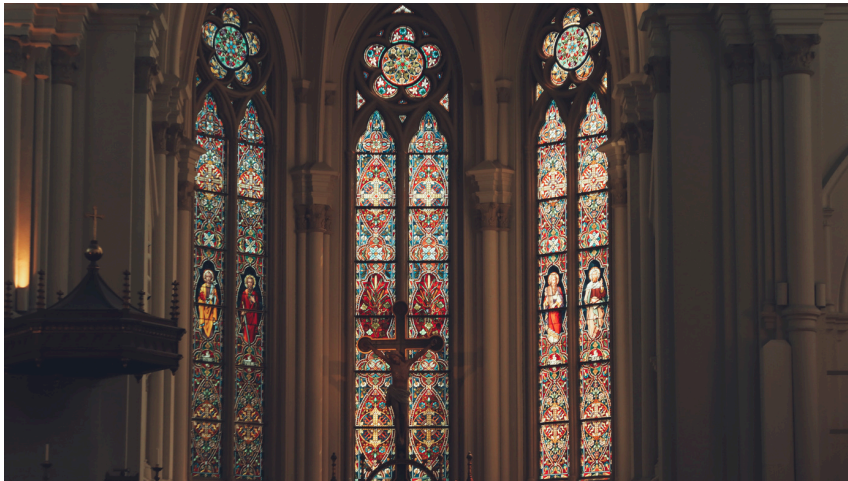




# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



## HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Dear parents and carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples that, when he returns to heaven, he will ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit to be their helper. This is not just a historical event. The Holy Spirit is God's loving gift to every believer, helping us understand Jesus' words and reminding us that God is always close to us. The Holy Spirit is our helper, who guides us to live more like Jesus – to grow in faith and to be filled with the peace and goodness that come from God. *As Pope St. John Paul II says, "Let the Holy Spirit be your helper and guide; He will not fail to lead you to peace."*

We keep our Holy Father, Pope Leo, in our prayers this week, as he celebrates on Friday the first anniversary of his election. We also hold in prayer all of our children and young people who are embarking upon national tests and public examinations over the coming weeks. We think especially about our year 6 pupils who will be sitting their Key Stage 2 SATS tests next week. May the Lord grant them all wisdom and perseverance.

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**

**8<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Diary Dates 2025/2026**

**May 2026**

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

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> - Reception  
Class Liturgy 9.30am**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> - 9.30  
Ascension Feast Day Mass  
13.30pm - Year 6 Photos**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Eco Warrior  
Gardening Morning &  
Colour Dash afternoon &  
End of Term**

**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**



## Important Notices

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The celebration of First Holy Communion will take place on Sunday 17th May at both:

St. Theresa's Church, Birstall - 09.15am

&

The Divine Infant of Prague Church, Syston - 11.15am

### ASCENSION FEAST DAY MASS

Mass will be on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 9:30 for the feast of the Ascension of our Lord.

### UNIFORM

We continue to have a huge amount of uniform on our lost property trolley. Children are reminded every break and lunch to collect coats, jumpers, cardigans and bottles. It is so much easier for us to return uniform to children if their name is in it. Therefore please could you write your child's name in any uniform.

All girls and boys with hair below shoulder length must have it tied up during school hours neatly to maintain safety and support good hygiene in all activities.

## 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/>





## KS2 SATs Week

### ★ Supporting Your Child Through SATs -

With SATs approaching, we know this can feel like a big moment for our Year 6 pupils – and for families too. Here are a few simple ways you can help your child feel confident and ready:

- Keep routines steady – A good night's sleep and regular mealtimes make a huge difference to focus and wellbeing.
- Stay positive
- Keep mornings calm – A relaxed start helps children arrive feeling settled and ready to do their best.
- Celebrate the effort – Once SATs are over, acknowledge their hard work and resilience.

Most importantly, remind your child that we are proud of them already!



**Monday 11th  
June -Thursday  
14<sup>th</sup> June,  
Year 6 children  
will be invited  
to come in  
early (8.15am)  
for wake and  
shake in the  
playground.**



# Message from Leicestershire Local Authority: Have Your Say on School Term Dates

Leicestershire County Council is asking parents and carers to share their views on proposed school term dates for the next five academic years.

Your feedback will help shape the term-time pattern for local authority-controlled schools from Autumn 2027 to Summer 2032. While academies set their own dates, most still follow the council's pattern, so your input matters.

## Two options are being considered:

**Option One – Continues the current term-date pattern, including Leicestershire's early start to the summer holidays.**

**Option Two – Keeps the early summer break but introduces an earlier start to the autumn term to allow for a two-week October half-term.**

Both options maintain Leicestershire's tradition of finishing for summer around two weeks earlier than neighbouring authorities.

**Before completing the survey, please read the information in the attached document outlining both options in detail.**

**You can find more information and complete the survey here:**

**[Leicestershire Term Dates - Have your Say.](#)**

One of our parents is taking part in a Charity Challenge event on Saturday 9th May – an intense adventure race in the Peak District. The challenge includes 10km of trekking, 50km of cycling, and 7km of kayaking, all to be completed within 10 hours. They are undertaking this incredible effort in support of Cancer Research, a charity close to many of our hearts.

This is a demanding challenge, but one they are committed to completing to help raise vital funds for a cause that truly matters. Any support you can offer is deeply appreciated.

To donate please click the link below [https://www.justgiving.com/page/stafflinealacarte?  
utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=EM](https://www.justgiving.com/page/stafflinealacarte?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=EM)

Thank you.



## Eco Warrior Gardening Morning

On Friday 22nd May, the eco warriors will be having a gardening morning, 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). If you're able to support us on the day, please contact the school office to let us know.



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.



# COLOUR DASH -

## Bubble Blast

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May



**LCH Charity**  
*Lifting Children's Hopes*

### Colour Dash Countdown

The Colour Dash is only a few weeks away, so it's the perfect time to get involved. Let's start donating, spread the word, and get ready to dive into the Bubble Blast fun. For further information please see the leaflet that was sent home with you child last week! Every contribution helps make a real impact.



**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**



# All Arts Week

## 18<sup>th</sup> June

To show the children the importance of art and design in society, we would like to invite visitors in to school to speak to the children on Thursday 18th June.

These visitors can be parents, family members or family friends.

We are looking for any jobs that have a link to art and design – dance teacher, visual arts and crafts, fashion designer, interior and spatial designers, fashion and textile, digital and graphic designers, illustrator, teacher, animator, cake maker, song writer etc.

We would like to invite visitors into the hall where we will set up a jobs fair with tables and chairs where the children can move around and ask questions.

If you can come to school for the morning (9.30-11.15) or/and afternoon (1.30-2.45) on Thursday 18th June, we would love to hear from you.

You don't need to prepare anything but if you have any items or photographs to help the children understand your job then that would be great.

Questions you may be asked:

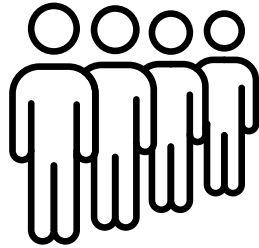
- How does your job link to art and design?
  - Do you like your job?
  - What do you do?
- Did you study art and design at school?
- What is the favourite part of your job?

If you know of anyone who would be available, please let the school office know as soon as possible.





## 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.

## 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.



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



**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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