



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

Friday 6th September 2024

Dear parents and carers.

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us how, in Jesus, God is active in the world, bringing healing. At differing times and in differing ways, we all need the healing touch of Jesus. We can hurt people by unkind words, by a look or by refusing to speak to them. But we can heal people by a smile, by a greeting or even by asking for their forgiveness or offering them ours.

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.

1st Holy Communion 2025

If your child is currently in 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. As soon as we receive information from The Divine Infant of Prague in Syston we will let you know.

Further 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. Please also see my letter sent out on Wednesday regarding Mrs Gunton.

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.

Our attendance so far this year is **97.4%**. This is an excellent start to the year.

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 8th 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.

De Lisle Open Evening

De Lisle College are holding an open evening on Thursday 19th September 6-8pm. There is no need to book but if you need any further information please call 01509 268739 or Email enquiries@delisle.leics.sch.uk

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. There are opportunities for our younger children to influence whole school outcomes as well. Letters to be part of our Chaplaincy team, School Council, Eco Warriors and Digital Leaders are encouraged. Please talk to your child about these great opportunities for them.

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.

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.

Diary Dates

September

Tuesday 10 th	9:30 Whole School Mass - New School Year.
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	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 rd	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.

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

