



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Dear parents and carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel (taken from the Sermon on the Mount), Jesus teaches us how important it is to follow God's laws; our Catholic schools and parishes try very hard to do the same.

"The family is where parents become their children's first teachers in the faith. The family's strength lies in its capacity to love and to teach how to love." Pope Francis (Pope from 2013-2025)

It's important to have good teachers. You as parents are the first and foremost educators of your own children – others can also teach us so much about what really matters in life such as Jesus who stood out as a teacher. Seeing the power and authority of God at work in Jesus' words and actions gave people confidence in his teachings. When we have Jesus as our teacher, we are being taught by God.

I hope you have a good half term. Hopefully we will have some drier weather. We look forward to welcoming children back to school on Monday 23rd February

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**

13th February 2026

Diary Dates 2025/2026

February 2026

**Monday 23rd - 8.45 Return
to school**

March 2026

Tuesday 3rd - 13.15

Reconciliation Service

**Thursday 5th - World Book
Day**

Tuesday 10th - 9.30 KS1

**Mother's Day Mass led by
Year 1 & 2**

**Reception & Yr 6 Heights &
Weight Check**

Wednesday 11th - Friday

13th - The Briars Trip Yr 6

**Tuesday 24th - Year 3,4,5
Performance Afternoon &**

Evening Times TBC

**Friday 27th - 9.30 Way of
the Cross**

3.15 End of Term

April 2026

**Monday 13th - 08.45 Start
of Pentecost Term**



Children's Mental Health Week 🧡

Thank you to our school council who led an assembly on Monday about the important issue of mental health.

The assembly was inspired by Place2Be's theme "This is Me" – reminding us all that everyone deserves to feel they belong, and we each play a part in helping others feel included.

Proud of our pupils for leading with kindness, confidence, and community. 🌟



Lunchtime Wellbeing Fun 🧡🌟😊

We transformed lunchtime into a space for connection, play, and positivity.

Students from different year groups came together to enjoy games, mix and mingle, and share a happy, relaxed lunchtime!

A wonderful reminder that small moments of fun can make a big difference to our wellbeing. 🧡

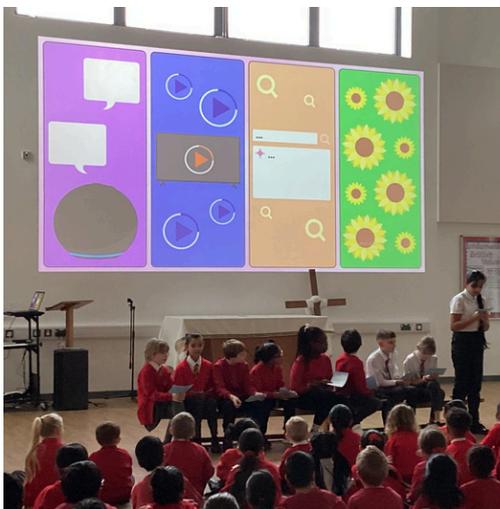




Safer Internet Day

Very closely linked to mental health is our use of devices.

Thank you to our digital leaders who led us in an assembly this week for safer internet day. They guided the whole school through a clear, factual and engaging assembly on staying safe online and how to use technology responsibly.



Please see attached a one-page information sheet for parents/carers about keeping our children safe online from Mrs Gillespie our Safeguarding Director at St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi Academy Trust.

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/>





Mobile Phones in School



To ensure a safe, focused and disruption free learning environment, mobile phones are not permitted in school.

Pupils must not bring mobile phones onto the school site. If, in exceptional circumstances, a mobile phone is required for travel or safety before or after school, it must be handed in to the school office on arrival and collected at the end of the day.

Any mobile phone that is brought into school without prior agreement will be confiscated and returned to parents/carers. Repeated breaches may result in further consequences in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

This approach supports positive behaviour, protects learning time, and helps safeguard all members of the school community.

Many thanks for your continued support in this matter.

Important: Road Safety



We kindly ask all parents and carers to use the designated crossings at all times and to encourage children to do the same. Your support helps keep everyone safe.



School dinner money must be paid in advance in order for the school office to book the school dinner in.

£3.00 per meal a day

£75.00 for the whole half term



Parents Evening



Many thanks to everyone who was able to attend the parents evenings. I hope you found it useful. Thank you for the many positive comments about our children's learning and about how much they enjoy the curriculum at Bishop Ellis. I will be sending out a brief survey after half term about the option of having both face to face meetings and online ones.



Punctuality



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



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 Half-Term Highlights



Epiphany Mass – a truly warm and meaningful start to the new year.



Our early years adventurers thriving in Forest School – collecting sticks, building together, and discovering the joy of learning through play!



Our Early Years explored the theme of ‘HOPE’ as we prepared for St Thomas Aquinas Feast Day. Our Chaplaincy Team also represented us wonderfully at the CMAT Feast Day celebration, learning how to be true “Missionaries of Hope”.



Ratcliffe College cross country – brilliant effort & great team spirit!



Six of our students took part in a basketball competition they showed great determination, teamwork, and true Bishop Ellis spirit.



Year 1 & 3 Dance Session - learning a range of difference dance styles!



Children’s Mental Health Week - Whole school assembly followed by lunchtime wellbeing fun!



Safer Internet Day - digital leaders leading in a clear and factual assembly about staying safe online!



After School Clubs - Spring Term

We are excited to share our updated ClubXtra line-up for the rest of the Spring Term, with some favourites returning and something brand new to try!

Beat Street Dance – Now on Mondays!

Our dance club has a brand-new slot and an exciting focus.

Sports with Megastrikers – Tuesdays

High-energy, action-packed sports sessions designed to keep children active, develop teamwork and most importantly... have lots of fun!

Please see attached leaflet to book for Wednesdays - Dodgeball with Football & Fitness.

Gymnastics – Thursdays

Our ever-popular gymnastics sessions continue, helping children build strength, coordination and confidence as they develop core skills in a fun and supportive environment.

NEW for This Half Term – Game On! - Fridays

Game On is all about connection, strategy and good old-fashioned fun. Children will enjoy:

- Classic board games
- Team challenges
- Larger-than-life versions of games
- Interactive experiences like Human Cluedo!

It's perfect for children who love problem-solving, teamwork and a bit of friendly competition.

To book, please follow the link below:

[5 Star Club](#)

School Holiday Club

School holidays sorted! Did you know that we provide care in every school holiday? Open 7:30am–6:00pm, offering an action-packed programme of themed days, hands-on activities and brilliant trips out. It's fun, friendship and fresh experiences rolled into one unforgettable holiday club.

[!\[\]\(df47d6bec273bbb8b349135fff3a20f7_img.jpg\) Book your child's place now](#)

5 Star

Breakfast Club from 7:30am
A calm, welcoming start to the day with a nutritious breakfast and relaxed activities before school.

After School Club until 5:45pm
A fun, safe space to unwind after school – including a hearty tea to keep everyone fuelled and happy.
Whether you need regular sessions or just a little extra support around your week, we're here to help.

Call us on 0116 269 6162

Our Attendance so far this year is 96.2%.

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.

ATTENDANCE
WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL
How do YOU measure up?

Attendance	Days	Weeks	Lessons
85%	8 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	13 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
95%	19 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
98%	28 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
99%	40 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
100%	52 Days	13 Weeks	300 Lessons
105%	67 Days	15.5 Weeks	360 Lessons

89% + Below
Drastic effect on academic achievement

95%–90%
Cause for concern

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