



# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



**BISHOP ELLIS CATHOLIC  
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY**

**12th December 2025**

**Diary Dates 2025/2026**

**December 2025**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> - Christmas  
Dinner and Christmas  
Outfit Day**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> - FOBE  
Disco**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> - 10.00 KS2  
Carol Service St. Theresa's  
Church**

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> - End of Advent  
Term**

**School closes for Christmas**

**January 2026**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> - 8.45 Return to  
school - Lent Term Begins**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> - Whole School  
Mass - Celebration of the  
word - Epiphany**

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

## HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Dear parents and carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist had heard about Jesus Christ's miracles and all the other wonderful things that he was doing. Christ was offering people forgiveness and healing, both physical and spiritual. Forgiving and healing was his task all those years ago and, if we put our trust in him, this is what he can do for us even today.

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



## Christmas Raffle

We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone for their generous donations. Thanks to your support, we were able to offer some truly wonderful prizes, which were enjoyed by our winners. Your contributions made this raffle a great success.



The winners are

Viyan, Joshua, Jacob, Zoriyah, Albie, Matilda, Oliver, Ernest, Adam, Catherine, Jacob, Remy, Avni, Lola-Rose, Mila, Ava, Lyra, Avni, Marcelina, Phoebe, Saoirse, Sophie



We extend a huge thank you to everyone who participated in the silent bids; and we are delighted to congratulate the winners.

Oliver Year 5 - Signed LCFC Football  
Thomas Year 6 - Signed Tigers Shirt

## 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/>





# Our Christmas Panto



Many thanks to FOBE for funding the Panto yesterday which meant no cost at all to families. This is just one of the many wonderful enrichment opportunities we are able to offer due to the incredibly hard work of our FOBE members and also the generous donations you make when supporting fundraising events.



# Menphys Carol Concert



A huge well done to our school choir for their wonderful performance at the Menphys Carol Concert last Friday. You all sang beautifully and made us so proud. A special thank you to Miss Jackson and Mrs Kennedy for their dedication and support with the choir - what a joyful way to celebrate the season!





# 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 on  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

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 less than a week 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/school-food)

Key Stage 2 - Please ensure that £3.00 is topped up onto your child's school dinner account, via Arbor.



# Reception and KS1 Nativity



★ A huge well done to our Reception and Key Stage 1 students for their outstanding Nativity performances. Each and every child did an amazing job, bringing the story to life with joy and enthusiasm. We are so grateful to all the staff for their hard work in creating such wonderful productions, and to the parents and families who came along to show their support—your presence made the celebrations even more special.★



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.



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# 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.

## 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

# ATTENDANCE

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

**ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL**  
Children are required by law to attend school 180 days per year. The Government states that every pupil's attendance should be at least 95%.

How do YOU measure up?

Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 Lessons

- 89% & Below: Drastic effect on academic achievement
- 95% - 90%: Cause for concern
- 100% - 96%: Excellent

**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 NOT 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.

## 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.

