



# Bishop Ellis Catholic Voluntary Academy

Barkby Thorpe Lane, Thurmaston, Leicester, LE4 8GP



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Friday 16th February 2024

Dear parents and carers.

This week we celebrated Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, which starts our preparation for Easter. Lent is a special time when the Church invites everyone to examine their lives, to make Lenten promises and make a fresh start with God and with each other. It's a time to make a change for the better by turning away from things which are wrong for ourselves or others.

"I hope that we all will live Lent well, following Jesus and carrying within us a ray of his love for all those we meet." Pope Francis

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 95.1%. Having dipped recently, it is now improving again. 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

## Class Attendance

Registration Form	Attendance w/c 12.2.24
Mrs Banks Reception	99.2%
Mrs Taylor Year 1	97.5%
Miss Jackson Year 1/2	95.4%
Mrs Padzinski Year 2	92.3%
Mrs Shaw / Mrs Gough Year 3	90.1%
Mrs Fothergill Year 3/4	95.9%
Miss Beall Year 4	91.8%
Miss Bhakta Year 5	95.5%
Mrs Franklin Year 5/6	98.9%

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

## Parents' Evenings

We had a brilliant 94% of parents join us this week either in person or online for our parents' evenings. Thank you for the many positive comments.

## Money saving offers.

Please see the attached poster produced by the CMAT for some offers that families may want to take advantage of over half term.

## 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.

## Young Leadership Programme

Well done to Deeyan, Karmiah, Luca and Natan for their excellent contribution to the Young Leadership Programme run by the St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi Academy Trust. The children are organising some special events during Lent to support people in our local and global community less fortunate than we are.

## Walk for CAFOD

LACY (Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth) are doing a sponsored walk on Sunday 17th March as part of CAFOD's Big Lent walk and we want to welcome staff, students and parents to join us to help raise money for CAFOD. We will be setting off from St Mary's church in South Wigston at 2pm and there will be a trail on route. On return to the church there will be refreshments and crafts in the hall and there will be a celebration mass at 4pm. If you are unable to make the walk but would still like to support us raising money for CAFOD donations can be made by clicking on the link below.

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/lacy-sharing-cafods-big-lent-walk>

Please see the attached poster.

## Basketball

Our Bishop Ellis Basketball team took part in a tournament on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> against 5 other schools and were fantastic. With a player down, the children won all matches except one. The team worked brilliantly to improve in each round working on passes and finding space on the court. The team came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the tournament and were fantastic sportspeople throughout.

## Friends of Bishop Ellis (FOBE) messages

'The rainbow raffle is coming... ❤️💎💎💎💎💎💎

FOBE are requesting donations for prizes to make up into colourful hampers to be won, see attached poster for details. We would also be grateful for any surplus gifts that you may have left over from Christmas and won't be using, either to add to the raffle prizes or use for future events. Please bring donations into school by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March to be made into colourful hampers 🎁🎁'Also:

Many thanks for your support over the Christmas period with the different events that were held. Altogether we raised over £1,000 from the Christmas raffle, hot chocolate sales, Christmas clothes day, stall at Elizabeth park and the craft and film event.

Over that period we have funded the Christmas pantomime that happened on the last day of term, provided vouchers for the attendance awards and contributed towards the coach for the KS2 carol concert. We have also started to restock the nativity costumes and will continue to add to this, either by purchasing new costumes or up-cycling existing costumes. If you have any costumes you would be happy to donate, have material to donate or could offer sewing skills then please get in touch!

None of this would be possible without the support of parents/carers and we look forward to more events in 2024. If anybody has any ideas/suggestions for future events or things they would like to see then please email FOBE at [friendsofbishopellis@outlook.com](mailto:friendsofbishopellis@outlook.com)

Many thanks

Friends of Bishop Ellis

## Diary Dates

**Please note- we have combined the y3/4 reconciliation service with the y5/6 reconciliation service to have a KS2 reconciliation service.**

February 2024

Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Half term break
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Reception & Year 6 Heights and Weights

March

Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1/2 Mass for Mother's Day
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 Reconciliation Service. Sacrament of Confession. FOBE Rags 2 Riches
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3/4 Performance 2pm (hall) and 5:30pm (hall)
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Way of the Cross
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Last day of Lent Term

April

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

## May

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	May Bank Holiday
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5/6 Warning Zone / Reception Liturgy Crowning of Our Lady 9:30am (hall)
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Ascension Day Whole School Mass 9:30am (hall)
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Key Stage 2 SATS week.
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Leavers Photograph with Tempest 9am
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 5 Trip to Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Half term break

## June

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

## July

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

I hope you all have a lovely half term. God bless.

Mr Monaghan

