



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Dear parents and carers,

A faithful person is a gift to the world.

When we grow in faithfulness, others will know that we are people who are reliable, supportive and trustworthy, who are loyal and have staying power through both good times and bad times.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus encourages the disciples (and us to) to be faithful to him. Everybody wants a faithful friend. Jesus offers to be our faithful friend and invites us to be his. Even though many things in the world may change, the faithful promise of Jesus will never pass away - God's love for us will last forever.

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

14th November 2025

Diary Dates 2025/2026

November 2025

Tuesday 18th - 1.30 -2.30 Open Afternoon for families with children starting school in 2026

Thursday 20th - Non-Uniform Raffle Donation Day

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

December 2025

Monday 1st - Christmas Raffle Opens

Tuesday 2nd - 9.30 Christingle Service

Thursday 4th - FOBE annual light switch on

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

Thursday 11th - Santa Panto

Wednesday 17th - Christmas Dinner and Christmas Outfit Day

Wednesday 17th - FOBE Disco

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

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



Message from F.O.B.E

FOBE Donations Day is Thursday 20th November! On this day, children can bring their donations and enjoy wearing their own clothes to school!

Can you donate a raffle prize??

FOBE are requesting donations towards the Christmas Raffle.

Gift donations will be collected together and made into gift hampers to be won alongside other great prizes!

Donations can be as big or as small as you wish - any donations will be gratefully received.

(Examples could be small toys, stationary or crafting supplies, books, bathing treats, festive food (non perishable), socks.....)

Please bring in your & donations by Thursday 20th November

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.

Many thanks to those of you who have contacted me already.



Follow Bishop Ellis on Instagram & Facebook

If you are on Instagram or Facebook please follow and share the school's posts so we can connect with the wider community and prospective parents.



FOLLOW US



LIKE



Our New School Jubilee Chapel



Congratulations to Josie for her design for our new Jubilee Chapel. With thanks to FOBE for the donation from the Easter raffle which paid for the artist Al Scott who has done a wonderful job.



A special thank you to the Catenians for their donation which has enabled us to purchase our Liturgical furniture.



Mass Times

Divine Infant of Prague, Syston:

Weekend -

Sat 16.30 pm

Sun 11.15 am

St. Theresa's, Birstall;

Weekend -

Sat - 18.00 pm

Sun - 09.15am

Weekdays -

Fri - 18.00 pm

Our Parishes are very keen for children to read and participate in mass. Please get in contact with the parish for further information.

St. Theresa's, Birstall

<https://st-theresa-sacredheart.co.uk/>

Divine Infant of Prague, Syston

<https://stpatricksandsyston.uk/>





REMINDER

On Friday 21st December, our school will be closed to all students for the St. Thomas Aquinas INSET Day.

Christmas Dinner Menu

With just 4 weeks to go until our School Christmas Dinner Day, here's the delicious menu that will be served on Wednesday 17th December!

Merry Christmas

Wednesday 17th December

Fresh Roast Turkey

Sausage & Bacon Roll, Sage and Onion Stuffing

Gravy

or

Roast Quorn Fillet

All served with Roast Potatoes, Creamed Potatoes, Peas, Carrots & Sprouts

Christmas Pudding with Custard

Or

Christmas Cookie

 Leicestershire Traded Services

www.leicestershire.gov.uk/school-food

Remembrance Day

For Remembrance day, our chaplaincy team visited the Memorial in Thurmaston to honour and remember those who gave their lives in service. Our Early Years children created a cenotaph to honour and remember the bravery and sacrifice of those who served. A beautiful act of respect on Remembrance Day.





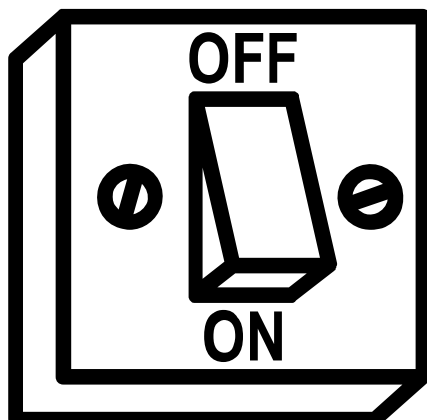
Big Switch Off.

A message from our Eco Warriors



November 10th - 21st 2025

We will be helping our school to work towards the Laudato Si award. We are proud to have achieved our Laudato Si award “with merit” for the last two years, which means we went above and beyond to help the planet! We hope to do the same this year too. Please join us this year at home and don’t forget to turn off your lights, chargers and televisions when you go out of the room and close the windows.



Prayers for loved ones

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/VJhQAbGqM>





School Choir

Our school choir will be taking part in the Catholic Schools Carol Concert, in aid of Menphys on Friday 5th December 2025.

Please see the poster below for ticket information.

Catholic Schools
CAROL CONCERT
A FESTIVE CONCERT IN AID OF
Menphys
Friday 5th December 2025
at 7:15 pm
De Montfort Hall, Leicester
Book your tickets now at
www.demontforthall.co.uk
or call 0116 233 3111

SCAN ME

Every ticket helps support children and young people with disabilities across Leicestershire

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.



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

Our attendance so far this year is 96.5%. 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 expected to see to attend school 100% of the time. The Government states that every child's attendance should be at least 95%.

How do YOU measure up?

Absence	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
5/	5 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
10/	10 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
15/	15 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
20/	20 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
25/	25 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
30/	30 Days	12 Weeks	300 Lessons
35/	35 Days	15 Weeks	350 Lessons
40/	40 Days	18 Weeks	400 Lessons

89% + Below
Drastic effect on academic achievement

95%-90%
Cause for concern

100%-96%
Excellent

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