

Headteacher's Newsletter



We are a Rights Respecting School!

Staff and pupils have worked hard over the year to ensure ours is a school where children's rights are always respected and valued. The school has been working with

UNICEF UK since 2015. I know you will join us in celebrating our achievement in reaching the Level 1 of the Rights Respecting Schools Award.

There has been such a positive impact for pupils and the school as a whole! It is important to place children's rights at the heart of the school and I would like to thank pupils and staff for their hard work. The Award recognises achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school's planning, policies and practice. A Rights Respecting School is a community where children's rights are learned, taught, practiced, respected, protected and promoted. Please do learn more about the Rights of the Child by visiting: <https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>

We welcomed our VIP guest, Razia Butt (Birmingham's lead on Resilience) to our Rights Respecting Conference a month ago. Five schools from around Birmingham took part and one of our governors, Emmanouela Terlektsi also attended. Our School Councillors debated the role of culture and language in society with their mainstream peers and one other special school, Selly Oak.

The Big Sleuth



The whole school joined in with this project. Upper School pupils painted our bear (on display in the Lickey Hills). Other pupils took photos of their bears and created a fabulous story. We have been short listed as one of three finalists!

We will find out if we have won a full sized bear (Inspector Clawseau) in October! Please do try visit the Lickeys to spot our bear over the summer!

SPORTS DAY

Our recent sports day was a huge success. Thank you to all the parents who attended. Our fantastic Deaf sports coaches from BID helped us to make it extra special! Pupils spent the morning honing their skills before competing in long jump, triple jump, javelin and running events as well as our usual fun sports! We even had a parents and staff tug of war competition!

ATTENDANCE

This stands at 93.4%. I hope we can improve it still further next year! Let's aim for 95%

BSL AWARDS

Four pupils achieved Level 1 and Jamie achieved Level 2!

PUPIL PROGRESS

90% of pupils have made expected or above expected progress this year!

End of Year Leavers Show 2017

Last Wednesday we welcomed family and friends to our EOY Leavers Show. What a splendid event! Tears were shed as the audience was treated to some amazing performances from every class. I was particularly impressed by our three keyboard players.

Matthew, Leo and Ethan played their



solos with such confidence. This was the second set of solo performances - recently they performed in a concert at the University of Birmingham!

Then pupils danced, sang songs and performed poetry beautifully! The event culminated in the Y6 pupils presenting their

memories of Longwill as well as performing their very own poems. Their confidence and maturity shone through! They have been outstanding role models for our younger pupils - and we wish them well in their secondary schools! Well done Year Six! I have asked that their poetry be filmed because it was simply stunning. You can see their poems signed if you look in the 'Showcase' area of our website.

PARENTS SIGNING CLASSES

These run every Wednesday morning in term time from 10:15-12:15 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 training needs in the coming year!

Our friendly deaf team teach parents each week (for free!) so that you can sign with your children. Next year I am going to encourage everyone of us to improve our signing skills... parents, staff and pupils! As staff and parents I feel we have a duty to learn to sign even better! If you would like us to help you, then please contact either myself or Mona Manku. You will not regret it.

STAFF AND PUPILS UPDATE

- We welcomed back Michelle Prestidge from her maternity leave last month.
- In September we will welcome three new teachers to school (Miss Blackwell will teach in Y3, Miss Alsop in Y1 and Miss Parker in Y4).
- We say a fond farewell to our wonderful office manager – Mrs Nora Fleming. Nora has worked in our school for 20 years. Most parents will know of her welcoming face as they arrive in school and have appreciated her calmness, sensitivity and organisational skills over the years. We will miss her greatly, but wish her well in her retirement!
- We welcome Jodie Mitchell as our new office manager, who joins us in September.
- Two teachers will begin their maternity leave in September (Mrs Smart and Mrs Straw). We wish them well!
- We bid farewell to our six leavers in a fabulous Leavers Show last week and wish them well in their new schools! Good luck Jamie, Matthew, Alishba, Arman, Abiram and Usman!

Here are a few comments from our current parents group... hopefully, they will encourage us all to 'get signing'!

- *"The group is friendly and all the parents support each other..."*
 - *"We learn about Deaf culture too..."*
 - *"My daughter is proud when I sign to her..."*
 - *"It's important we learn to sign as being able to communicate with your child reduce the frustration and anger that can arise when your child cannot make themselves understood..."*
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Complaints Procedure.

Thankfully, our parents are usually extremely happy with Longwill School. However, we do have a complaints policy and procedure if ever parents felt they had a concern. This is available on the school website.

Sainsbury Charity of the Year

We are thrilled to announce that we have been chosen from a shortlist of three to be the charity of the year for the Northfields branch of Sainsburys. This means that we will benefit from a wide range of fundraising events held in the store as well as being able to develop our existing links with the store. Y5 and Y6 pupils have already supported a fundraising book stall in the store and we have much more planned throughout the year.

Bikeability Awards

Congratulations to 8 of our pupils who achieved Level One Awards and 3 pupils who secured their Level Two certificates. This involved cycling on public roads (with expert tuition at all times!). Well done!

Signed Singing at King Edwards School

The whole school took part in a signed singing choir alongside several other mainstream school choirs. We have been involved in this event for many years and the children always love it!

Foundation Graduation 2017

Pupils and parents celebrated this event a couple of weeks ago. The children performed the story of 'The Little Red Hen' before the graduation ceremony. Everyone in the audience was so impressed with their confident performances! Congratulations to our Reception pupils and we wish them well in Y1!

Longwill's got Talent

This annual event took place on 11th July. Pupils audition for the show and then prepare very carefully for their performance. We had some stunning acts -



songs, dances, a karate display and poetry. The winning act was an absolute hit! Fikumni stole the show with his magic skills!

Diary Dates: Autumn 2017

04.09.17 Teacher Training Day
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06.09.17 Pupils return to school.
13.09.17 Y6 Trip to PGL
15.09.17 Swimming starts for all pupils

And finally... I cannot believe that we have come to the end of another academic year! The days and weeks fly by at Longwill. The school is a busy and happy learning environment. I am very pleased with our pupils' progress and attainment this year - it has been outstanding! What is, however, even more pleasing is the other achievements of your children. I am impressed by the six swimmers who have achieved their lifesaver awards and the other pupils who have secured Level 1-4 swimming awards. Also, I must make mention of those pupils who took part in our

inaugural Panathlon Swimming Gala, where our two team scooped first and second place! Another mighty achievement goes to four pupils who achieved Level One BSL and we must make mention of Jamie who is the first child ever at Longwill to gain his Level Two BSL qualification!

Longwill pupils make me so proud to be part of this school! They are fine, well rounded children who are flourishing! I wish you all a safe, relaxing and happy summer holiday and look forward to our next academic year in September! With best wishes,

Alison Carter

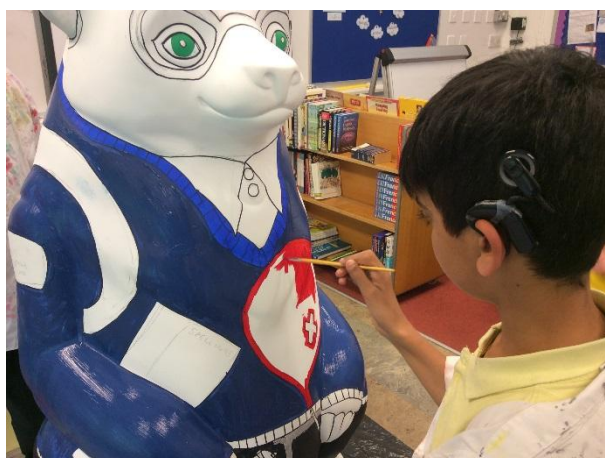
Alison Carter
Headteacher



Mad Hatters Tea Party at the Botanical Gardens...



We visited the Council House...



Painting Billy Bear...



Winners and Runners Up in the Panathlon Swimming Gals...