



Headteachers Update: 02.07.20

Thank you all for your positive and supportive responses during this global pandemic. We hope that you too feel well supported by our school team. The staff at Longwill have worked incredibly hard to reach out to all the children and their families and offer you all the very best we can in terms of online resources and face to face contact through our videocalls. I do hope that you have found it helpful throughout this very difficult time.

We continue to add to our website resources, so please encourage your child to take a look:

- Challenge of the Week (making flowers inspired by a walk outside)
- Daily BSL Story (a vast resource now of BSL stories for your child to watch)
- BSL Challenge (the latest one is around the topic of 'transport' ... all delivered in BSL)

I wanted to highlight our Story Time resources. Our Deaf team have worked tirelessly to create many stories in BSL – you could have a bedtime story in BSL every night of the week now! Our latest is from a London based school for the Deaf and is called “Bunty and Bubbly”. It is a fun story about the power of soap during COVID – and it is fabulous! Here is the link on our website: <https://www.longwill.bham.sch.uk/blog-1/categories/storytime>

By the end of this week we will also be providing in-school teaching for 23 pupils – which is 38% of the school. The children are transported either by parents or in transport provided by the LA (socially distanced). Once in school, they are in very small ‘bubbles’ of children and they stay with their bubble staff all day. The classes are set out to adhere to the current 2m social distancing ‘rule’. The children have loved the opportunity to see and sign with their friends and have been enjoying a range of activities (lots of artwork and creativity, story and enjoying our outdoor spaces). We have also relished seeing them too! We still have a very few vacancies, so please contact me if you feel your child would benefit from attending school.

Today we anticipate a release of DFE Guidance, which will outline the government’s advice for schooling in September. Whilst our senior team has been busy making plans for a range of scenarios, we have to wait for this advice and also any direction from the local authority. Once we have our plans in place for the Autumn term, I will be in touch. I anticipate that this will be sometime around the middle of next week. It is a fast moving landscape and so please do ‘watch this space’.

In the meantime, please do keep safe and please do look at the parents and pupils resources on the website.

Best wishes,

Alison Carter
Headteacher