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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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OCTOBER 19th 2026

October

23rd– Break up for Half Term

November

2nd- Inset day teacher training **(school closed for children)**

3rd– Children return to school

4th– Reception & Year 6 Height and Weight check

4th-9:00am Yr 1 Parents meeting phonics

5th– FOSA Bon Fire Night Sale

5th– Year 4 MTC workshop for Parents 9:00am

6th—BICs parents coffee morning—Setting Boundaries 9:00am

6th– Year 6 trip Battle of Britain Bunker

6th– Prospective parents tour for Sept 2027 1:45pm

8th– 10:30 Family Mass at St Agnes (uniform to be worn)

9th—13th Book Fayre at school

10th—Flu jab, Reception to Year 6 (catch-up)

10th– Prospective parent tour for Sept 2027 9.:30am

10th– SATs Year 6 information evening 5pm remote

12th—EYFS 'Developing Independence' workshop for parents 9am

12th– Governors coffee morning 8:40-9:10am

13th—Mr Marvel Disco Reception to Year 3 1:30-2:50/3pm

Dear Parents,

Happy Half Term

We have come to the end of a very long half term - it is unusual to have a half term of 8 weeks and I think we are all ready to have a well deserved break. Once we return to school it will be a seven week half term and will as always in the run up to Christmas be incredibly busy.

Parents Evenings

It was great to see so many parents this week, coming in to meet their child's class teacher. I hope that you have celebrated with your child what they are doing well (as reported by their teacher) and areas which can be strengthened to have even more success during the year! I saw many parents taking considerable time to look through their child's books which were available. Even in just eight weeks the progress they have made is remarkable. We ask you to keep supporting your child with daily reading (and signing their reading record) and homework tasks as directed, as it makes a big difference to their confidence in class.

Praying the Rosary

It has been wonderful to see the children's commitment in attending the Rosary Prayer station during the month of October, led by Mrs Gale. It has allowed them an opportunity to gather together, still their minds with the repetition of known prayers and offer these up for the intention of others. As there are still some days left in October, please encourage your child to pray with you a decade of the Rosary, honoring our Mother Mary and offering those prayers for a special intention within the household. Remember parents, that prayer intentions can be made via your child's Google Classroom and in the prayer book which is in the main lobby.

Bonfire Bake Sale

We are celebrating Bonfire Night on Thursday **5th November** with a cake sale after school. We would be grateful for your support in both donations of cakes (one item per family would be great) and a group of parents to set up the table in the playground at 2.45pm and sell until 3.15pm once school is finished. Please let the office or one of the three FOSA chairs (Ana, Sandra and Anne-Marie) know if you are able to help set up.

School/Parish Mass

We will be having our first School/Parish mass of the school year on **Sunday 8th November at 10.30am** in St Agnes' Church. Please make every effort to attend as it would be wonderful to have a full church of children and their families to celebrate Remembrance Sunday. We would ask that if possible children wore their school uniform for mass as it fosters a real sense of community and belonging and shows the congregation of parishioners how wonderful our children are!

It is important that we gather together as a community and give thanks for the freedom we have in our lives due to the sacrifice of others. During the mass our children will present the traditional red poppy wreaths as these flowers grew across ruined battlefields in Belgium and France, becoming a symbol of hope and remembrance. We will also present a wreath of white poppies which whilst remembering past conflicts and wars in which so many have died, it stands as a commitment to peace for the future and non-violent conflict resolution.

Wishing you all a relaxing half term and we look forward to welcoming the children back on **Tuesday 3rd November** in winter uniform (no summer uniform is to be worn till next Easter). Please remember that there is no school on **Monday 2nd November** as this is an RE themed inset day for staff.

Regards,

Susan O'Reilly

(Headteacher)

Year 5 Golders Hill Park Trip

Year 5 enjoyed an exciting trip to Golders Hill Park, where they took part in an orienteering activity. Using maps, compasses and keys, they worked together to navigate around the park and locate different checkpoints. They also consolidated their learning about the life cycle of seeds and the different ways seeds are dispersed. The children used roleplay to demonstrate the different dispersal methods. It was a fantastic opportunity to develop their map-reading skills and understanding of the natural world ahead of their new Geography topic: Investigating our World.

Diellza - I enjoyed looking for the checkpoints with my group!

Clare - I enjoyed when we learnt how to use compasses because I hadn't used one before.

George - I learned about different types of seeds and the plants they came from









Miss Jones

Significant Individual Day: Year 2

Yesterday, Year 2 celebrated *Significant Individual Day as part of our History topic: Movers and Shakers!* The children chose a significant individual, past or present, who inspires them or has made a difference to the world. They came to school dressed as their chosen person and confidently shared interesting facts about who they were, what they achieved and why they were significant. It was wonderful to see the children sharing their knowledge, developing their speaking and listening skills, and celebrating the achievements of so many inspiring people from the past and present!





One Tree

Our school was delighted to take part in JUST ONE Tree Day last Friday, helping to make a difference to our planet. Just One Tree is a wonderful initiative that helps tackle climate change by funding tree planting and supporting communities around the world. Thank you to everyone who has participated, it was wonderful to see so many shades of green and brown in addition to some flower colours too! Together we raised a total of **£393.55** which will be sent to the organisers of 'One Tree' after half term. It is donations such as these which will contribute to much needed replanting.

As a Catholic school, we believe that the world is a precious gift from God and that we all have a part to play in looking after it. This links to our Catholic Social Teaching, **Care for Creation** – protecting the world we share.

Inspired by Pope Francis' Laudato Si', we are reminded that the Earth is our shared home and that we all have a responsibility to protect it, especially for future generations. Our Eco-Warriors shared this message to remind us of our duty.





Miss McNulty

(Geography and Eco– Warrior Leader)

Year 1: Discover Ballet Workshop

On Monday, Year 1 took part in an online live lesson hosted by the Royal Ballet and Opera. The children enjoyed the interactive session where they watched ballet dancers perform, saw how props are created and learnt some ballet techniques.

Charlie: "I learned to dance!"

Alexa: "I liked the dancing."

Lala: "They showed us how they make ballet shoes and we got to do a lot of fun things. I liked the actions with the dancing. Now I can do ballet!"

Gabriel: "I liked learning to dance like the people."

Olivia: "We were learning how to do ballet and they showed us how they made the dresses and shoes."

Natalia: "I liked seeing them dance."

Khairi: "The sword fighting was cool."

Sean: "I liked when they were spinning."







ROYAL BALLET & OPERA

Social Action Leaders

Congratulations to our fantastic Year 5 Social Action Leaders and Deputies who submitted great application forms and were so well organised with their interview skills and answers. They will be working hard to support the School, St. Agnes' Church, the Local Community and the Catholic Charities across the world!

So far this year, they have helped to set up and organise the Maggie's Coffee morning – giving out stickers to parents who stayed for a hot drink and cake, they then counted out all the money raised! They have cleaned Mary's Grotto ready for the month of the Holy Rosary. They have some fantastic ideas for the rest of the year and we can't wait to see how they put their faith into action this school year.

Mrs Higgins

(Social Action Leader Coordinator)

Social Action Leader:	Social Action Deputy:
Sophie, Temi, Natalie, Matteo	Alia, Bianca, Georgina, Liana, Jenson





We are always looking for fundraising ideas and support from our school community. If you have a suggestion, or can help us connect with a local business, please get in touch with FOSA.

FOSA TEAM
Ana, Sandra, Annemarie

FOSA News and Fundraising

Hello, school community. We'll share regular newsletter updates to keep you informed about FOSA's initiatives and fundraising opportunities throughout the year.
For the Autumn term we are raising money to pay for 12 new lunch tables and also the panto visit in November to the school for all years.

We hope the FOSA Fundraising Event Calendar has been helpful and will make it easier for families to plan for the school year ahead.

School Community Initiatives

Olio Food Waste Prevention (a free community-sharing and food-waste reduction app that connects neighbours and local businesses to redistribute surplus food and household items).

Olio volunteers are known as Food Waste Heroes.

How the Olio collection works
A parent in our school community, Ana Valentina, introduced this initiative three weeks ago, and it has been warmly welcomed. Ana Valentina kindly collects food items and brings them to school on Mondays and Fridays.

The food is stored safely in the school office and staff kitchen, out of children's reach.
It is placed in the school lobby shortly before pick-up and is available to collect from 3pm.
Anyone in the school community is welcome to collect the items free of charge should they wish.
We will send a Parentapp message on collection days to confirm when food is available.

Mrs O'Reilly told us that the school's social action leaders have helped staff move items from the school office to the lobby for display. Their support is a wonderful example of pupils contributing to an initiative that benefits the whole school community.

We will also use Olio, where suitable, to source items for the Christmas Fayre and other school events. This will help reduce waste while supporting FOSA's fundraising.

Our thanks go to Ana Valentina for introducing the initiative and generously giving her time to collect and deliver food for our school community. If you would like to make extra requests for food or other items for your own household, please visit the Olio app and contact Ana Valentina directly.

Fundraising Opportunities

PTA Tickets (We're on a mission to help more families enjoy live entertainment while raising money and making a real difference to school communities)

PTA Tickets has partnered with us to help more families attend live events. It offers discounted tickets on selected dates for West End shows and grassroots sports. Each ticket purchased by our school community through our dedicated box office also raises money for FOSA.

The first event that has been offered to us is the following:



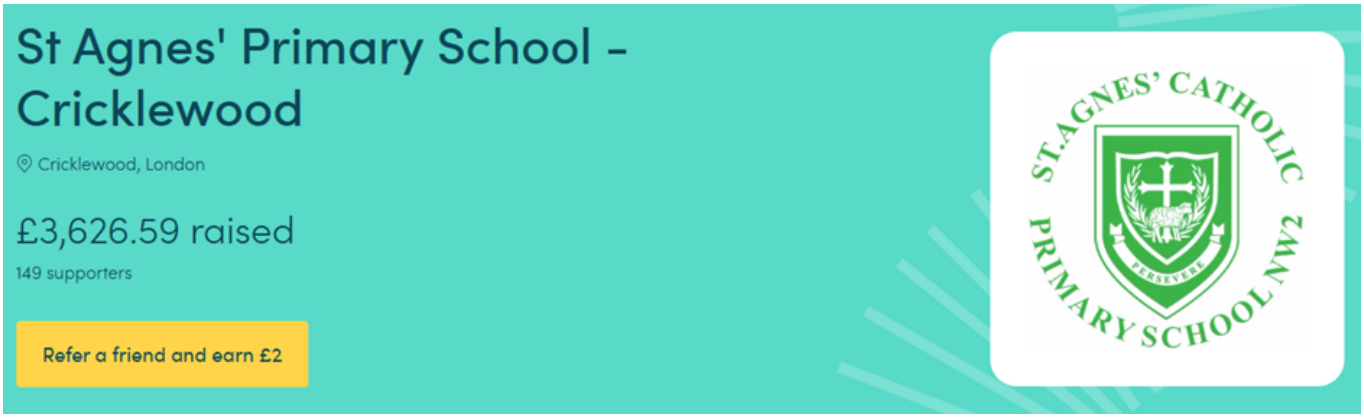
A spooktacular family afternoon of Gallagher PREM rugby and a chance to support Friends of St Agnes, all at the same time!

Saracens v Newcastle Red Bulls
StoneX Stadium
Sat 31st Oct (KO 3pm)
Dress up in your spookiest costumes for a fang-tastic Halloween matchday!

Tickets from just £14 - every ticket supports FOSA!
Visit our PTA Tickets box office to grab yours! https://www.ptatickets.co.uk/events/halloween-at-the-stonex-saracens-v-newcastle-red-bulls-tz4p374h (note as this document is pdf the link won't work so please type it to the search bar)

Easyfundraising (easyfundraising is a free way to raise money for a cause you care about while you shop online).

With Christmas approaching, everyday online shopping can help raise funds for our school. Shop through easy-fundraising at more than 8,000 retailers, and the retailer will donate to the school at no extra cost to you. You pay the usual price while your purchases generate free donations.



Click the link to join and start earning donations (this document is pdf so this link will be sent after Half term)

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?invite=234fvv&referral-campaign=s2s&utm_campaign=web-referral&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=copy-link&char=182689

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.

The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal

From Monday, we will be selling poppies in school in support of the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.
The poppy is a symbol of remembrance, worn to honour the members of the Armed Forces who have died in conflict and to remember the sacrifices made by servicemen and women to protect our freedom.
Money raised through the Poppy Appeal helps the Royal British Legion support serving and former members of the Armed Forces, veterans and their families, providing practical, financial and emotional support when they need it.
Children will be able to make a donation in exchange for a paper poppy or other items from the collection. Donations can be small or large, and all contributions are gratefully accepted. The suggested donation is **£2 per poppy**.



Cash only, please.

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.



SAVE THE DATE - Governors Morning

Our termly Governors Morning will next be held on **Thursday 12th November**, where they will focus on the RE curriculum and Prayer and Liturgy at St Agnes. As always parents are welcome to pop in for the first part of that session - **8.40-9.05 am** and meet a few of the governors over a coffee. It is an opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions and celebrate strengths of the school.



Secondary School Applications

As per the messages sent out - ALL year 6 parents must ensure that they have applied to the secondary schools of choice and submitted their online borough applications by **October 31st** - please be aware that this is during half term. Any applications received after that date are treated as late and go to the bottom of the pile to be dealt with after all the others received on time.

Half Term Reminder

Pleas note as per the school calendar we will break up for Half Term on Friday 23rd October at the usual time, with children returning on Tuesday 3rd November. School is closed to pupils on **Mon 2nd November** as this is an INSET day for staff which will be dedicated to RE, our core purpose as a Catholic school with some input from Fr Chinedu on the use of and church opinion on AI.

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.

E-Scooters

Following advice from a number of sources, and due to the potential risks that e-scooters pose to pupils and school buildings, we have taken the decision to not allow e-scooters on school premises . Therefore, children and adults are not permitted to bring or ride e-scooters onto school property. For further information please check:

https://www.barnet.gov.uk/roads-and-pavements/road-safety/road-safety-education/driving-safely/e-scooters
https://capt.org.uk/e-scooters-and-children/
https://www.rospa.com/health-and-safety-news/addressing-the-rising-concern-of-e-bike-and-e-scooter-battery-hazards

Please see the information below where you can celebrate the weekly gospel at home with your family.

https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/summer-holiday-booklet?pid=MTA101634&v=146.2

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

PE KIT DAYS

Assembly Dates

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.

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 MINECRAFT

AGE RESTRICTION PEGI 7

Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by erasing hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms. Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 6 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

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Class	Star of the Week
RC	Mavee
RZ	Abbas
1M	Freya
1AM	Luna
2D	Solomiia
2HK	Angelina
3D	Daniel
3M	Josia
4R	Azzurra
4I	Julia
5N	Oli
5J	Melissa
6M	Murilo
6P	Arthur
French	Gabriel (5J)
Reading Eggs	Ajla Aliu (1M) for completing 8 lessons
TT Rockstars	Year 3 for 70% engagement over the last 7 days
Special Star of the Week	Binisha (6M) being such an amazing helper to the office this week

Birthdays: up to 1st November 2026

20th Oct– Bela E (2HK), Debbie A(5N)
21st Oct-Daphne E (NUR), Zaen M (2D), Celine P (4R)
23rd Oct-Abbas A (4I), Dylan J (4R), Lena R (5J)
24th Oct—George K (5J)
26th Oct- Gbohunmi A (6P) , Nila G (4R)
27th Oct– Amaya F (4I) , Aoife M (NUR), Ayla Y (1AM), Freya, Y (1M)
28th Oct- Juliana A (6M) , Eva T (3D)
29th Oct– Lala B (1AM)
30th Oct—Santino S (RZ)
31st Oct—Daniel L (NUR), Deniz Y (NUR)
1st Nov—Jordan P (4R)

Weekly Attendance		
Class	**Attendance %**	**Number of Lates**
RC	96.0%	1
RZ	91.1%	3
1M	99.3%	3
1AM	93.2%	1
2D	97.0%	6
2HK	95.7%	3
3D	93.3%	3
3M	99.0%	2
4R	99.6%	5
4I	96.8%	3
5N	95.7%	2
5J	94.8%	1
6M	96.0%	6
6P	94.0%	7

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 a long chain that links heaven and earth, with one end in our hands and the other in the hands of the Blessed Virgin Mary'.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux

