This week we sang one last Christmas Hymn. "We Three Kings" celebrates the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem and the gifts they gave to the Christ child. Can your child tell you the meaning of Epiphany, and why it is such an important date for Christians?

6th January 2023

A Happy and Healthy New Year!

Welcome back to Term 3 – a time in school when the light gradually returns to the evenings and thoughts turn to the renewal of Spring. This time last year schools across the country were still experiencing significant disruption due to Covid-19. I'm very pleased to say that this year there are no indications of such an outbreak and absences are not significantly high. However, the UK Health Security Agency have issued important back to school advice for parents and carers. Cases of winter flu, Covid and scarlet fever brought on by Strep A infections are very high. It is, therefore, even more important at the moment that children who are unwell do not attend school. If they have a temperature they should stay at home until it has resolved. Households are also reminded of the importance of hand-hygiene and adults are asked to wear a face covering if they have to go out while unwell.

New Topics for the New Year

Teachers will be sending you their Spring Class Newsletters very soon (if they haven't already) where you will find information about the learning we have planned for the next two terms. They will also be available in the Newsletter section of our website!

Holiday Requests

I have had a number of enquiries from families who are considering taking a holiday during the school term. I'm afraid there is a very clear expectation from the powers that be which says head teachers are not permitted to authorise such requests. If children are taken out of school for holidays then their parents run the risk of receiving a fixed penalty notice from the local authority, which currently amounts to £120 per parent, per child.

Special School Meal Menu – Thursday 19th January

On certain days each year, we like to encourage more children to take a school meal. The next special day is Thursday 19th January – where there will be a Pizza Bar for the children. A choice of toppings is available along with chips, coleslaw and peas with jelly and ice cream for pudding – yum! Parents can book the meal via Caterlink's online system in the usual way.

No Wellies? – Snow Joke!

Although we are seeing unseasonably mild temperatures this winter (again!), the school field is wet and can be rather muddy. At Bodsham, it has always been the case that in winter months if children wish to play on the field they need to change into wellington boots. Some children have been wearing 'waterproof' shoes or trainers, but there remains the need to change out of muddy footwear before coming back into school. Please make sure your child has a **named** pair of wellies on the boot rack (essential as many have the same design). If it does ever snow again this winter, this is the only way they will be able to play on the field! They'll thank you for it!

Healthy Snacks Only Please

We have a long morning session at Bodsham (8.50am to 12.30pm) which allows us to fit in up to three separate lessons. This can mean children get hungry so it is fine to send in a healthy, fruit or vegetable based snack for the morning break – but please no sweets! Children in Sparrows and Robins will be offered free fruit at playtime thanks to the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. Parents can also choose to buy a drink of milk for their children via Cool Milk.

Extracurricular Clubs on Offer

Each term our teachers give up a bit of their own time to run extracurricular clubs for the children. Next week our Bookworms Club (with Mrs Stephen) and our Science and Technology Club (with Mrs Rushton) will start at lunchtime. Please see the email sent yesterday for details of how to book your child onto one of these free clubs.

Elite Community Coaching are running a Dance club after school on Monday and a Football Club on Tuesday. Bookings for these can be made via Elite's website.

Don't forget we also offer an after school club of our own until 5pm on Wednesdays and Thursday, with Mrs Wenham. This can be booked in advance by email to the school office.

Paul Newton

Executive Head Teacher