



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Dear parents and carers,

This Sunday is traditionally known as 'Good Shepherd Sunday'. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who leads us into the joys of eternal life.

Part of a shepherd's job is to look after the sheep and help them to stay safe. When we let Jesus lead us, just as a shepherd leads his sheep, he helps us to make the right choices and fills our lives with goodness and holiness. All we need to do is to follow him.

Today, Jesus can lead us through the Church, through prayer and through the lives of people who show us how to live in a way that pleases God. He is the patient shepherd who never gives up on us.

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

24th April 2026

Diary Dates 2025/2026

May 2026

Monday 11th - KS2 SATS Week

Monday 18th - KS1 SATS Week

13.30pm - Year 6 Photos

Friday 22nd - Colour Dash & Eco Warrior Gardening Day & End of Term

June 2026

Friday 12th - Sports Day Reception/KS1 - 9.15-10.15 KS2 13.30-15.00

Monday 15th - All Arts Week

Friday 19th - Parents in to look at Artwork 14.15 - 15.00

Wednesday 24th June - Year 6 Performance



Staffing Update

Mrs Shaw returns from her maternity leave after half-term. Mrs Ahmed will leave us then. I would like to thank Mrs Ahmed for her hard work in this first year of her teaching career.



“Safely in” Practice

As you will remember, I wrote in the newsletter before Easter that we would be practising our “Safely-in” procedure as part of our wider health and safety practices. I spoke to the children on Monday about what would happen. We have evaluated the success of the practice and identified small tweaks we need to make for next time. We will do another practice after half term.

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/>





Eco Warrior Garden



On Friday 22nd May, the eco warriors will be having a gardening day, renovating and planting our allotment and Forest School area in the back of the school. We would love some adult helpers for the day (parents, grandparents, etc).



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.



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.



KS1 Gymnastics

To kick-start this half term, our Key Stage 1 children have been taking part in a series of exciting gymnastics sessions.

The children have loved exploring different ways of moving, balancing, and working safely on the mats and apparatus.

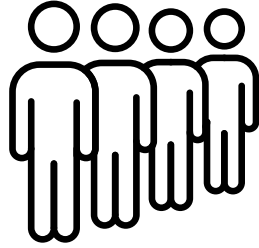
Their confidence has grown with each session, and it's been wonderful to see them challenging themselves, supporting one another, and celebrating their progress.

We're looking forward to seeing how their skills continue to develop over the coming weeks.





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.

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



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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