

**Longwill School**  
Headteacher's Newsletter May 2014

### **EHC Plans**

You may have heard on the news that Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans will replace SEN Statements from September 2014. This is to offer families and children a more personalised approach to the support they receive. The new process aims to increase the level of participation, choice and control that you have over the support you use. Also, there is an option to request a personal budget.

The Local Authority will publish more information, through the MyCareInBirmingham website, to set out in one place information about provision available for children who have SEN. They are hosting a parent and young person conference at the MAC in Cannon Hill Park on Saturday 14 June where they will have a range of fun activities for children to join in as well as a host of information and workshops about the changes to SEN.

It is important that, as parents you are aware of these changes and their impact. You can learn more about the conference and check for SEND updates at [www.birmingham.gov.uk/send](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/send) or follow @BirminghamSEND on Twitter. We will be talking more about this change at our Summer Parents Evening.

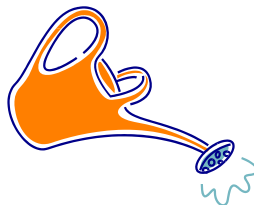


### **New staffing appointments**

I am pleased to announce that Alison Jackson and Carol Sutton have been appointed as our two Assistant Headteachers. The school now has an excellent leadership team in place who, alongside our fantastic Longwill team of teachers and TAs, will continue to work hard to provide the very best sign bilingual education for your children.

### **Gardening Club**

Hannah has been working with the School Council and our Eco Warriors to develop our school grounds and every pupil in school enjoys fortnightly gardening opportunities. They tend to several vegetable beds, have planted bulbs, weeded mightily (all this rain!) and improved the school grounds generally. The Gardening Club meets every week and have planted some flowers to improve the entrance to school.



### **Foundation have a new sandpit!**

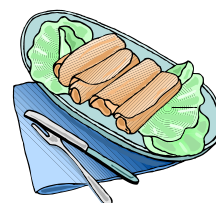
Pupils and staff in Foundation are thrilled with their long awaited sand pit! It has been a complete 'hit' with the children and is always a very busy and popular place!

## Hall and Dining Room

Both areas have been improved recently. The hall has been painted a lovely bright colour (lilac) and the dining room is a welcoming shade of green. Both areas have new ICT projectors and display equipment as well.

## Free School Meals for Infant aged Pupils.

You might have heard about this on the news. From September 2014, all children in reception, year 1 and year 2 in schools in England will be eligible for free school meals. Free school meals will also continue to be available to pupils (including infants) whose parents receive certain benefits and who are registered to receive one. For information about the existing free school meal provision for older pupils you can visit the Department for Education website or contact school.



## PSPs

All pupils in school should have their PSPs in their bags every day. Please do film or photograph your child's weekend activities so that they can bring the clips into school and share them with their friends and teachers. Likewise, please check the PSPs regularly for interesting clips of school activities.

## Website

You will find lots of information about school events in our school website. Have you had a look at it recently? You can find it at [www.longwill.bham.sch.uk](http://www.longwill.bham.sch.uk)



## Attendance

I want to thank parents (and pupils!) for the big improvement in attendance which we have noticed since January. Your child might have told you about our weekly attendance certificates and the class competition? Have they brought home a certificate yet? Currently, the whole school figure is 93.92%. This is much better than last year and I am so pleased! Research shows that if pupils are able to come to school regularly then they will make much better progress in all areas of learning. So, please keep up the good work!

## Future events

WW1 Drama Day for Y3, 4, 5 and 6	24 <sup>th</sup> June 2014
Parents Evening* 4.30pm -6.30pm	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2014
Eisteddfod* 10.00am	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2014
Sports Day (afternoon)* 2.30pm – 3.30pm	9 <sup>th</sup> July 2014
Mad Hatters Tea Party	14 <sup>th</sup> July 2014
Foundation Graduation Day*	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2014
Leavers Assembly*	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2014

\* Parents are welcome to attend these events.