



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Dear parents and carers,

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us how we can live happier lives by giving God what is due to him. But what is due to God in our own lives? Surely our thankfulness would be a good answer to this question. In this Sunday's Gospel, we read about the Samaritan who thanked Jesus. For us too, there are many blessings in life for which we can be thankful and it's always worth giving thanks to God. Being thankful to God puts us in the right frame of mind. It is good for our well-being and helps us to be happy in life.

Prayer for Peace in the Middle East.

At long last it seems there may be some positive news for the communities 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

Mr Monaghan

USEFUL LINKS



Click on the image above for uniform, Coolmilk, school lunch menu, free school meals, after school clubs and more!



Click on the image for term dates, newsletters and the school calendar



Click on the images above to follow Bishop Ellis on Social Media

BISHOP ELLIS CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

10th October 2025

Diary Dates 2025/2026

October 2025

Tuesday 14th - 9.30 Reception Liturgy

Wednesday 15th - Parents Evening

Thursday 16th - Parents Evening

Friday 17th - Half Term

Monday 27th - 8.45 Return to school

November 2025

Monday 3rd - Flu Vaccinations

Tuesday 4th - 9.30 Year 4 Class Mass - All Saints

Monday 10th - Anti-Bullying Week

Tuesday 11th - 9.30 Remembrance Liturgy

Tuesday 18th - 2.15 -3.00 Open Afternoon for families with children starting school in 2026

Friday 21st - School Closed for children. St Thomas Aquinas CMAT Inset Day

December 2025

Tuesday 2nd - 9.30 Christingle Service

Friday 5th - Menphys concert at De Montfort Hall

Tuesday 9th - 2.15 KS1 Nativity

Wednesday 10th - 9.30 Reception Nativity

Wednesday 10th - 2.15 KS1 Nativity

Wednesday 17th - Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 18th - 10.00 KS2 Carol Service St. Theresa's Church

Friday 19th - End of Advent Term School closes for Christmas



1st Holy Communion 2026

If your child is currently in year 3 or above and you would like them to make their 1st Holy Communion next year, there is information available from our parishes. Please see the attached poster from Divine Infant of Prague parish in Syston. 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.

First Holy Communion Preparation

Celebrating the Gift of the Eucharist



We invite you to join us as we celebrate the First Holy Communion of our children, as they receive the Body and Blood of Christ for the first time.

First Holy Communion Lessons
Preparation classes will begin on:

**Saturday 11th October
2025**

Time: 3.30pm before mass

Location: Divine Infant of Prague,
Broad Street, Syston,
Leicestershire

These lessons are important for all children preparing to receive the sacrament and will guide them in understanding the true meaning of the Eucharist.

We encourage all families to participate in these lessons to ensure that each child is well-prepared for this beautiful sacrament.

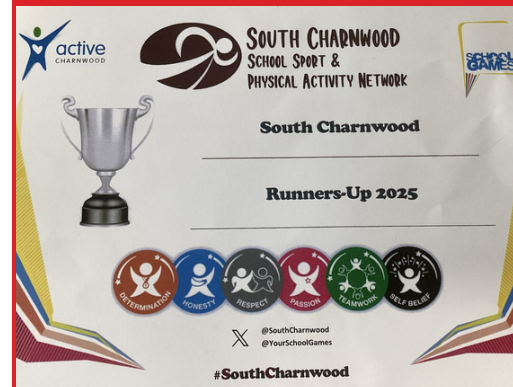
"Let the little children come to me." – Matthew 19:14

For more information and to register, please contact: Father Paul

Girls Football



A huge well done to these students who participated in the U11 Girls - Pokemon Cup qualifying tournament at Wreake Valley yesterday. They came runners up in the tournament. There was great team effort and spirit from the girls throughout!





Parent Forum

I am interested in setting up a parent forum for behaviour and curriculum. I would envisage we would meet once a term. If you would be interested in joining this please let me know or email the school office.

Harvest Donations Collections

Thank you to our Mini Vinnies and our parent community who kindly donated food supplies to the Leicester South Food Bank. Food donations are absolutely vital in order for everyone to receive a balanced and nutritious supply of food.



PCSO Visit

This week we had a visit from our local Police Community Support Officers. The children were very curious and interested about their visit and were very welcoming. These visits are important as they show the vital role of Police Community Support Officers in our community.





World Mental Health Day



Today our school took part in Hello Yellow for World Mental Health Day to raise awareness and funds for YoungMinds, the UK's leading charity for young people's mental health. No young person should feel alone with their mental health and that's why Hello Yellow matters. We're taking this opportunity as a school community to come together to raise awareness. We did this by staff and students wearing the colour yellow.



I am pleased to share the final Readathon total. Between 29/9 - 5/10, as a school community we read for 66,370 minutes! Raising a total of £84!



Let's Go Zero 2030

Through our work with St Thomas Aquinas CMAT, Bishop Ellis is proud to be part of the Let's Go Zero campaign, working with a dedicated Climate Action Advisor to create a tailored Climate Action Plan and embed sustainability into every aspect of school life. We are committed to becoming a zero carbon school by 2030.



I WANT MY SCHOOL TO BE
ZERO CARBON BY 2030

Our attendance so far this year is 96.6%. This is an excellent start to the year.

PLEASE SEE THE WEBSITE FOR THE CMAT ATTENDANCE POLICY. POLICIES - BISHOP ELLIS CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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 ARE NO LONGER 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

ATTENDANCE

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

SENCE FROM SCHOOL

Parents are required to see the school school 100% attendance. The government states that every child's attendance should be at least 95%.

How do YOU measure up?

Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed	
5/1	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
10/1	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
15/1	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
20/1	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
25/1	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
30/1	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 Lessons
35/1	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 Lessons

89% + Below
Drastic effect on academic achievement

95%-90%
Cause for concern

100%-96%
Excellent

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Year 7 Applications

Parents of children in year 6 can start the application process for year 7 places for next year.

If you live in Leicestershire local authority area,
please use this link

[Apply for a secondary school | Leicestershire County Council](#)

If you live in Leicester City local authority area,
please use this link

[Apply for a secondary school place](#)

Deadline is Friday 31st October 2025

SITE SAFETY

PLEASE CAN YOU ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD DOES NOT RIDE THEIR BIKES OR SCOOTERS WHILST ON THE SCHOOL SITE. THIS IS TO ENSURE WE KEEP ALL VISITORS SAFE WHILST ON THE SCHOOL SITE.



NO 
PARKING

**REMINDER NO PARKING IN THE
LAY-BY IN FRONT OF THE
SCHOOL GATES.**



FOUNDATION GOVERNORS

*Christ is the foundation
of the whole educational enterprise
in a Catholic school.*

The Catholic School, \$34

Calling Foundation Governors...

Are you looking for a way to live out your faith and serve your local community at the same time? If so, becoming a foundation governor could be just the thing for you.

Bishop Patrick McKinney is seeking practising Catholics to appoint as new foundation governors to our diocesan schools. Foundation governors play a vital role in maintaining and developing the Catholic character of our schools.

You do not need any experience in education or any specific qualifications as full support and training will be provided.

This event is designed to provide information about the role of a foundation governor, the application process and the support offered.

Date & Time
Tuesday 21 October 2025
7.00pm - 8.00pm

Venue
St Mary's Catholic Academy
Gladstone Street
Glossop
SK13 8NE

To register your interest, please
email Gill Burns

gill.burns@nottingham-des.org.uk