

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

The staff and pupils wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

Dates for your diary

- 03.01.17 School closed (Training Day)
- 04.01.17 Back to School
- 09.01.17 Y4, 5, 6 trip to Safeside
- 20.02.17 Half Term Holiday
- 27.02.17 Fair Trade Week
- 01.03.17 Parents Consultations
- 17.03.17 School closed (Training Day)

Christmas Celebrations...

- 06.12.16 Trip to Panto (Beauty and the Beast)
- 13.12.16 Christmas Dinner
- 13.12.16 Deaf Staff Panto
- 14.12.16 Christmas Show
- 14.12.16 Gymnastics Festival
- 15.12.16 Launch Party for our new outdoor resources
- 16.12.16 Christmas Party and a special, red suited visitor will arrive on the hall roof!!!



Gymnastics Festival

We held our third Gym Festival today. Every pupil demonstrated their latest gym skills in a school competition. Please look on the website for photos!

Longwill is a Rights Respecting School...

This term has been a fun packed and extremely busy term! As usual staff and pupils have given the very best of themselves during this period in so many ways! I have seen children progress and achieve academically, socially and physically! Which makes us all very proud! I would like to single out one particular area of strength – how our children care for each other and how they respect each other's rights and responsibilities.

Article 12 and 23 of the Rights of the Child declares that every child has a right to have a say in their life and play an active part in their community. Pupils at Longwill are, indeed, active contributors to school life. Our School Council meet regularly to debate ideas and share the views of their classmates with myself, governors, visitors to school and senior staff. They do 'make a difference'. They lead many fund-raising events, consider how to improve the environment as well as giving feedback to myself and governors about E-Safety and other 'keeping safe' matters. What a difference our children make! I feel confident that our children will grow up willing and able to be active and caring citizens in both the hearing and Deaf world!

Our **Rights Respecting ethos** is very strong and I understand the next School Council project is to run, for a second year, a Rights Respecting Conference once again this summer! If you would like to be involved in this work, then please do contact Alison Jackson, who is our lead teacher in school.



Christmas Nativity Play...

This morning we were treated to a splendid Nativity play! Pupils and staff have worked incredibly hard on this production and it certainly paid off! Everyone was fantastic! The confidence shown by pupils was impressive and we were all 'wowed' by many individual performances in BSL, SSE and spoken English – what an amazing group of children!

Autumn Highlights...

Pupils took part in the **Tycoons in Schools Project**. Pupils have been working hard raising money for their business enterprises – including, jewellery making, fruits selling and the tasty sweet shop.



We raised £99.43 for the 'Children in Need' Charity last month. We had an afternoon of school disco and fun competitions.

The children have created their very own 'Longwill School Prayer'. Please look out for it on the website (very soon). Two pupils have signed it beautifully!

We welcomed many parents to our **E-Safety Workshop** last month. Parents shared their knowledge and questions about how to keep Deaf Children safe online. They created a set of Top Tips for Parents and this is available on our E Safety page of the website

We were pleased to learn that all parents who took part in our **Parent Satisfaction Survey** earlier in the term reported feeling very happy with their child's education. The survey results are available in full on our website. We would welcome any further comments about your views.

Northfield Methodist Church welcomed Foundation to learn about the story of the Nativity.



Special mention should also go to our musicians who played the keyboard beautifully! I must take this opportunity to thank some very special staff members who masterminded the whole event so brilliantly!

Please do look on the website to see some more photos...



BSL Classes ...

Our BSL classes continue to run **every Wednesday morning** from 10:15 to 12:15 at school. These are free and are run by our Deaf team so that you can develop your signing skills.

Your children are all skilled signers and I know it is often hard to keep up with them – but we must! Perhaps we can make it another of our New Year's Resolutions to join these classes.

Welcome to new staff and pupils...

We welcome Miss Hannah Parker, who is training to be a teacher. Hannah has undertaken work experience with us throughout her university course and is keen to work as a Teacher of the Deaf. She will be based with Y6 from January.

Ella will be joining us in the Nursery from January and we anticipate two more pupils joining Y1 in February!

And finally...

Some really excellent news, which is hot off the press - The **Christmas Raffle raised £537.96** for our school. Thank you all so much for this support!

Can I take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all the staff at Longwill. They all work so hard to offer your children the very best education possible! And I can say the same about the parents... **Thank you** for your support!

I wish you all an extremely happy and peaceful Christmas and best wishes for a positive 2017!

Alison Carter

