



Bishop Ellis Catholic Voluntary Academy

Barkby Thorpe Lane, Thurmaston, Leicester, LE4 8GP



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Friday 20th December 2024

Dear parents and carers.

In this Sunday's Gospel, even though Mary had many of her own preparations to make for the birth of Jesus, she still went out of her way to visit her elderly relative Elizabeth. Mary is a perfect example for all people – someone full of love and kindness.

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

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

Christmas in our parishes

Divine Infant of Prague

Sunday 22nd 3:30pm Carol Service followed by mince pies in the hall.

Tuesday 24th (Christmas Eve) 6:30pm Children Mass.

Wednesday 25th (Christmas Day) 11:00 Mass.

St Theresa's and Sacred Heart Rothley

Tuesday 24th (Christmas Eve) 6:00 Mass- St Theresa's. 6:30 Carols Sacred Heart Rothley. 7:00 Mass Sacred Heart Rothley.

Wednesday 25th (Christmas Day) 9:15 Mass- St Theresa's. 9:15 Mass Sacred Heart Rothley.

All are welcome.

2025 applications.

The application process for children starting primary school 2025 is still 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 **95.7%**. This currently places us in the top 25% of schools nationally. Our aim is for attendance to be **96%**.

Please note the half termly attendance statistic for your child will be sent out at the start of next term and not this week as stated in the newsletter last week.

STACMAT family information sheet.

Please see the attached sheet. I hope you find it useful.

Friends of Bishop Ellis (FOBE)

Many thanks to FOBE for organising the Christmas disco and Christmas Raffle. The disco was such an enjoyable evening for the children and staff. The behaviour of the children was exceptional, and their manners were wonderful.

Christmas Carol Service

It is always another highlight of the year when the Key Stage 2 children lead our Carol Service at the Divine Infant of Prague. and this year was no exception. Many thanks to Miss Lowe for the amazing work on the music. It was, as always, so joyous. We look forward to welcoming Fr Paul into school after Christmas along with Fr Jude and Fr Jenson.

Diary Dates

December

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.
Tuesday 11 th	Parents Evening
Wednesday 12 th	Parents Evening
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.

Thank you for the kind words about the various events that have taken place in school over the last few weeks. It is my immense privilege to be headteacher of a wonderfully caring community. I hope you have a happy and peaceful Christmas.

God bless

Mr Monaghan

