

Primary phase newsletter

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today

Friday 16th April 2021

All-through news

A very warm welcome back to everyone following the Easter break. Despite still maintaining the Covid mitigations, it almost felt on Monday as if we were coming back to start a new academic year, which of course we are not! Whilst the sun shone, there were moments of sleet! However, there was definitely "hope and excitement" in the air as we saw the official opening of the Simon Balle Farm.

Many schools now have their own "animals or pets". We believe that having our own farm (albeit on a small scale) will bring many benefits. Children love animals and the discipline and responsibility of looking after them is a great learning experience. We have always emphasised the importance of the outdoors as an important space and this is an extension of our outdoor classroom and local habitats. Science and understanding nature takes on a different dimension and perhaps most importantly, the idea of "stewardship" can be taught and modelled. Whilst based in the Larch centre, a group of Y9 enthusiastic volunteers will have an opportunity to lead on a daily basis and a weekly rota. It is truly an all-through venture!

The Launch on Monday was an exciting event! We are so grateful to Mr Taylor and the Big Band for their first outdoor gig for some time - and it was so wonderful to welcome the music back! It is always an inspiration for our Larch children, and this we have awaited for some time! As well as our Year 9 farm leaders and the whole Larch, Busy Lizzies Nursery joined us too and we know already that they are really enjoying our farm and making important contributions to the animal care. It is funny really that a tortoise, rabbit, guinea pig or chicken have the power to connect us from Nursery - Year 13 as well as parents and staff too - but this is the community connection we need, perhaps now more than ever.

I met with a group of parents (reflecting the all-through) via google meet on Tuesday and we talked through the responsibilities for our community at the weekends and through the holidays. I was delighted by the number in attendance -more than 30 families! We thank you all in anticipation for your help with this great responsibility.

PSA and Fundraising

A huge thank you to James Pooley and Ian Finch (our Assistant Headteachers) for the great online quiz they ran at the end of last term. 72 families joined in and over £700 was raised.

We are delighted to announce that Jo Duggan has volunteered to act as the Chair of the PSA and we know that Jo is full of ideas so lots of exciting events to come! Do join us for the next virtual meeting (8-9.15pm) on Tuesday 27 April- a link to join will follow.

Next fundraising event- Family pizza night

Doughies, a pizza company, will deliver individual, make at home, pizza kits to school which parents have pre-ordered. Kits are collected at home time. The kit which contains all ingredients retails for £6, but the company sell it to the school for less. We will be charging £6 which can be paid via parent pay, for a basic kit or more with extras (thinking keep it simple this time around and go with £6 per kit).

Kits are nut and seed-free, come with an allergen label, can be vegan but not gluten-free as the dough is tricky to work with.

Hertford Art Trail

The Hertford Art Trail started on the 12th April and finishes on the 8th May. We are delighted that this year our primary and secondary student's artwork has been included. They produced a tribute for those who went above and beyond during the pandemic. Please see the attached flyer for full details of the trail.

World Book Day: Mrs Syme

The world book day quiz was great fun and we received a fantastic number of responses! Please see below for the list of winners who all got full marks! All winners are receiving an e-gift card from National Book Tokens very soon - delivered to their parent's email address. Well done to:

Aaron, Y3 Robins

Rosie, Y2 Deer

Ayla and Tylan, Y2 Foxes and R Hedgehogs

Lucas and Sam, Y4 Kingfishers

David, Y4 Doves

Samuel, Y5 Mallards

Oshmi, Y4 Doves

Ella, Y4 Kingfishers

Leo, Y5 Mallards

Josh, Y3 Wrens

Austin, R Hedgehogs

Bethany, 7M

Reubin, 7M

Primary news

- **Residential trips.** We believe in the importance of residential trips for so many reasons. These include our school values (resilience, courage, kindness and more), the opportunity to develop socially and emotionally, an extension of the curriculum in many ways and just the pure excitement too! We have had to postpone trips due to Covid but we are now finalising plans to bring these back. It is important to us to ensure a progression in these outdoor learning experiences, building from all we do at Simon Balle, to first steps away, to links with fieldwork in geography, and then connecting with opportunities in our secondary phase. More detailed information will follow in relation to your child's year group, but we have now reserved residential trips for:
 - Our first Year 6 cohort, whose Year 5 residential has, unfortunately, had to be postponed. This will now take place at WildChild adventure (<https://www.wildchildadventure.com/>) in May 2022.
 - Year 5 residential for our current Year 4 children. This will take place in June 2022.
 - Looking far forward, our plans were originally for the Year 5 residential to take place in the September of Year 5, and therefore this is our booking for the current Year 3 for September 2022.

Much more news to follow!

- **Reporting to parents - Summer term 2021.** We trust and hope that you know how much we value the partnership between home and school at Simon Balle. It is so important for every area of children's development, including their social, personal, and academic progress as well as all aspects of enrichment. This partnership has, I think it is fair to say, been fully tested with the impact of Covid-19! We have considered carefully how to meet with you in this summer term, and our offer for the Larch will be two-fold:
 - We will write written reports, on Go for Schools for Years 1 - 5 and on Tapestry for Reception, which will be published on Friday 2nd July. These will contain all sorts of important information, including your child's personal development, their academic attainment in relation to age-expected levels, their progress, the areas in which they thrive, the ways in which they show our school values and the ways in which they learn best. We aim for these reports to be clear, to support your

Simon Balle All-through school

child to be proud of all they have achieved, and to help guide the next steps for home learning and in transition to a new year group.

- Class teachers will also meet with each parent virtually (through School Cloud as with other 'meetings' this year) during the week beginning 5th July. As a result of both a written report and a meeting, reports will be shorter than usual. This is because we believe the connection between school and home is so important after the complexities of the year we have all had! At this meeting, you will be able to raise any questions you have following the written report and discuss together the support, and challenge, for your child in their move to a new year group.

We have considered our communication with you very carefully and we intend this to be a very helpful and open process in which we can celebrate how amazingly well your children have adapted to the challenges of the last year - fantastic flexibility, resilience, hope and more!

- **Reading.** The Larch really is a wonderful centre of reading! There is so much to celebrate from children enjoying choosing books in the library, to whole classes enjoying reading a shared text (often working on a specific content domain - from predicting to summarising to inferring, for example), to the 1:1 reading which is so beneficial for children's phonics, decoding and comprehension, to the love of listening to stories- all the way from Reception - Year 5 (and beyond)! ***I know I have said this before, but if I could ask one thing of parents, please ensure that your child reads to you each and every day and that this is recorded in their reading records.*** It does not need to be for long, but we see so, so often, the fantastic impact that this has on children's love of learning (not just reading) and their access to and unlocking of learning across the whole curriculum. Thank you for all of your support. We are running a number of interventions with reading this term to support children, and these interventions are for children of all abilities - to challenge children to the next level, to support their next steps. Reading fluency, led by Mrs Bloss, is a wonderful programme that helps children to develop their expressive reading which in turn supports their comprehension and their reading speed too. Reading eggs is a highly motivating programme to build phonics, tricky words, reading stamina and more. Each class will have additional approaches too - children who are daily readers for us, a range of phonics groups, a focus on written comprehension and more. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.
- **Extra-curricular opportunities.** We are so excited with all that is taking place! From Mandarin to journalistic writing, from cricket to baking, karate to orchestra, choir to farm club, football to athletics, running to drama to arts and crafts! We are delighted to be able to re-introduce our full extra-curricular offer and we hope that your children will enjoy all that is in place this term. An enormous thank you to all staff and to parents for your support.

Other news

- **Vacancies:**
 - We are looking to appoint a Midday Supervisor for our Larch Centre. If you would like more details please contact either of the school offices and we will give you a job description and information on how to apply. The post is permanent 5 days per week term time only. The closing date for applications is Friday 30th April.
 - Advance notice - Classroom support (particularly SEND, Literacy). We will be advertising shortly for staff, so if you are interested or know anyone who is, please do contact us as soon as possible.
- **School lunches/partnership with Accent.** Accent catering and Simon Balle have now set up daily 'lunch inspectors' as children in KS2. With a clear feedback form to complete, children daily comment in a number of areas, and complete free comments, in conversation with their friends. This will lead to a 'You said, We did' board in the Larch - a great idea to promote responsibility and an honest reflection of how restaurants work in the world outside school. We will keep you posted!

Simon Balle All-through school

- **Bikes.** Please remember that if your children cycle to school (which we absolutely encourage!), it is important for them to be locked in the bike racks in front of the Larch. Whilst they will be absolutely safe during the school day, the school site is impossible to completely close from pedestrians overnight, weekends and holidays, so locks are required.
- **Safety.** We do understand that the tree by the swimming pool is an inviting climb! As you all know, we are a school that promotes a love of outdoor learning and risk-taking! But, a reminder to parents that this is an area that needs supervision. Please respect our Covid bubbles in place, and please make sure that no child is unsupervised in this area.
- **Explorers payments.** We are now set up and registered should any parents wish to pay for Explorers using tax-free childcare. The link with all details is here: <https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>
Please email finance@simonballe.herts.sch.uk with any questions at all.
- **Dates:**
 - Week beginning 3rd May: Miss Emery begins 1:1 Google meets for all families with children joining us in Reception September 2021.
 - A reminder that Tuesday 4th May is an INSET day and that students will return on Wednesday 5th May.
 - Parents' week is the week beginning 5th July. More to follow soon in relation to virtual meeting days for each year group.
 - A high profile and exciting Art week will also take place during the week beginning 5th July.
 - Sports' week: week beginning 12th July. We are aiming for a very exciting end to the academic year!

Wishing your children a fulfilling and enriching term ahead!

Best wishes,

Mrs Alison Saunders (Headteacher) and Mrs Rachel Kirk (Vice Principal)



DOUGHIES PIZZA KITS FOR SCHOOLS

Doughies helps schools raise money by providing a home pizza-making experience, delivered to the school ready to be conveniently collected by parents.



Check out our Facebook reviews [@doughiespizza](https://www.facebook.com/doughiespizza)

0751 542 6385 • calan@doughies.co.uk



HOW IT WORKS

- You promote the pizza evening within your school community
- Parents order and pay for pizza kits via your PTA payment system such as ParentPay
- We provide a flyer you can use to promote the event, along with a guide and pizza making videos you can use to build excitement around the pizza evening
- Doughies delivers the pizza kits, containing all the ingredients required to make and bake an artisan pizza at home, all bagged up and ready for your PTA to hand to parents

We package kits in singles, doubles and triples (1, 2 or 3 pizzas), and each kit includes clear steps and instructions to make it easy and fun for everyone to make and bake their pizza using their home oven.

EACH KIT INCLUDES

- Fresh dough, perfect for use within 48 hours
- Our special tomato sauce
- Mozzarella cheese
- Grana Padana cheese
- Stretching flour

PRICING

Doughies offers schools a discount rate on our regular pricing. We charge you £4 per single pizza kit, which you can sell for £6. Each family can order as many as they'd like and we package them as singles, doubles or triples to ensure minimal packaging waste. A school of 400 students typically sells between 250 and 300 kits as many parents buy multiple units for the whole family to participate.



Bring the family together for a fun mealtime activity

0751 542 6385 • calan@doughies.co.uk

A number of schools we've worked with have approached local businesses to 'sponsor' their event - this typically involves local businesses including a flyer within each bag. In our experience, local companies are keen to be involved and it provides a nice boost to your total raised. We are happy to include this material within your kits.

SCHOOL CASE STUDY

Name: Green Lane Primary

Size: 400 students

Sponsors: The school found 2 sponsors, charging them £100 each to include a flyer in each bag

Total kits sold: 269 kits @ £6 each

Kit included: A drink and 3 Celebrations per pizza

Total event profit without sponsorship: £420

Total event profit including sponsorship: £620

PLANNING YOUR EVENT

We generally require a week's notice to ensure we can plan your event and arrange any necessary customisation. We then need your final order numbers 4 days before the event.

We pack the kits in triple-walled boxes to keep them cool, and deliver your order as close to when parents will collect them as possible. The kit is delivered in perfect condition for use either that evening, or within 48 hours of delivery providing it is kept refrigerated.

Once we receive final numbers of how many single and double kits you would like, you'll receive an invoice which is payable in advance, either online by card, or by bank transfer.

If you have any questions, or to talk to us about your event, please contact Calan at the contact details below.



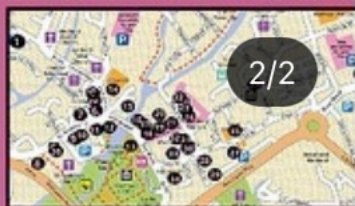
Let's chat about running a pizza night for your school

0751 542 6385 • calan@doughies.co.uk

HERTFORD 12th April - 8th May




ARTS TRAIL

1. Courtyard Arts
2. Twisted Willows
3. Frankie and Olive
4. Designer Eyes
5. Tierney Salons
6. The Women's Society Boutique
7. Maggie Amone
8. Hertford Subways
9. Retail Therapy
10. Hertford Cake Co.
11. Mark Wiles Antiques
12. Penlin's Barber Shop
13. Hertford Theatre
14. McMullens Brewery
15. Leaf Café
16. Shepherds of Hertford
17. Rossi's Attic
18. Town & Tourist Information Centre
19. Caravan
20. Hertford Library
21. Oxfam Books & Music
22. Hertford Museum
23. Brotherhood
24. Hertford Coffee Lab
25. Mint of Hertford
26. Concord Trophies
27. The Skull Club
28. Mudlarks Garden Café
29. Classic Mobility
30. Chapter79
31. Gingerlillie Boutique
32. Hertford Organic
33. Abel
34. Thomas Childs
35. Eye Mind Heart
36. St Nicholas Hall



2/2

Venues and artists are subject to change. Venue opening times may vary, visit www.gohertford.co.uk for up to date information

1 Various Artists  Postcard 25-26 June	2 Julie Cowler  25-26 June	3 Lily Bell  25-26 June	4 Lela Nash  15-16 June	5 Abbie Danson  15-16 June	6 Paula Chong  25-26 June	7 Jessie Southamer  25-26 June	8 Alex Davis & Secondary Sketching  Hertford College 25-26 June	9 Nick Ditch  25-26 June	10 Kellie Ald  25-26 June	11 Alex Devlin  15-16 June	12 Mary-Lough Brien  15-16 June
Kevin Gavanagh  The Book 25-26 June	13 Simon Bolls Students  25-26 June	14 Roy Whyard  4-6 June	15 Sarah Baylis  4-6 June	16 Teresa West  4-6 June	17 Laurence Hartley  15-16 June	18 Angela Roberts  25-26 June	19 Bernadette Dunthorne  4-6 June	20 Art Books and Music  25-26 June	21 Nikki Robinson  15-16 June	22 William Butcher  15-16 June	23 Various Artists  4-6 June
25 Georgia Inghy  25-26 June	26 James Cartan  15-16 June	27 Lee Wolkowicz  4-6 June	28 Linda Gifford  15-16 June	29 Sue Cooper  15-16 June	30 Janet Gardner  15-16 June	31 Kirstie Tobin  15-16 June	32 Aery Wilson  4-6 June	33 Steve Bullock  25-26 June	34 Claire Carey  15-16 June	35 Olivia Fernandez  4-6 June	36 Various Artists  15-16 June

FREE ENTRY!



HERTFORD ARTS TRAIL

12th April - 8th May

Free of Charge Activity

www.gohertford.co.uk



ORGANISED BY:



HERTFORD
TOWN COUNCIL

PARTNERS:



Courtyard
arts