



Bishop Ellis Catholic Voluntary Academy



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Friday 15th March 2024

Dear parents and carers.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus uses the image of the grain of wheat, which dies to produce a rich crop, to show us that his death was necessary if many were to receive eternal life. Through this Gospel Jesus is also encouraging his disciples to follow him – to give him first place in their lives. This message is for each one of us too. Jesus wants us to make following him our most important priority. Choosing to follow Jesus is not always easy; it demands commitment. But it helps our families to keep growing in love and leads us to happiness in this life, and in the life to come.

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

Staffing in school

At Easter we are saying farewell to Mrs Burrows. Mrs Burrows has worked in the school office since 2016. She is a dedicated and caring person who always prioritises the welfare of the children at Bishop Ellis and I feel privileged to have worked closely with Mrs Burrows since I became headteacher at Bishop Ellis. We will miss her dearly.

Mrs Brenda Bentham

Please remember Brenda Bentham, who sadly passed away on Tuesday 5th March, in your prayers. Brenda was the Office Manager at Bishop Ellis. She started working here in the 1990's when Michael Prior was Headteacher and eventually retired in 2016 to spend time with her family. She was known to the children as Mrs Bentham and was loved by all that crossed her path at Bishop Ellis. Brenda was a kind, caring and loving person devoted to Bishop Ellis and converted into the Catholic Faith with the guidance of Fr Antony Pateman and Fr Keith Tomlinson. We remember Brenda fondly as colleagues as she never failed to put a smile on our faces daily. We remember Brenda's family in our prayers. May Brenda rest in peace and rise in glory.

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.

Thank you for the feedback from the emails we sent last week with your child's attendance for the year to date compared to the average for the school. We will continue to provide you with this information each half term.

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 11.3.24
Mrs Banks Reception	98.9%
Mrs Taylor Year 1	96.1%
Miss Jackson Year 1/2	91.7%
Mrs Padzinski Year 2	98.1%
Mrs Shaw / Mrs Gough Year 3	96.7%
Mrs Fothergill Year 3/4	99.2%
Miss Beall Year 4	97.1%
Miss Bhakta Year 5	97.2%
Mrs Franklin Year 5/6	98.5%

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

Young Leadership Programme

The Young Leadership group organised a special day to celebrate our different cultures today. It was lovely to talk to the children about what inspired them to wear what they did. I have been very impressed with the leadership that Deeyan, Karmiah, Luca and Natan have shown in organising the day. All money raised will go to CAFOD.

Message from De Lisle College

Colleagues and families from our feeder schools are invited to a Lenten reflection on 19 March at 7pm, at De Lisle College. The reflection will be focused on the theme of forgiveness, a theme of importance to all people – all are welcome.

As part of the reflection, we will have the opportunity to hear Margaret and Barry Mizen speak. The Mizen family were first in the news in May 2008 for the very worst reason: their 16-year-old son, Jimmy, was murdered by another teenager living nearby. Margaret and Barry have made their life's work since Jimmy's death focused on peace and reconciliation. Hearing Margaret and Barry talk about their experience and their work for peace and forgiveness can be a truly humbling and thought-provoking experience.

If you wish to come as a family, bringing your children, please do be assured that Margaret and Barry are very responsive to the group that they are speaking to and adapt what they say to be appropriate to the age range. In order to give us a sense of numbers, would you email chaplains@delisle.leics.sch.uk if you would like to come, including the number of people attending with you by 18 March 2024.

With best wishes, Rebecca Jinks

Assistant Headteacher / Head of RE

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.

Friends of Bishop Ellis (FOBE) messages

Many thanks to FOBE for organising the Easter raffle. Thank you to everyone who donated a gift for the rainbow raffle. The hampers really did look amazing.

Safeguarding information.

As we approach the Easter holidays, I wanted to share the a couple of links to really useful websites for keeping children safe online. There is a wide range of useful resources and information available.

[Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)

[A Parent's Guide to Social Media | Skips Safety Net \(skipseducational.org\)](#)

Please also look out for the CMAT Family Information Sheet that will be sent out next week.

Diary Dates

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

March

Tuesday 19 th	KS2 Reconciliation Service. Sacrament of Confession.
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	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

I will be out of school for three days next week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

I wish anyone celebrating this weekend a happy St Patrick's Day.

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, The rains fall soft upon your fields, And, until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

God bless

Mr Monaghan

