



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Dear parents and carers,

Each year on the last Sunday of Advent, we look to Mary, our heavenly mother. The Gospel tells us something about Mary who was chosen by God to be the mother of his Son, Jesus (the name 'Jesus' means 'the LORD saves'). Mary accepted God's will with a thankful heart; she is a perfect example for all people – someone full of thoughtfulness, kindness and joy.

As you know this final week of term has been one that we never expected. We lost a wonderful member of our school community in Virashi Chauhan. As part of her role as a governor, Virashi always provided me with incredible support and guidance. She was knowledgeable, compassionate, funny and deeply committed to the education of all children at Bishop Ellis. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Chauhan and Rajput families and all of their friends at this time.

Lord, the sight of the guiding star, brought hope, courage and joy to those who had journeyed to find you. When our journey seems long, when hope seems far away, when our courage is failing fill us with faith and trust; shine your light on our fears, lift our hearts with your joy. Help us to recognise you in our brothers and sisters throughout the world; show us how we can work together so that we may all come to share in the life promised to us by Jesus, the Saviour of us all. Amen.

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**

19th December 2025

Diary Dates 2025/2026

January 2026

Monday 5th - 8.45 Return to school - Lent Term Begins

Tuesday 6th - Whole School Mass - Celebration of the word - Epiphany

Wednesday 28th - St

Thomas Aquinas CMAT
Feast Day Celebrations

Friday 30th - Wear Green
Day & Cakesale

February 2026

Tuesday 3rd - 9.30 Year 4/5
Class Mass

Friday 6th - 2.15-3.00 Open
Afternoon - a chance to
look at your child's books
with them before Parents
Evening

Wednesday 11th - Parents
Evening

Thursday 12th - Parents
Evening

Friday 13th - 3.15 Half Term

Monday 23rd - 8.45 Return
to school



Christmas in our Parishes



Divine Infant of Prague, Syston

Christmas Eve: 6:00pm Mass

Christmas Day: 10:00am Mass

St Theresa's, Birstall

Sunday 21st December: 6:00pm Christmas Concert- St Theresa's

Christmas Eve: 3:00pm Christmas Nativity- St Theresa's.
(Please come dressed as shepherds, sheep, angels or wise men.)

Christmas Eve: 6:00pm Mass- St Theresa's

Christmas Eve: 11:30pm Midnight Mass- St Theresa's

Christmas Day: 9:15am Mass- St Theresa's

Sacred Heart, Rothley

Christmas Eve: 6:30pm-7:00pm Carols and Mass Sacred Heart

Christmas Day: 10:15am Mass- Sacred Heart

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/>





After School Clubs

Spring Term

We're excited to share the Spring term's ClubXtra after-school activities.

👉 Book your place here:

<https://5starclub.cnp.org.uk/clubxtra>

Places are limited and clubs do book up quickly, so we'd recommend securing your place as soon as possible to avoid missing out.

This term's timetable is:



Monday - Super Science Club

Tuesday - Mega Strikers



Wednesday - Dodgeball

(Please note, this activity is not run by ClubXtra.

If you'd like to take part, please contact the school directly.)

Thursday - Cheeky Monkey's Gymnastics



Friday - Beat Street Dance

Session details for Spring Term 2025

Clubs run for 6 sessions, from
w/c 5th January to w/c 9th February

£5 per session

£30 per club for the full half term

This offers excellent value for high-quality, engaging after-school activities run by trusted providers.



School reopens on
Monday 5th January
2026



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



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Key Stage 2 Carol Service

✨ Our annual Key Stage Two Christmas Carol Service was a truly uplifting occasion; filled with warmth and festive spirit. The children sang beautifully, shared thoughtful readings, and performed a moving nativity scene.

It was a joyful celebration that brought our school community together and reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas.

Thank you to our parents and school community for attending, your presence means a lot to us ✨





FOBE Disco



Many thanks to FOBE for organising the Disco on Wednesday. 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. It was a lovely event and as always I am amazed by the quality of dancing shown by the teachers!!!



Useful Information Sheets

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

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.

Please click [HERE](#) to find fun and exciting things to do over the Christmas break.



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.

