



Bishop Ellis Catholic Voluntary Academy



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Dear parents and carers.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus teaches the disciples how to be truly great. Being kind, self-giving, thoughtful and helpful are great qualities. It's not always easy to live our lives in this way but it is the way that God want us to live, to become the best that we can be. Ask your child what the word 'greatness' means to them. Who does your child know at home, at school or in the community who shows true greatness by putting others' needs first? It may help your child if you tell them about someone you know to be 'great'.

"Doing little things with a strong desire to please God makes them great." St Francis de Sales

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

Catholic Schools Inspection

You received an email this week with the report of the recent inspection. I wanted to share with you a message from Neil Lockyer CEO of St Thomas Aquinas CMAT.

"Dear all at Bishop Ellis

I hope you are all well. I read your CSI report on Monday with huge admiration and gratitude; admiration for the incredible work you do at Bishop Ellis for the children in your care, and gratitude for the dedication you all show to your work. I am also acutely aware of the transformational journey you have been on as a school community over the last few years the fruits of which, to me, are captured so well in this report.

It is clear how rigorous the current CSI framework is, so to see 4 of the 9 sub judgements graded as 'Outstanding' was particularly impressive. There are so many positive statements in the report: "The Catholic character of the school is explicit in all areas"; "Pastoral care is of the highest quality in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable"; and "Pupils say religious education 'can shape our lives and make us a good person; we think about what Jesus did in the past, so we can do it in the future'" are among the most notable for me. It was also wonderful to read that "Prayer and liturgy are central to daily life".

In short, I believe this report accurately captures the essence of Bishop Ellis, and recognises the work you have put in as a staff leading to the tremendous impact on the life chances of the children."

Once again, many thanks for your ongoing support in this central aspect of school life.

Staffing

On Wednesday we said a very sad farewell to Mrs Gunton. I was delighted that her family were able to join us for a beautiful mass to give thanks for the 12 years of service to our community. Thank you also to parents and family members who were able to join us at such short notice. Mrs Gunton asked me to pass on her heartfelt gratitude for the many cards and gifts she received.

2025 applications.

The application process for children starting primary school 2025 is open.

- Remember that there is the requirement to complete an online application (and that places are not automatic.)

For parents of children starting primary school in 2025, We are holding another open morning on Thursday November 14th for prospective parents.

Black History Month

This year the theme is 'Reclaiming Narratives'. The children will focus on looking at one person or theme so that they can reflect and make connections to their learning.

Reception – Coming to England – Focus on JoJo and Gran.

KS1 – Floella Benjamin. A focus on her life moving to England and the things that she has done since. Children will look at her picture book 'Coming to England'

LKS2 (Y3 and Y3/4) – Romans in Britain Septimius Severus/The Aurelian Moors/The Ivory Bangle Lady. Yr4/5/6 - Black Poppies. Looking at the forgotten soldiers during WW1 and the role that they played in the war.

Parents Evenings

Many thanks to all of you who were able to attend the meetings this week. We had 90% of parents able to attend a meeting about their child's education. Thank you for the feedback on the blend of face to face and online meetings. Our plan is to continue to hold both types of meeting later in the year during the Lent term.

Health and Safety near the school.

We always want to encourage children to be active and cycling or scooting to school is a great way to keep active. As you know the space to enter the school site is narrow. Please can you ensure that your child gets off their scooter or bike BEFORE coming through the school gate. Your help with this is greatly appreciated.

FOBE news

The FOBE AGM will be held on Friday 1st November at 10:45am after the Mass for the Feast of All Saints.

Please see the attached poster for the "Winter Wonderland."

Harvest Celebration of the Word.

Many thanks for all of the donations for our Harvest celebration of the word. We donated the goods to the Leicester South Foodbank hub.

Attendance.

Our attendance so far this year is **96.3%**. Please note that you will be receiving an email with the attendance data for your child(ren) which gives a comparison to the school average.

Please see the website for the CMAT attendance policy.

Linked to the importance of excellent attendance is punctuality. School **starts at 8:45am**. It is therefore essential that children are here before then. We know that this is sometimes easier said than done and if you would like to discuss this with a member of the school senior leadership team, please speak to one of us on the gate.

Please note that under the new guidelines if your child is late it will be marked as an unauthorised absence and you will therefore be liable for a fine.

Diary Dates

October

Friday 18 th	3:30 Half term
Monday 29 th	8:45 Return to School

November

Friday 1 st	9:30 Whole School Mass. Feast of All Saints.
Monday 11 th	Anti-Bullying Week 11:00 Remembrance Liturgy including period of silence.
Wednesday 13 th	World Kindness day.
Thursday 14 th	Open Morning for families with children starting school in 2025.
Monday 18 th	Road Safety Week
Friday 22 nd	National Youth Funday
Friday 29 th	School Closed for Children. St Thomas Aquinas CMAT inset day.

December

Tuesday 3 rd	9:30 Advent Mass- years 5 and 6.
Friday 6 th	7:15 Menphys Carol Concert
Monday 9 th	FS and KS1 dress rehearsals.
Tuesday 10 th	9:30 KS1 Nativity to parents 2:30 Christingle Service
Wednesday 11 th	9:30 Foundation Stage Nativity to parents 2:15 KS1 Nativity to parents
Thursday 19 th	10:00 Carol Service- Divine Infant of Prague.
Friday 20 th	3:15 End of Advent Term. School closes for Christmas
Tuesday 24 th	Jubilee Year begins

January

Monday 6 th	8:45 Lent term begins. 2:45 Celebration of the Word- Epiphany.
Tuesday 14 th	2:30 Celebration of the Word- Pilgrims of Hope

Friday 24 th	Non Uniform Day- St Thomas Aquinas CMAT hardship fund.
Tuesday 28 th	St Thomas Aquinas CMAT feast day celebrations.

February

Monday 3 rd	Mental Health week.
Monday 10 th	Random Acts of Kindness Week.
Friday 14 th	3:30 Half term
Monday 24 th	8:45 Return to School

March

Wednesday 5 th	9:30 Ash Wednesday Mass- Whole School
Tuesday 18 th	9:30 Reconciliation Service

April

Tuesday 1 st April	9:30 Mothers' Day Mass- led by years 1 and 2.
Friday 11 th April	9:30 Way of the Cross. 3:15 End of Lent term.
Monday 28 th April	8:45 Start of Pentecost Term

May

Monday 5 th	Bank Holiday. School Closed
Monday 12 th	Y6 SATS week
Friday 23 rd	3:30 Half term

June

Monday 2 nd	8:45 Return to School Year 4 Multiplication Check
Monday 9 th	KS1 Phonics 2:45 Celebration of the Word- Pentecost
Tuesday 24 th	9:30 Celebration of 1 st Communion Mass. Years 3 and 4
Monday 30 th	2:45 Celebration of the Word. Feast of SS Peter and Paul.

July

Monday 7 th	9:30 Bishop Ellis Founder's Day and y6 Leavers Mass Whole School.
Friday 11 th	3:15 End of Pentecost term.

I hope you have a lovely half term.

God bless

Mr Monaghan

