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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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JULY

6th—French Café Day

7th—Parent Workshop 9am on
'Screen Time'

7th—Year 6 Online Transition
Workshop 2—3pm

8th—Class Handover Day

9th—Leavers Production
9:30am & 5:30pm

9th—Nursery Singalong 8:50am
and 12:30pm

10th—Reports Out

10th—Class 6P Ben Kinsella
Foundation Workshop AM

13th—Class 6C Ben Kinsella
Foundation Workshop AM

14th—Reception End of Year
Assembly 9:15am

14th—Leavers Mass 2:30pm

15th—End of Year Assemblies:

Year 1 9AM

Year 2 9:45am

Year 3 10:45am

Year 4 1:45pm

Year 5 2:15pm

17th—Last Day of Term—Early
closing 1:45pm

Dear Parents,

What a busy week!

It has been an incredibly busy week in school with so much happening each and every day. The below gives you a small taste of what has taken place...

Monday

The children in St John Southworth house went to St Agnes to celebrate mass in honour of their feast day. They were very well behaved and it is always great to be able to part of the community of parishioners who attend daily mass in the church.

We welcomed back the staff and children from the residential journey to Dorset, they arrived around 6.30pm, tired and hungry but with plenty of memories! The staff who accompanied the pupils reported they were an absolute pleasure to be with - polite, listened to instructions, supported each other and gave lots of new challenges a go. I am so pleased that our children took this opportunity to push themselves and increase their independence - well done to all!

Miss Minihan organised the Reading Dogs picnic for pupils in Years 1 and 2 - there is a more detailed account later in this newsletter.

Tuesday

Our KS1 children enjoyed their sports day in the morning and really embraced all of the activities that were set up for them. We are obviously limited with space due to the size of our playgrounds, but we make the best use of what we have! A big shout out to the parents who came along to support their children on the morning, it really makes for a great atmosphere.

Wednesday

This was the turn of children in KS2 to have their Sports Day at Brondesbury Cricket Club, which we hire their facilities from. Thank goodness that the weather was in our favour on the day, allowing the children to participate in the carousel of activities around the field. Once again, it is so nice to see parents on these days and cheering on the children - it really makes a difference. My sincere thanks goes to Miss McSweeney for organising both days and ensuring the hard work was put in to make the days run smoothly. The cups and scores were given in Celebration assembly today - well done to Thanks also to FOSA for buying the ice lollies that the children enjoyed in school today as a treat.

Thursday

We held our Summer Fayre yesterday - thank you to all who came to support it and donated items and bought raffle tickets beforehand. Your contributions help us to raise monies which goes directly back to benefit all of our children - schools rely heavily on such support more and more as budgets are stretched ever tighter. A massive thank you to our three chairs - Ana, Sandra and AnneMarie for their detailed organisation. The Governors today extended their thanks to them with a small token of appreciation from us all.

Friday

Today was 'Beach Day' in Reception - it was a HUGE success and loved by all! A more detailed account with photos will follow next week.

Have a great weekend,

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>

Islam Workshop

On Wednesday, Year 3 had a workshop about Islam to support their topic in RE. They had the opportunity to ask questions and find out more.

I enjoyed the Islam workshop because I learnt more about their religion. We learnt about the Creation story and the message that everybody makes mistakes but we can be forgiven. He also taught us how to say 'Allah' in ten different ways. - Leen 3M

The Islam workshop was really good and interesting because I like learning about a different belief and how it links to my belief as a Christian - Tayviah 3fw

Miss McNulty and Miss Francis Williams

Reading Dog Picnic

Our Year 1 and Year 2 children had a wonderful time taking part in a Reading Dog Picnic! They brought their furry friends along to enjoy a relaxing afternoon outdoors, sharing stories together in the sunshine. Reading aloud to their dogs helped the children build confidence, develop their reading fluency, and most importantly, experience the joy of reading in a fun and supportive environment. It was fantastic to see so many wagging tails and smiling faces as our young readers and their four-legged companions enjoyed this special event together.

Miss Minihan



Celebration and Moving Forward Event - Wednesday 8th July 3.30pm - 4.30pm

All parents from Reception through to Year 5 are invited after school next Wednesday to visit their child's current classroom where there will be a small display of work and access to the pupil's books from this academic year.

You may if you wish also visit the new classroom your child will be moving onto next year. This is NOT an opportunity to talk to individual teachers about your child as you will receive their end of year report next week - Friday 10th July via Google Classroom.

Class Handover Day

All children from Reception to Year 5 will have the opportunity to meet their new class teacher on Wednesday 8th July. They will go to the actual new classroom for next year and have a session with their new teacher.

This is a great opportunity for your child to start off their new relationship for the year ahead begin to understand the expectations of the next year group. In addition, on that day all teachers have allocated time to speak about each individual child that they are 'handing over' to their colleagues. The discussion includes academic attainment, areas to strengthen and social skills which is very useful as part of the transition.

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.

PGL Osmington Bay

On the 26th of June, Year 6 went to PGL at Osmington Bay for a three-night trip. The coach journey took around four hours, and on the way, we watched movies and stopped to eat our packed lunches. Once we arrived, we collected our luggage from underneath the coach and met our group leader, Maddie, who gave us a quick tour of the site. She was really fun and even wore a banana costume so we could spot her easily!

After we settled into our rooms and unpacked some of our belongings, we went to a campfire. Although we couldn't have a real fire because it was too hot, we still toasted marshmallows, sang lots of songs together and listened to a story. My favourite song was Bungalow. Afterwards, we returned to our rooms, and lights out was at 9:30 pm.

The first full day was packed with exciting activities. We did Survivor, where we learned what to do if we ever got stranded, followed by abseiling down a huge tower. We also played laser tag and finished with the zip line, which was brilliant. In the afternoon, we took part in fun activities in the hall, ending with a balloon splash.

The next day, we did raft building, problem solving and the giant swing. Raft building was one of my favourite activities because we got to do Scuba Steve and fall backwards into the sea! The giant swing was also amazing. That evening, we went to a disco with other schools. Everyone danced to songs like Lush Life, Sweet Caroline and YMCA. It was a really enjoyable night!!!

On our final day, we played aero ball, which was like basketball on a trampoline, and completed the vertical challenge, where we climbed a very tall ladder into the sky. Once we had finished, we collected our luggage and got back on the coach. The journey home felt very long, but it was still fun because I got to sit with my friends. By the time we arrived back at school, I couldn't wait to see my family again.

Overall, PGL was a fantastic experience and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It pushed lots of people to try new things, even if they felt nervous or a little homesick. I would definitely recommend it to any Year 5 pupils thinking about going next year.



Sienna, Timothy and Manuela M.



St Agnes' Sports Day

On Tuesday 30th June and Wednesday 1st July, St Agnes hosted their annual KS1 and KS2 Sports Days. We had multiple events such as: javelin, shot put, hurdles and triple jump. KS1 set off the sporty week with their events being held on the school grounds and KS2 headed over to Brondesbury Cricket Club.

Every one tried their hardest and showed great sportsmanship. The results were so close, but St John Southworth took the lead in KS1 with 106 points and St Faustina in KS2 with 409. It was a great turn out and parents showed amazing support to all the pupils. An enjoyable day was had by all on both occasions!

Miss McSweeney
PE Leader



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't: meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat



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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 02.10.2024

Class	Child's Name
RM	THE WHOLE CLASS
RZ	THE WHOLE CLASS
1AM	Diana
1M	THE WHOLE CLASS
2D	Saviour
2HK	Krystian
3FW	Tayviah
3M	Maya
4I	Oliver
4M	Eva
5J	Ylenia
5N	Averie
6C	Jessica
6P	Adley
TT Rock-stars	Kayleigh 4I
CDM - French	Cian 2D
Reading Eggs	Noah 1M

Weekly Attendance		
Class	Attendance %	Number of Lates
RM	96	5
RZ	95	2
1AM	97	2
1M	98	1
2D	98	2
2HK	97	1
3FW	90	6
3M	95	11
4I	92	1
4M	95	1
5J	97	2
5N	96	3
6C	96	0
6P	94	0

Birthdays: up to 5th July 2026

June

30th Dylan 4I

July

2nd Sophie 4I

3rd Gabriel 4M



Thought of the Week

'Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard! '

Unknown Sports Coach

