silly. However, for them at their age and stage it is a big concern and they need our kindness and care when they show their vulnerability and share their worries.

8 HELP YOUR CHILD FEEL SAFE

Teens particularly feel that by talking about their worries or concerns that this will make things worse. Reassure your child that you will discuss a plan of action together and what may or may not need to happen next. If they are a younger child, it is likely you will need to lead the conversation and explain next steps.

4 BE OPEN AND HONEST

Children appreciate honesty, particularly if you are having to share information or talk about a difficult subject. For example, you may be talking about death or loss; 'It's very sad that Nana has died' or 'I feel sad that Nana has died'. How you talk about a subject will differ depending on their age and developmental maturity. Talking about death to a younger child for example will be different to that of an older teen, as their experience and understanding of death is different.

9 MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

Be mindful of the language you use at home to describe and talk about mental health. Stigma often arises from misconceptions and a choice of language which is harmful. Using the word 'mental', 'man-up' or other such words in a derogatory way won't encourage your child to talk about their mental health for fear of being belittled.

5 KNOW WHEN TO SEEK HELP

Assess the severity of the mental health difficulty you are noticing. Is the difficulty making it hard for your child to function regularly throughout everyday life? How frequently is your child affected, how long does it last and how persistent is it? Are they having problems controlling the difficulty? Talk to your child about your concerns and that it is likely they will need further support beyond family and friends.

10 IT IS OK TO SAY 'I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT'

Adults do not have all the answers but often children think they do. It is ok to acknowledge that what your child is experiencing is not something you have come across before or know anything about, but that you will work it out together and seek help together.

Meet our expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department of Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



Sources of Information and Support

Your GP

Young Minds <https://youngminds.org.uk/v>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/>

<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/news-and-blogs/parenting-tips/2016/november/a-simple-guide-to-active-listening-for-parents/>

<https://www.themix.org.uk/mental-health>

Class	Child's Name
RM	Wynter
RZ	Ayla
1AM	Sammy
1M	Elijah
2D	Isobel
2HK	Treasure
3FW	Jayden
3M	Ewan
4I	Eliza
4M	Noah
5J	Nika
5N	Daniel
6C	Jessica
6P	Edson
TT RockStars	Class 6P
Reading Eggs	Zuzanna
CDM- French	Celine

Weekly Attendance		
Class	Attendance %	Number of Lates
RM	96	3
RZ	95	2
1AM	97	2
1M	95	0
2D	98	1
2HK	98	0
3FW	99	3
3M	98	7
4I	100	3
4M	99	2
5J	96	0
5N	97	0
6C	97	2
6P	98	2

Birthdays: up to 3rd May 2026

APRIL

27th Juan 6P

28th Nathanael 2D

30th Orla 3M & Charlie RM

MAY

1st Michael 5A

2nd Suzette rZ

3rd Armina 5A & Charles Nursery



Thought of the Week

'Mary means star of the sea, for as mariners are guided to port by the ocean star, so Christians attain to glory through Mary's maternal intercession'

St Thomas Aquinas

