



Secondary phase newsletter

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today

30th April 2021

Dear Families

Our values education is currently focusing upon “**compassion**” and students are exploring this theme through assemblies and values lessons. Compassion is perhaps a difficult concept for some as it is deeper than kindness and neither is it empathy. We have chosen to use the lens of social action: being moved by suffering or injustice whereby a positive response is needed. There are numerous examples from history and indeed equal numbers from current times, whereby communities or individuals have raised awareness or carried out fundraising to try and tackle a social or health issue.

I am certain that you too have been upset to see and read about how the **pandemic** is spreading in India and the acute suffering for so many. It is a timely reminder of how we still need to take great care and exercise caution. We are starting to re-think some mitigations we have introduced, whilst keeping to most. These measures along with the successful vaccination programme are helping to fight the virus nationally. The students are well aware of family members who are now vaccinated and we welcome the roll out this week to those aged 40 years and how this also heralds the next age group. This means now that many of our parents either have had their first vaccine or will shortly get one. This has been such a great achievement; however, this is a global pandemic and it is important that the rest of the world has access to vaccines. The diocese of St Albans has suggested the following compassionate action that some may wish to consider:

VACCINES – GET ONE – GIVE ONE It is a great joy that many of our community are now being vaccinated, and the Diocese has put out this appeal:

- when you are offered a vaccine, take it!
- as ‘none are safe until all are safe’, consider giving a donation in thankfulness for our own vaccinations, so that either vaccine can be purchased for countries that need them.

Those who wish to give can do so to:

- The COVAX fund is buying and getting vaccines to countries around the world. COVAX is being generously supported by the UK Government, but individuals can contribute too here: www.gavi.org/donate

Another example of community action- thank you!

Road Safety

A big thank you to those parents (mainly from our Larch Centre) who have been campaigning and making representation to the local council to address the safety issues in our surrounding roads and pavements. This week we learnt that the following safety improvements will be made:

- a new pedestrian crossing at the Simon Balle school end of the road
- new road “gateway” features at the other end of the road
- new speed management provision (probably a smiley)
- maintenance of the footway along the front of the site to include removal of the encroaching vegetation so as to restore the proper width of the pavement.



-improvements to the existing raised crossing across Hagsdell Road which will help with the walk down into the town.

We will keep you updated on this road safety improvement.

A new chapter...

We have very mixed emotions, as we say “goodbye” to our Librarian, Janet Syme, who is leaving Simon Balle All-through School after 18 years of service. Janet has made the decision she would like to spend more time with her family. She joined Simon Balle as a part-time librarian in 2003; the school was very different then, as was the library. Janet will be remembered as a “great pioneer” and a passionate advocate for reading. As Librarian of our “Humanities College- 2004,” she worked hard with senior leaders and staff to promote those important skills of inquiry and sense of place and belonging. In 2008/9, she worked with Governors and myself, to begin a groundbreaking vision for our library, as we became a flagship locally for our digital approach and our networking with international companies such as Pearson. The library space was refurbished, many books were redistributed to “good homes” and a completely different and exciting ethos emerged, led daily by Janet. The library was officially opened in 2010 by a senior staff member of the British Library.

Janet, along with others and more recently Keven Belsey, worked tirelessly on welcoming all students to the library, developing student librarians and putting on whole school events such as visiting authors, literary festivals and writing competitions. Speakers attended the schools, various creative workshops were organised and Janet also spearheaded many of our “career-focused external speakers, from well known national and international companies.

In 2015 with the opening of the All-through School, Janet leapt enthusiastically into new projects and we are also grateful to all those families who at that time and even now continue to donate good quality books. Our youngest children loved Janet’s enthusiasm and her passion for sharing stories and so she read regularly to reception and spent considerable time with all Larch students, bringing together an army of parental volunteers to help as the in situ library has grown. For every aspect of her work, we are very grateful.

We wish Janet happiness and health in any new ventures. She has left an amazing legacy and she will be greatly missed. The library and indeed libraries are now entering a new age; we are continuing to read about school libraries nationally and internationally to think about our next steps. If anyone has any thoughts, experiences or wishes to get involved, please do contact harmanm@simonballe.herts.sch.uk, our School Manager with your thoughts.

SIMON BALLE SCHOOL PSA

Throughout lockdowns, we have been continuing to organise events that raise additional funding for the school. The recent balloon race raised over £1000 and the successful quiz night hosted by our very own Mr Finch and Mr Pooley raised over £720. Funding so far this year has gone towards the cost of the school minibuses as well as towards the purchase of a hoist for the school swimming pool which will improve accessibility for pupils with disabilities. To find out more and get involved please email: psa@simonballepsa.org.uk



Pizza Night - Friday 14th May





We've teamed up with Doughies for a fun family night in for all ages!

Order your pizza making kits via ParentPay and you'll receive everything you need to create your own 12" artisan Margarita pizza in your home oven.

Kits cost £6 each, a portion of which will go towards Simon Balle PSA. **Orders promptly close on 8th May to enable sufficient order processing time.** We regret we are unable to accept orders after this time.

Kits will be ready for collection at home time on Friday 14th May.

There are lots of other ways you can help to raise money for the school – some of them don't even cost you a penny!

smile.amazon.co.uk

Every time you buy something from Amazon you can raise money directly for the PSA. Just click on the following link, sign up and start shopping! <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/281561-0>



We are also registered with **Give as you Live** which has over 4000 leading stores registered including; eBay, Tesco, John Lewis, Amazon, Sainsbury's, Just Eat and Trainline to name but a few:

www.giveasyoulive.com/join/simonballepsa or download the app:

www.giveasyoulive.com/how-it-works/on-the-go



Would you like to be in with the chance of winning £25,000? Visit www.easthertslottery.co.uk/support/simon-balle to buy your lottery ticket and raise money for the school. The PSA gets 50% of all ticket sales through our page. Draws take place every Saturday at 8 pm.



Now that everyone is back at school it might be time to refresh those nametags. My nametags give 24% commission to the school with each order. Just use our **school ID on the checkout: 37273**

Visit: www.mynametags.com to get started.

Reminder



Please remember that Monday 3rd May is a Bank Holiday and Tuesday 4th May is an inset day so students will start back in school on Wednesday 5th May.

Keeping your children safe online

Please see the attached leaflets from Herts for Learning which offer excellent tips and advice

Car park

Can we please remind you not to drive on-site when either dropping off or picking up. Parking permits are available for the Old London Road car park so families can 'park and stride' By doing this you will be alleviating traffic in the car park, making it safer for families and staff.

Secondary News

Staggered end to the day

As of Wednesday 5th May, the secondary school will be ending the staggered finish at the end of the day. Therefore all secondary students will leave the site at 3.10 pm every day.

Best wishes,

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



SCHOOL PIZZA EVENT

FRIDAY 14TH MAY

We've teamed up with Doughies for a fun family night in. Order your pizza making kits and you'll receive everything you need to make artisan Margherita pizzas in your home oven.



Orders to be placed via ParentPay by Saturday 8th May

Orders to be collected on Friday 14. Details will be shared with primary and secondary phases.



EACH KIT MAKES 1 X 12" PIZZA, COSTS £6 AND INCLUDES:

- 01** 1 Fresh dough ball perfect for baking that evening, or within 48 hours
- 02** 90 grams of special tomato pizza sauce
- 03** 80 grams of fresh, cubed mozzarella (or vegan mozzarella)
- 04** 10 grams of grated Grana Padano cheese for an added depth of flavour
- 05** Fresh basil
- 06** A pouch of stretching flour to help stretch your dough balls

Each kit includes printed instructions, and the Doughies website contains videos and tips to help you stretch and cook the perfect home oven pizza



Bring the family together for a fun mealtime activity

Take photos of your pizza creations and share them with us on Facebook

Online Safety News



Summer 2021 | PARENT | CARER

Digital 5 a day - Digital safety wellbeing kit

Digital technology plays a huge role in helping children learn, play and stay connected with friends and family. The Digital 5 a day framework from the Children's Commissioner is useful to help children get the most from their time online and balance digital wellbeing with overall wellbeing. It is a tool that parents and carers can use to guide, support and maintain conversation about time spent online.

Find out more:

[Children's Commissioner | 5 a day](#)

The 5 elements of a good digital diet are:

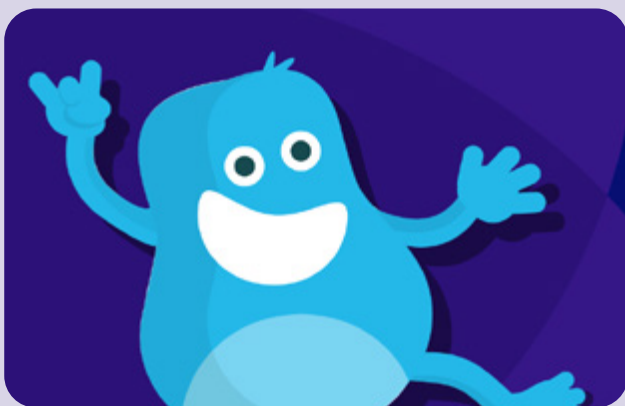
- connect
- be active
- get creative
- give to others
- be mindful



A digital safety and wellbeing kit containing updated guidance around the digital 5 ways to wellbeing has been developed and it includes guidance on video calling, browsers, user names, passwords, apps and how to balance your child's screen time and improve their wellbeing.

[Children's Commissioner | Parents' digital safety wellbeing kit](#)





Ollee – ‘Your helpful digital friend’

Ollee is a new app developed by Parent Zone and Children in Need and it allows children think about their feelings, get advice, and most importantly, start talking to a trusted adult. It is designed to stop small worries growing and getting out of hand.

Children can choose a subject they want to talk about, this might be; school, friends, family, their body, the world and internet. They choose an emotion that matches how they feel and this leads to a page of helpful advice.

Children under 13 will need parent or carer approval if they wish to make an account to enable them to save advice. They may wish to use the app without an account.

Find out more or download the app: [Ollee](#)

What parents and carers need to know about WhatsApp (16+ age rating)



National Online Safety have produced a useful guide for parents/carers on the popular messaging service, WhatsApp. The guide has tips on a number of potential risks when using the site such as stranger danger, live location sharing and disappearing messages.

Read their advice:

NOS | What Parents Need to Know About WhatsApp

Tips to keep children safe on Netflix



If you share your account with your child you may wish to set up parental controls to help stop children watching inappropriate or adult content.

O2 and the NSPCC have put together a series of tips to keep children safe on Netflix.

Netflix | Tips to keep your child safe on Netflix



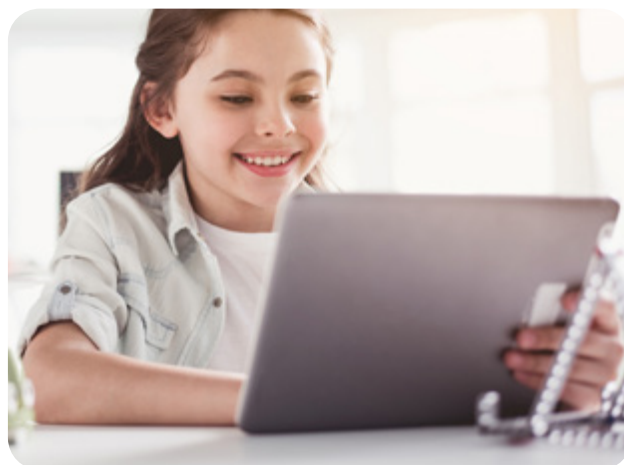
Net Aware – helping to keep children safe online

A parental guide to the latest social networks, apps and games that young people are using has been produced by O2 and the NSPCC. The resources are designed to help parents have more regular conversations with their children about online safety – enabling more families to enjoy the digital world with confidence.

O2 and NSPCC | Online Safety



Let's keep kids safe online



Childnet | Online safety activities you can do from home



The information in the newsletter is given to help promote the safety of children and young people online.

Every care has been taken to ensure the information and any recommendations in the newsletter are accurate at the time of publishing. Schools must make their own judgements when sharing our recommendations with parents and carers and, where appropriate, always risk assess with their pupils and whole school community in mind.

This newsletter is brought to you by the Herts for Learning Wellbeing team as part of their online safety support for schools and settings in Hertfordshire.

Herts for Learning

Herts for Learning (HfL) is a provider of products and services to schools and educational settings within and outside Hertfordshire. We believe that every young person, through access to a great education, should be able to realise their potential, regardless of where they live or their circumstances. We focus on supporting the schools and settings we work with to achieve successful long-term outcomes for their children.