



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



**BISHOP ELLIS CATHOLIC
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY**

20th March 2026

Diary Dates 2025/2026

March 2026

**Tuesday 24th - Year 3,4,5
Performance Afternoon
1.45 & Evening 5.15pm**

**Wednesday 25th - Easter
Day Dinner Menu**

**Friday 27th - 9.30 Way of
the Cross
3.15 End of Term**

April 2026

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

May 2026

**Monday 11th - KS2 SATS
Week**

**Monday 18th - KS1 SATS
Week**

9.00 - Year 6 Photos

Friday 22nd - Colour Dash

HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Dear parents and carers,

As well as showing the power given to Jesus by his Father, this Sunday's Gospel reminds us of Jesus' humanity. Jesus was upset by Lazarus' death and wept for him. His compassion for Lazarus and Lazarus' family mirrors his compassion for each one of us when we are upset. We too can experience Jesus' compassion through other people and through spending time with God in prayer. Compassion is an attractive quality. Our own example in daily life can help our children become more compassionate. St Vincent de Paul reminds us, "We should strive to keep our hearts open to the sufferings of other people, and pray continually that God may grant us that spirit of compassion."

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



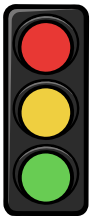
Inclusive Sports Festival



Yesterday, some students from Bishop Ellis proudly took part in an Inclusive Sports Festival, joining pupils and schools from across the area to celebrate sport, teamwork, and determination.

The event offered a fantastic opportunity for our students to try a range of activities in a supportive and encouraging environment.

Staff reported that the children showed great enthusiasm, represented the school beautifully, and demonstrated wonderful sportsmanship throughout the day.



Road Safety Workshops for Reception, Year 2 and Year 5



Today, pupils in Reception, Year 2 and Year 5 took part in engaging Road Safety Workshops, helping them learn how to stay safe when out and about in the community.

Each session was tailored to the children's age group, giving them practical tips in a fun and interactive way.



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/>





Year 6 at The Briars

Our Year 6 pupils had a truly memorable and wonderful few days last week at the Briars. The children were a credit to their families, to Bishop Ellis CVA but most importantly to themselves. Their enjoyment at Conkers was heartwarming. Their participation in the many varied activities at the Briars was fantastic. The way that many of the children expressed their faith and spirituality was humbling.

I want to thank Miss Beall, Mrs Franklin and Mrs Morley for giving their time to accompany the children. I hope the children enjoyed the trip as much as I enjoyed being with them.





Easter Day Menu

Wednesday 25th March



Message from FOBE

Next Friday, the 27th, we're launching our Smartie Challenge. Every child will bring home a tube of Smarties—once they've enjoyed them, the empty tube becomes their challenge container over the easter break.

Children can earn coins at home by doing chores, helping others, or completing kind tasks. They then fill their tube and return it to school to support our fundraising.

Thank you for encouraging the children. It's amazing what a small tube of Smarties can inspire.



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

Important: Road Safety



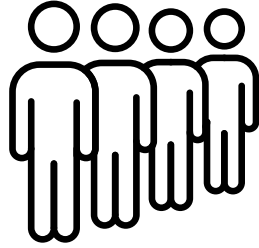
We kindly ask all parents and carers to use the designated crossings at all times and to encourage children to do the same. Your support helps keep everyone safe.



REMINDER NO PARKING IN THE LAY-BY IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL GATES



End of the school day



This is a polite reminder following some feedback from a few parents about queuing to collect children.

Please respect those who are already in the queue and avoid walking ahead to join other parents further in the queue.

None of us particularly like queuing up but we feel it is the safest way to ensure that our children are collected safely.

Your co-operation in this matter is gratefully appreciated.



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.

EAST MIDLANDS REDUCING PARENTAL CONFLICT CONFERENCE 2026

This is a message from colleagues in St Thomas Aquinas CMAT. There are a variety of parental and professional webinars are being run through the link below which includes:
When ADHD or Autism is part of Family Life
When Parents Separate
How to communicate in ways that help children.

East Midlands Relationships | parent relationship support

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.



Our Attendance so far this year is 96.3%.

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
100%	0 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	10 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	20 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	30 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
75%	40 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	50 Days	12.5 Weeks	300 Lessons
65%	60 Days	15 Weeks	350 Lessons

89% + Below
Drastic effect on academic achievement

95%–90%
Cause for concern

100%–96%
Excellent

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