



# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



## HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Dear parents and carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel we have a witty dialogue between Jesus and the Samaritan woman drawing water at the well, where each seems to be teasing the other. Water is a sign of life. The 'living water' is the sign of everything that Jesus offers us to satisfy our need of God's love and guidance. With its serious message, this Sunday's Gospel is a lovely example of Jesus' willingness to engage with people just as they are – and that includes us too!

God has no favourites; we are all loved equally by God. The season of Lent presents a great opportunity for everyone to enter afresh into the living and nourishing water of God's love which surpasses any food or drink.

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**

6<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Diary Dates 2025/2026**

**March 2026**

**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**

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

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> - Easter  
Day Dinner Menu**

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

**April 2026**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> - 08.45 Start  
of Pentecost Term**



# World Book Day



Thank you to everyone for the book donations. We raised **£152.00!**

World Book Day 2026 was a wonderful celebration of stories, imagination and the things we love. This year we embraced the theme “Going All In”, with children and staff arriving in outfits that showcased their favourite books, hobbies and personal interests. The school was filled with colour, creativity and conversations about the stories that inspire us.

We began the day with a whole-school assembly exploring how books connect to our passions and help us discover new ones.



Throughout the morning, classes visited the book sale, where every child chose a new book to take home and enjoy.



In the afternoon, the whole school paused for a peaceful session of silent reading. Many children also spent time designing their own bookmarks and book covers, adding an extra spark of creativity to the day. It was a joyful celebration of reading and a reminder of the power of stories to bring us together.



## 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/>





## 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](#)



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

## Easter Chocolate Donations

FOBE are on the hunt for chocolate!  
We're collecting tasty treats for our Easter Raffle, and we'd love your help. Bring in any chocolate donations from Monday 2nd March to Friday 13th March. Every choccy treat—big or small—will help us create amazing Easter Hampers and make our raffle extra fun this year!





# Girls Football Week



In honour of Girl's Football Week girls from every year group took to the field for a lively lunchtime football session. The field was full of energy as they dribbled, passed, scored, and cheered each other on. Every participant had a fantastic time building confidence, teamwork, and a love for the game. It was wonderful to see so many pupils getting active and enjoying sport together.

Girls' Football Week, is a nationwide initiative designed to inspire and empower girls through sport. The aim is simple: to give every girl the chance to experience the excitement of football in a fun, supportive environment.



## 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**



# Easter Day Menu



Easter Day Menu  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>  
March 2026



## 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.



**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
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

89% + Below  
Drastic effect on academic achievement

95%-90%  
Cause for concern

100%-96%  
Excellent

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