13th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

**RE: Sign Language Week 2023**

Our school is very excited to be taking part in Sign Language Week 2023. We have signed up for a free online British Sign Language (BSL) lesson delivered by a Deaf BSL teacher. The lesson was arranged in partnership with two leading charities in the world of BSL: the [British Deaf Association](http://www.bda.org.uk) and [Signature](https://www.signature.org.uk/). The lesson will take place on 15th March.

Almost a year ago now, on 28 April 2022, BSL was finally recognised in law as an indigenous language of Great Britain in the BSL Act (2022). This followed similarly ground-breaking legislation in Scotland – the BSL (Scotland) Act 2015 recognising BSL after many decades of campaigning by the Deaf community in Britain.

Sign Language Week is celebrated every year in March to commemorate the first time BSL was acknowledged (although not legally recognised) as a language in its own right by the UK Government on 18 March 2003. This year, we are marking the 20th year of that historic moment.

The aim of this year’s Sign Language Week is to celebrate and educate the British public about BSL, to encourage more people to start learning our beautiful, unique, visual language, and to protect and preserve BSL for future generations to come.

Although there is no obligation to donate, we would be very grateful for any £1 donations payable to your child’s teacher. This money will go towards supporting the British Deaf Association’s campaigning work promoting BSL to ensure Deaf children have access to their own language from birth. This is currently not happening, and the BDA wants to change that.

I have no doubt your child will come home and teach the rest of your family what they learned, and we hope you will enjoy it too. To find out more about Sign Language Week, check out:

[Sign Language Week – Protecting BSL](https://signlanguageweek.org.uk/)

Thank you in advance for your contribution. Your support is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Miss Dwan