***This week’s total school attendance is 94.36%***

Happy New Year to our children and families! We hope you all had a safe and happy Christmas break,

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school, ready to enjoy more exciting learning. Our first week brought the chance to catch up with our local vicar, Sheri Gidney, who led an assembly about Epiphany, helping us to learn more about the Christian religion. This feast day is an important celebration in the Christian calendar, remembering how a star led the ‘Magi’ or Three Kings (or Wise Men) to Jesus, but it also prompted discussion about the meaning of the word Epiphany. 'Epiphany' comes from the Greek word meaning 'to reveal', as it is when the baby Jesus was 'revealed' to the world. We realised this is why you might hear people say they’ve had an epiphany, when they’ve just realised something! And how many super epiphany moments there are happening across school! Our children are so good at employing our learning powers of curiosity, perseverance, cooperation, independence and respect to ensure they secure their learning, make connections and deepen their understanding. This excellent attitude puts them in such good stead across the curriculum, whether it is grasping a concept in maths, figuring out why the Romans invaded Britain or how to become more accurate in kicking a football! Here too many more epiphanies in 2022 and thank you Sheri!

Looking at the term ahead, the children have so many exciting things to look forward to. They will be using their culture vulture passports to take them on fabulous trips far and wide. Trips include Year 3 visiting Bishops Wood where the children will discover what it was like to hunt and gather. Year 5 will also be heading off to Bishops Wood to go on an Angelo Saxon and Viking adventure. Year 6’s start their Forest School work this week and 3MS delivered an excellent class assembly sharing what they were proud of.

On a final note we send our congratulations to Mr Dillon and his wife on the safe arrival of their baby boy this morning.

Mrs H Williams

Deputy Headteacher



**Talking to your child about online sexual harassment**

A guide for parents: On 16th December 2021, the Children’s Commissioner for England Dame Rachel de Souza launched a guide for parents and carers on online sexual harassment and how they can support children to stay safe online. A copy of the guide can be downloaded from the following link ~ talking to your child about online sexual harassment: A guide for parents.

“The things I wish my parents had known...” draws together advice from 16-21-year-olds on how parents should manage tricky conversations around sexual harassment and access to inappropriate content, including pornography.

An overriding message is that parents should start these challenging conversations early. Their focus groups suggest broaching topics before a child is given a phone or a social media account, which is often around the age of 9 or 10. The guide focuses on issues such as: Easily accessed online pornography, Pressure to send nude pictures, Sexualised bullying, editing pictures and body image, Peer pressure.

We hope that this guide will serve as a useful starting point to raise awareness and understanding of online harassment, and to complement messages central to the Relationship, Sex and Health.

**Year 5 Synagogue Trip**

On Thursday 6th January, Year 5 visited the Singers Hill Synagogue, Birmingham. We thoroughly enjoyed the trip. Firstly, we visited the children's section (or the 'miniature' part of the Synagogue). As we entered the building, we noticed that there were many 'Stars of David'. We also noticed that there was a lot of blue, red and gold - this was because of the fact that they were the royal colours. Around the side of the room, there were lots of daily prayer books. We learnt that on Sabbath (the day of rest) they were not allowed to operate any electrical objects, carry anything or cook. Some Orthodox Jews aren't allowed to even let the fridge light turn on. So the day before, they tape up the fridge light.

Secondly, we went into the main part of the Synagogue where we had to split into two groups, boys and girls. At Singers Hill, women used to sit in the balcony and men downstairs. Today, everyone sits downstairs, men on the left and women on the right. When we opened the doors, it was like Buckingham Palace! We were amazed and shocked at its beauty. Some people tried on a Tallit (also known as a prayer shawl) which had approximately 630 tassels. Next, we went to the ark - where the Torah is kept. We noticed that on top of the ark was the everlasting light. If the Torah was dropped, the entire congregation would have to fast for the rest of the day! In the middle of the Synagogue was the Bima (which means platform in Hebrew). The Cantor leads the services from here and the 'Ba'al Koreh' - Master of Reading - chants from the 'Torah' and the five books of Moses. When a boy is thirteen, he is considered an adult and has a special ceremony called 'bar mitzvah' and when a girl turns twelve she has a 'bat mitzvah'. We noticed that the windows were made of beautiful, stained glass with illustrations.

Written by Ambur, Leila, Phoebe and Mia (5CW)



**Golden Book Stars**

**William R (4SB)** – Being helpful to Mrs Williams

**Danny J (3HT)** – Excellent maths.

**Isabella C (6MC), Jasmine F (6MC)** – Writing a super song.

**Keira H (4SB), Alba ST (4HR)** – Amazing Sketch of the school.

**Finley M (3MS) –** Enthusiastic learning.

**Dates for Diary**

21.01.22 – 6AB Class assembly

28.01.22 – 1HB Class assembly

04.02.22 – 6MC Class assembly

10.02.22 – Year 2 SAT Parents meeting

11.02.22 – 2HB Class assembly

17.02.22 – KS1 Achievement assembly

18.02.22 – Awards assembly KS1, KS2, EYFS

18.02.22 – Last day of Half term

**Happy Birthday! (15th-28th Jan)**

Thomas R (1HB) Archie H, Samuel P (2HB) Isabelle F, Jack P (3HT) Archie C (3MS)

Eliza B, Freddie I, Ocean K (4SB) Blake BD (5AS) Harrison C, Zak G, Thomas W (5CW)

Benjamin C, Max H, Isaya O (6AB) Ella S, Lucas S (6MC)

Carter C, Carlson T (LB1) Haris H, Piper T(NURS) Lucas A, Adam H, Leo L(RJR)