



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Dear parents and carers,

Buying presents, decorations and planning our Christmas meal are all good ways of preparing for Christmas. But through all these preparations we do need to keep in mind the real reason for all these festivities. It's important that we spend some time preparing ourselves too. In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear John the Baptist calling the people to repent (to come back to God) and to prepare themselves for Christ's arrival. Christian 'repentance' is a wholly positive experience when we invite God into our lives and take a grip on ourselves, changing some of our ways or even, maybe, our direction in life. So let's listen to John the Baptist and prepare our hearts well - being ready to receive and share God's love with all we meet as part of this week's Christmas preparations

God Bless

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

5th December 2025

Diary Dates 2025/2026

December 2025

Tuesday 9th - 2.15 KS1 Nativity

Wednesday 10th - 9.30

Reception Nativity

Wednesday 10th - 2.15 KS1

Nativity

Thursday 11th - Santa Panto

Friday 12th - Christmas Raffle

Draw

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

January 2026

Monday 5th - 8.45 Return to

school - Lent Term Begins

Tuesday 6th - Whole School -

Celebration of the word -

Epiphany

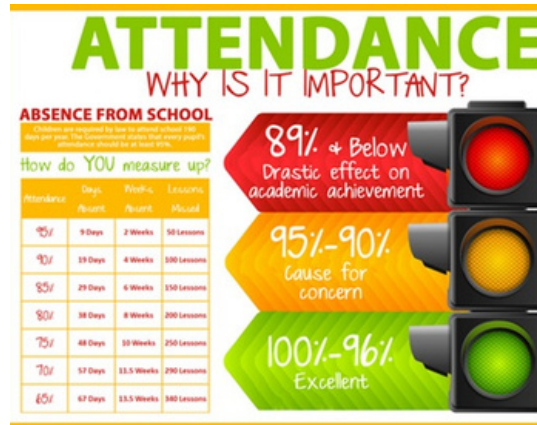
Wednesday 28th - St Thomas

Aquinas CMAT Feast Day

Celebrations



Punctuality



Attendance at Bishop Ellis this year is excellent. Our current attendance figures put us in the top 20% of schools across the country. My sincere thanks go to you all for your support in this important aspect of school life. I understand as a parent that this is not always easy.

Please also ensure that your child is in the school building for 8:45 when school starts. Class teachers start lessons immediately and any lateness means that our children are missing out on valuable learning time. I know from my own experience, this can be a challenge. If you feel you would like any support with punctuality please reach out to your child's teacher or speak to a member of staff on the gate in the morning.



Leicester Library Mural

Please have a look at this initiative linked to a family in our school community. Friends of theirs lost their child unexpectedly, they are doing a mural at Leicester library in memory of her and they are asking children to submit their favourite books to be added as part of the mural. It might be a nice activity for children to get involved with. Please follow the link below for more details.

[Children can nominate favourite books for new mural](#)



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



Christmas Raffle

We're raffle ready! Thank you all for your amazing donations, we've got some fantastic prizes to win this year, so make sure you get your tickets to be in with a chance to win! Please see the photo below showing our 100 Square Chart that will be in each class! Once all squares are sold, they'll be cut up and a winning number will be drawn at random. 🎉🌟

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets on sale now!!
£1 per number from
your child's teacher

Draw to be held
Friday 12th
December
Good Luck!



This year, we also have an LCFC football and Tigers rugby shirt, both signed by the current teams which we will auction by a silent bid.

Please put your bid with your child's name and teacher on a piece of paper, and put in a sealed envelope to hand in to the office.

Bids will need to be in by the end of the day on Thursday 11th December and will be opened on Friday 12th. Highest bid wins!

GOOD LUCK!! 🎅



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/>





Christmas Disco Tickets Available now!!!

**CHRISTMAS
DISCO**

WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER

RECEPTION & KS1 3:30-4:30PM	KS2 4:45 - 5:45PM
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**£3.50 PER CHILD - PURCHASE TICKETS
VIA ARBOR
ADVANCED PURCHASE REQUIRED**

INCLUDES ENTRY, COOKIE AND SQUASH

Available to purchase in the school
shop in Arbor for £3.50

Come Dressed in Your Christmas Best!

**We can't wait to see you in your
favourite Christmas outfit at our joyful
Christmas Dinner Day followed by the
Christmas Disco. Let's celebrate the
season together with food, music, and
festive cheer.**

Christmas Dinner Menu

**With just weeks to go
until our School
Christmas Dinner Day,
here's is 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



Christmas Light Switch On

✨ Spreading Christmas Cheer Together! ✨

A huge thank you to FOBE for the light tree switch-on, raising an amazing £67.00. With thanks to JPS Firewood & Forestry for donating our beautiful Christmas tree.



JPS FIREWOOD & FORESTRY

BUNDLE DEALS AVAILABLE | READY TO BURN FIREWOOD!

FIREWOOD & HOMEBURNING FUELS

RELIABLE, FAST DELIVERY | CALL US NOW!
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OR VISIT
WWW.JPSLEICESTER.CO.UK

FIREWOOD - COAL - KINDLING



And a huge well done to our school choir for filling the air with festive joy through their wonderful singing. What an incredible display of school community spirit this season!



Over the past few weeks, some of our students from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 have taken part in Dodgeball competitions.

Each child played brilliantly, showing great enthusiasm and teamwork. ✨

With Year 5/6 securing 2nd place overall—a fantastic achievement! 🎉

Well done to everyone who took part, we are so proud of you!





Drone Workshop

Today, some of our students had the wonderful opportunity to take part in a Drone Workshop. This hands-on session opened the door to the exciting world of drone technology, giving students a chance to explore how drones lift, hover, and manoeuvre with precision.



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 96.3%.

This achievement reflects the incredible commitment of our students and the invaluable support from parents and families.

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.

Why Attendance Matters?:

- **Learning success:** Regular attendance ensures children don’t miss out on important lessons and activities.
- **Confidence building:** Being present every day helps students stay connected with their peers and teachers.

