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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

24th—Family Mass 10:30am in
St Agnes Church

25th—29th—School Closed for
Half Term

JUNE

1st—School Closed Inset Day

2nd—Children return

2nd—Year 5 Creative Project
Workshop

3rd—Year 1 Victorian Day

4th—First Holy Communion
Celebration 9:05am

9th—Year 6 Junior Citizenship
Scheme Workshop

10th—Year 6 Narconon
Workshop AM

11th—New Reception Parents
Meeting 9:15am

11th—New Nursery Parents
Meeting 2pm

12th—Quiz Night from 6:30pm

15th—FOSA Father's Day Event

15th—Barnet Schools Music
Festival –Arts Depot PM

17th—Year 5 at St Georges' for
taster morning

Dear Parents,

Happy half Term!

It has been a very busy week here at school and much has been going on in addition to all of the usual learning:

Monday

We hosted Felicity Henson our RE Westminster Diocesan advisor. She spent the whole day with us, allowing her to get a great insight into all things connected to RE in the school. Alongside the Senior Leadership Team she undertook a number of lesson observations both in curriculum RE and also sat in on some collective worship sessions in a variety of year groups. She spoke at length to a group of pupils in two separate sessions from EYFS and KS1, followed by pupils from KS2. The pupils were extremely articulate, they were able to discuss their favourite lessons in RE, recall previous learning, quote scripture and make links to Catholic Social teaching.

We were able to explain lots about the enhanced work that has been happening within RE this year such as the opening of our People's Pantry, the recent RE parent Survey, the refurbishment of the Prayer Garden, the crowning of Mary and the work of our Social Action Leaders both within school and in the local community. The advisor was hugely impressed by much of the work going on at school and warmly praised the efforts of both staff and pupils. Her written report will be received within the next few weeks and I will be sure to share some findings with you.

Tuesday

This was an equally busy day as we hosted our Barnet School Improvement Partner who was with us from early in the morning until the afternoon - the visit was focused on maths within the school and in particular our involvement in the Maths Mastery project. Once again a number of lesson observations were carried out with members of the Senior Leadership team and pupils with their books were spoken to. The children were able to discuss what helps them to learn well in maths, what they like to be challenged with and suggest some ways in which we could change anything for the better. This report will also be received in the coming weeks and i will again share some findings with you.

We hosted several local schools on Tuesday afternoon as we gathered together for a rehearsal ahead of the music event at the Arts Depot in June. Miss Minihan agreed to take on this project with the choir (when Mrs Rawlings left at Easter) to enable the children to still be able to participate in the event.

Wednesday

Our final Parent Forum meeting for this academic year was held - the minutes are on the Parents Board as always for all to read. My thanks goes to the class reps who have attended the meetings across the year and putting forward the parent voice of their class. Meetings for the new school year will resume in the Autumn Term.

Friday

We held our Pathways Day today which involved year groups 2-6. This is always such a great day and it is obvious how much the children look forward to trying new activities, working with others and trying something completely different in school. This takes a huge amount of organisation from staff and also has a large financial cost as many new resources are needed each time. A full report and pictures will feature in the newsletter after half term.

Wishing everyone a fabulous half term - the weather is looking good! A reminder that school is closed to pupils on Monday 1st June and we reopen on Tuesday 2nd June.

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>



We have created a prayer space to mark the Year of St Francis. As you know, St Francis is the patron saint of animals, so we would like the children and staff to bring in photos, pictures, or creations of their pets to add to the prayer space.

At the start of the new school year, in September, these will be taken to Mass and blessed during our Start of Year Mass.

Mrs Gale



Corpus Christi Celebration

There will be a small celebratory liturgy in the hall for all children and their parents who have made their First Holy Communion this year - Thursday 4th June at 9.05am.

The children are encouraged to wear their beautiful outfits from their special day (bringing their uniform to change into afterwards). We will present each child with a small keepsake from the school as a reminder of their special day in which they said 'YES' to God.

Congratulations



Huge congratulations to our incredible 9U Ealing Lawn Tennis Club player and St Agnes Year 3 student for an outstanding performance this weekend! The energy, teamwork, determination and fighting spirit on display made everyone at ELTC so proud.

Another outstanding performance from Ealing—special shout out to our Superstar Raphael— you played with amazing confidence and sportsmanship—The future is bright.



School Uniform

Please note children should be wearing summer uniform upon returning to school after half term. If you are buying new shoes/trainers over the holiday please ensure they are in line with our uniform policy - shoes are plain black and trainers are PLAIN white or black only.

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.

Primary Athletics Event



On Monday 18th May 48 children from Years 4 - 6 went to Copthall to represent our school in one of Barnet's biggest sporting events of the year: The Primary Athletics Event.

The children participated in a range of activities including, relays, sprints, javelin, long jump and speed bouncing.

A massive thank you to Edina, Hnin and Jenny for taking the children to this unforgettable event.

Miss McSweeney

PE Leader

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MENTAL HEALTH MISINFORMATION ONLINE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A research study by Ofcom revealed that children aged 9–15 increasingly use online platforms like TikTok for mental health advice, with 50% relying on social media for information. Unverified medical content online is concerning, with the potential to cause confusion, anxiety, or incorrect self-diagnoses. This guide provides expert strategies to help parents and educators tackle misinformation effectively and ensure safer digital experiences for young people.

POPULAR ONLINE SOURCES

Platforms like TikTok and Instagram are two of the main sources of young people's mental health content. Videos and posts frequently feature unqualified influencers, contributing to misinformation, myths, and oversimplifications. While appealing to young audiences, this unverified content can distort perceptions, and create unrealistic expectations and misunderstandings about mental health conditions.

RISK OF SELF-DIAGNOSIS

Social media's misleading content encourages young people to self-diagnose complex mental health conditions inaccurately. Misdiagnosis can exacerbate anxiety, cause unnecessary worry, or delay essential professional intervention. This has the potential to escalate manageable conditions into more significant mental health issues requiring comprehensive clinical support.

LACK OF FILTERS

Social media platforms struggle to filter misinformation effectively, allowing false content to spread widely and quickly. Without proper guidance, young viewers may not discern fact from fiction, potentially internalising inaccurate beliefs about mental health. This can negatively influence their decisions about seeking professional help or managing mental wellbeing.

IMPACTFUL PAST TRENDS

Historically, online mental health misinformation has led to harmful trends, including inappropriate coping strategies or sensationalised symptoms. For example, past TikTok trends on self-harm or anxiety 'hacks' have spread damaging advice, underscoring the risk when misinformation is not promptly addressed or corrected by knowledgeable adults.

MISLEADING CLINICAL TERMS

Online trends often include the misuse of clinical terms, such as 'trauma' or 'OCD', making serious conditions seem trivial or inaccurately understood. Such misinformation can diminish empathy, and lead young people to misunderstand mental health complexities, potentially preventing them from identifying real mental health issues in themselves or others.

REPLACING PROFESSIONAL HELP

Frequent reliance on digital content can deter young people from seeking professional mental health care, substituting expert support with unverified online advice. This substitution can prolong issues, complicate recovery, and reduce the effectiveness of future professional interventions, ultimately impacting overall mental health and wellbeing negatively.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

Regularly review and discuss a young person's online activity, providing appropriate guidance on discerning accurate content. Tools such as parental controls or co-viewing content can help mediate exposure to harmful misinformation, facilitating safer digital habits and informed critical thinking about mental health.

IDENTIFY RELIABLE SOURCES

Teach young people to critically evaluate mental health content by checking credentials, source authenticity, and evidence-based information. Encourage them to refer to trusted medical or educational platforms and to consult healthcare professionals for clarification. This reduces young people's reliance on potentially harmful or misleading online sources.

SCHOOL-HOME COLLABORATION

Strengthen collaboration with educators to integrate digital literacy into the school curriculum, emphasising misinformation awareness. Jointly delivered education sessions on identifying and responding to misinformation can significantly improve pupils' ability to critically assess mental health content, supporting their mental wellbeing effectively both online and offline.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DIALOGUE

Foster a non-judgemental environment where young people feel comfortable discussing online content. Regularly talking about their online experiences and perceived mental health concerns helps clarify misunderstandings, mitigates misinformation, and builds trust, thereby enhancing their resilience and digital literacy. Model situations where you have sought advice from accurate sources and not solely relied on social media for health advice.

Meet Our Expert

Anna Bateman is Director of Halcyon Education Ltd, Director for Wellbeing and Family Services at Leigh Trust, and lead expert for mental health at The National College. Anna specialises in strategic mental health solutions for schools, supporting educators and families to improve resilience, emotional literacy, and overall wellbeing for children across the UK.



The
National
College

Class	Child's Name
RM	Emmanuel
RZ	Jhon
1AM	Daniel S
1M	Opi
2D	Ellie-Rose
2HK	Liseli
3FW	Kyra-Lin
3M	Issa
4I	Grazia
4M	Erinayo
5J	Mimi
5N	Olivia
6C	Tanuja
6P	Tricia
TT Rock-stars	The WHOLE OF YEAR 4
CDM - French	Gabriel 4M
AFS	Diana 1AM & Charmi 6C

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

Birthdays: up to 31st May 2026

20th Elias 6P
 21st Yusur 6C, Lily 3M & Tanuja 6C
 23rd Theia 6P
 26th Royal 2HK & Kiara 2D
 27th Gabriel RZ
 28th Georgi 6P
 31st Maya RZ



Thought of the Week

'Watch over me Father, so that everything I do may be with the intention of pleasing Jesus'

St Bernadette

