



Bishop Ellis Catholic Voluntary Academy

Barkby Thorpe Lane, Thurmaston, Leicester, LE4 8GP



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Friday 22nd November 2024

Dear parents and carers.

This Sunday is the last in the Church's year. It is the day on which we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. This feast presents a golden opportunity for us to make a new start with Jesus – the Universal King. The Gospel reminds us that Jesus' kingship is not one of political power, crowns and splendour, but one of peace and truth. He is not an earthly king – his kingdom is heaven. Jesus stands up for God's true values of love and forgiveness and leads us into the truth. He also reveals to us the truth about ourselves.

During the month of November, we think about all those we love who have died. If you would like us to pray for anyone in our celebrations of the word this month, please use the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/r/VJhQAbGq6M>

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.

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 still able to show visitors around our wonderful school. If you know someone who may be interested in this, please ask them to get in touch with Mrs Kennedy.

Attendance.

Our attendance so far this year is **95.9%**. 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 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 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.

Friends of Bishop Ellis (FOBE)

Christmas Raffle donation day Thursday 28th November. See dojo for details.

Christmas lights switch on with school choir, cookies & hot chocolate Thursday 5th December. 3:00pm.

Christmas Disco 18th December. Reception KS1 3:30pm – 4:30pm / KS2 4:45pm – 5:45pm.

Many thanks to FOBE for organising the upcoming events.

Menphys Concert

On Friday 6th December our choir will join with all the other schools in St Thomas Aquinas CMAT at De Montfort Hall for the annual Menphys concert. It is always a wonderful event. For anyone wishing to attend the concert in aid of the charity 'Menphys', please be advised that more than 80% of all tickets have now been sold so book quickly to avoid disappointment.

Tickets can be bought using the following link

<https://www.demontforhall.co.uk/event/catholic-schools-carol-concert/>

Teacher Training

A message from our colleagues at the Leicestershire and Rutland Teaching School Hub.

Our Train to Teach applications are live for September 2025. Please see the attached flyer.

"Are you interested in training to teach? The Leicestershire and Rutland Teaching School Hub are offering a year one school based programme. Visit our Train to Teach page www.lrtshub.org.uk or call us on 0116 3033744."

Diary Dates

November

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
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
Wednesday 18 th	11:45 Christmas Dinner Day Christmas Disco Reception & KS1 15.30 - 16.30 Christmas Disco KS2 16.45-17.45
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 ^d	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 weekend.

God bless

Mr Monaghan

