



Bishop Ellis Catholic Voluntary Academy



Barkby Thorpe Lane, Thurmaston, Leicester, LE4 8GP

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Friday 1st December

Dear parents and carers.

This Sunday we begin to celebrate the season of Advent, a time of waiting and prayer. It's a special time to pause and reflect on the real reason and true meaning of Christmas and give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus to the world. In this Sunday's Gospel, the Master represents Jesus and the servants represent us. The message from the Gospel is very clear: we are to 'stay awake!' A little extra daily prayer throughout Advent is a great way to do this – to be alert to Jesus' presence around us. Prayer brings us not only closer to God but also closer to one another.

Prayer for Peace in the Middle East.

Lord, we pray to you for the Holy Land, for the people of Israel and Palestine who are under the grip of unprecedented violence, for the victims, especially the children, for the wounded, for those held hostage, for the missing and their families.

Amen

Attendance.

Our whole school attendance for this year so far is 96.2% Thank you so much for your support in this important aspect of school life. As you will know the positive benefits of excellent attendance reach way beyond the academic progress.; the social and emotional benefits are just as important.

This information is from our Attendance Policy

96 % Good- well done! You are on target. This will help all aspects of the child's progress and life in school. This will provide a child with a good start in life and support them to develop a positive work ethic.

Above 90%-96% Average -Below target and require improvement. The child's absence could now be affecting their attainment and progress at school. Please work with the school to implement intervention to help improve the situation.

90 or below 90 % Poor -Unacceptable and of serious concern. This poor attendance will be affecting your child's attainment and progress and is disrupting their learning and social relationship at school. The child is now classed as a 'persistent absentee' and will be closely monitored by the Senior Leadership Team. The school will work with you to improve your child's attendance. Parents will be required to attend an attendance meeting with the Educational Welfare Officer.

Class Attendance

| Registration Form | Attendance w/c 1.12.2023 |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mrs Banks Reception | 96.6% |
| Mrs Taylor Year 1 | 99.0% |
| Miss Jackson Year 1/2 | 96.1% |
| Mrs Padzinski Year 2 | 98.1% |
| Miss Turnell / Mrs Gough Year 3 | 96.2% |
| Mrs Fothergill Year 3/4 | 93.0% |
| Miss Beall Year 4 | 97.5% |
| Miss Bhakta Year 5 | 92.8% |
| Mrs Franklin Year 5/6 | 98.1% |

Well done to Mrs Taylor's class for winning the weekly attendance award.

Remembrance book

Thank you to everyone who asked for prayers to be said for loved ones during the month of November. We continue to hold those dear to us in our hearts as we enter the season of Advent.

Eco Warriors

Well done to Mrs Banks' class, Mrs Taylor's class and Miss Beall's class who were joint winners of our Environment award for the "Most Eco Class 2023." Once again, thank you to our Eco team for leading this important aspect of our school life.

FOBE Christmas Events

FOBE has been busy behind the scenes planning activities in December to take us up to the Christmas break!

Next week, we look forward to kicking off the FOBE festivities with the switching on of the Christmas tree lights on **Thursday 7th December**. We're hoping this will be an enjoyable and memorable occasion for the children! Please remember we'll be selling hot chocolate and mince pies, so skip Starbucks and Costa on your way in if you're coming in to watch!!

The Christmas raffle draw will be held on **Friday 15th December**. As well as selling raffle squares in classes, there will be an opportunity to purchase squares at the Reception and KS1 Nativities.

After school on **Friday 15th** we'll also be holding a Christmas fun, films and craft event after school for children and parents. This will be a ticketed event, with tickets available to purchase at £3 per child ticket (adults free). Please see the flyer sent out with this newsletter for more details.

Tickets will be available to buy via email if you wish to pay electronically: please email Friendsofbishopellis@outlook.com.

We will have tickets available to buy at the light switch on. Please also see dojo for further ticket sale dates. Sales are limited to 100 tickets, so be quick to avoid disappointment!

On the final week of term, on **Wednesday 20th December**, we invite children to come to school in something Christmassy for their Christmas lunch. A donation of 50p is suggested. Finally, on **Friday 22nd December** the children will be able to enjoy a performance of Santa the Panto.'

Menphys Carol Concert

I look forward to seeing our wonderful school choir at De Montfort Hall this evening where we will join with all the other schools in our CMAT for the Menphys Carol Concert. Many thanks to Miss Lowe and Miss Turnell who lead our choir. I would also like to thank Chris Lowe (one of our Foundation Governors) for the work he does in helping to make the concert the huge success it is each year.

Child Protection and Safeguarding policy

Our policy is on the school website. If you ever need a paper copy, please contact the school office. I am the Designated Safeguard Lead for the school.

Mrs Gunton, Mrs Franklin and Miss Turnell are the school's Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads.

Volunteering in school.

If you would like to volunteer any of your time in school, please can you contact the school office. We would be delighted to hear from you. Training and support would always be provided.

Diary Dates

December

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| Friday 1 st | Flu Immunisation Day / Menphys Carol Concert at De Montfort Hall (7:15pm) |
| Saturday 2 nd | Cross Country at Mallory Park- postponed |
| Tuesday 5 th | Christingle 2:15pm |
| Wednesday 6 th | Bishop Ellis Choir & Chaplaincy at Hadrian House 1:15pm-3:00pm |
| Thursday 7 th | CMAT Travelling Crib in School / FOBE Christmas Lights Switch On |
| Wednesday 13 th | KS1 Nativity (9:30am in the hall) / Reception Nativity (2:15pm in the hall) |
| Thursday 14 th | KS1 Nativity (2:15pm in the hall) |
| Friday 15 th | FOBE Christmas Raffle |
| Tuesday 19 th | Mrs Fothergill's Class Ukulele Recital 9:15am (hall) |
| Wednesday 20 th | Christmas Dinner Day- Children may wear Christmas Outfits. 50p donation |
| Thursday 21 st | KS2 Carol Concert at St Theresa's Church Birstall 10am |
| Friday 22 nd | Santa Pantomime / Last day of Advent Term |

January 2024

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| Monday 8 th | First day of Lent Term |
| Tuesday 23 rd | Year 3/4 Mass- Thanksgiving for Fr Clement. |

February

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| Thursday 8 th | Young Leadership Programme at St Paul's (x4 students) |
| Wednesday 14 th | Ash Wednesday Mass 9:30am (hall) |
| Monday 19 th – Friday 23 rd | Half term break |
| Monday 26 th | Reception & Year 6 Heights and Weights |
| Tuesday 27 th | Year 3/4 Reconciliation |

March

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| Tuesday 5 th | Year 1/2 Mass for Mother's Day |
| Tuesday 19 th | Year 5/6 Reconciliation / FOBE Rags 2 Riches |
| Wednesday 20 th | Year 3/4 Performance 2pm (hall) and 5:30pm (hall) |
| Thursday 21 st | Way of the Cross |
| Friday 22 nd | Last day of Lent Term |

April

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| Monday 8 th | First day of Pentecost Term |
| Tuesday 16 th | Year 5/6 Mass |
| Thursday 18 th | Young Leadership Programme at St Paul's (x4 students) |

May

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| Monday 6 th | May Bank Holiday |
| Tuesday 7 th | Year 5/6 Warning Zone / Reception Liturgy Crowning of Our Lady 9:30am (hall) |
| Thursday 9 th | Ascension Day Whole School Mass 9:30am (hall) |
| Monday 13 th – Thursday 16 th May | Key Stage 2 SATS week. |
| Monday 20 th | Year 6 Leavers Photograph with Tempest 9am |
| Monday 27 th – Friday 31 st | Half term break |

June

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| Monday 10 th | Year 6 Bikeability |
| Friday 28 th | Celebration of the feast of Ss Peter and Paul |

July

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| Monday 1 st | FOBE Rags 2 Riches |
| Thursday 4 th | De Lisle Year 7 Induction Day |
| Friday 5 th | De Lisle Year 7 Induction Day |
| Monday 8 th | Founders Day 9:30am (hall) |
| Friday 12 th | Last day of Pentecost Term |

We will add further dates in due course.

God bless

Mr Monaghan

