



Headteacher's Message...

As I write this January Newsletter, I look out on a beautiful icy morning. All our grounds are covered in frost and it looks glorious! However, it reminds me that there may be some bad weather to come in the coming days and weeks. So, can I ask you to check that we have your latest contact details in case we need to contact you about weather conditions? Also, please remember that if we do have to close school at short notice, then we will contact you via parent text (Teachers2Parents). Also, we will put a message on the school website and inform local radio stations. I know the children all want it to snow – but I keep my fingers crossed that the remainder of the winter will be mild!



Susan Cook

Rights Respecting Conference 2019

As you are all aware, our school is a 'Rights Respecting School' and so we will be hosting a pupil conference once again in the summer term. Two of our Foundation Trust partner schools will join us. Pupils from The Pines School and Dame Ellen Pinsent School have visited us to begin the planning process for the conference. They will discuss the question, 'Does YouTube monitor children safely?'.



KSI begin Yogabugs...

Pupils in Years 1 and 2 have begun weekly sessions of yoga! They are really enjoying these sessions, which are linked to story time. Our infant pupils will enjoy these classes for the Spring term.



Successful bid

I am thrilled to announce that we have been successful in a bid to enable us to run Parents Sign Language classes back at the Birmingham Institute for the Deaf in Ladywood. We used to run our classes there a couple of years ago, and parents found it much easier to attend that central location. So it is great news that we will be able to go back to our old venue! The classes will run on a Wednesday morning (as always!) and Randip Kumar, Michael Reid and Mona Manku will still be leading the sessions. We do hope that we will see more parents at these free sessions. Do feel free to come along with other family members as well! We will let you know when the change of venue happens.

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.

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

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E: enquiry@longwill.bham.sch.uk

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Website: www.longwill.bham.sch.uk

Assemblies

Every Thursday afternoon, the school comes together for one of our daily acts of collective worship, which is led by a different class each week. I have been so impressed with the confidence of pupils when they present and the high quality of the assemblies delivered by the children.

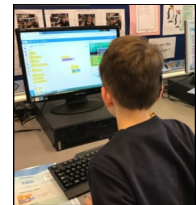
Recently, we have learned about the damage plastics are doing to the environment. Y6 Poppy Class showed a videoclip, which was thought provoking <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=73sGgmZoMBQ>



STEM Club

This club develops mathematical and scientific understanding in a fun manner.

Recently, pupils started to develop their coding skills by animating their names on the Scratch platform.



Trips

Trips and educational experiences are so important for our children as it helps deaf children develop their knowledge and understanding of the world and provides us with some fantastic stimulus for writing! Recently Y3 and Y4 visited the Synagogue. It was a fascinating experience and provoked much thought and writing.



Attendance Matters!

I would like to thank parents for their support in ensuring that their children are in school as much as possible.

To date the whole school attendance figure is 92.1%. Attendance is important because we know that attendance directly affects your child's progress and achievement! If you would like to discuss your child's attendance then please contact me directly.

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

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Parents' Signing Class

These run every Wednesday morning in term time from 10:15am-12:15pm and are held at Longwill (at the moment!).

Your children are all highly skilled communicators in BSL and it is important that you keep up your BSL skills so that you can continue to communicate effectively with your child.

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

Please come along!



Created on www.british-sign.co.uk

ASTHMA INHALERS

Please check that your child's inhaler is sent into school everyday if they are asthmatic and has been given an inhaler by the doctor.

Swimming lessons

Please remember that Year 1—Year 6 have swimming lessons every Friday. Remember to send your child with their swimming kit!

Thank you



Chair of Governors message

It does not seem a moment since I last wrote in a Newsletter. It has been a really good year for Longwill pupils culminating in a brilliant Christmas production which really showed off the talents of the children from the amazing keyboard skills picked up in one term by 2 very musical young people to the beautiful signing of 'Oh Holy Night' by Khadija, the humorous Camel, the fabulous art work and dancing and so on! I am also greatly indebted to the staff who put in hours of their own time planning as well as working with their classes to pull together such a wonderful production, not to mention the technical wizards on the back desk who produced such a slick production even though they told me that the technical bits get more complicated each year!

Of course, that wasn't the only happening event last term and I know much more is planned in the next 2 terms not only at Longwill but also, now we are a part of a co-operative Trust, in collaboration and partnership with other schools. I look forward to this with much excitement.

It was also lovely to meet up with some parents. Some I have met before and some were new but all were united in their pride for their children's achievements. You have certainly had a lot to be proud of so far this year.

As Governors we have a busy year left to run. We are planning our next away day soon and are gearing up to seeing what budget the local authority has planned. No doubt you will have seen on TV and in the press how difficult it is for schools up and down the country to set a budget to meet the needs of children and it is doubly difficult in special schools. We also look forward to continuing to work with Claire Hayward as she starts her new term of office representing parents on the Governing Board.

So, on behalf of the Governing Board at Longwill, I wish you all a happy 2019.

Yours sincerely,
Briony Brookman
Chair of Governors



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 1 February:	Non-uniform day for Sign2Sing. Please bring £1 donation.
Tuesday 5 February:	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 6 February:	Sign2Sing performance during Parents' BSL Group, 11-11:20am
Tuesday 12 February:	Dance Festival in school for children
Wednesday 13 February:	Year 1 & Year 2 visit Blakesley Hall

Half Term holiday: Monday 18 February—Friday 22 February

Tuesday 5 March:	Parents' Morning 10am-12:30pm
Thursday 7 March:	World Book Day
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
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

Monday 6 May:	May Bank holiday—school closed
Monday 13 - 17 May:	Proud to be Deaf week

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

Forest School

The children have been having great fun in Forest School! Here are a few photos of what Year 4 have been up to recently:



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