



Headteacher's Christmas Message...

The school is looking festive and the children are all getting very excited for all the end of term Christmas excitement! I am looking forward especially to the **Christmas Show** this Wednesday morning (I am). Each year this event proves to be a complete 'hit'! So I do hope you have it in your diary. Every pupil is involved and your child would love to see family, friends and loved ones in the hall! The Christmas Raffle will take place immediately after the show. This year the raffle tickets will only be sold on the day – so please come prepared!

Christmas Jumper Day was a great success and we raised £60.00. The children loved seeing everyone's jumpers and it raised money for Save the Children this year.

Can I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Julia Cook



Home Learning Tea Party

Last Friday we enjoyed our second 'Home Learning Tea Party'. Pupils who have excelled in home learning are given a 'Golden Ticket' to join the Head Teacher at her tea party. We ate sandwiches, scones and cakes and sampled drinks of water, juice or tea. The children loved it! As this is a termly event, a wide range of children who work hard at home as well as at school will be able to take part in this small event over the year – as a celebration of their efforts!



Children in Need

We raised £100 for the 'Children in Need' Charity last month. We had an afternoon of school disco and fun competitions and a super time was had by all.



Rights Respecting Workshop and Parents' Morning

We welcomed more than 30 parents last month to our Parents Morning, which included a Rights Respecting Workshop . Parents shared their views about the importance of all children understanding about their rights as children. Mrs Jackson is our school lead teacher in this area and she spoke passionately about our mission to ensure all children know and understand the UN Rights of the Child.

We have a whole page on our website dedicated to Rights Respecting Awareness. Please do take a look:

<http://www.longwill.bham.sch.uk/rights-respecting>

When you visit this page you will see that we have uploaded a video clip which explains each 'Right' in spoken English and BSL. We hope that this will make it easier for parents and pupils to talk about the Rights of the Child.

You can also find out more information about this brilliant initiative at:

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>



Black History Month

In late October we spent a week learning more about aspects of black history, being inspired by the bravery, brilliance and leadership of people from the black and minority ethnic populations. This culminated in a lovely 'Show and Tell' assembly during which pupils shared their learning.



Remembrance Day

Once again, pupils excelled themselves in the way they conducted themselves in our Remembrance Day service. Pupils had spent the days leading up to our act of remembrance learning about why we remember those fallen brave people. We have created a permanent memorial this year as a fitting tribute to the 100 year centenary events, which will be placed near our Tree Orchard.



You can see a video of our creation on the website (showcase area) at:

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



Birmingham Special School Co-operative Trust

I am thrilled to say (once again) that we are now members of this family of Birmingham Special Schools. Working together, we will be able to achieve so much more, both in terms of children working together as well as staff collaborating on areas of school improvement. I am also hopeful that we might achieve some financial savings when we work as a group of eight schools – and every penny counts! The Board of Trustees has already met and much is planned for the year. We hope to spread our expertise in the area of Right Respecting work, by running a pupil conference with other Trust schools in the summer term. This will mean that our school council pupils will have the opportunity to share views and ideas with other Birmingham pupils – and I know they shall do this with confidence!



Safeguarding Innovations Award 2018

We are thrilled to report that the school was awarded a small sum of money in recognition of the work we are doing to inform deaf pupils and parents about how they can keep safe. We have used the award funding to provide increased information in BSL on our school website. This has included BSL versions of safeguarding information as well as information about how to develop our understanding of Rights Respecting. We have even offered a BSL interpretation of a podcast about the importance of the flu vaccine for children and adults! Please do take a look at the information on the website.

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

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International Schools Gold Award for Longwill School!

Our Gold International Schools Award was achieved in December 2018. Assessors reported, 'The Award process has been a positive educational experience for teachers, inspiring discussion and resulting in the delivery of motivational and well-planned cross-curricular activities. Global learning is embedded throughout the school, with collaborative work involving international partner schools playing an important part in your success.' This is a super award to receive as it recognises that deaf pupils at Longwill really do understand what it means to be a global citizen of the world!



GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations)

Much work has been completed this term to ensure Longwill is compliant with the new legislation. We are all aware of the importance of keeping information safe. You will see that we have published Privacy Notices for Pupils on the school website and these and the Data Protection Policy can be viewed at: <http://www.longwill.bham.sch.uk/copy-of-reports>



Parents' Signing Class

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

Your children are all highly skilled communicators in BSL and it is important that you keep up your BSL skills so that you can continue to communicate effectively with your child. Please prioritise your own learning needs in the coming year.

Our friendly deaf team, teach the parents each week (for free!) so that you can sign with your children. Please come along!

Perhaps you can make it another of your New Year's Resolutions to join these classes.

Attendance

This is so important! We all want our pupils and children to thrive at Longwill and to develop their skills to the very best of their ability. They need to be in school to make this happen! So, attendance is something we take very seriously.

Every Wednesday, the school joins together to celebrate class attendance and 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 – as long as pupils are here as much as they can, then we celebrate that!

Currently, our whole school attendance figure stands at **92.3%** for Y1-Y6. Our aim is to improve upon that; 95% is our goal! Please help us achieve this figure!



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Chair of Governors Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the Autumn Term I look forward to meeting some of you at the Christmas production in the last week of term. I have been into school on several occasions throughout the term and really look forward to seeing your children.

They are so polite and work so hard. You can all be very proud of them, and I thank you for all the support you give both to your children and to the hard-working staff at Longwill.



Trust status:

At last, after what seems an eternity Longwill is now a part of the Birmingham Special Schools Trust and I know you all received a letter about this recently. As Governors we look forward to the advantages this brings for our children in terms of cross Trust activities which will enable our children to become part of a wider friendship group. We also hope the staff will benefit from sharing expertise expanding networking opportunities and also for the school as we seek to explore economies of scale and possible budget savings in this age of Local Authority cuts! I would like to thank Mrs Carter for all her hard work on this.

Parent Governor:

We have been very lucky to have Claire Hayward serving on the Governing Body. She has recently undertaken training as our SEND governor. Claire's term of office comes to a close after Christmas but she would like to stand for a further term. However, if there is a parent who would like to join our Governing Body could they please see Alison Carter as soon as possible to request information as to what being a parent governor entails at Longwill, as we would then have to hold an election.

So, on behalf of the other Governors, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you and your families a very happy Christmas holiday.

Kindest regards,
Briony Brookman
Chair of Governors at Longwill School



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 19 December: 11am—12:30pm Christmas Show, all parents and carers welcome!
Christmas Raffle after the Christmas Show, £1 a ticket, fab prizes!

Thursday 20 December: Deaf Panto for children

Friday 21 December: Christmas Party with Special Guest!
Last day of term



Monday 7 January 2019: First day of term

Friday 11 January: Swimming starts (Yr 1-6)

Monday 28 January: INSET Day (school closed to children)

Half Term holiday: Monday 18 February—Friday 22 February

Easter Holidays: Monday 15 April—Friday 26 April

Half Term holiday: Monday 27 May—Friday 31 May



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