



# ST AGNES Catholic Primary School

*With Jesus beside us, we do our best*

Rainhill Way, Bow, London, E3 3ER

Tel: 020 8980 3076

Email: [office@st-agnes.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-agnes.towerhamlets.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Ms B McDaid

6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear parents/carers,

I hope you all had a good summer and managed to get some rest. It was very good to see all the children back, eager and ready to work.

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result areas in affected spaces will be vacated.

The DfE has been helping education settings and responsible bodies (such as local authorities and multi-academy trusts) to identify and manage the potential risks of RAAC since 2018. You can find more in the Education Hub article published by DfE.

We appreciate the concern this may raise, and we will always prioritise the safety of your children and our staff.

We do not have any confirmed RAAC in our buildings and have not been asked to close any areas by the L.A. or the Diocese. We continue to liaise with outside agencies to ensure that we are fully compliant with all health and safety matters within our school. Should any future DfE initiated surveys detect RAAC, we will let you know straight away, and we put contingencies in place.

Any contingency plans will prioritise the continuation of education and ensure that, if RAAC is identified, any impact on children is kept to an absolute minimum. Rest assured that the safety of children and staff is of paramount importance to all concerned.

## New Staff:

We have new teachers in our school. Miss Naa in Nursery and Miss Akther in Year Two. Miss Yeboah and Mr Ramesar will be covering planning and preparation time for teachers. Vida is joining our SEN support staff and working in Year 4. We also have new children starting in Nursery and Reception and we welcome them to St Agnes.

## Dropping off and picking up:

### **Reception – Year Six:**

School day 09:00 - 15:30

Entrance and exit via the alleyway gate.

### **Nursery**

School Day 08:50-11:50 (Part time) 08:50-15:20 (Full time)

Entrance via the alleyway for all morning drop offs. Part time children are collected via the car park gate. Full time children are to be collected from the classroom door via the alleyway gate.

The main gates will close promptly at **9.05 am** in the morning and **3.40pm** in the afternoon. Any late children will need to enter the school via the car park and report to the office. This will be marked as a late attendance. In order to avoid a late registration mark, please ensure your child is lining up outside the class door for the 9am bell.

## Attendance

Attendance will continue to be a big focus this year. We do understand that sometimes children are unwell and unable to attend school. Please note that if your child is absent, it is your responsibility to notify the school on the first morning of their absence before the start of the school day. This can be via Parentmail, email, phone, or voicemail to the office. St. Agnes will closely monitor attendance & punctuality and where this falls short of the expectations, referrals will be made to our Attendance and Welfare Officer. A reminder to please ensure all medical appointments are booked outside of school hours. For any appointments during the school day, proof must be sent to the office via [info@st-agnes.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-agnes.towerhamlets.sch.uk).

## Leave in Term Time

We follow the Tower Hamlets 'Holidays and Leave in Term Time Policy', which means that requests for holidays or leave in term time are likely to be rejected and could be subject to a penalty notice (fine). We appreciate that there may be times that are unavoidable and in this instance we ask that you make an application for leave to the school and wait for a response before booking your trip. Our school dates are attached to this letter and can also be found on the school website.

## School Uniform:

Please ensure to send your child into school wearing a labelled school uniform. Please note school jumpers can be plain navy and do not need to show the school logo. A copy of the school uniform is attached. Earrings, jewellery and nail varnish are not allowed. Long hair (boys and girls) must be worn up, no patterned cuts. Children should only wear trainers on their PE day.

## Communication between school and parents

Parents/Carers are invited to a class meeting for Years 1 to 6 (dates and times below). This is an opportunity to meet your child's class teacher who will be able to give information about the year group curriculum, the class timetable and offer suggestions on supporting your child at home. We appreciate there may be an overlap for some families, if you are unable to attend any class meetings resources will be published on the school website.



# ST AGNES Catholic Primary School

*With Jesus beside us, we do our best*

Rainhill Way, Bow, London, E3 3ER

Tel: 020 8980 3076

Email: [office@st-agnes.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-agnes.towerhamlets.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Ms B McDaid

## Meet the Teacher schedule:

Year 1 - Miss Daly	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> September 3.30-4.00pm
Year 2 - Miss Akther	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September 3.30-4.00pm
Year 3 - Mrs Manning	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September 3.30-4.00pm
Year 4 - Miss Sloan	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> September 3.30-4.00pm
Year 5 - Mr Karwacinski	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> September 3.30-4.00pm
Year 6 - Mr Crozier	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> September 3.30-4.00pm

We will also have two learning review meetings. The first is held in the Spring time after all Autumn term assessments have been completed. You will receive a short interim report reporting progress, achievement and attitude to learning as well as a focus on attendance and punctuality. The second will be in the second half of the Summer term.

For quick questions/ comments: please feel free to approach the class teacher at pick up time and ask to speak to them. They may be able to talk to you once all the children have left, or they will offer you a time to meet instead. **Please be prepared to wait until all children have been picked up.** Messages can also be passed on via the school office. You can email [info@st-agnes.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-agnes.towerhamlets.sch.uk) or telephone 0208 980 3076.

## School Meals

As the cost of living rises, I would like to remind you that the school currently offers all children except Nursery free school meals as a result of funding from Tower Hamlets. These hot meals are nutritious and increasingly popular. The school would encourage all parents to sign up for school meals. A copy of the menu is located on the school website and is due to change in October. Packed lunches for some in the last year have become less nutritious. This term there will be regular packed lunch searches and those food items that go against the healthy eating of the school will initially be highlighted but if they regularly appear will be confiscated. **NUTS SHOULD NOT BE IN PACKED LUNCHES.** We remain a water only school so no other drinks should be consumed on the school premises. A copy of the packed lunch policy is attached.

## Clubs:

St Agnes runs a daily Breakfast Club and After School club. Further details are on our school website. If you would like to register your child please contact the school office.

We also provide activity clubs such as choir, gardening club, art club and sports club, dates of which will follow in the coming weeks.

PE timetable:

Reception	Wednesday
Year 1	Wednesday
Year 2	Tuesday
Year 3	Friday
Year 4	Tuesday
Year 5	Friday – swimming starting 15 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 6	Thursday

Reception children are to bring their P.E kits into school in a school P.E bag.

Year 1 - 6 are to come to school in their P.E. kits, trainers are allowed.

Westminster Building Fund:

St Agnes is a voluntary aided school and we are therefore required to contribute 10% of the costs spent on updating, repairing and maintaining our school buildings and infrastructure. To fund this cost, we kindly ask that families support the school by making a contribution of £22.50 per year, per family. Contributions are made via Parentmail. Parents are able to make a payment for the full amount of £22.50, or part payment throughout the year. With the continued support and generosity of parents we as a school can continue to maintain and improve the facilities for the benefit of all children. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

Date for your diary:

29<sup>th</sup> September – 9am New hall

We will be arranging a Macmillan coffee morning with our parental engagement team so that you can meet teachers and other staff in a more informal setting, whilst also supporting a very good cause. We welcome all donations of cakes, whether they be home-made or shop bought. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Yours sincerely

Ms B McDaid

Headteacher

School Values

**Our Vision and Values**

At St. Agnes we believe that although we are all very different we have a way of living, behaving and doing things that allow us to serve as a witness to the Catholic Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our school motto is: **With Jesus Beside Us We Do Our Best to:**



# ST AGNES Catholic Primary School

*With Jesus beside us, we do our best*

Rainhill Way, Bow, London, E3 3ER

Tel: 020 8980 3076

Email: [office@st-agnes.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-agnes.towerhamlets.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Ms B McDaid



## **Believe**

We are all valued in God's family and the school family. We **believe** in ourselves and in our abilities.

## **Persevere**

When things get difficult we will **persevere** so that we will grow stronger, realising we can turn to each other and God.

## **Contribute**

We will **contribute** to the life of the school, the parish, the local community and the wider world to which we all belong.

*By doing these we will:*

## **Achieve**

By being the best we can be, we will **achieve** in making a difference to others and living as God would want us to.