



Bishop Ellis Catholic Voluntary Academy

Barkby Thorpe Lane, Thurmaston, Leicester, LE4 8GP



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Friday 20th September 2024

Dear parents and carers.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus once again reminds the disciples – and us too – that a life of service is the best life to live. Life can be so busy, full of the things we really like doing, that it's quite easy to forget about serving others. The Church teaches that we grow in the love of God through serving each other. One of the oldest titles for the Pope is 'The Servant of the servants of God'. This emphasises the importance which the Church places on service. Jesus lived a life of service. Family and school life become more joyful when we follow Jesus' example and live as God intends.

As Pope Francis says "Jesus leads us to go out from ourselves more and more, to give ourselves and to serve others."

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

2025 applications.

Even though this term has only just started, the application process for children starting primary school or secondary school in 2025 is open.

For year 6 parents- please see the attached letter and poster.

- Remember that there is the requirement to complete an online application (and that places are not automatic.)
- The closing date for secondary school applications is midnight 31st October 2024.

For parents of children starting primary school in 2025, please see the attached poster. We are holding an open morning on Thursday September 26th for prospective parents. Your child should have brought a postcard home. Please pass this onto someone who might be interested.

1st Holy Communion 2025

If your child is currently in year 3 (apologies for any confusion from last week where I put year 2!!) and you would like them to make their 1st Holy Communion next year, there is information available from St Theresa's Church in Birstall. If you would like to talk about this then please speak to me on the school gate or contact Mrs Kennedy in the school office so we can arrange it. If you are in The Divine Infant of Prague in Syston please speak to me in school for further information.

Parking

Please remember that parking is not permitted in the layby outside school. This is for safety reasons.

Attendance.

Our attendance so far this year is **97.5%**. This continues to be an excellent start to the year.

Please see the website for the CMAT attendance policy.

With the introduction of the new **National Framework for Penalty Notices**, the following comes into force for Penalty Notice fines issued for unauthorised absence occurring after 19 August 2024

5 consecutive days of term time leave (holiday) – Penalty Notice fines will be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days and for fewer days where this has happened before. (Please note, we are no longer able to agree to and authorise family holidays.

10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period – Other than in exceptional circumstances, Penalty Notice fines will be issued when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period.

Per parent, per child - Penalty Notice fines will be issued to each parent for each child who was absent. For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave will result in each parent receiving 3 **separate** fines.

First offence – The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular, unauthorised absence the amount will be £160 per parent, per child when paid within 28 days. This is reduced to £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days

Second offence (within 3 years) – The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular, unauthorised absence the amount will be £160 per parent, per child when paid within 28 days. (there is no option to reduce to £80 with an early payment)

Third Offence and any further offences (within 3 years) – The third time an offence is committed for term time leave or irregular, unauthorised absence a Penalty Notice will not be issued. The case will proceed to the Magistrates' court. Magistrate's fines can be up to £2,500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate and may impact on job applications and travel abroad.

Court prosecutions – Penalty Notices will not automatically be issued. Parents are advised that where the LA considers that a Penalty Notice is not appropriate due to the level of concern about a child's absence, prosecution action may be taken.

Further guidance is available on the Gov.uk website. [Fines for parents for taking children out of school: What you need to know – The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

If you have any questions regarding the changes and the new national framework regarding penalty notices, please contact myself.

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.

English Martyrs Open Evening

Thursday 3rd October 5:00pm – 6:45pm

Pupil Leadership Groups

At Bishop Ellis we are very proud of our year 5 and 6 children who all take on a leadership responsibility in school.

Children who will be part of our Chaplaincy team, School Council, Eco Warriors and Digital Leaders were announced today in our achievement assembly.

Health and Safety on the school site.

Please can I ask that if your child brings a bike or scooter to school (which we encourage whole heartedly) that you make sure that they do not ride them whilst on the school site. We have lots of younger siblings who are on the school site at the start and end of the day. There have been a couple of times where we have been lucky that there were no accidents involving bikes or scooters.

Diary Dates

September

Tuesday 24 th	9:00 Reception Class phonics workshop. 2:45 Reception Class Welcome Liturgy
Thursday 26 th	Open Morning for families with children starting school in 2025.

October

Tuesday 1 st	Black History Month
Thursday 3 rd	Chaplaincy day retreat- Rosmini Centre
Monday 7 th	Tempest – Individual Photographs. 2:45 Rosary- Celebration of the Word.
Thursday 10 th	World Mental Health Day
Friday 11 th	2:15-3:00 Open Afternoon- a chance to look at your child's books with them before Parents' Evening.
Tuesday 15 th	10:00 Harvest Liturgy 2:30-6:00 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 16 th	2:30-6:00 Parents' Evening
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 ^d	9:30 Advent Mass- years 5 and 6.
Friday 6 th	7:15 Menphys Carol Concert
Tuesday 10 th	2:30 Christingle Service
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.

Have a lovely weekend.

God bless

Mr Monaghan

