



# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



## HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Dear parents and carers,

This coming Sunday is known as Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. It is the start of Holy Week. This is the week when the Church especially remembers Jesus' final days in Jerusalem. Palms will be handed out in Church in remembrance of the welcome and great praise that the people gave to Jesus when he entered the City. Holy Week is a very special time: it includes Palm Sunday, the celebration of the Last Supper, the washing of feet, the agony in the garden, Jesus' arrest, crucifixion and his resurrection. Everybody is invited to come and join with the Church this Sunday and receive a palm leaf, blessed by the priest, to take home.

Dear Lord Jesus, as Holy Week approaches, we thank you for giving your life for us, so that one day we too may know the joys of heaven. Amen.

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**

27th March 2026

Diary Dates 2025/2026

April 2026

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

May 2026

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - KS2 SATS  
Week

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> - KS1 SATS  
Week

13.30pm - Year 6 Photos

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Colour Dash

June 2026

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

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> - All Arts  
Week

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> - Parents in to  
look at Artwork 14.15 -  
15.00

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June -  
Year 6 Performance



## “Safely in” Practice

The safety and well-being of our pupils and staff remain our highest priority. We regularly practice evacuating the school building and children are excellent when we do this.

It is also important that we practice getting the children into the school building should the need arise as part of our school safety plan. A “Safely-In” is a precautionary safety response used when there is activity or a situation in the surrounding community that requires us to be inside the school building while supporting children.

These are common practices in school. We will be undertaking a practice “Safely-In” procedure after Easter.

I will provide you with the exact date once this is formalised.

Practicing this procedure ensures that children and staff understand what to do and can respond calmly and efficiently if a real situation were to occur.

During our practice Safely-In drill, we will take the following steps:

- Notify and train staff in advance to ensure a smooth and calm implementation.
- Notify children before the drill so they are informed and equipped for the practice.
- Complete the drill with all children, staff and visitors.
- Confirm that all pupils and staff are safely inside the building.
- Reassure children throughout to maintain a safe and calm environment as this is a new procedure for many of them
- Review this with children once complete.

Our aim is to make sure that our children feel calm, and supported. Practicing safety procedures is an important part of maintaining a secure learning environment, just as we practice fire drills, we also practice other safety responses so that children and staff are prepared and confident.

We appreciate your continued partnership in supporting a safe and positive school community. If you have any questions about our safety procedures, please feel free to contact me via the school office or speak to me on the school gate.

## 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/>





## Message from FOBE



Today we launched 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.



A huge thank you to our Mini Vinnies and our parent community for the generous donations made to the Leicester South Food Bank. Your kindness helps ensure that individuals and families in our local community receive a balanced and nutritious supply of food. Your support truly makes a difference!

## De Lisle Prize Giving Evening

I was delighted to attend the De Lisle prize giving evening last night at the town hall. It was wonderful to see so many former Bishop Ellis pupils receive such a wide range of awards and also perform so brilliantly on the stage.





# Year 3, 4 and 5 Musical Extravaganza

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our parent/carer community who joined us for the Year 3, 4 and 5 Musical Extravaganza on Tuesday.

Your presence and encouragement created such a wonderful atmosphere and meant so much to the children and staff.

I was delighted to watch the performance on Monday afternoon as unfortunately I was out of school on Tuesday for the performances to families.

It was such an incredible showcase of talent. I have been moved by the lovely feedback received from many parents about the opportunity it gave their children to perform on stage.

A special thank you goes to the staff involved in preparing and supporting the performance your hard work helped make the performance truly memorable.

The children were outstanding. Their enthusiasm, confidence and joy shone through in every moment.

I know for some it has given them the confidence to want to do more of this outside school. My thanks go to the staff for their hard work in putting on the performance.



CAFOD

Thank you for all your donations for the Key Stage 2 musical extravaganza. We raised £217 for CAFOD which is part of our CMAT Jubilee pledge.



## 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.



## Easter Raffle



A big thank you to those families who donated chocolate for our easter raffle this year. The winners are Joel (Year 5), Ruby (Reception), and Dhilan (Year 4)— an outstanding amount of £336.00 has been raised. Thank you FOBE.



## After School Clubs

Just a quick reminder to get your ClubXtra sessions booked in for after Easter before spaces fill up.

Clubs available include Pudding Club, Mega Strikers, Cheeky Monkeys and Beat Street - there's something for everyone!

Follow the link below to secure your place and avoid missing out.

[ClubXtra After-School Clubs at Bishop Ellis Primary | 5 Star Club](#)

## New Summer Menu

Will commence on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April .

Please click on the link below to view menu's.

<https://www.bishopellis.leics.sch.uk/parents/school-menu/>



**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



As part of Girls' Football Week, every year group of girls enjoyed taking part in lively lunchtime football sessions.

We celebrated World Book Day with a vibrant book sale, silent reading sessions and with the students & staff dressing up!



Our Eco Warriors team spent time learning all about biodiversity, composting, and useful allotment tips as they continue to champion sustainability across the school.



Year 6 enjoyed an exciting and memorable stay at the Briars residential, taking part in a range of activities.



Reception learnt all about road safety, gaining important skills to help them stay safe when out and about.



KS2 students took part in an Inclusive Sports Festival, showing great teamwork, great attitudes, and great spirit.



Year 2 enjoyed their Scootability session, learning how to ride a scooter safely and confidently.

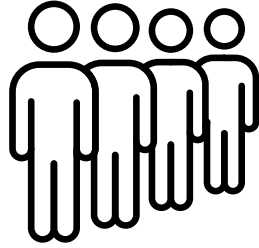
We launched our new lunchtime Chess Club, giving students a great opportunity to develop their strategic thinking and enjoy friendly competition.



KS2 Musical Extravaganza



## 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%	26 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
99%	33 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
100%	40 Days	13 Weeks	300 Lessons

89% + Below  
Drastic effect on academic achievement

95%–90%  
Cause for concern

100%–96%  
Excellent

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