



# Bishop Ellis Catholic Voluntary Academy



Barkby Thorpe Lane, Thurmaston, Leicester, LE4 8GP

---

**Headteacher:** Mr Andrew Monaghan  
**Deputy Headteacher:** Mrs Lucy Gunton  
**Assistant Headteacher:** Mrs Ginny Shaw

**Tel:** 0116 2695510

**E-mail:** [admin@bishopellis.leics.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bishopellis.leics.sch.uk)

Friday 9th February 2024

Dear parents and carers.

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear that Jesus was filled with compassion when the leper knelt down in front of him. Jesus has compassion for all those who are left out: he came to take away fear, loneliness and bullying – to help people feel loved and accepted. We can experience Jesus' compassion through other people and through spending time in prayer. To be compassionate is to share someone's suffering - to feel sorrow for their situation and to do something about it. Compassion is an attractive quality. Our own example in daily life can help our children become more compassionate.

“The compassion of God, his suffering-with-us, gives meaning to our struggles and our sufferings.”  
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

### **Ash Wednesday Mass**

Please note the change in time for mass on Wednesday. Fr Jenson was unable to come to school in the morning so mass will be at 1:30pm. All family members are welcome.

### **Attendance.**

Our whole school attendance for this year so far is 95.1%. 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 recently that says:

“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 5.2.24 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mrs Banks Reception         | 98.1%                 |
| Mrs Taylor Year 1           | 99.0%                 |
| Miss Jackson Year 1/2       | 90.7%                 |
| Mrs Padzinski Year 2        | 98.6%                 |
| Mrs Shaw / Mrs Gough Year 3 | 94.0%                 |
| Mrs Fothergill Year 3/4     | 97.5%                 |
| Miss Beall Year 4           | 88.9%                 |
| Miss Bhakta Year 5          | 96.7%                 |
| Mrs Franklin Year 5/6       | 91.1%                 |

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

#### 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.

#### Children's Mental Health week

Thank you to our school council for organising the events this week for Children's Mental Health Week. It was great to see so many children (and staff) expressing themselves on Wednesday. This year, the aim of Children's Mental Health Week was to empower children of all ages, backgrounds and abilities

to work together to create a positive change for their mental health and wellbeing. At home and at school, we want all children and young people to be able to say – and believe - “My Voice Matters.” We are very proud of the support we provide to children and adults for their mental health. As I mentioned earlier, if ever you are concerned about your child’s mental health or indeed your own mental health, please speak to a member of the school’s leadership team.

### Parents’ evenings

There are a small number of slots available. At the time of writing we had 85% of parents sign up for an appointment. Parents’ Evenings February 14th & 15th - Online Appointment Booking system. The school has an easy to use online appointment booking system.

This allows you to choose your own appointment times with teachers and you will receive an email confirming your appointments. Face to face appointments are from 3:20 - 4:30 and online appointments are from 4:50 - 6:00. Please visit <https://bishopelliscatholic.schoolcloud.co.uk/> to book your appointments. If you have any problems booking an appointment then please contact the school office where we will be able to help.

### Ratcliffe Cross Country event.

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January we took our cross country squad to Ratcliffe College. Well done to Tiarna and Muhammed for superb performances in the y5 race. Well done also to Niyan and Oliver G for a terrific run in the KS1 fun run. Thank you to family members who supported the event.

### RISING MEASLES CASES

In recent weeks, there has been a noticeable increase in measles cases across England, with a notable impact on school-aged children. There has been a significant number of outbreaks in schools in the city and across the county.

Symptoms include: high fever; sore red, watery eyes; coughing; aching and feeling generally unwell; a blotchy red brown rash, which usually appears after the first symptoms. If a pupil has measles they should not attend school for a minimum of four days from when the rash first appears. They should also try to avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.

If you or your child have symptoms of measles, you must stay at home and phone your GP or NHS 111 for advice.

STAY AWAY from GP surgeries and A&E departments – this could spread the illness to others. The NHS advises that vaccinated children with these symptoms are unlikely to have measles, and they can generally attend school with a minor cough or cold, provided there is no fever.

### Diary Dates

Please note the parents evening for the Lent term.

February 2024

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>                          | Young Leadership Programme at St Paul’s (x4 students)       |
| Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>                            | Parents Open Afternoon 2:15pm-3:00pm                        |
| Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>                        | Ash Wednesday Mass 1:30pm (hall)<br><b>Parents’ Evening</b> |
| Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>                         | <b>Parents’ Evening</b>                                     |
| Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>                           | Fire Safety Presentation for Year 1 & Year 5                |
| Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Half term break   |
| Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>                           | Reception & Year 6 Heights and Weights                      |
| Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>                          | Year 3/4 Reconciliation                                     |

## March

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>    | Year 1/2 Mass for Mother's Day                    |
| Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>   | Year 5/6 Reconciliation / 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 Trip to Warning Zone<br>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 Mass with Father Jenson 9:30am (hall) |
| Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>  | Last day of Pentecost Term                         |

God bless

Mr Monaghan

