



Bishop Ellis Catholic Voluntary Academy

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Dear parents and carers.

Parents are the first and foremost educators of their own children – other family members and friends can also teach about what really matters in life. But who can really teach us about the best way to live? Jesus stood out as a teacher because he taught with authority and power. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus demonstrates this through the amazing healing of the man in the synagogue.

Jesus' teachings expose the things that weaken us – setting free all those who listen to him. The whole of Jesus' life was a continual teaching. His teaching is calm and wise, powerful but gentle, and enriches family life.

Pope Francis has declared 2024 as a special Year of Prayer. We will be providing all families in school with a lovely resource called the "Wednesday Word." I use it each week in my newsletters at the start of them. I hope you will find it a useful resource to support your prayer life at home.

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 95.4%. It has dipped recently. 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.

It can be difficult to know whether your child is too ill to attend school. NHS guidance is clear that it's fine to send them in with a minor cough or common cold, provided they don't have a temperature. The information in the link is really useful.

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

We also know that parents and carers worry about their children's mental health. Rather than keeping your child off school, let us know about your concerns. We can then work together on supporting your child.

There has been a lot of research done on the many benefits of good school attendance such as:

- Better educational outcomes
- Better earning capacity
- Development of social skills through greater interaction.
- Health and well-being statistically proven to be better.
- A safe place for vulnerable young people.

- A place where those with additional needs can access additional support and services

I was astounded by one report from the Lancet public health journal that was shared as part of our CMAT attendance network meeting says that:

“Every year spent in school or university improves our life expectancy, while **not attending school is as deadly as smoking or heavy drinking**, according to the first systematic study directly linking education to gains in longevity.

Using evidence from industrialised countries such as the UK and US as well as developing countries such as China and Brazil, the review found that **an adult’s risk of mortality went down by 2% for every year in full-time education.**”

We also have data in our own school which shows that children with attendance of over 96% are more likely make expected progress throughout the school and reach the curriculum end of year attainment expectations.

As always, thank you so much for your support in this important aspect of school life.

Class Attendance

Registration Form	Attendance w/c 22.1.24
Mrs Banks Reception	84.3%
Mrs Taylor Year 1	89.4%
Miss Jackson Year 1/2	87.5%
Mrs Padzinski Year 2	83.1%
Miss Turnell / Mrs Gough Year 3	88.9%
Mrs Fothergill Year 3/4	88.9%
Miss Beall Year 4	97.5%
Miss Bhakta Year 5	93.8%
Mrs Franklin Year 5/6	93.3%

Well done to Miss Beall’s class for winning the weekly attendance award.

St Thomas Aquinas Feast Day

Saint Thomas Aquinas is the patron saint of teachers, theologians and students and is also the patron saint of our Catholic Multi-Academy Trust. His feast day is on 28th January and this year, we will celebrate this as a Trust of schools on Tuesday 30th January.

The theme for our celebration this year is ‘Ordinary people called to be saints’ and this week prior to the feast day celebration, the children have focused on the life of a chosen saint each day. The chosen saints are:

Saint Josephine Bakhita

Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Saint Oscar Romero

Saint John Bosco

Saint Bernadette of Lourdes

Blessed Carlo Acutis

Today, we invited the children to wear something blue to school in honour of Saint Bernadette of Lourdes. Pupils from the four secondary schools across our Trust will be making a pilgrimage to

Lourdes in July this year and any money raised through our 'Wear Blue Day' will be donated to the cost of this pilgrimage.

Online safety group.

I would like to set up a group that has wide representation from our community, with responsibility for exploring issues regarding online safety and the monitoring the online safety policy including the impact of initiatives. I would envisage that the group would meet twice a year. If you would like to be part of this important work or would like to know more about it, please email the school office or speak to me on the school gate.

Ratcliffe Cross Country event.

Good luck to our cross country squad who are taking part tomorrow morning at Ratcliffe College.

Diary Dates

Please note the parents evening for the Lent term.

January 2024

Tuesday 23 rd	Year 3/4 Mass- Thanksgiving for Fr Clement.
Friday 26 th	Fire Safety Presentation for Year 1 & Year 5
Saturday 27 th	Ratcliffe College Cross Country Festival 9am-12:15am
Monday 29 th	Community Dental Service visit for Reception & Year 1
Tuesday 30 th	St Thomas Aquinas Feast Day Celebrations

February

Thursday 8 th	Young Leadership Programme at St Paul's (x4 students)
Friday 9 th	Open Afternoon. 2:15-3:00pm
Wednesday 14 th	Ash Wednesday Mass 9:30am (hall) Parents' evening
Thursday 15 th	Parent's evening
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

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

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

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
Thursday 23 rd	Year 5 Trip to Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre
Monday 27 th – Friday 31 st	Half term break

June

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

July

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

God bless

Mr Monaghan

