



# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



## HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Dear parents and carers,

Out of his great love for us, God created us to be happy with him forever. The blessings in this Sunday's Gospel, which promise true, lasting happiness, are taken from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and are known as the Beatitudes. To be gentle and to mourn means to share the sorrows of others and help them. To hunger and thirst for what is right, and to be prepared to be persecuted for it, needs courage and good judgement. 'Meek' really means un-pompous, genuine.

The merciful don't insist on their rights, but have strength to see the point of view of others and to think of the needs of others as well as their own needs. Jesus' words would have turned upside down the thoughts that most of his listeners had about true happiness, and maybe they challenge our own ideas too.

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**

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

**Diary Dates 2025/2026**

**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**

**March 2026**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> - 13.15  
Reconciliation Service**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> - World Book  
Day**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> - 9.30 KS1  
Mother's Day Mass led by  
Year 1 & 2**

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

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> - Friday  
13<sup>th</sup> - The Briars Trip Yr 6**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> - 9.30 Way of  
the Cross  
3.15 End of Term**



## St. Thomas Aquinas Feast Day



Mrs Jackson and I were delighted to accompany our Chaplaincy team to the St Thomas Aquinas Feast Day celebration at English Martyrs in Leicester on Wednesday. We joined all the other chaplaincy teams in the CMAT and learned how we can all now be "Missionaries of Hope" as a legacy to the Jubilee year that has just finished. The chaplaincy team were an absolute credit to our school.



## Open Afternoon

Many thanks to everyone who was able to attend the open afternoon today. I hope you found it enjoyable and informative. A reminder if you haven't done so already to book a slot for the upcoming parents evenings.







## ECO Warrior's Wear Green Day

A huge well done to our Eco Warrior Team for organising our Wear Green Day.

Over £200 raised so far — thank you to everyone for supporting us and for taking part! If you haven't donated yet, there's still time!

The money raised will go towards improving our Forest School and Allotment area, helping us create even more exciting outdoor learning opportunities for our pupils.



## 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.

## Year 5 & 6 Basketball

Six of our students took part in a basketball competition at Martin High School on Tuesday, giving it their all with enthusiasm, determination, and fantastic teamwork. Well done for taking part and showing true Bishop Ellis spirit! 🌟🏀



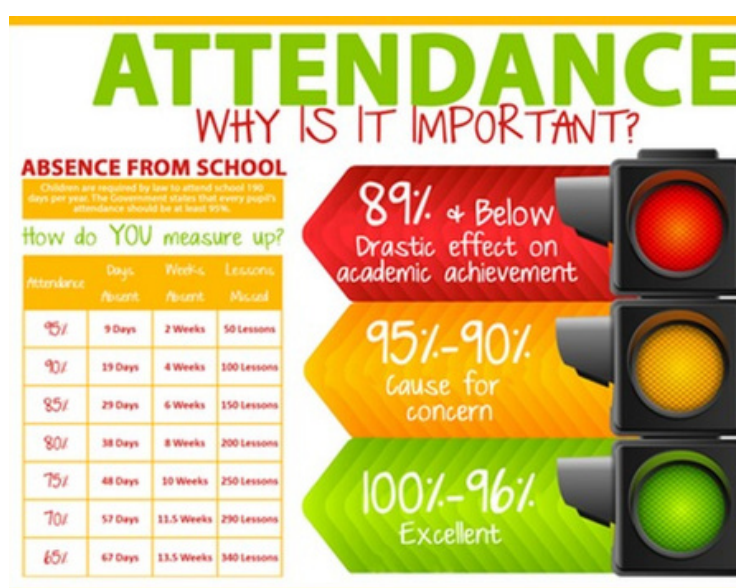


## Punctuality



Attendance at Bishop Ellis this year is excellent. Our current attendance figures put us in the top 13% 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.



**NO**   
**PARKING**

**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 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.

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.