Date: 25/09/2026

Issue: 04

St Agnes' Weekly News

The family of St Agnes loves, learns and grows together as followers of Jesus.

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OCTOBER

5tth—9th Cycle to School week

5th—St Faustina Feast Day mass 9:15 (church)

7th—Year 5 Golders Green Orienteering Trip

7th—Black History Month Workshops

7th Parents Speech and Language meeting (Rec & KS1 Parents /carers) 9:00am

7th 6M assembly 9:05am

8th—Individual Photo Day

9th—Parent Forum 9:00am

9th—Black History Workshops

12th Brent Cross Town trip Year 6 10:00am

13th– Chatty Children Workshop—nursery & reception parents, 9am

16th—One Tree Day £1 donation

19th and 21st—Parents evenings 3.30 –6.00 pm

22nd 5J assembly 9:05am

Dear Parents,

International Evening

I asked Miss McNulty to write this week's newsletter and devote it to our hugely successful international evening which was held last Thursday. From me, I just wanted to say what a special evening it was.. The sun shone, the effort that families had gone to in terms of costume, food preparation and coming to represent their countries on the evening was simply **PHENOMENAL**. The entertainment was amazing, the children were so enthusiastic and well prepared, it was really super to see them confidently sharing with us something so special to them. A huge thank you to everyone who supported the event and particular thanks to the following countries for ensuring our evening was amazing with your stalls:

Jamaica, India, Algeria, Bulgaria, Poland, Philippines, Albania, Hungary, Italy and Ukraine.

Mrs O'Reilly

Have a lovely weekend

Susan O'Reilly

International Evening 2026

Last Thursday we celebrated our amazing International Evening here at St Agnes. Our taste buds were blessed with an array of amazing food from around the globe.

It was so great to see both children and parents in their traditional costumes. We enjoyed fantastic entertainment from the children across the school who had auditioned then showcased their talents to everybody. Some shared interesting facts they had researched about their chosen country, or created poems. We also had a variety of performances such as songs and dances. A massive well done to all the children involved and thank you for sharing these.

Another sincere thanks to those parents who hosted a stall to showcase their incredible food and traditional items from the following countries: Hungary, Albania, Ukraine, Bulgaria, India, Algeria, Poland, Jamaica, Romania, Italy and the Philippines.

We are a really diverse school with so many more countries which were not represented, making up our rich community. Thanks to your donations on the evening, we have raised £1415 towards school funds. Thank you again to everyone involved who helped make the evening such a success.

Miss McNulty Geography Lead

Class 4R Assembly

We were beautifully reminded by class 4R on Wednesday this week that we are entering October, the month of the Holy Rosary. They were able to fully explain what the Rosary was, the different mysteries, the power of prayer and the significance of Our Lady. They reminded us that praying the Rosary is a powerful way of stilling the mind and to connect in prayer. In life, we tend to turn to our own mothers when we have a problem and in praying the Rosary we can speak to our Mother Mary. She will listen to us and she will allow us the space within our prayers to gain strength and solace. The children of class 4R were each given a Rosary Beads and they will be encouraged to pray a decade of the Rosary at home during October and beyond.

Contact Information

Could you ensure that the school office has all your up to date contact information ie mobile number and email address in case we need to speak to you or send emails/text messages to keep you updated on school life. It is essential we also have up to date emergency contact details should your child have an accident at school. **Please note that all payments must be made via Arbor.** If you have any issues accessing Arbor, please contact the school office. Your co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Maggie's Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who came and supported our Maggie's Coffee morning today, for your cake donations and coming along to enjoy a cuppa and a treat. This is a local charity, with a center in Hampstead and I know they are extremely appreciative of all funds raised. The money we will donate will go towards supporting people who are living with cancer, to access services and therapies to make life easier. The monies will be counted and an announcement made in next week's newsletter.

Birthday Books

We are introducing a new system for each family to purchase a birthday book to celebrate their child's birthday. A payment of **£6** will show on every child's Arbor account and when it is your child's birthday, you can pay the amount. They will then go to the large basket of new books kept in Mrs Jones classroom that school has bought and select a brand new book for their class library. The book will have a dedication at the front to the child to celebrate their birthday and is dated - which will remain as a lasting gift for the class. This is a perfect way to remember their special day.

Prayer Rosary Station

Throughout October, our Pause and Pray Rosary Station will be open at lunchtime. Children are warmly invited to spend a few quiet moments in prayer, reflection, and contemplation as they learn more about and pray the Rosary. This provides a wonderful opportunity to deepen their faith and enjoy a peaceful space during the school day.

Welcome to our School

We would like to offer a very warm welcome to the following children and their families who have started with us this week:

Aarna Ahuja Reception and Teodora Berusca Yr 3

St Faustina Feast Day Mass

The children in St Faustina's House will be celebrating their feast day by going to mass on **Monday 5th October** in the parish church at **9.15am**. If you are a parent with a child in this house, you are most welcome to go to mass also.

Parent Tours - Reception September 2027

Should you know of any friends or neighbours considering St Agnes as a school for their Reception Child for next year, please can you let them know that our tours for prospective parents will be held on **Friday 6th November at 1.45pm and Tuesday 10th November at 9.30am**. A final tour will take place on **Friday 4th December at 9.15am.** Due to numbers attending we ask parents not to bring children with them. They do not need to book a place but can simply come along on any of the given dates.

Individual Photograph Day

Please note the photographer will take individual pictures of pupils for you to purchase should you wish (and siblings) on **Thursday 8th October.** we would ask you to ensure that your child wears FULL school uniform on that day.

Just One Tree Day – Friday 16th October

We are excited to be taking part in Just One Tree Day on Friday 16th October!

To help support this fantastic cause, we are inviting the children to come to school wearing green or tree/nature-themed colours in exchange for a £1 donation.

Just One Tree is a wonderful initiative that helps tackle climate change by funding tree planting and supporting communities around the world.

We would love for everyone to get involved and help us make a difference.

Thank you for your support

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

PE KIT DAYS

PE Kit Days

Year Group	PE Kit Days
Reception	Wednesday
Year 1	Monday & Thursday
Year 2	Wednesday & Friday
Year 3	Monday & Tuesday
Year 4	Tuesday & Wednesday
Year 5	Wednesday & Tuesday
Year 6	Tuesday & Thursday

Assembly Dates

7/10/26	6M
14/10/26	5N
22/10/26	5J
11/11/26	3M
19/11/26	4I
26/11/26	3D

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.

FOSA

School Events for the Year 2026/2027

Save the Dates!

Together we make a difference

Here are some of the events that FOSA is planning for 2026/2027.

Some dates are still to be confirmed but hopefully it helps with planning for this year. There may be more events that may come up closer to the time. Information for each event will be provided in seperae posters closer to the time.

2026 Events

23rd Oct 2026	Crazy Hair Day (£1)
5th Nov 2026	Bon Fire Night Sale
13th Nov 2026	Mr Marvel Disco Reception to Year 3
27th Nov 2026	Mufti Day Bottle for Christmas Fayre Tombola
30th Nov to 4th Dec 2026	Christmas Movie Week
2nd Dec 2026	Santas Grotto
3rd Dec 2026	Christmas Fayre 3-5pm

2027 Events

5th Feb 2027	KS2 Disco for Year 4 to Year 6
12th Feb 2027	Valentines Cupid for a Day (£1)
12th Feb 2027	Velantines Day Sale
March 2027	Mothers Day Event (Date TBC)
March 2027	Easter Quest (Date TBC)
June 2027	Fathers Day Event (Date TBC)
22nd June 2027	Mufti Day Year 6 Bottle for Summer Fayre Tombola
25th June 2027	Mufti Day Bottle for Summer Fayre
1st July 2027	Summer Fayre 3-5pm
19th July 2027	End of Year Sale

More details to follow nearer the time!

Santa's GROTTO

Wednesday 2nd December 2026

Children from Nursery to Year 6 will have the opportunity to visit Santa's Grotto in school from 9am until 3pm.

If you would like your child to visit Santa and receive a gift there will be a small charge of **£8 per child** which will go towards buying the presents and wrapping paper.

Arbor

Payment can be done via **Arbor** under **Trips.**

Deadline for payment is 16th October 2026 at 3pm.

Payments made after this date will be refunded.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Instagram is a highly popular social media platform with over 2 billion active monthly users. The app is continuously updating and adding new features to meet the wishes of its audience, allowing them to upload images and videos to their Instagram feed, create interactive 'stories', go live, exchange private messages or explore and follow other accounts that catch their eye.

ADDICTION

Many social media platforms, Instagram included, are designed to keep us engaged on them for as long as possible. They encourage scrolling often and scrolling more in case we miss something important – in essence, a fear of missing out. On Instagram, young people can lose track of time when aimlessly scrolling and watching videos posted by friends, acquaintances, influencers and possibly strangers.

UNREALISTIC IDEALS

Children sometimes compare themselves to what they see online: how they look, how they dress, and the way their life is going in comparison to others on social media. However, most people only share the positives about their lives online and many use filters when sharing pictures of themselves. A constant comparison with unrealistic ideals can lead to insecurity over one's own appearance and lifestyle.

GOING LIVE

Livestreaming on Instagram allows users to connect with friends and followers in real time. Risks increase if the account is public, because that means anyone can watch the broadcast, which could result in further contact from strangers. Additional dangers of going live include an impulse to act inappropriately to draw more viewers, as well as being exposed to harmful content or offensive language.

INFLUENCER CULTURE

Social media influencers are sometimes paid thousands of pounds to promote products, services, apps and more. When celebrities or influencers post such content, it often says 'paid partnership' above the post. In April 2024, Ofcom found that over a quarter of children (27%) believed in influencer marketing, accepting their endorsement of products wholeheartedly. So it's perfectly possible for young people to be taken in by this kind of content.

PRODUCT TAGGING

Product tags allow users to tag a product or business in their post. This tag will take viewers directly to the product detail page on the shop where the item can be purchased. Children may also be encouraged by influencers to purchase products that they advertise.

EXCLUSION & OSTRACISM

Youngsters are highly sensitive to feeling excluded, which comes in many forms: not receiving as many 'likes' as expected; not being tagged in a friend's photo; being unfriended; not receiving a comment on their post or a reply to a message they sent. Being excluded online hurts just as much as offline. Young people have reported lower moods and self-esteem when excluded in this way, feeling as if they don't belong and aren't valued.

Advice for Parents & Educators

AVOID GOING PUBLIC

If a young user wants to share their clothing style, make up or similar and use product tagging to show off the items in their post, they may be tempted to change their settings to public. This leaves their profile visible to everyone, which carries the risk of strangers getting in touch with them. Set a child's account to private and explain the importance of keeping it this way.

HAVE AN OPEN DIALOGUE

Talk to children about the positives and negatives of social media, including the risks involved and how they can view or create content safely with family and friends. Explain how safety settings will ensure only followers can view them, and why this is so important. Also, if you find a child continuously uses filters on their photos, ask them why and impress on them that they don't need it.

MANAGE LIKE COUNTS

Due to the potential impact on mental wellbeing, Instagram allows users to hide the total likes on their posts, to prevent people from obsessing over that number in the corner. Users can hide like counts on all the posts in their feed as well as on their own posts. This means others can't see how many likes a person gets. This can be done by going into Settings > Notifications > Posts > Likes > Off.

USE MODERATORS

Instagram Live has implemented a mechanic called 'Moderators', meaning that creators can assign a moderator and give them the power to report comments, remove viewers and remove the ability for certain viewers to comment at all. Consider this if a child in your care wants to go live on the platform. It's also recommended to keep devices in communal spaces so you're aware if a child does go live or watch a livestream.

FOLLOW INFLUENCERS

Following influencers will allow you to monitor what they're sharing as well as being able to discuss anything which you deem inappropriate. Talk to children about who they follow and help them to develop critical thinking skills about what the influencer is trying to do. For example, encourage the child to ask themselves if an influencer is trying to sell them a product when they make a video endorsing it.

BALANCE YOUR TIME

Instagram has a built-in activity dashboard that lets you control how much time is spent on the app. Make sure children sign in to the platform with the correct age, as Instagram's 'Teen Accounts' afford much more control for parents and carers over how long they can use the app each day. Talk with young users about how much time they spend on Instagram and work together to set a healthy time limit.

Meet Our Expert

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

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/instagram-2022

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Class	Star of the Week
RC	Jannah
RZ	Ava Connor
1M	Aris
1AM	Emmanuel
2D	Eliana
2HK	Prince
3D	Seth
3M	Angelo
4R	Diana
4I	Orla
5N	Kayleigh
5J	Noor
6M	Maksym
6P	Ivan
French	Noor (5J)
Reading Eggs	Luka Molashkhia (2D)
TT Rockstars	Sofiia Makohoniuk (2D)

Birthdays: up to 4th October 2026

28th Sept Ameenah 1M,

29th Sept Jenson 5N, Miimi 6P

30th Sept Stefan 3D, Halle 1M, Prince 2HK

2nd Oct Jack,

3rd Oct Julia 1AM, Erinayo 5J, Paula Nur

4th Oct Sofia 5N, Arion 4R

Weekly Attendance		
Class	**Attendance %**	**Number of Lates**
RC	96.3%	11
RZ	94.6%	2
1M	99.3%	2
1AM	99.6%	5
2D	96.3%	10
2HK	94.8%	4
3D	98.5%	0
3M	97.3%	3
4R	99.7%	2
4I	97.8%	6
5N	99.7%	2
5J	98.6%	2
6M	96.7%	2
6P	95.5%	1

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.

Thought of the Week

'The rosary is the most excellent form of prayer and the most efficacious means of attaining eternal life. It is the remedy for all our evils, the root of all our blessings. There is no more excellent way of praying'.

~ Pope Leo XIII