



Dear Parents/Carers,

The first half of our summer term has passed so quickly and has been packed full of exciting experiences for pupils and staff. I am sure you will enjoy reading the children's reflections about their learning in our latest 'What's Happened' newsletter, which will be with you today. Each class write about their favourite experiences of the term so far – please do share this newsletter with your child over the half term. You can also find past copies of all our newsletters on the school website: [www.longwill.bham.sch.uk](http://www.longwill.bham.sch.uk)

## **Attendance**

This term has seen a dip in our school attendance figures and I would like your help in trying to improve our attendance record because evidence proves that good progress is related to good attendance. Currently, our attendance percentage stands at 90.6%. This means that we are going to have to work even harder to achieve our target of 95%. If you would like to talk with me about your child's attendance, then I would be very happy to see how we can better support you and your child.

In the meantime, here are some 'Top Tips':

- Figure out the reasons for absence as this can help you understand where your child needs support in overcoming barriers to attending school
- Try to establish a good routine early so that when your child does start school they are in good habits such as getting plenty of sleep
- If appointments are needed for health reasons, try to make them during after school hours or out of term time where possible
- Offer support with homework and take an interest in their learning
- Attend parents evenings to discuss your child's progress
- Take family holidays during school holidays rather than term time
- Don't allow your child to stay off school for a minor ailment
- Ensure your child has a good understanding of why attendance is important

Each week class attendance is celebrated in our Wednesday assembly. This week Pine Class achieved 100% and you can see their delight at receiving their certificates in the photo on the school website.

**If your child is absent, please inform school with the reason. School must have copies of all medical appointment letters for your child's record.**

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

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## **Arts Week**

Arts Week took place recently and culminated in an Art Exhibition in our school hall. Each class had explored an artist of interest and then created their own work, inspired by their learning. The Art Exhibition was a wonderful celebration!



## **Lunchtimes at Longwill**

We have lots of fun lunchtimes clubs which run everyday. One of these is Lego Club. The children love the challenge of creating something and develop important skills at the same time – like sharing and taking turns.



## **Eco Warriors**

Last week the staff explored our school grounds and nearby park after school as part of our training and development. Seeing our outdoors area once again, in the beautiful sunshine, reminded me how lucky our pupils are to have such a beautiful environment in which to learn! We have a dedicated team of staff, a school gardener and a Forest Schools practitioner who all work hard to create natural areas of learning. We have a woodland, a sensory garden, an outdoor classroom and a camp! Here are a couple of examples which show pupils enjoying this lovely space.



## **Parents' Consultation Evening on Tuesday 26th June 4:30-6:00pm**

Please note the change of date (it was planned for 12th June).  
Further information will be sent after half term.

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## **Kindness Tree**

Congratulations to the pupils who received leaves to hang on our Kindness Tree yesterday. The children have been recognised as going 'above and beyond' for their friends in some way and as a 'thank you' are awarded a leaf, with their name on, which hangs on this tree in the dining room.



Well done to everyone!

## **Parents' Signing Group**

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



Created on www.british-sign.co.uk

## **'Building Learning Power' Winners**

This half term we celebrate four pupils who have shown their capacity to be very effective learners.



Congratulations to Ahmad, Kyrese, Faith and Ella!



## **Deaf Awareness Week**

To celebrate Deaf Awareness Week the pupils have created a short video which aims to teach some signs to other people in the world.

Well done to Kyrese, Ruby, Leo, Khadija and William who showcased their signing skills with such confidence! You can see their creation on our school website.

To make it easier to find, here is the link:

<http://www.longwill.bham.sch.uk/blog>



## **Dining Room renovations**

Over half term we will be undergoing a bit of building work in the dining room. We will relocate the external doors slightly, have some new windows and a lovely new floor. I wonder if the children will notice the difference on their return?

## **Diary Dates**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Monday 4 June:     | Children return to school                         |
| Monday 4 June:     | Year 5 & 6 Climbing trip                          |
| Wednesday 6 June:  | School photographer in school                     |
| Monday 11 June:    | Bikeability week                                  |
| Monday 18 June:    | Year 5 & 6 Climbing trip                          |
| Wednesday 20 June: | Year 4 & 5 to Braidwood School                    |
| Monday 25 June:    | Year 5 & 6 Climbing trip                          |
| Tuesday 26 June:   | Parents' Consultation evening 4:30pm              |
| Wednesday 27 June: | School visit to Conkers                           |
| Wednesday 4 July:  | Year 6 visit Braidwood School                     |
| Wednesday 11 July: | Sports Day  |
| Friday 13 July:    | Foundation Graduation                             |
| Tuesday 17 July:   | Longwill's Got Talent                             |
| Wednesday 18 July: | Year 6 Leavers' Show                              |
| Thursday 19 July:  | Production of Oliver Twist for children in school |
| Friday 20 July:    | Last day for children                             |

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## **Attendance**

**We would like to congratulate the many parents who make sure their children attend school regularly.**

Absence disrupts the education of the individual pupil and the whole class. Are you aware that children who do not attend regularly:

- do not achieve well in exams
- find it difficult to maintain friendships
- are more likely to become involved in crime
- miss out on opportunities in further education and the world of work?

### **How does your child compare?**

| Attendance during one school year | equals this number of days absent | which is approximately this many weeks absent | which means this number of lessons missed |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| 95%                               | 9 days                            | 2 weeks                                       | 50 lessons                                |
| 90%                               | 19 days                           | 4 weeks                                       | 100 lessons                               |
| 85%                               | 29 days                           | 6 weeks                                       | 150 lessons                               |
| 80%                               | 38 days                           | 8 weeks                                       | 200 lessons                               |

Absence can only be authorised by the Head Teacher, within the boundaries set by the Education (Pupil Registrations) (England) Regulations 2006. ***Head Teachers may not authorise leave during term time except where the circumstances are exceptional.***

Please remember that parental illness, going shopping, visiting family, truancy, not wanting to go to school, alleged bullying (speak to school immediately to resolve the issue) are not acceptable reasons to be absent. All of these will be recorded as unauthorised absence, including if your child arrives at school after the close of registration.

Family emergencies need careful consideration. It is not always appropriate or in the best interests of the child to miss school for emergencies which are being dealt with by adult family members. Being at school with support from staff and peers can provide children with stability. The routine of school offers a safe and familiar background during times of uncertainty.

It is a parent's legal responsibility to ensure their children receive appropriate education. Failing to send your child to school regularly without good reason is a criminal offence.

Frequent absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning and can seriously disadvantage your child in adult life.

If your child's level of absence is of serious concern, the school will offer advice and support to improve attendance. After this, any unauthorised absence may result in the School and the Local Authority taking legal action.

**Again, we would like to thank those parents who make sure their child is attending school regularly and are therefore benefiting fully from their educational opportunity.**

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