

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I type this the temperature is dropping fast and there is a high risk of some snow. I would like to remind you about the procedure if we ever have to close school for bad weather or any other unforeseen reason. If school is closed, the school will text every family to let them know. We also contact Travel Assist and transport providers, local radio stations and the local authority. Finally, we put a notice on the front page of the school website. We try to open whenever possible as we want pupils to be in school learning! However, the health and safety of the children is our main priority. Whilst at home, pupils will always have their school reading books and they can access our online home-learning resources (Mathletics, Nespresso, Go Givers) anytime anywhere! **Please keep school updated with any change to contact numbers.** Thank you.



Next Tuesday (6th March) is our Parents' Consultation Morning 10am. Please come along!  
More details overleaf.

## **Attendance**

As a Rights Respecting school we are conscious of the Rights of the Child Article 28 – Every child has the right to learn and go to school.

I would like to thank all parents for the support that they have shown in ensuring their children are in school as much as they can be. We know that good attendance provides pupils with the best chance of making great progress in all areas of learning and development. Currently, our whole school attendance stands at 90.8%. This compares less well with the same period last year (91.8%).

Each Wednesday we celebrate the class who has the best attendance figures of the week. **This week Pine Class and Hazel Class achieved 100%!** Pupils are awarded small certificates as well as a big class certificate and we usually try to put a photo on the school website. Have you seen your child's class results recently?

### Attendance Facts:

There are only 40 teaching weeks in the school year.

Missing six days every term of every year is the same as missing one whole school year!

95% attendance sounds good, but means that you are taking one day off a month!

90% attendance equates to missing 100 lessons a year!

**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

T: 0121 475 3923

E: enquiry@longwill.bham.sch.uk

M: 07786 201 170 (text only)

Website: www.longwill.bham.sch.uk

## **Safer Internet Day, 6 February 2018**



This took place at the start of the month and was really successful! Pupils came together at the end of the day and shared all their learning and top tips on how to keep safe with their friends. Please do take a look on the school website for more information for both pupils and parents (E Safety page):

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

## **Travel Assist and Transport**

I know that there have been some difficulties over recent months with Travel Assist and Transport. Jodie, our office



manager, works hard some mornings to help get your children to school when guides are occasionally off and we are very lucky that some of our TAs will step in to fill last minute absences! If you have any compliments, comments or concerns about any aspect of your child's travel, please do email:

[travelassist@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:travelassist@birmingham.gov.uk)

## **World Book Day 1st March 2018**

We have had such a super day today! Staff and children alike have dressed up as their favourite book characters to celebrate World Book Day. Also, we welcomed a young deaf author from another Birmingham school to read her story to some of the pupils. There will be lots of photos on the website over the next day or so. See if you can spot your child on the website!



## **Parents' Consultation Morning on Tuesday 6th March 10:00am-12:30pm**

Please do join us for our termly consultation morning.

At 10am Alison Jackson and I will be talking to you all about Early Help and Family Support at Longwill. Then you will have an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and carry out a fun shared learning activity with your child. Please do come along.

If, however, you cannot attend and would like to talk to your child's teacher, then we are happy to make a short appointment for you on another day. Please contact the office to make an appointment.

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## **Basic Skills Quality Mark Renewal**

Basic Skills teaching at Longwill is very important to us. The teaching of reading, writing and maths is assessed every year by an external assessor. Our visit took place a few weeks ago and was very positive. She noted, "It was delightful to meet the pupils, to learn about the amazing learning opportunities the school organises and to see the wonderful well-displayed and well-resourced learning environment. There is such a happy atmosphere in the school and I was made to feel extremely welcome by everyone. It is clear staff and pupils are very happy to be at Longwill. All staff (including TAs) are given opportunities to develop their leadership skills and it is clear they rise to the occasion. Longwill is such a welcoming place. Thank you so much. The headteacher, deputy headteacher, leaders and staff are very passionate in their vision to ensure the pupils reach their potential."



## **Parents' Signing Group**

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



## **Parent Governors**

We are pleased to welcome Marnie Davis Wood to our school Governing Board. Marnie is mother to Ivy, who is in our Foundation department. Marnie joins two other parents on our board (Liz Morton Thomas and Claire Hayward).

## **School Kitchen—Food Hygiene Rating Award!**

The School Kitchen has recently had an inspection and been awarded the highest rating: 5, VERY GOOD. Well done to Karen and the kitchen team!



## **Chair of Governors News, February 2018**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely half term break with your children and I thought you might like an update from your Governing Board.

Last half term we met on a Saturday to get to know each other, to prepare for any Ofsted inspectors who might arrive and to talk about the coming processes as we consider whether to become part of the Special Schools Co-operative. We all felt it was a worthwhile use of a Saturday morning.

I would like to thank all of you who returned the questionnaires about the possibility of becoming part of the co-operative. As Governors we had to make a decision about whether or not to continue into formal procedures to consider this further, and your questionnaires, along with the reply from the school council, helped us to come to a unanimous decision to continue into formal consultations. It is also good that the other special schools involved have made the same decision. I want to assure you all that we have not made any legal commitment to this at the moment. All we have agreed to (with your support) is to look into this more formally. If, by the 17th April, we are still certain that this is the best way forward for Longwill, we will meet with the other schools, as we did on the 6th February to say so.

We will make sure that you, as parents, are kept up to date with this process, and if anyone has any questions or concerns, please either contact myself or the school and we will try to answer your queries honestly. In the meantime, have a lovely run up to Easter.

Briony Brookman

Chair of Governors

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## **BSL Interpreted Events at Bournville's Bookfest**

Bournville BookFest 2018 runs for 10 days of storytelling, drawing, Lego animation, comic comedy, magic, drama, paper engineering and singing. Meet your favourite authors, and find new favourite books! Further details in the Bookfest booklet.

The following events will be British Sign Language Interpreted:

### **Sat 17<sup>th</sup> March at Rowheath Pavillion**

10:00am-10:45am: Steven Lenton, Let's Find Fred (page 10 for more details)

11:30am-12:30pm: Perfectly Norman (page 11 for more details)

### **Sat 17<sup>th</sup> March at Cotteridge School**

2:00pm-3:00pm: Horrible Science Illustration (page 13 for more details)

### **Sat 17<sup>th</sup> March at Birmingham Town Hall**

11:30am-12:30pm: Michael Morpurgo's I Believe in Unicorns (page 7 for more details)

### **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at Birmingham Town Hall**

10:30am-11:45am: Birmingham Schools' Big Draw Along with Nick Sharratt (page 19 for more details)

### **Sat 24<sup>th</sup> March at The Blue Coat School**

10:00am-11:00am: Nick Sharratt You Choose in Space Extravaganza (page 22 for more details)

11:30am-12:15pm: Ben Faulks' What Makes Me a Me? (page 22 for more details)

### **Sat 24<sup>th</sup> March at Touchbase Pears**

1:00pm-1:50pm: The Library Lion (page 28 for more details)

2:30-3:30pm: Join in with Julia Jarman (page 28 for more details)

**Book your tickets at: [www.bournvillebookfest.com](http://www.bournvillebookfest.com).**



## **Diary Dates:**

Thursday 1 March:

World Book Day

Monday 5 March:

Year 1 visit to The Birmingham Central Mosque

Tuesday 6 March:

Parents' Morning 10am-12pm

Wednesday 28 March:

BSL Eisteddfodd 11am

Wednesday 28 March:

Orienteering Competition 1:45pm

Thursday 29 March:

Dance festival 11:00am

Easter Parade and Egg Rolling 2pm

### ***Friday 30 March - Friday 13 April EASTER HOLIDAYS***

Monday 23 April-Friday 27 April:

Arts award week in school

### ***Monday 28 May - Friday 1 June HALF TERM***

Wednesday 6 June:

School photographer in school

Tuesday 12 June:

Parents' Evening 4:30pm

Friday 29 June:

Schools' Signing Concert at Camp Hill Boys 10:15-11:45am

Wednesday 4 July:

Whole school visit to Conkers

Wednesday 11 July:

Sports Day

Friday 13 July:

Foundation Graduation

Wednesday 18 July:

Leavers' Show 11am

Friday 20 July:

Last day of term

Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 July:

Training Days (no school for children)

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