



# 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 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Dear parents and carers.

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that what really matters to God are the good things which also come from deep within us, the kindness and the generosity and the love. The Pharisees thought that they were making themselves holy by making things clean on the outside. But Jesus reminded them that it's the attitudes behind our words and deeds that make us holy people. As Pope Francis says "Holiness doesn't mean doing extraordinary things, but doing ordinary things with love and faith."

Blessed Carlo Acutis, Patron Saint of the Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocese Education Service, has been approved for canonization. This makes him the first millennial to be canonized. It is likely that he will be proclaimed a Saint during the 2025 Jubilee, possibly along with other canonizations.

Born to Italian parents in London, England, in 1991, Blessed Carlo died from leukaemia at the age of 15 in Monza, Italy. He was known for his devotion which he catalogued on a website he designed. According to official documents Blessed Carlo was 'welcoming and caring towards the poorest, and he helped the homeless, the needy, and immigrants with the money he saved from his weekly allowance'.

### **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

### **Welcome back.**

I would like to welcome new and not so new parents back to school. It has been a lovely start to the new term. The children have returned full of optimism about their learning and their behaviour has been excellent.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion 2025**

If your child is currently in year 2 and you would like them to make their 1<sup>st</sup> 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. As soon as we receive information from The Divine Infant of Prague in Syston we will let you know.

## Staffing news

We are delighted to welcome Miss Katie O'Donovan to Bishop Ellis as our new Admin Assistant. Miss O'Donovan brings a wealth of experience to the role, and we hope she is very happy in our lovely community.

## Leicester Children's Holidays Flourish Family Festival

Don't forget to buy your tickets (£9 adults, £7 for children – under 2's free) to the fantastic Flourish Family Festival which is being organised by our charity partner LCH (the colour dash) the event promises a great value day out for the family, once you have bought your tickets all activities and attractions are free, so the children can enjoy the inflatables, crazy golf, circus workshop, fairground rides, lawn games, arts and crafts, tag rugby and much more as many times as they wish... all whilst listening to 4 live music acts on the main stage – including a Taylor Swift tribute! Held at the beautiful Gorse Hill City Farm all farm attractions are also included. All funds raised help support local children too. Buy your tickets here [Flourish Festival Ticket – Leicester Children's Holidays \(leicesterchildrensholidays.co.uk\)](https://leicesterchildrensholidays.co.uk)

We would not want finances to be a barrier to attending this event. If you would like to attend but due to the current financial situation you don't feel you can justify this spend, please speak to me in the strictest confidence as some financial support could be provided.

## Attendance.

Our whole school attendance for last year was 95.3%. Thank you for your ongoing support in this important matter.

I want to share again some very important information regarding penalty notices. This is national guidance for all schools. Please also refer to the letter from Mr Neil Lockyer (CEO of the St Thomas Aquinas CMAT from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July.)

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 will no longer be 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.

Please see the attached poster from the local authority which provides a summary of the changes.

### **Mr Monaghan’s summer challenge**

It would be lovely to hear if any children would like to share their Guinness World record inspired bingo challenge in our first achievement assembly next week. Please let your child’s teacher know if they would.

Finally from me, thank you for your warm wishes as we start our new school year. The emotions of excitement tinged with anxiety are there for me every year and this year is no exception. As I have said many times before, I feel very proud to serve such a wonderful school community.

God bless

Mr Monaghan

