



Headteacher's Christmas Message...



I am writing to you to thank you all so much for the support you have given the school this term. This has been an extremely challenging year and term for us all! The children and staff have worked really hard this term to cope with the challenges presented by COVID19. I think they have all been absolutely brilliant! I am so proud of the way that they have all been flexible about our class bubbles, our one-way systems and all the changes in so much of our 'normal' everyday school life!

Unfortunately, we are not yet able to wave goodbye to all things COVID19 quite yet. As you know, the city remains in **Tier 3** for the foreseeable future. I suspect that until we have all been vaccinated, we will have to continue to live with COVID19 restrictions, so that we can all stay as safe as possible. More about this later in the newsletter.

The children are a true credit to all parents, carers and our wider community. I am so proud of the 'Longwill' Family and how we continue to work together to get through the ups and downs of this global pandemic. Can I take this opportunity to wish you all a Safe and Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. This term will end on Friday 18th December 2020 as originally planned in our calendar. Pupils will return to school on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Elisea Cook

End of term: More information about COVID19 over the Holidays – advice for parents and carers

- For the first 6 days after the end of term, if a pupil tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to identify close contacts and advise self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.
- Therefore, you must tell the school. Please leave a message on the school text line. This line is checked twice daily. The headteacher will be in contact with you following your text to seek further information and ensure that the relevant individuals/contacts are kept informed regarding any further need for them to self isolate.
- Parents and carers should follow contact-tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace as well.
- School staff are not asked to remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than 6 days after the end of term, so there should be no pupil contact tracing 'asks' beyond Thursday 24 December.
- Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 6 days following the end of term, schools do not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term.

Christmas free school meals vouchers

Earlier this week, we sent out a message to families confirming details of the Edenred scheme for Christmas holiday vouchers. Hopefully, you should now have received them. Further information can be found at:

Christmas

We have really celebrated Christmas this year in school and the children have enjoyed our Nativity, a Christmas art workshop, our annual pantomime (from the Deaf Team) as well as parties galore. I thought you might like to see some photos of the school:



Christmas Production 2020

This year staff and pupils worked even harder, as they worked around the challenges of producing a whole school show, whilst remaining in the class bubbles! With ingenuity and much creative thought, the show was filmed in a socially distanced and 'COVID-secure' manner. All the children were confident and accomplished performers and they really enjoyed the whole experience. The staff and children all watched our show on Wednesday, within their bubbles and absolutely loved it! We were so sorry that it could not take place in the hall (as is usual) and in front of you all! Normally, our hall is packed with an appreciative audience of parents, family, governors and friends and we did miss you! However, we are pleased to be able to bring you our Christmas Nativity 2020 via the internet. You can watch the production on our website. Here is the link:

<https://www.longwill.bham.sch.uk/blog-1/categories/showcase>

Fundraising:

As you know, our pupils are brilliant fundraisers! We raised £87 for the 'Children in Need' Charity last month. Last week, we also celebrated **Christmas Jumper Day** - what a lot of fabulous bright jumpers in school that day! We raised £52 for Birmingham Children's Hospital as well!



Gym Festival 2020

This took place earlier this month and was a great success. We were keen for the whole school to be able to part and be able to see each others work and so the event was filmed. This has the added benefit - that we can share this with you all on our website. We hope to upload the video over the Christmas holidays – so please do take a look in coming weeks! Pupils gym skills have improved tremendously and I was so impressed with the routines they created.



BSL Classes ...

Our BSL class for family members continues to run every **Wednesday morning from 10:15 to 11:15 online, 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. Your children are all skilled signers and I know it is often hard to keep up with them – but we must! Perhaps we can make it another of our New Year's Resolutions to join these classes.

Attendance Matters!

Staff and parents share the same aim for our children – that they are happy, safe and progressing as much as possible during their time at school and, with that in mind, I would ask that you all continue to support the very best attendance possible! In September, we were so thrilled to be returning fully to school, despite this global pandemic and have worked hard to make school a safe and welcoming place to learn. I would like to say a big thank you to all parents and carers who have been so supportive throughout this term! Currently, our whole school attendance figure stands at **85.5%** for Y1-Y6. Whilst I know this figure is much lower than last year (because of the pandemic), it is better than the national average for special schools this term (which is 77%). So, I would like to thank you all so much for supporting your children with good attendance! You are doing a great job! Please keep up the good work next term too.



Welcome to our new Parent Governor

Thank you all for entering your votes for our **new parent governor**. Mrs Salma Begum joined us at our most recent Full Governing Meeting last month and we are very pleased that she will sit on the Curriculum, Progress and Standards Committee. The governors have continued to attend all meetings remotely since March 20 and continue to support us very strongly ('virtual visits' into school, attending our Service of Remembrance and Harvest Festival for example).

Staff update

Mrs Michelle Prestidge will be leaving us at Christmas as she and her family are moving to another part of the country. We wish her good luck and best wishes!

A Message from our Chair of Governors

At the end of an unforgettable year, I want to take a little opportunity to thank the staff and children for all their hard work. In the face of huge technological difficulties, we have experienced the wonderful resilience of everyone to delight us in unforgettable assemblies celebrating harvest, Remembrance, gymnastic prowess and, of course, the annual Christmas celebration.

I want to thank you all for your support and wish staff, pupils and parents a peaceful Christmas and a happy and above all healthy 2021.

Briony Brookman
COG

Dates for your diary

Monday 4 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
Monday 3 May
Tuesday 4 May
Monday 10 May
Thursday 20 May
Tuesday 22 May

Term starts
Bank holiday – school closed
Deaf Awareness Week
KS2 SATS w/b
Orienteering Competition 2.00pm
Parents' Evening 4:00 - 6:00pm

Half Term: Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June

Monday 5 June
Friday 25 June
Friday 2 July
Thursday 8 July
Friday 9 July
Wednesday 14 July
Wednesday 21 July

Transition Week
Garden Festival 2.00pm
Sports Day 2.00pm
Longwill's Got Talent Show 2.00pm
Foundation Graduation 11.00am
Leavers' and EOY show 11.00am
End of term for pupils

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