



## Headteacher's Message...

Hello everyone! I do hope you all enjoyed a super half term holiday! The children returned to school 'full of beans' and have had a busy fortnight! Today's 'World Book Day' has been fun and we are in the middle of learning more about 'Fairtrade', showing our support for the farmers and workers who grow our food in developing countries. On Friday 15th March we will celebrate Red Nose Day. Our School Council organise this event, so please do look out for some more information from them.



On another note, I would like to remind you about Magic Breakfast, with bagels, cereal and milk being served in the dining room from 8.45 until 9.00am. This certainly is a popular part the day—and it is free! Please be advised that the children receive some pieces of bagel, which is an addition to their breakfast, not in place of breakfast—so please make sure your children have had a healthy breakfast each day.

Educational research tells us that reading widely and often for pleasure is a key driver of children's progress and attainment in all subjects, including maths. In school, we hear children read as often as we can, but we need your support too. Just a few minutes hearing your child read each evening will make a huge difference to their overall achievement.

*Alison Cook*

## World Book Day.

We have had a splendid day today, with pupils and staff dressed up as book characters. We focussed our celebration of books on poetry this year. Pupils are busy creating their own poems, which will form part of a Longwill School Anthology of Poems. Each class will receive a copy of the 'book' and we will, of course, showcase it on the website so that parents can read their child's poetry.



## 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.

## Training Day.

On 28<sup>th</sup> January, school was closed to pupils because of staff training. All members of staff spent the day visiting other schools within our new Trust. Staff visited Dame Ellen Pinsent, Fox Hollies, The Pines, Baskerville, Calthorpe and Wilson Stuart Academy.



## Visits

We have been busy this month with several class visits. Y1 and Y2 enjoyed a splendid day at Blakesley Hall and loved dressing up in historical costumes. Other pupils have undertaken regular trips to Bellfield, met with firefighters and, of course, there is our weekly swimming session at Harborne Baths – which is much loved!



## Attendance Matters!

I would like to thank parents for their support in ensuring that their children are in school as much as possible. Currently our school attendance figure stands at **91.7%**. This is about 1% better than the same period last year – which is good news! Please keep supporting your child to achieve the very best attendance they can, as research shows that the more a child is in school the more they achieve and progress!

**Please remember to ring school every day that your child is absent from school to let us know the reason. Please do not simply give messages to your child's guide. Copies of appointment letters must be provided to the office. Thank you.**

Here is a chart which gives you an idea about what impact missing school can have on your child.

| Attendance %                  | Equals days absent in a year | Weeks absent in a year | Lessons missed |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| 95%                           | 9 days                       | 2 weeks                | 50 lessons     |
| 90%<br>Persistent Absenteeism | 19 days                      | 4 weeks                | 100 lessons    |
| 85%<br>Persistent Absenteeism | 29 days                      | 6 weeks                | 150 lessons    |
| 80%<br>Persistent Absenteeism | 38 days                      | 8 weeks                | 200 lessons    |

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

T: 0121 475 3923

E: enquiry@longwill.bham.sch.uk

M: 07786 201 170 (text only)

Website: www.longwill.bham.sch.uk

## Parents Survey

I am pleased to be able to share with you the results from our recent parents survey. Your feedback was very positive and we are pleased that you (parents and carers) are confident in the care and education we offer your children. The results were:

### Parent Questionnaire Feb 2019

|  | Strongly agree | Agree |
|--|----------------|-------|
| My child is happy at this school   | 74%            | 26%   |
| My child feels safe at this school                                       | 63%            | 32%   |
| My child makes good progress at this school                              | 63%            | 37%   |
| My child is well looked after at this school                             | 74%            | 26%   |
| My child is taught well at this school                                   | 58%            | 42%   |
| My child receives appropriate homework for their age                     | 53%            | 37%   |
| This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved                       | 63%            | 37%   |
| This school deals effectively with bullying                              | 42%            | 32%   |
| This school is well led and managed                                      | 58%            | 37%   |
| This school responds well to any concerns I raise                        | 58%            | 42%   |
| I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress | 63%            | 37%   |
| Would you recommend this school to another parent?                       | Yes            | 100%  |

## Governors Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is the time of year when as Governors we are tasked with looking at the school budget for the coming year. As you may have noticed from the media, yet again education will be underfunded across the country and special schools in Birmingham are no exception. As always, I am in awe of the way in which Longwill School manages to 'make bricks without straw' and continues to provide an outstanding education for all the children.

This term Governors have met for an 'away day' discussing how we can improve our support for the school. Both Finance and Curriculum committees have met as well as the Full Board who were delighted to watch a video of how well children at Longwill understand how to keep themselves safe on the internet. This is an ever-increasing danger, as some of you may have seen in reports on television about the results of bullying online.

In the run up to Easter I know there are some really great activities planned, so I hope you enjoy the remainder of the term.

Yours sincerely,

Briony Brookman

Chair of Governors



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

T: 0121 475 3923

E: [enquiry@longwill.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@longwill.bham.sch.uk)

M: 07786 201 170 (text only)

Website: [www.longwill.bham.sch.uk](http://www.longwill.bham.sch.uk)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Monday 11 March:    | Year 3,4,5 & 6 visit Safeside                              |
| Wednesday 13 March: | Spoken English Eisteddfodd in school for pupils            |
| Thursday 14 March:  | Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 visit Safeside Bright Sparks |
| Friday 15 March:    | Red Nose Day, wear red for £1!                             |
| Wednesday 20 March: | Year 5 & 6 visit RAF Cosford                               |
| Tuesday 9 April:    | Orienteering Competition in school for pupils              |
| Thursday 11 April:  | Easter Hat Parade and Egg Rolling                          |

*Easter Holidays: Monday 15 April—Friday 26 April*

|                            |                                       |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Monday 6 May:</i>       | <i>May Bank holiday—school closed</i> |
| <i>Monday 13 - 17 May:</i> | <i>Proud to be Deaf week</i>          |

*Half Term holiday: Monday 27 May—Friday 31 May*

|                    |                                      |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Monday 10 June:    | Photographer in school               |
| Wednesday 12 June: | Parents' Evening 4:30-6:30pm         |
| Tuesday 2 July:    | Sports' Day                          |
| 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: | Leavers' Show                        |
| Monday 22 July:    | Training Day—school closed to pupils |

### 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.

### Consultation on draft travel assistance policy for 0-25 year olds in education.

A reminder that a consultation on the draft travel assistance policy is running until Tuesday 2 April 2019. The consultation survey and details of sessions taking place at special schools across the city is at <https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/0-25-policy>

This affects parents and pupils and so I would urge you all to 'have your say'!

### Farewell Mrs Mitchell

Today, we bid farewell to our Office Manager, Jodie Mitchell. You will, no doubt, all know her from her welcoming smile and friendly voice at the end of the telephone. She will be sorely missed and we wish her well in her new role as an Administration Lead for a local multi academy trust.



### Governors Update

Governors met for a training morning on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February. This is the second strategy day this academic year and much was discussed.

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

T: 0121 475 3923

E: [enquiry@longwill.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@longwill.bham.sch.uk)

M: 07786 201 170 (text only)

Website: [www.longwill.bham.sch.uk](http://www.longwill.bham.sch.uk)