

# HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

## JULY 2016

Longwill School for Deaf Children

### Diary Dates

05.09.16 Training Day for Staff

06.09.16 Training Day for Staff

07.09.16 Pupils return to school

14-16<sup>th</sup> September Y6 PGL Trip

24-28<sup>th</sup> October Half term holiday

31.10.16 Training Day for Staff

### Training Days 2016-2017

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 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September. 2016
- Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017
- Final date TBA

### Swimming 2016-2017

Swimming will continue every Thursday throughout the year for all pupils in Y1-Y6. Northfield Baths will be closed for refurbishment – but we are pleased to say that we will still be swimming weekly – but at Harborne Pool.

### ANOTHER FABULOUS YEAR AT LONGWILL

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 supported each other on as they took part in a variety of events. The parents space hopper race was hotly contested by a number of parents and everyone enjoying cheering them on!



Our Leavers and End of Year Show took place on Tuesday 19th July. We welcomed many parents and friends of the school, who all appreciated the hard work of pupils as they presented a wide variety of 'showpieces'. We watched some singing and dancing, drama, and keyboard recitals. Two highlights for me were the Y4 show based on 'Water' and the Y5 pupils as they each spoke about their Y6 friends who are leaving. Finally, our Y6 pupils spoke about their experiences of Longwill over the years. They each received a balloon, a book of photographs and a story book (chosen from a book shop in Birmingham city centre, when they were also treated to a farewell pizza!). We wish them well as they journey on to their new secondary schools. I am sure they will do well – we are very proud of them!



Year 5 and Year 6  
loved their half term  
of sailing...



### Staff and Pupils Update:

We bid farewell to two teachers, who are moving to take up positions in new schools. Sean Chandler is returning to his home ground of Liverpool and Becky Thomas has accepted a position at Selly Oak School in Birmingham. We wish them both well!

We also say farewell to Kiran Roberts, who leaves to join her family business and Kellie Randall who returns to Victoria School after a secondment in the school.

Two pupils are leaving us to join other schools. We hope that Chelsie and Dion will love their new schools! We will miss everyone who is leaving and wish them all the very best of luck in the future.



### Holiday Playscheme 2016

BID Services will be running a summer holiday scheme on the following days:

- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August

This will be for Deaf children aged 8 to 14 years old. Siblings are welcome provided that places are available.

There will be exciting outings daily! The programme will run from 09:30am to 4:00pm.

Limited places are available so we will operate on a first come, first served basis. Your child is welcome to attend as many days as s/he wishes however we do advise your child to attend the whole 6 days to gain the full benefits. There will be a charge of £15.00 per week or £30.00 for two weeks which is payable by **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2016**. This is **non-refundable**.

An information pack (incorporating details of the programme) will be sent out once a place is confirmed. In the meantime, please fill in the registration/consent form, indicate which dates your child can attend and return to us no later than **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2016** with payment.

If you have any questions, please contact:  
Adam Breeze  
Deaf Inclusive Sports Officer/  
Deaf Youth Participation Officer  
[adam.breeze@bid.org.uk](mailto:adam.breeze@bid.org.uk)

A charity promoting choice and independence

**BID SERVICES**

**HOLIDAY SCHEME 2016**  
Activities, fun & play!

Are you 8 - 14 years old?  
Join our Holiday Scheme!

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August

Register now for your place  
by contacting Adam Breeze

EXPLORE  
ACTIVITIES

All children must be registered &  
payment made by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August

Information packs with all the details  
will be sent out at a later date.

MEET & MAKE  
NEW  
FRIENDS

DISCOVER  
NEW  
INTERESTS

Supported by  
**BIBA**  
Children  
in Need

BID Services  
Deaf Cultural Centre,  
Inchwood Road,  
Birmingham B15 8JZ  
[www.bid.org.uk](http://www.bid.org.uk)

Tel: 0121 266 6100  
Textphone: 0121 266 6101  
Fax: 0121 266 6125  
Mobile: 07745 024964  
Email: [adam.breeze@bid.org.uk](mailto:adam.breeze@bid.org.uk)

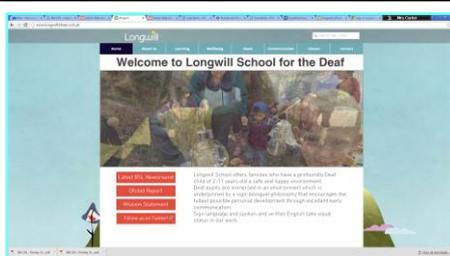
Signed Singing with our hearing friends:



Our Y6 leavers celebrate in town...



Our Y6 leavers choosing a farewell gift in the bookshop...



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

Please do look at our school website. There is lots of information about school activities and pupils learning for you and your child to share...

**Attendance Awards** for individual pupils will be handed out at our final assembly. As you know, it is very important for the children to attend school as much as they possibly can. 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 - 92.68 % (up 1.6% on the same period last year).

Thanks must go to pupils and parents for supporting us band 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.

### September...

September starts with a busy few weeks. The first week involves settling in, making new friends and learning the classroom rules. This year, as part of our **Rights Respecting Charter**, classes will have the opportunity to create their own set of Class Rules. For example, all pupils have the right to an education (Rights of the Child, Article 28). And so, they might all agree to concentration, listen and watch the person speaking to us.

**BASIC SKILLS QUALITY MARK:** We are thrilled to announce that for the 10th year running, our work to provide excellent basic skills teaching has been recognised by an external assessor!

### And finally...

Can I wish everyone a super summer holiday. Please keep encouraging your child to keep up with their reading, writing and maths. Perhaps you might suggest they keep a simple diary about their holiday, drawing pictures and writing about their activities. Please do send them in for us to see at the start of term – we would love to see them!

There are plenty of online ways to keep those brains ticking over – Mathletics and Espresso will be available all holiday on the internet.

**Pupils return to school on Wednesday 7th September.** I look forward to seeing them all! In the meantime, my best wishes for a healthy and happy summer holiday,

*Elisea Coste*