

December '24 Newsletter



It has been a very busy first term at St Agnes. We have had class trips to the Natural History Museum, St Paul's Cathedral and the Soanes Centre. On the 10th December the Young Shakespeare Company performed 'Twelfth Night' to Years 3-6, the show was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The last few weeks have been filled with lots of Christmas events. At the end of November Year 2 and Year 3 were invited for a free ice skating session at Canary Wharf. The children were thrilled to take part in such an exciting experience. Thank you to all of the parents who accompanied us and even joined the children on the ice!

Years 3 & 5 and Years 4 & 6 attended an Advent Mass as part of our Advent preparations. Thank you to Fr Howard.

Miss Sloan led the school choir with carol singing at the Bow Tesco store and Canary Wharf DLR station. Their continuous efforts raised a total of **£608.77**. St Agnes will be donating 10% to the Bow Food Bank. Well done to all of our carollers!

On **Wednesday 11th December** both pupils and staff had their Christmas lunch, thank you to all the kitchen staff for their efforts in making it a successful day. We were joined by Fr Howard who thoroughly enjoyed his lunch.

St Agnes held our first Christmas Fair on Thursday 12th December with an array of stalls, raffle prizes and Christmas goodies. We had an amazing turn out and received some fantastic feedback. A huge thank you to our PTA who worked very hard to piece together a memorable event: Jenna, Sara, Natalie, Regan, Lauren, Elair, Sam, Lynsey, Samantha and to our staff who helped out during the fair: Ann, Pam, Elpha, Sarah and Krystyna, Breeze, Mr K, Miss Todd, Mrs Manning and Mr Ramesar and not forgetting the extended family of Jenna, Parker, Grayson for all of their help. Mrs Claus was extremely popular!

With your help we raised a total of **£1162.21** towards new school boilers and we thank you for your continued support. A special mention to the following for donating prizes: Star Cars, Reeds River Cruises, Canary Wharf Ice Skating, Moments by Amy, Flip Out, Tesco and Go Karting O2.

If you would like to join our PTA or have any fundraising ideas you would like to put forward please email our PTA on: pta@st-agnes.towerhamlets.sch.uk



Nursery and Reception performed their Nativity on **Tuesday 17th December**. Year One and Year Two performed their Nativity on the **18th December**. Well done to all the children who took part! They were both wonderful performances and we were very proud to see the children sing, dance and deliver their lines so confidently in front of such a large audience. Thank you to all the parents for your support with providing costumes and helping children learn their lines. A total of **£104.19** was raised for Crisis at Christmas, thank you.

The Junior Carol service was held on **17th December** at Our Lady and St Catherine of Siena Church, and the children sang beautifully. Thank you to those who attended and to all the staff for their support, and for arranging such a special celebration where the school, parish and parents come together. A special thank you also to Fr Howard for all his support. The collection total is **£176.54** which will also be donated to Crisis at Christmas as part of our Catholic social teaching principle 'preferential option for the poor'.

Today all classes had a Christmas party which included a visit from Father Christmas. The children were very excited and had lots of fun.

School closes for Christmas at 2pm on Friday 20th December. Please make sure your child is collected on time. After School club will be closed that day.

Staff will be selling cakes, candy canes, hot chocolate and popcorn cones in the playground at home time Friday. Prices range from 30-50p, please try to have the correct change.

On Friday during the school day Years 3-6 can take part in a penalty shoot-out game of 'Beat the Elf'. If you would like your child to take part, please bring in £1 which is to be handed to the class teacher tomorrow morning. Please note, children will need to wear their full school uniform tomorrow.

Key Dates:

6th January 2025 INSET Day

7th January 2025 Children back in school. Breakfast and After School Club will be open as normal.

13th January will be assessment week

21st January – St Agnes Day. Children can come to school dressed in a costume associated with their family background (e.g flag/traditional dress, no football kits)

24th January – Mid Year reports to go home

28th January – Parents Evening

PE/Swimming

Year 5 will no longer be swimming from January, their PE day will be on Wednesdays. Year 4 will begin swimming lessons from Friday 10th January in place of PE lessons.

Year 2

Miss Akther will be returning from maternity leave after Christmas. She will be the Year 2 class teacher starting from 7th January 2025 every Monday - Wednesday. Mr Ramesar will continue to teach Year 2 on Thursdays and Fridays from January.

First Kicks Sports Club

First Kicks Sports Christmas Camp will be taking place at St Agnes over the Christmas half term. Spaces are initially offered to Free School Meal eligible children however please enquire with the club should you wish for your child to attend. You can book a space via this link <https://first-kicks-sports.classforkids.io/camp/40> . Spaces are offered on a first come first served basis.

Attendance and Punctuality

We at St. Agnes' School believe that excellent **attendance** and **punctuality** are essential to ensure that students benefit from the maximum number of learning opportunities on offer. Please continue to support the School by making sure that your child is punctual and attends every day in full school uniform. A reminder that it is the responsibility of parents to notify the school if children are absent by 8.30am each day (by either Parentmail/email/phone/voicemail). **This term Y6 won the Attendance Award and Y2 the Punctuality Award. Well done to both classes!**

Office info

Reminder that the office is closed every Tuesday afternoon from 12:00. Please only telephone in the case of an emergency. All other enquiries can be emailed to info@st-agnes.towerhamlets.sch.uk
Please note, there is a 72hrs turn around for any non-urgent requests and the office cannot accept any new admin requests during the last week of term.

Admissions

The deadline for **Reception** applications is **15th January 2025**. The deadline for **Nursery** applications is **16th February 2025**. For your application to be considered complete you must submit a Supplementary Information Form (SIF), proof of address and the online Tower Hamlets E-Admission form. SIF forms can be found on the school website under Admissions or collected from the office.



Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee

Pope Francis has declared that the year 2025 will be a Holy Year of Jubilee for the Catholic Church – an event that takes place once every 25 years. The theme for the 2025 Jubilee is “Pilgrims of Hope”, an invitation to showcase the hope of our Christian faith to people right across the world at a time when there is so much suffering from the impact of war, poverty, climate change, and the lasting effects of the COVID pandemic. The Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee presents each one of us with an opportunity to reignite the flame of our faith in our own hearts and to share the light of that faith with those in darkness.

Please take a moment to pray for those less fortunate.

The Jubilee prayer

Father in heaven,
may the **faith** you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of **charity** enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed **hope**
for the coming of your Kingdom.
May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity
and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.
May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and all your families a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.