



Headteacher's Update 21.09.20



The children and staff have been so happy to all be back together again and have enjoyed a really fun and enjoyable first fortnight back at school . I am so impressed by the resilience of our children! They bounded out of their taxis on their return and readily accepted all our new rules and routines, put in place to keep us all as safe as possible during this ongoing COVID19 crisis. Thank you for all your support for your children and the staff at Longwill over recent months – we have really appreciated it!

Alison Carter

School Advice if your child is ill.

My child has Covid-19 symptoms:

DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL

Contact school to inform us.

Self-isolate the whole household for 14 days.

Get a test as soon as possible.

INFORM THE SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY ABOUT TEST RESULT

If you are unsure about your child's symptoms you can refer to information at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid19/symptoms/>

My child tests negative for Covid-19:

CONTACT THE SCHOOL

Discuss when your child can come back to school (next day if they are well).

My child tests positive for Covid-19

DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL

Contact school to inform us.

Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum 10 days).

Self-isolate the whole household for 14 days.

The school will take guidance from Public Health England on what steps to take next.

If you can, inform everyone that has been in contact with your child in the last 2 days that they have Covid-19 symptoms.

They can return after 10 days even if they still have a loss of smell or taste.

Headteacher | Alison Carter ★

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They can return if they have a cough but have been confirmed as now testing negative for COVID. These symptoms can last for a number of weeks.

My child falls ill with symptoms not linked with Covid-19

FOLLOW THE USUAL SCHOOL ABSENCE POLICY

I do appreciate that it is frustrating if you cannot quickly and easily get a COVID test. As you know, there is a problem nationally with the Test and Trace capacity. I do hope this improves quickly. If you are experiencing any difficulty getting a test for your child, which is affecting their attendance, please do contact school as soon as possible and we will try to help.

BSL Classes ...

Our BSL classes continue will run every Wednesday morning remotely, using TEAMS. These are free and are run by our Deaf team (Randip Kaur and Michael Reid) so that you can develop your signing skills. Please let Mona Manku know if you would like to attend. A flyer will be coming out with more information very soon. Your children are all skilled signers and I know it is often hard to keep up with them – but we must – so I would urge you to commit to the class!

Transport

Please help our Guides and Drivers by escorting your children out to their vehicles and coming out to meet them at home time. This is a parental responsibility as our guides need to stay in vehicles to look after the other children in their care. Thank you for your help with this.

Class Bubbles

We are trying to minimise the risk of the spread of COVID placing pupils in small bubbles and not mixing as a whole school for example. We have three bubbles for the purposes of playtimes and transport etc. (Foundation-Y2, Y3-4 and Y5-6). This is working well now and I hope will remain in place going forward. Naturally, we do have some times when there is some crossover of bubbles, but we are trying very hard to minimise this if at all possible.

School Lunches

Our kitchen staff have worked hard over recent weeks, providing a tasty breakfast bagel at the start of the day as well as packed lunches for the children, who have been eating these in class. We do hope, however, that we can re-introduce hot meals in the coming weeks and we will let you know in good time about our plans. I hope we can run staggered lunchtimes in the dining room, so that the children can enjoy a hot dinner – but within a smaller group of children (the size of the bubbles mentioned in the last paragraph). Watch this post for more information!

Attendance

Attendance is so important! Our children have missed some much schooling because of this global pandemic and so I would ask you to help them 'bounce-back' by getting them into school as much as possible.

Each week, we will continue to celebrate class attendance (whilst recognising that for some it will not be possible because of COVID measures). Also, each half term we celebrate good attendance at an individual level. Whilst we encourage the very best attendance we also recognise that, for some pupils, they are actually attending at their very best levels but might have additional medical needs which make it tricky for them. For them we offer individual awards for improving attendance or for attending as much as they can. Also, I like to send out 'praise postcards' for children whose attendance is on 'an upward trend'. Please help us by providing appointment cards/letters for any medical appointments. These can be sent to the office and will then enable absences to be correctly recorded.

Also, I would ask parents to ring the school line every day to let us know why your child is absent. Then we can make sure our records are accurate.

Class Names

This year, classes have animal names. The children have enjoyed learning more about their animals in the last couple of weeks. Has your child talked to you about this? I thought I would let you know the class names in case they have yet to tell you!

Foundation	Bears
Y1	Dolphins
Y2	Badgers
Y3	Meerkats
Y4	Monkeys and Hedgehogs
Y5	Crocodiles
Y6	Tigers

Chair of Governors Welcome Back Message



As the Rule of Six comes into force, Birmingham goes back into lockdown and at the same time children are returning to school this is the beginning of a very 'strange new world'!

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents for your support for your children and also for the staff since the lockdown in March. Without your support the children's education would have suffered far more than it inevitable has.

This term is going to be unlike any other: familiar events like Harvest and Christmas celebrations will be totally unlike anything in the past but I am sure that the ingenuity of a highly dedicated staff will ensure that learning and enjoyment of learning continues at Longwill.

So, on behalf of the Governing Body, I wish you a safe and happy term. I know all the Governors are ready to meet remotely to carry on our work and I want to assure you that if you need us we are still here for you.

Stay safe,
Briony Brookman
Chair of Governor

Dates for your diary

Longwill School

2020-2021

Dates for staff

Tuesday 1 September

Wednesday 2 September

Wednesday 7 October

Friday 16 October

Tuesday 20 October

Friday 23 October

INSET Day (closed to pupils)

INSET Day (closed to pupils)

Harvest Festival 11.00am

Black History Month 'Show and Tell' 2.00pm

Longwill Portrait Gallery throughout the day

RSD Cross Country

Half Term: Monday 26 October – Friday 30 October

Tuesday 3 November

Wednesday 11 November

Friday 13 November

Monday 16-20 November

Friday 20 November

Wednesday 25 November

Tuesday 1 December

Wednesday 9 December

Friday 11 December

Tuesday 15 December

Wednesday 16 December

Wednesday 16 December

Thursday 17 December

Parents' Consultation all day

Remembrance Service 2.00pm

Children in Need Fundraising Party 2.30pm

Friendship Week

Show and Tell (Friendship Week) assembly 2.00pm

Christmas Fair 2.30

Christmas Workshop 1.30pm

Gymnastic Festival 2.00pm

Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Dinner

Christmas Show 11am

Christmas Celebration 3.15pm

Deaf Panto 2.00pm

Christmas Holiday: Monday 21 December – Friday 1 January

Monday 25 January

Tuesday 9 February

INSET day (closed to pupils)

Safer Internet Day 2021

Show and Tell Assembly 2.00pm

Half Term: Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February

Friday 5 March

Monday 8 – 12 March

Friday 12 March

Friday 19 March

Tuesday 23 March

Tuesday 30 March

Thursday 1 April

INSET Day (closed to pupils)

Inspiration through culture week

Show and Tell Assembly 2.00pm

Red Nose Day

Parents' Consultation Morning (via Team)

BSL Eisteddfod 2.00pm

Egg Rolling and Easter Hat Parade 2.00pm

Easter Holidays: Monday 5 April – Friday 16 April

Monday 19 April

Term starts

Monday 3 May	Bank holiday – school closed
Tuesday 4 May	Deaf Awareness Week
Monday 10 May	KS2 SATS w/b
Thursday 20 May	Orienteering Competition 2.00pm
Tuesday 22 May	Parents' Evening 4:00 - 6:00pm

Half Term: Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June

Monday 5 June	Transition Week
Friday 25 June	Garden Festival 2.00pm
Friday 2 July	Sports Day 2.00pm
Thursday 8 July	Longwill's Got Talent Show 2.00pm
Friday 9 July	Foundation Graduation 11.00am
Wednesday 14 July	Leavers' and EOY show 11.00am
Wednesday 21 July	End of term for pupils

Weekly: Forest School and Gardening – Mondays
BSL Parents' Group – Wednesday 10:15am-12:15pm
B.I.D Youth Club (age 8+) - tbc
Swimming – tbc

Dates subject to change, correct as at 21st September 2020