



Headteacher's Message...

OFSTED Visit March 2019: They thought we were great! Our visit from three OFSTED inspectors took place on 28th March. They were with us for the day, undertaking what they call a 'short Section 8 inspection'. They met with pupils, staff, myself and the governors. I have now received a letter from Mr Simon Mosley, who was our lead inspector in the coming weeks, with his findings, and I am sending home a copy of it to every parent today, as well as uploading it to our school website. As a senior Local Authority officer said to me this morning, "Wow! What a report!". The inspectors were incredibly impressed with the high quality education provided at Longwill and celebrated our 'positive inclusive culture'. They judged our school to be demonstrating strong practice and so would like to come back to explore whether they could judge the school to be outstanding. This is high praise! Please do read the report as I know it will put a huge smile on your faces (as it did ours!). Your children were a credit to you and our school! I was so proud of their positive attitudes, confidence and behaviour during the day! They were amazing – proud, confident Deaf young people! I must also extend my thanks and appreciation to all the staff team, who put in 110% on that OFSTED day (as they do, in fact, everyday!) Well done to everyone!



Longwill Garden Festival July 2018

The school is very excited about creating our very own garden festival in the summer. Each class has their own plot and has taken the theme of their garden from a story book. They are creating a garden plot of flowers, plants, and pots using the story as inspiration. Please keep your eyes out on the website for updates on the progress of the gardens!



Farewells and Hellos!

We bid farewell to Mrs Jacki Fox (Y2 Roses Class), who will be taking up a position in a new school next term. We wish her very good luck and best wishes for the future. Next term, we welcome our new office manager! Mrs Deb Bosco will join us in the school office. I am sure you will all get to know her over the coming weeks on our parent text, over the phone and when you visit us in school.

Y4s Lent Challenge:

I was so touched yesterday to be brought a fresh cup of real coffee and biscuits by the kind pupils in Y4. They wanted to show their care for their headteacher with her broken shoulder! What a lovely experience! Throughout Lent, Snapdragon Class has undertaken an 'act of kindness' everyday. This is all about developing our culture and community of deaf children who are generous to others in thought, mind and spirit – and what wonderful examples they are in Y4!



Spoken Language Eisteddfod:

A fortnight ago, our pupils all took part in this whole school event. Pupils presented poetry, song and public speaking in front of the whole school! It was a splendid event!

New outdoor play equipment:

KS1 and KS2 have been enjoying our new outdoor play equipment. The children can let their imagines fly as they work together making fantastic creations out of these new wooden blocks! Playing with the blocks encourages team building skills of collaboration, planning and organisational skills – as well as being so much fun!



Parents' Signing Class

NEW VENUE! NEW DAY!

These now run every **Friday** morning in term time from 10:15am-12:15pm and are held at the **Deaf Cultural Centre in Ladywood, B16 8SZ.**

Our friendly deaf team, teach the parents each week (for free!) so that you can sign with your children. All welcome! Please come along.

Y5 and Y6 Trip to Cosford

Pupils had an amazing day at RAF Cosford. The visit supported their learning about World War 2 and was a highlight for many in the class.



 **ROYAL
AIR FORCE
museum**

Attendance Awards for individual pupils was handed out at our final assembly yesterday. We also give awards for children whose attendance has improved significantly and for those who attend as much as they can, despite illness. Every Wednesday we have a special achievement assembly to celebrate which class has achieved the best attendance for that week. Pupils attendance has improved this year so far – 91.8%.

As you know, it is very important for the children to attend school as much as they possibly can. Thanks must go to pupils and parents for supporting us and encouraging the very best possible attendance! I understand that our children may have additional needs, which can sometimes 'get in the way' of excellent attendance, but I would ask you to try to organise as many appointments as you can outside school time. Also, if appointments can be made at the start or end of the day and then pupils can at least attend school for part of the day.

Longwill School for Deaf Children, Bell Hill, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 1LD

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 29 April	Summer Term
Monday 6 May	May Bank Holiday, school closed
Thursday 9 May	PGL Parents meeting for Year 5
Monday 13—17 May:	Proud to be Deaf week
Friday 24 May	End of Term
<i>Half Term holiday:</i>	<i>Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May</i>
Monday 3 June	Back to School
Monday 10 June	Photographer in school
Wednesday 12 June	Parents evening 4:30 to 6:30pm
Tuesday 25 June	Whole school trip to Sandwell Country Park
Tuesday 2 July	Sports Day
Wednesday 3 July	Year 6 to Braidwood
Monday 8 July	Training Day, school closed to pupils
Friday 12 July	Foundation Graduation 11am
Tuesday 16 July	Longwill's Got Talent
Wednesday 17 July	Leaver's Show
Monday 22 July	Training Day, school closed to pupils

Youth Club

This takes place every Wednesday at B.I.D for school pupils over the age of eight. This is a fantastic opportunity for your children to meet other deaf children from across the city! We can transport your child to the Youth Club after school and simply ask that you collect them. The club is organised by B.I.D. Please contact school for more information.



Chair of Governors message

As we approach the Easter holidays I wanted to thank you all for your support for Longwill and your children this term. It has been a busy term at school for everyone.

I was very proud to be invited to the Tea Party today for the home learners. As I read out the achievements I knew that without your support children would not make the amazing progress they do, whether you encourage them to do their home learning, listen to them reading, in whatever way you support the results speak for themselves, so thank you.

I would also like to thank you for your support for the non-uniform day last Friday. As I said in the last newsletter,

Governors have been looking at the budget for the next year and are amazed at how the school can manage to balance the budget despite the lack of funds. Thank you again for your support.

Lastly, but by no means least, Longwill had three very important visitors the other week (OFSTED). I had the opportunity, along with other Governors, of talking to our visitors. What came across was that they had a very enjoyable day. The children and staff worked very hard, and we all look forward to the report when it comes out at some point next half term.

In the meantime, I wish you all a restful and enjoyable holiday, a time to enjoy each other's company and get ready for what will be a very exciting and enjoyable summer term.



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