



# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



## HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to school and a Happy New Year to all. January is traditionally the month of beginnings – a time for making a new start. In Church this Sunday we celebrate a special feast – The Baptism of the Lord. In this Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist didn't see the need to baptise Jesus, because Jesus was sinless. But Jesus insisted because he wanted to stand alongside the community - to help them make a new start and give them an example to follow. Jesus, God's beloved Son, came for everyone: to draw us all into his family so that we can become more like him and joyfully share in God's own life.

## 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**

**9<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**Diary Dates 2025/2026**

### January 2026

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>** - St Thomas Aquinas CMAT Feast Day Celebrations

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup>** - Wear Green Day & Open afternoon

### February 2026

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>** - 9.30 Year 4/5 Class Mass

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>** - Parents Evening

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>** - Parents Evening

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup>** - 3.15 Half Term

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>** - 8.45 Return to school



## Open afternoon

2:15pm - 3:00pm 30<sup>th</sup> Jan

Please note the change of date for the open afternoon this half term. It has been moved from Friday February 6<sup>th</sup> to Friday January 30<sup>th</sup>

## ECO Warrior's Wear Green Day



The Eco Warriors have organised a "wear green" day on Friday 30th January. The children can wear something green or with plants/flowers on it to raise awareness for their hard work on taking care of our planet and reducing our carbon footprint. The donation for wearing these clothes for the day is £1. Money raised by this event will be used to make improvements to our Forest School and Allotment area.

**Parents' Evening**  
Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>  
February 2026  
You will be able to book your  
appointments via school cloud from,  
Monday 19th January 12pm

## 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/>



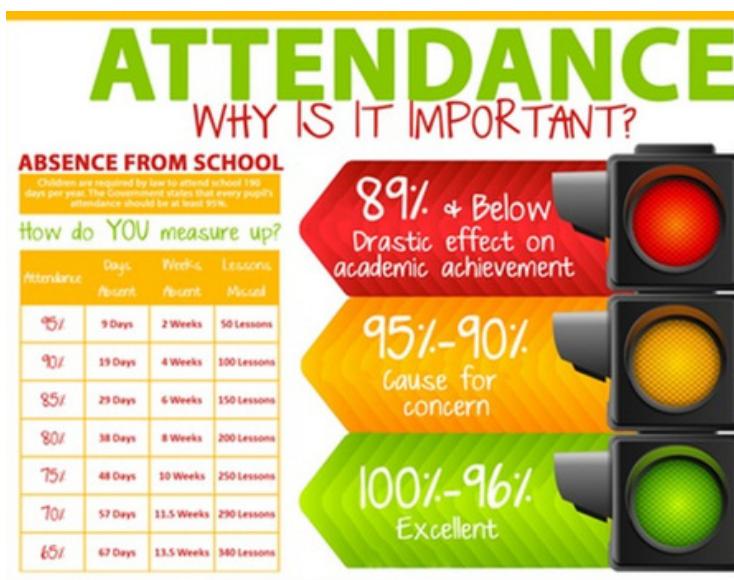


## Punctuality



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.



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**



**FOLLOW US**

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.



**LIKE**

Our Attendance so far this year is 96.4%.

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 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.

With the colder, winter months leading to more of us suffering from coughs, colds, flu and other illnesses, it's important to know when and where to get the right treatment for any member of your family. Please click [HERE](#) for a range of resources in order to stay well this winter.

Your child's online safety matters. Click [HERE](#) for more information.