



Secondary phase newsletter

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today

12th March 2021

The purpose of this first newsletter since schools have “officially” reopened, is to simply update families on important information and equally to thank you for your support during this first week. It has been an incredible week in so many ways. In secondary, by Tuesday, we tested every student (not Y13 as they have exams) who have agreed to be tested (over 96% of the year groups Y7 to Y12) and by Thursday the second tests were being administered. For those interested this means around 350 tests a day. So a huge thank you to the team! Lessons have begun, a huge number of lunches served again and our young people reconnecting with staff and peers!

However, we are still being incredibly careful with mask-wearing in the secondary phase, hand hygiene, one way systems and bubbles. Please find attached a letter from the Director of Public Health in Hertfordshire, Jim McManus, reminding us of the need to still be vigilant.

Road safety

We are aware that some of our parents are still insisting on driving children to school despite our emphasis on the importance of walking. Some of these same parents, I am afraid, whilst obviously wanting an “outstanding school” for their children frankly do not support or model our school’s values of respect, kindness and social responsibility. We have heard reports of cars not stopping when a younger child is waiting to cross the road. We want to encourage our Y5 to walk to school independently and this is part of our planned transition to secondary school. Therefore we need members of the community to be considerate and kind, supporting this.

Easter Eggheads Quiz Night - Thursday 25 March 2021

The PSA invites you to an egg-citing FUNdraising event for all the family!

Your quizmasters Mr Finch and Mr Pooley - Simon Balle’s very own Ant and Dec! – have a cracking evening lined up for you. All you need to do is choose your team name and get your £10 family ticket via ParentPay from Monday 15 March. Then grab your snacks and refreshments and settle in for a most egg-cellent evening!

6.30 pm start

(Look out for joining instructions and the picture round beforehand – remember to include an email address and your team name when you purchase your ticket)

End of term arrangements

As usual, we will finish at our normal end of school time, as we break up for Easter on Friday, March 26th. We will welcome students back to school on Monday 12th April.

Virtual Art Exhibition

Throughout lockdown, our students, parents and staff have created this visual message of thanks and we are so proud to share this with you.

Keep an eye out for these works to be brightening up Hertford Theatre and empty shop fronts around the town thanks to the support of our local council.

Simon Balle All-through school

["https://www.artsteps.com/embed/602f7c0ba7fb6140cd6cbc0e/560/315"](https://www.artsteps.com/embed/602f7c0ba7fb6140cd6cbc0e/560/315)

Please view the incredible art tribute to key and front line workers created by the Simon All-through community. Press play to enjoy the live tour, music by the Larch virtual choir



Balle

Our special thanks must go to the art department, Fiona Johnston for the virtual gallery, Marisa Culatto (a professional artist and parent) for the selection, Ben Cannel, Hertford Theatre (and display frames) Lindsey Day HCC and the Mayor of Hertford Bob Dearing.

Ready set bake... donate!

Please find the leaflet below with all of the information for our Mother's Day bake-off.

A reminder to parents

As it has been some time since students have been in school we felt it would be useful to give you a few reminders about expectations and the running of the school day

PE lessons

If your child has a PE lesson they should wear their PE kit to school however they should not wear hoodies but for warmth should wear a plain black/dark jumper.

Trainers should only be worn during the PE lesson

Lateral Flow tests

From next week students will be issued with their Lateral Flow home testing kits. The instructions are clear and there is a flyer attached to explain but if you have any questions please email Covid19@simonballe.herts.sch.uk

Lunch arrangements and finish times

In order to minimise year bubbles crossing Y7 and Y8 will have their lunch from 12.05 to 12.45. The rest of the secondary will have lunch from 1.05 to 1.45. There will also be a staggered finish time:

3pm Years 9 and 7

3.05pm Years 10 and 8

3.10pm Year 11 and 6th form



Director of Public Health

Prof Jim McManus, FFPH, CPsychol, FBPsS,
CSci, FRSB, CharteredFCIPD

Hertfordshire County Council
County Hall
CHO231
Pegs Lane
Hertford SG13 8DE

9 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As children and young people begin returning to the classroom for face-to-face learning, I'm writing to update you on the measures we will be taking to keep children as safe as possible.

The return to school for all pupils is good news. We know that being in schools alongside their peers is hugely important to both their education and their health and wellbeing. We understand that the past few months of remote learning has been very challenging, and we thank you for the way you have adapted to support home learning. We also recognise the hard work and dedication of all schools who have continued to provide face-to-face learning for children considered vulnerable and those of critical workers.

Our work to provide infection control advice and guidance, and a dedicated helpdesk for teachers with a team of experienced staff, continues.

Testing

The biggest change at present is the introduction of rapid testing for coronavirus, often called Lateral Flow Testing, which will be a requirement for staff at primary schools and both students and staff at secondary schools twice a week. Your school will have been in touch about how they are planning to do this. If you have children in secondary school, please provide consent for them to be tested as soon as possible and support your school by encouraging children to continue testing regularly at home.

You have also been asked, as parents and carers of children still in education, to take twice weekly lateral flow tests. This process should help to identify cases and outbreaks more quickly and effectively than before. Doing this will help us to work together to reduce the spread of the virus in the community and protect people who are vulnerable. You can pick up a home testing kit at a local site or order online, visit www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests for more information. I would like to encourage all eligible residents to take these regular tests and support your school and wider community to keep safe and well.

There is information about how to record and report results in the information included with home testing kits. If you, or anyone in your household, receives a positive result you must also let any education settings know, including early years and colleges, so that they and the local public health team can manage the track and tracing process.



Face coverings

All secondary school children will also be required to wear a face covering (unless exempt) in shared areas such as corridors and canteens, and most will also be asked to wear these in classrooms where social distancing isn't possible.

What you can do to help

We really need your help, as parents and carers, to support these latest developments and ensure our schools can remain open and safe for all children and staff. There are some simple things you can do to support your school and community:

- **Drop children to school or collect them and leave straight away** – please do **not** wait or stand around at the school gates as this puts you, your children, school staff and other families at risk
- **If you know that your child's school entrance will be busy, please wear a face covering when attending** – your school may also ask that parents and carers wear a face covering for drop off and pick up, please take their advice
- **Don't arrange playdates, sleepovers or parties** – even if your children are now in a school bubble, bubbles only exist in school alongside stringent infection control measures. Outside of school, the latest Government guidance still applies to parents and children
- **If you have older children, please explain they cannot hang out with their friends just yet** – we know kids will find it hard to understand why they can't spend time with their friends from their school bubble outside of school. Please explain if we all follow the guidance now, we will hopefully be able to spend time together soon
- **Do not send children to school if they, or anyone in your household, has any symptoms of coronavirus**

You can find more information about symptoms of coronavirus in children at:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/

You can book a test at: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

If you have problems using the online service, or no online access, call: 119

I'd like to once again thank you and your families for all you are doing to play your part in protecting Hertfordshire residents right now. If we all continue to work together, we can look forward to a more hopeful, brighter future and the return to some sense of normality very soon.

Yours sincerely

Jim McManus
Director of Public Health

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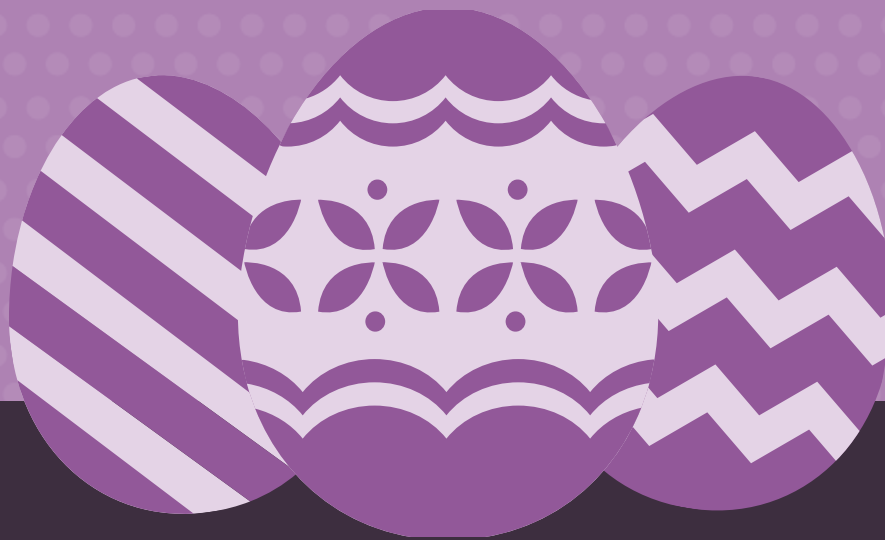
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk

SIMON BALLE ALL-THROUGH
SCHOOL PSA PRESENTS...

Easter Egghead Quiz Night!

Thursday 25 March
6.30pm

*Get ready for an egg-citing
online quiz for all the family!*



**TICKETS ON SALE MONDAY 15 MARCH
HOP ON OVER TO PARENTPAY TO GET YOURS!**

Website: www.simonballepsa.org.uk
Registered with the Charity Commission as
281561



Vaccination staff next to some of the artwork Hertford Theatre

SIMON BALLE

Pupils put art and soul into saying thanks

THE sacrifices made by frontline NHS staff and support workers throughout the pandemic have been immortalised in art by students, staff and parents.

Simon Balle All-through School in Hertford organised a virtual art exhibition, asking pupils for portraits of critical workers, medics and support staff.

More than 100 entries were received from a range of ages and

portrayed everyone from doctors on hospital wards in their PPE, to care workers facilitating virtual meetings for care home patients.

A selection of the entries, chosen by professional artist Marisa Culatto, are now on display at Hertford Theatre which is currently being used as a vaccine centre.

Head teacher Alison Saunders, added: "I am extremely proud of

how the school and its community throughout this pandemic, have really taken their role as 'active citizens' seriously.

"This is just another wonderful example of the support and encouragement so many have shared."

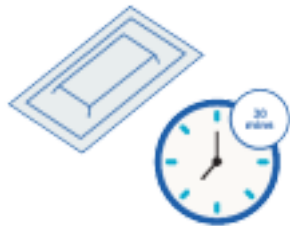
Pieces of the artwork will be included in the Hertford Art Trail which runs from April 10 until May 8.

How to do a rapid COVID-19 self-test

Instructions before starting

- Wait at least 30 minutes after you last ate or drank anything before starting the test
- Do not start it if you've had a nosebleed in the past 24 hours
- If you have a piercing swab the other nostril or remove and swab one if you have one both sides
- If you can't take a throat swab (e.g. if you've had a tracheostomy) swab both nostrils instead
- Before you start wash your hands for 20 secs in soap and warm water or use sanitiser
- Use a clean, flat surface, if doing more than one test make sure to sanitise your hands each time

Preparing your test



Read the instructions that came with your kit carefully. Take the test strip out of its pack and place it onto the cleaned flat surface. Once opened, start the test within 30 minutes.

without touching your teeth, tongue or gums.



Twist or snap open the extraction buffer sachet. Being careful not to spill any of the fluid. Open the tube and pour in all the fluid from the sachet.



Insert the same swab inside your nostril until you feel resistance, making sure you don't touch any other part of your face.

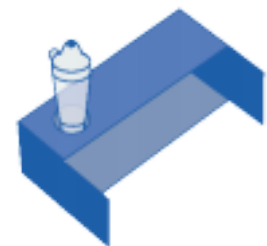
Doing your test



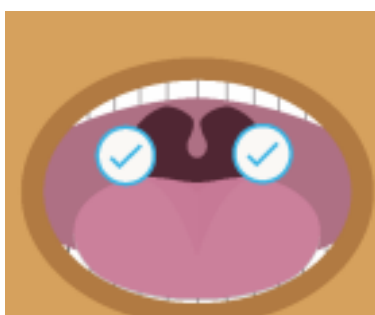
Blow your nose, wash and dry/sanitise your hands again. Remove the swab being careful not to touch the soft part.



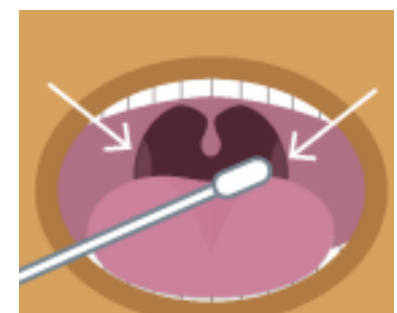
Open your mouth wide and use a mirror to locate your tonsils (or where they used to be).



Close the extraction tube cap and place the filled tube in the tube holder.

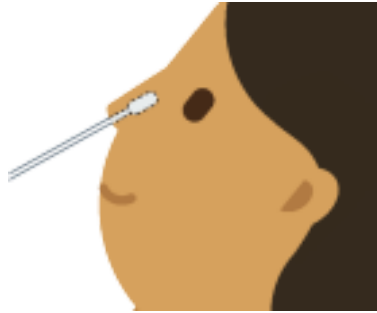


Remove the swab carefully

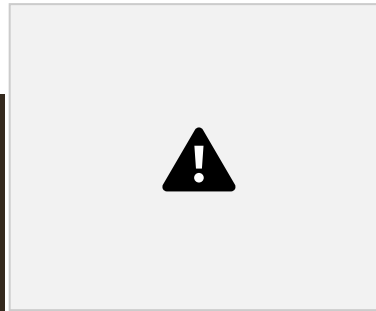


Do this firmly 4 times on each side. Use a mirror to help you do

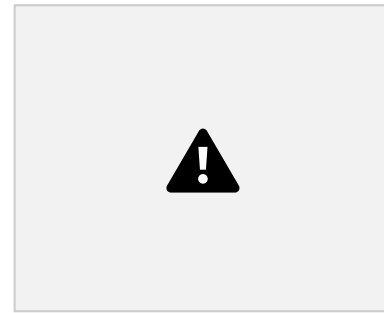
this correctly.



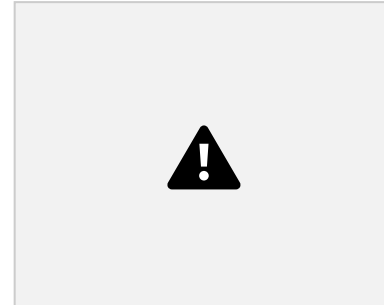
Roll the swab firmly around the inside of the nostril, making 10 complete circles.



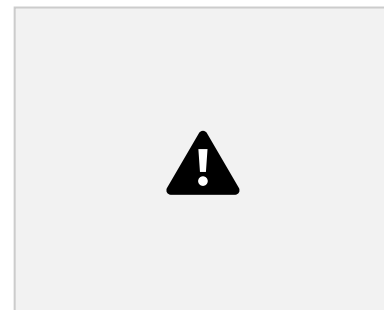
Roll the swab around the tube for 15 seconds. It is into the tube so it is in the fluid.



important to mix thoroughly.



Gently squeeze the extraction tube to place 2 drops of the fluid onto the specimen well marked 's' on the test strip.



Make sure that you are dropping fluid and not an air bubble. Set a timer for 30 minutes.

Processing your test



Pinch the tube as you remove the swab to make sure that all the fluid is removed then dispose of the swab in the waste bag provided.

Pick

up the tube, open the lid and place the

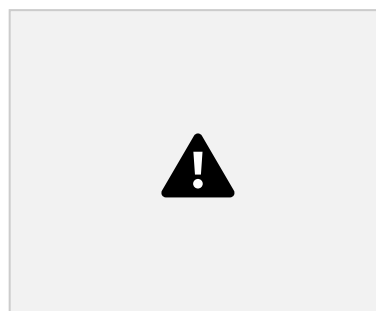


Reporting your result



To report your result you need the barcode on the test strip (or the ID number under it). Within 10 mins, you should see a line at 'C'. If C line is not visible within 30 mins, the test is invalid.

Press the tip against the edge of the tube with force.

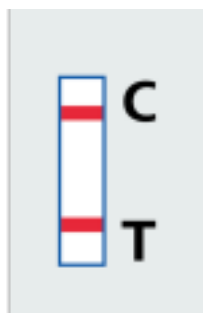


Press the nozzle cap tightly on to the tube to avoid any leaks.

Please report a positive, negative
or void result. Report your result
online at

[www.gov.uk/report-covid19-
result](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result) or call 119

If after 30 minutes you still have
only one line, your result is
negative. If you have two lines,
then your result is positive.



If you test positive, self-isolate
immediately and take a PCR test
to confirm the result.

Book a test online at

[www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus
test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119



**FUTURE LIVING HERTFORD
PRESENT**

Ready, Set, Bake... Donate!

If we can't celebrate Mother's day the way we would all like to this year, let's celebrate the women in our lives by making a cake! Young, old, first-timers, star bakers... all welcome to join.

Maybe we can't share a slice with the people we love, so let's share it online instead and raise money for victims and survivors of Domestic Abuse at the same time...

1. Register - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ready-set-bake-donate-tickets-139008276497>
2. Share! Tell everyone you know. (There can never be too much cake)
3. Follow us on Twitter and Instagram @futureliving43
4. Post your pics #READYSETBAKEDONATE on the 14th March 2021
5. Don't forget to checkout the (delicious) competition throughout the day!
6. Donate £2 (or what you can)
<http://www.goldengiving.com/e/ReadySetBakeDonate>

Prize for the winner! Check back to see who wins...

(We will announce the winner on Friday 19th March 2021)

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