



Bishop Ellis Catholic Voluntary Academy

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Friday 24th January 2025

Dear parents and carers.

In this Sunday's Gospel we are reminded that Jesus brings Good News to everyone. We can all at times be blinded by selfishness or jealousy, be prisoners of guilt or worry, or be oppressed by bad habits. But Jesus has come to set us free, to help us renew our relationship with God and to enrich our relationships with each other.

Today, our schools and parishes continue Jesus' work, sharing the Good News of the Gospel so that people of the world can know God's love for them. This Good News is for you and me – Here! Now!
We need only to be open to God's Spirit.

Pope Francis tells us "Jesus was sent to bring the Good News, to enter the heart of each one of us."

Jubilee Year 2025

Pope Francis has given the 2025 Jubilee Year the theme of Pilgrims of Hope. This information is from the CAFOD website.

Today we celebrated the start of the Jubilee year.

What is a Jubilee Year?

In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

How often is a Jubilee Year?

A Jubilee Year is celebrated by the Church every 25 years. This has been the case since 1470, when Pope Paul II changed it from every 50 years. A Pope can also proclaim an Extraordinary Jubilee, like the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy which Pope Francis inaugurated in 2015.

What is the theme of the Jubilee Year in 2025?

The theme is Pilgrims of Hope. Pope Francis has invited us to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world.

We will be celebrating the Jubilee year in many different ways in school and across the CMAT. One of our main actions is to create our Jubilee chapel in school.

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

Attendance.

Our attendance so far this year is **95.6%**. This currently places us in the top 25% of schools nationally. Our aim is for attendance to be **96%**.

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.

If you have any questions regarding the changes and the new national framework regarding penalty notices, please contact myself. [Fines for parents for taking children out of school: What you need to know – The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

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.

A message from St Thomas Aquinas CMAT

PARENTS AND CARERS URGED TO HELP CHILDREN START NEWYEAR HEALTHY

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) urges parents and carers to help children stay healthy, particularly with high levels of flu and norovirus in circulation.

Key Points:

- **Flu and Virus Prevention:** Flu hospitalisations have increased over the holidays, with community levels now high. Good hygiene is critical to reduce the spread of illness as children return to school.
- **Teaching Hygiene Habits:** Encourage regular handwashing with soap and warm water for 20 seconds, using tissues to catch coughs and sneezes, and avoiding reliance on alcohol gels, which are not effective against all viruses.
- **Knowing When to Stay Home:**
 - Children can attend school with mild symptoms like a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough if they don't have a fever.
 - Keep children at home if they have a fever, diarrhoea, or vomiting. Wait at least 48 hours after these symptoms clear before returning to school.
- **Managing Stomach Bugs:**
 - Use soap and warm water for handwashing and bleach-based cleaners for surfaces.
 - Avoid preparing food for others and stay away from hospitals or care homes if symptomatic.
 - Do not return to school or work until 48 hours after symptoms stop.

By reinforcing these steps, families can protect themselves and others, ensuring a healthy start to the term

You can read the whole story here.

[Parents and carers urged to help children start New Year healthy - GOV.UK](#)

Open Afternoon- Friday 7th February

To support parents and carers with our Lent term parents' evenings, we will be holding our open afternoon on Friday 7th February at 2:15. It is always such a positive opportunity to see the fantastic curriculum in action in your children's books.

Parents' evenings will be on **Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th February.**

Science week: 10th – 15th March 2025.

Beginning on Monday 10th March 2025, we are going to be taking part in British Science Week. We are going to spend time carrying out fun activities linked to earth science, biology, physics and chemistry. FOBE have funded a planetarium to visit the school for all children to enjoy and we have been offered a range of experiences by Radcliffe College and DeLisle College. To show the children the importance of science in society, we would like to invite visitors in to school to speak to the children on Friday 14th March 2025. These visitors can be parents, family members or family friends. We are looking for any jobs that have a link to science- vet, doctor, surgeon, nurse, personal trainer, paramedic, electrician, science teacher, lecturer, baker, plumber, builder etc. We would like to invite visitors into the hall where we will set up a jobs fair with tables and chairs where the children can move around and ask questions. If you can come to school for the morning (9.30-11.15) or afternoon (1.30-2.45) on Friday 14th March, we would love to hear from you. You don't need to prepare anything but if you have any items or photographs to help the children. If you can give up some of your time, then please contact the school office to let them know who you are, what your job role is, contact details and which session you are able to attend. We hope that this will be a fantastic opportunity for the children to see how science can be such a huge part of our lives and hopefully inspire them to learn about jobs that they may have never considered.

Mrs Franklin (science coordinator)

Ratcliffe College Cross Country

Good luck to all the children taking part in the Ratcliffe College cross country runs tomorrow. I am sure you will represent yourself and Bishop Ellis with pride

Diary Dates

January

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.

God bless

Mr Monaghan

