

# Primary phase newsletter

*Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today*

Friday 24th September 2021

## All-through news

Rachel Kirk, as Primary Lead, and I remain so optimistic as we have seen how the Simon Balle All through Community is now back into the usual rhythm for the Autumn Term. Our children and young people are engaged in their learning in so many ways and taking up the vast number of opportunities on offer, particularly sport and music. We continue to plan numerous events both for individual cohorts as well as the wider school. Next week sees the return of our annual fun run and the week after our Harvest Festival for our primary children, to be held at All Saints Church.

We took the decision several months ago that our annual open day could not run as usual and we are holding a series of events to welcome potential families. Unlike some local schools we are trying to run these outside of the school day which is proving to be a challenge in terms of logistics. However, we trust that you, our school community, can inform new parents of what the school does on a daily basis: the quality of the learning, the real care and support, the emphasis upon values and citizenship and the great quality of relationships. In addition, once again the Headteacher's message will be online. Hopefully next Autumn things can resume and we can celebrate our community in our traditional way!

## Calling all alumni

From time to time we receive reports of what our previous students are doing and we are always amazed by the sheer range and depth of what they have achieved. We are looking not only to reconnect with past students but also celebrate their achievements with current students, as part of our aspirational programmes. Therefore please encourage ex students to email in or do so yourselves so we can get a real buzz about this. We only need a few paragraphs which should be sent to [admin@simonballe.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@simonballe.herts.sch.uk). Coming out of what has been such a difficult period for so many of our young people, we need to show them what they also can achieve! We really look forward to hearing your news.

## Social media

At Simon Balle All-through School, we value the importance of collaboration and communication between all stakeholders. To this end, we are currently looking at the way in which we use our social media accounts. We are aware of the crucial role social media plays in education and how this can help all stakeholders, especially you as parents/carers, to get information quickly and efficiently, to connect with our community and to experience key events we have in our calendar.

Our social media accounts will be used to *promote, inform and delight*. **We strongly recommend that parents have access to and follow all our social media accounts.** We use Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

Our Instagram account is **simon\_balle\_school**. This will primarily be used to promote our key events during the academic year. We feel this platform will support the magical moments that our children and students experience throughout each term.

Our Twitter account is **@Simon\_Balle**. This will primarily be used to inform you of key information. This may be in the form of specific reminders or details of which you may be required to take note. We feel this platform will ensure communication is more efficient and helpful for you.

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Our Facebook account is easily found when searching for **Simon Balle School**. This will primarily be used to delight parents with a vast majority of instantaneous posts that capture great learning, moments to remember and exciting activities. We feel this popular platform can demonstrate what it really is like to be at Simon Balle All-through School.

Please note that a majority of posts may be duplicated over all three platforms. These social media accounts are an addition to our normal communication; **nothing is being removed or replaced** - so, if you prefer to connect with us through our newsletters and/or our website as well as the emails that we send, then please do not worry - these will continue.

We hope that you have access to these sites and welcome the news feeds that await. Our vision of promoting, informing and delighting is simply a means for us to collaborate and communicate more closely than previously. We will be sending out a parental survey about the use of social media to get your views on the experience and posts sent out after half term, as we will strongly value your views in moving this strategy further forward.

### **SBAS Fun Run 2021**

We are really looking forward to our all through community Fun Run, next Tuesday 28th September. The organisation for the day has been shared with all students and we have over 100 signed up to complete the elite race. As previously communicated, this is our main fundraising event and thank you to all who have contributed so far.

The best way to contribute towards this year's Fun Run is to make a donation via [Parent Pay](#) as we are able to claim Gift Aid on these donations. When you login you will see two payment items available to you:

Fun Run donations (With Gift Aid)

Fun Run donations (Without Gift Aid)

We have asked for a donation of at least £10 per student / £15 per family if siblings, but we also appreciate that some families may not be able to contribute this much so any contribution is valued.

All participants can compete at their own pace and wear their PE kit. They may also wish to complete the course in fancy dress. The theme of this year's Fun Run is Heroes. Primary parents have been communicated to regarding arrangements for changing.

### **Gradu8 Club**

We are proud to say that the inaugural launch of our Gradu8 programme for Year 7 has been a resounding success in the first few weeks of this year. This is a research-based, personalised academic enrichment programme that is designed to stretch and support students in equal measure so they engage, thrive and progress from the start of their academic journey with us.

Running every Monday and Thursday morning from 8am, and fuelled by copious amounts of brioche, juice and bananas, an average of 165 students have attended each session to establish a fantastic culture from the very beginning of their time with us. This is incredibly rewarding to see for all involved.

### **Study Club**

As part of encouraging the aspirational attitude we expect all of our students to demonstrate, our Wednesday Study Club returns this week for Year 6-9 in our library. Supported by staff, we hope to see many students attending the session in the library to complete their home learning.

### **Bike to School Week**

Bike to School Week is a week-long event across the UK to encourage families to cycle and scoot to school. It's a great way to celebrate the huge benefits an active school run brings. This year it takes place from 27 September to 1 October 2021. Please support us to help your children stay fit, active and healthy!

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## Music

Music Hall of Fame

Thanks to everyone who voted in our Hall of Fame. Voting has now closed and we will count down the top 20 pieces each week. So now for the big reveal....

In 20th place this year in our Hall of Fame is... **Bolero by Maurice Ravel** (week beginning 13th September)

In 19th place in our Hall of Fame is... **Le Onde by Ludovico Einaudi** (week beginning 20th September)

Don't forget you can listen to the 100 Hall of Fame pieces on our Spotify playlist here:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/39aeNJ0J2bkGeVJYuF4Wrp?si=e5e04aee022240af>

## School Parliament 2021-2022

We are pleased to announce our form representatives

Year Group		Form Representative	Extra Curricular Representative	
Year 5	Mallard	Daisy		
	Swan	Lola		
Year 6	Owls	Maxwell		
	Eagles	Isabel		
	Ashbourne	Nitika		Meara
Year 7	Beane	Elizabeth		Lincoln
	Rib	Ethan		Adrian
	Lea	Fatima		Sunny
	Mimram	Amelia		Harry
	New	Shaly		Abigail
	Year 8	Ashbourne	Christina	Thomas
Beane		Finley	Lewis	
Rib		Elise	Leon	
Lea		Olly	Sophie	
Mimram		Reubin	Anabel	
New		Kavin	Robin	
Year 9	Ashbourne	Grace	William	
	Beane	Oscar	JJ	

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	Rib	Niall and Orla	Esher
	Lea	Aun	Elizabeth
	Mimram	Roan	May
	New	Madi	Ethan
Year 10	Ashbourne	Rosie	Alfie
	Beane	Fatma	Jesse
	Rib	Ilan	Brandon
	Lea	Lucas	Trent with Fran
	Mimram	Taya	Scarlett
	New	Zoe	Lilian
Year 11	Ashbourne	Harry	Lily
	Beane	William	Ashton
	Rib	Jack	Kobi
	Lea	Sophie	Zakari
	Mimram	Carlo	Lola
	New	Nicole	Lewis
Year 12	Ashbourne	Oviya	Sarah
	Beane	Ada	Alexandra
	Rib	Paul	Emma
	Lea	Jacob	Luke
	Mimram	Term 1 - Charles. Term 2 - Clara-Belle Term 3 - Yasmin	Jay
	New	Grace	Willow
Year 13	Ashbourne	Skye	Max
	Beane	Emily	Harry
	Rib	Ruby	Isabella
	Lea	Alex	Leon
	Mimram	Callum	Alex
	New	Millie	Roberto

As well as form discussion, year council and the School Parliament we are also running focus groups. This is a great opportunity for students to chat to other year groups and make changes to how we educate students, staff and change the physical fabric of our school.

### **Sustainability / Eco Group**

The Sustainability Working Group will be responsible for driving forward change that helps Simon Balle to become more environmentally friendly. They will work closely with key stakeholders such as the Business and Premises Managers and student volunteers in both the primary and secondary phase. They will be responsible for promoting and supporting the volunteer groups, and coordinating efforts to achieve the coveted Eco-Schools Green Flag award.

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## **Diversity / Inclusivity Group**

Hopefully society is changing for the better, individuals like Marcus Rashford are influencing this change. How do we educate and shape diversity and inclusion in our school community? How can we as students influence this change in our understanding of issues, our actions, how we speak and the physical environment. This will be a great group to discuss and explore key issues which impact our lives..

## **Primary news**

### **Teaching and learning**

It is such a privilege and pleasure to visit classrooms across the Larch - there is nothing more important that I do all week! With a full and thriving Larch, I have been inspired by so much this fortnight! Our Reception children have settled in so well, are already demonstrating our Simon Balle values and are showing us great commitment to their learning. When I visited, they were focussing on their pencil grip (two frogs on a log!) and learning how to form a cursive 'i'. Thank you for all your support in helping to develop children's fine motor skills at home - from use of cutlery, to lego, from drawing and colouring, even to gross motor skills of balancing and climbing, as well, of course, as practising their new handwriting skills in home learning - thank you! Year 1 have been practising working out 1 more and 1 less this week - whether your child is practising this for 1 - 10, or 1 - 100, or applying their learning to number sentences (for example,  $55 + 1 = 56$ ), please do support this important skill at home. I have been delighted to see some excellent Year 1 writing too, where the children are remembering so many rules (capital letters, full stops, writing all the way across lines, finger spaces and more) - well done Year 1! When I visited Year 2, they were enjoying both spelling and football! In spelling, they were grappling with the 'tch' trigraph (for example, in 'stitch' or 'patch' or 'kitchen') and in football there was an exciting mini tournament - great to see children applying their passing and teamwork skills. Year 3 children were immersed in Amelia Earhart when I visited - considering what she may have been able to hear, see, touch, taste and smell on her very first journey. Their mathematics is also allowing them to be very precise this week - calculating scales for measures in different intervals. Year 4 are fully engaged with their text from the Literary Canon, the Highwayman. A lively debate was underway when I visited: which characters are heroes or villains and why? Equally lively was their Spanish lesson where they were learning to tell the time in Spanish - great for Spanish, mathematics and everyday life! The Literary Canon was important to Year 5 too at the time of my visit - Tuesday is such a wonderful picture book. Year 5 have been witnesses to some inexplicable events and are currently writing police statements, including subordinating clauses. I am truly impressed with the writing across Year 5 so far this term - so many wonderful examples of creating tension and atmosphere displayed on 'wow' walls! As I moved on my way to reach Year 6, I must thank both children and parents for their commitment to music. From violin to cello, clarinet to flute, tenor horn to trumpet, and more - the Larch is certainly alive with music! Phew - to Year 6! I visited during French and was delighted to understand how the children were learning adjectives in French (for example, 'gentil', 'modeste', 'poli'), but also comparing these words to the English, spotting spelling patterns and more. Their chrome books were fully in use for finding more obscure translations! In mathematics too, it was great to see their independence - accessing bronze, silver, gold and further challenges on google classroom: all children were fully engaged in furthering their understanding of factors of numbers.

I won't share teaching and learning for every year group every fortnight - just too much to share (and do watch out for sharing on social media with details above) - but I hope this helps to give an insight into a typical Larch day!

### **An introduction to our Larch headboy and girl and their deputies**

Hi! I'm Maxwell, the Larch Head Boy, and my goal is to help the school become even better. Also, helping others build more and more confidence. Hi! I'm Isabel and I'm the Larch Head Girl. I wanted to be the head girl because I wanted the opportunity to help the school grow in different ways. Hello, my name is Eva and I wanted to be

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Deputy Head Girl so I could watch the school grow and help the pupils grow with it. I love being able to see pupils become more confident in their learning and to always take an opportunity when given it. Hi! I'm Sonny. I am the Deputy Head Boy and I love my role because I get to help students grow in confidence and in their learning.

### **Explorers provision**

Thank you for supporting us with our exciting Years 3 - 6 offer! We have a fantastic number of students engaging in all activities, and it is wonderful to see extra-curricular provision thriving from 7.45am to 6pm each day. We wanted to share some thoughts from the children - after all, what matters most to them, matters most to us! Google forms will be sent out to parents and children during October so that we can find out more from your perspective.

*I love coming to Explorers because Miss Norbury and Mr Leonard are really fun and the food they make is brilliant and really tasty! Also, you can ask them anything so don't be shy. They have a whole cupboard full of games and arty stuff too! – Jazz*

*I love coming to Explorers because all of the clubs are so much fun, the food is delicious and Miss Norbury and Mr Leonard are very fun and kind – Rosey*

*I enjoy playing Tag Rugby with Mr Leonard, reading in the book corner and playing Lego with my friends. – Isaak*

*I enjoy playing football and when I come to the Sycamore room I like to play table tennis and pool – Jack*

*I love going to Explorers! There is lots to do, and if I haven't already, I can do my homework. I also enjoy going to lock up the mini farm and looking after the animals. I love to just relax and read my book. – Beatrix*

*I think Explorers is fun because there are a lot of things to do and you are with your friends playing games! I am enjoying the piano, the arts and crafts and all of the Harry Potter games. – Thayla*

*I enjoy Explorers because it's a really fun place! I love playing pool and table tennis with my friends and I like that we have snacks instead of dinner at Explorers. – Orson*

### **Walking bus**

We are very excited that the Walking Bus is about to launch! From Hi Viz jackets to training to timetables, plans are in hand for the launch on Monday 4th October. We are very appreciative of all of the work carried out by Mrs J. Brown (governor and parent), as well as Mr Klippel and our sixth form team to get us ready for the launch! We are starting small with those parents who expressed interest in the summer term last year - both to volunteer and to request a place on the 'bus.' We hope that there is much potential for growth, but this won't be until after October half term. Please look out and support our new initiative which has so many benefits, from the environment, to the need to avoid parking on site, to working parents, to the commitment of our sixth formers and more.

### **Olympic Diving Talent search**

This year following the Olympics, British Diving has launched a National Virtual Talent Search to replace the talent searching in schools due to COVID. Luton Diving Club is one of the 7 diving programs in the country identified as a talent centre for this National Talent Search and the only one in the area.

Children who have a background in gymnastics, tumbling or sports arco often have excellent transferable skills for diving; however anyone who can swim 25m and is up for the challenge can apply.

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If you would like to apply for your child the details are in the link below. When completing the form please select Luton Diving Club as the nearest Talent Centre. The deadline to apply is the end of September and is for children aged 8-14. <https://www.swimming.org/diving/diving-virtual-talent-search/>

### **Sports kit update- Year 5 and 6**

We are delighted that children in Year 5 and 6 are having the opportunity to take part in many different sports in their sporting journeys with us and this has resulted in us renewing our sports kits to ensure that they are in line with what Year 7 children are asked to bring in for their lessons.

In Year 5 and 6 we are now going to be adding the following to our kit list for PE lessons:

Gum shield  
Shin pads  
Long green socks

This is in addition to the green PE tops that we brought in a few years ago.

These will continue to be used into their sporting journeys within our secondary phase and will ensure that we continue to provide high quality PE lessons for all children. As we are only just introducing these items now it is not necessary for the children to have these items straight away.

### **Dates**

- Monday 27th September, 9am. Reception parents' Phonics, reading and Tapestry workshop. One parent per family is welcomed into school to attend. We look forward to seeing you all.
- Tuesday 28th September. Fun run!
- Monday 4th October, 10am. Harvest, at All Saints' Church. Years 1 - 6 (*children only*). Please bring donations for the Hertford and district foodbank on Friday 1st October - to be handed in in class. Please see a list of suggested items attached to this newsletter. We thank you in anticipation of your important and generous contributions.
- Week beginning 18th October - Parents' week. All appointments will be through School Cloud - appointments will be released for booking next week.

*Wishing you all an exciting and fulfilling fortnight ahead!*

*Best wishes,*

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



## Shopping List Harvest 2021

Please help feed local people in crisis by buying items from our list and donating them to Hertford & District foodbank.

# Thank you!

Small jars of coffee 100g  
Tinned potatoes  
Instant mashed potato  
Rice 500g & 1kg packets  
Jars Chilli, Curry or Sweet & sour cooking sauces  
Cup a soups  
Tinned vegetables peas or carrots  
Tinned spaghetti  
Tinned fruit  
Ready mixed custard - tinned  
Instant custard powder  
Rice pudding - tinned  
Long-life fruit juice in cartons  
Sweet biscuits

### A FEW LITTLE EXTRAS

Toilet rolls  
Washing up liquid  
Deodorant / antiperspirant  
Shower gel  
Shampoo  
Toothpaste





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## Launch of online tool to flag unsafe areas to police

Dear Watch Member,

The Government, with support from the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), has launched a new tool for people to flag unsafe areas to police.

They have asked all police forces to publicise this new online platform.

Hosted on the national policing website [police.uk](https://www.police.uk) and aimed primarily at women and girls, the tool, named StreetSafe, enables members of the public to anonymously drop a pin onto a map and describe factors that cause them concern, including behavioural or environmental reasons why they felt unsafe.

These could range from a poorly-lit walkway to instances of public harassment and will mean concerns can be raised with police, whether or not a crime has been committed.

The information will be used alongside other key data by policing, in partnership with stakeholders, to deliver improved wellbeing and safety for communities.

Visit <https://www.police.uk/streetsafe> to have your say.

If you need to reply regarding this message, tap on this email address: [fcenquiries@herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:fcenquiries@herts.pnn.police.uk)

Regards,

Corporate Communication - ND

*Hertfordshire Press & PR Department*

Email: [fcenquiries@herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:fcenquiries@herts.pnn.police.uk)

Police Contact Advice

- Telephone 999 in an emergency where there is a danger to life or a crime is in progress.
- Telephone 101 for non-emergencies where police attendance is required, to report a crime or to report any other incidents.
- Alternatively, visit [www.herts.police.uk/contact](https://www.herts.police.uk/contact) to report a non-emergency crime online or chat to a police operator live via our webchat service.
- If you are calling about the above message, please tell us that you are responding to a message from OWL.