

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

JULY 2014

Longwill School for Deaf Children

Diary Dates

Leavers Show 11am on Wednesday!

Training Days 2014/5

Children are required to attend school for 190 days, and staff for a minimum of 195 days a year. Although often taken within term time, INSET days are part of the pupils' holiday allowance. We have tried to minimise the impact on parents by attaching training days to a weekend or holiday. This year's dates are:

Monday 1st September.

Friday 24th October.

Monday 3rd November.

Monday 5th January.

Friday 20th March.

Swimming 2014-2015

Swimming will continue every Thursday throughout the year for all pupils in Y1-Y6

Parents Coffee Mornings

These take place regularly throughout the year and are organised by a small group of parents. Please look out for these dates, put them in your diary and come along.

News

We have enjoyed another fantastic year at Longwill School and now the children are looking forward to a fun filled summer holiday, which I hope everyone enjoys!

The **Sports Day** last week was a great success. Parents and pupils cheered each other on as they took part in a variety of events, culminating in the traditional sack race and egg and spoon race. We must thank the Y2 pupils who provided homemade ice lollies for all participants, which were



delicious. The England team won the team event and you can see photos of the event on the website.

Our **Leavers and End of Year Show** will take place on Wednesday 17th July at 11:00am. There will be coffee and biscuits for all guests from 10:30am. Please come and see your child perform. Every pupil is involved in the show and we will see drama, dance, poetry, drumming and keyboard as well as hear from our Y6 leavers.

More News:

School Council Elections were held recently. We are pleased to announce that Lewis Pothecary and Briar Hickenbottom-Marriott were elected to the positions of Chair and Vice Chair for next year.

Attendance Awards will be handed out at our final assembly. As you know, it is very important for the children to attend school at all times. 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 and the whole school figure stands at 92.87%. We aim to improve this still further next year. Thank you must go to pupils and parents for supporting us in raising this figure.

September

September starts with a busy few weeks. The first week involves settling in, making new friends and learning the classroom rules. We tend to find that children who have missed this week settle less well so please return to school on the first day back! Over the holidays please try to read every day. Children who don't read over the summer can go back 6 months in their reading ability. Most importantly, have a super summer holiday!



Staff and Pupils Update:

We bid farewell to **Charlotte Clough**, our Y4 teacher, who has relocated to the Scottish Highlands with her family. Also, **Olivia Whitter** will be leaving us in July. Olivia has been a Teaching Assistant and Learning Mentor for many years and now she leaves us to pursue a career as an interpreter. We wish them both well.

In September, we welcome back **Helen Cooper** following her sabbatical where she worked in St Johns School for Deaf Children in Gambia. She has had a marvellous experience and our pupils have followed her exploits through her blog with interest. Longwill School hope to continue her good work by sponsoring two St. John's pupils and School Council will lead on this.

Four new Teachers will join the Longwill team in September: Martin Belton (Y4), Leanne Plews (Y3), Sarah Sheppard (Y2) and Alison Button (Y5). We hope they will quickly feel settled within the Longwill community.

Our Governing Body also says farewell to Brenda Jones, who leaves us after several years' commitment. Also, Alex McCordindale, who is our Chair of Governors, has resigned due to work relocation to London. We have been very lucky to have such a supportive pair of Governors and we wish them well in the future. We welcome Andy Goff to the governors. Andy has worked closely with us for many years and is an expert in computing, education and technology.

Finally, we say goodbye to eight fantastic **Y6 pupils**, who will move on to Braidwood School next term. We are very proud of these young people, who have achieved so highly in all aspects of their development. Well done and good luck!

Alison Carter.

