



Secondary phase newsletter

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today

Friday 22nd October 2021

ALL THROUGH NEWSLETTER

We have finally reached half term and we are delighted that so much has managed to get back to normal. Our students in every phase have been enjoying a rich and varied curriculum, clubs and activities before and after school, along with simply being with their friends. Being at school, keeping schools open is so important which is why we need everyone to still be careful and understand that we are not back to normal yet! One of the joys this week has been the comeback of our School Parliament led by our Head boys and girls, our Larch (Y6) headboy and girl along with representatives from every year group. Our Governor present was incredibly impressed by the eloquence of students and the maturity with which they discussed issues.

This is a bumper edition and in particular an opportunity to celebrate sports at Simon Balle All-through school. Music news to follow after half term! We are aware that this is a long read, so please bear with us as we make plans for the newsletter to be a little more user-friendly next half term.

St Andrews Church- Art exhibition

The opening evening for the exhibition took place on Friday 8th October. The exhibition and opening evening were attended by a number of notable members of the local community and local artists including Paul Crowley (who designed the Hertford lockdown poster which raised over £50,000 for the NHS Charities), the I Love Hertford Instagram group and Brotherhood.

The two pieces of art chosen that were by children were from Dali (Year 8) and Henry (Yr4). Well done to our artists!

Our students have also been busy giving the town's subways a new lease of life as the article below from the Mercury explains.





Covid reminders

With Covid cases rising both nationally and locally it is our duty to remind all that social distancing, washing your hands and good respiratory hygiene (using and disposing of tissues), cleaning surfaces and keeping indoor spaces well-ventilated are the most important ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19. For secondary students and staff, please continue to lateral flow test during half term and should the test be positive, book a PCR test as soon as possible. Those eligible should test on Sunday 31st October before returning on the 1st November. We do not want to be forced to close the school for a period of time due to a high number of cases.

Word of the Week

At Simon Balle we know that vocabulary is a proxy for learning and integral to being successful in school. Indeed this is one of the reasons why we value reading so highly. However, alongside reading and exposure to high quality spoken words, we know it is essential to explicitly teach vocabulary.

This is taking place throughout the school at every age but we also wanted to take each opportunity to raise the profile of vocabulary on a day-to-day basis and one key way we have done this is through the Word of the Week. Each week our librarian Rosemary Iles drafts a Word of the Week for the all-through, in English, French and Spanish, which is then not only dotted around the site, shared with staff and used in assemblies, but is also shared with parents and carers via social media. Please look for this weekly to discuss with your child as well as seeking out as many opportunities as possible to increase their exposure to language.

Statutory Admissions Consultation 2023/2024

We are holding a consultation on our Admission Arrangements for 2023/2024.

The consultation period takes place between 19th October and 30th November 2021. If you wish to make any comments regarding this consultation please email admin@simonballe.herts.sch.uk.

The admission arrangements can be found on the school website.

Spotlight on PE News

What an action packed first half term it has been for school sport at Simon Balle. Our students have participated in many sports across District, County and National level. As well as providing our students with many opportunities and sporting experiences, we have also hosted our first Cross Country event in 2 years, where our sports leaders had their first opportunity to volunteer - and what a fantastic job they did! Girls football is back with training taking place every Tuesday and our teams are represented in all levels of competition this year.

Congratulations to all those football players who are representing Herts and LVSSA teams, a phenomenal achievement to be selected.

Our sports enrichment offer this half term has produced some of the largest numbers we have had as sport at Simon Balle continues to flourish. A final note before we review the past half term is that please do visit our new sport website at <https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/sport/> and we would very much like to hear your feedback on the clarity of communication this provides. Please send your comments to our email address at sport@simonballe.herts.sch.uk



District Cross Country League

The Cross Country season got off to a great start with a win from Alfie (Y7) and a second place finish for Sylvie (Y7). Both the Boys and girls team finished in the top 3 in the team event.



It was then onto the District League in October. This competition took place over two rounds this year, with the first round being held at Presdales School and the final at Simon Balle. Alfie (Y7) won both his races becoming the Year 7 District Champion with the boys team finishing 5th overall. Emily (Y7) was our top girls performer finishing 4th overall with the Year 7 girls team finishing 3rd overall. The team results and top performers from the rest of the races are as follows:

- Year 8/9 boys: Kingston (Y9) finished 4th overall and the team finished 3rd
- Year 8/9 girls: Poppy (Y9) achieved a top 10 overall finish and the team were 3rd
- Open boys (Y10+): Adam (Y13) achieved a top 10 finish and the team finished 2nd
- Open Girls (Y10+): Zoe (Y10) achieved a top 5 position and the team finished 3rd.

Great consistency demonstrated by all teams and we now look forward to the District Cross Country Championships which will be held at Simon Balle on Wednesday 10th November.

The HSA County Cross Country Championships 2022 take place on Saturday 5th February for Year 5-13 students.



Netball & Hockey update



The Year 7 and 8 hockey team had excellent performances against John Warner this week. This was the Year 7s first hockey match of the year and despite never playing together before, they displayed excellent team work. The girls showed great resilience and had an excellent second half where they scored 2 great goals. The final score was 4-2 to John Warner.

The Year 8s have shown fantastic improvement since the district hockey tournament last month. They demonstrated great width and depth in attack and were strong on the ball. Defensively they restricted the other team from entering the shooting circle and denied any goals. The final score was 6-0 to Simon Balle.

The Year 9 hockey team played John Warner last week and won 3-0 with 3 different goal scorers. A great team performance from a promising group.

The Year 7s have shown excellent commitment to netball training this year with over 45 girls attending each week. In their first game against Chauncy, both the A + B teams displayed impressive performances winning with a combined score of 29-2.

The Y10s have had a brilliant start to their netball season. A brilliant win against John Warner winning 32-13, followed by another excellent win against Goffs combined with the Y11s. The girls have worked hard at training and their commitment has been excellent. Looking forward to the girls continuing their hard work and success after half term.





Football update

The football season has started well with all year groups having played in both the National and County cup. It has been really good to have such a large number of boys and girls out training on each night of the week. Below is a quick summary of each year group's progress so far:

Year 7

- Through the 3rd round of the national cup with a bye in round one and a good win against Stoke Newington in the 2nd round.
- Unfortunately, the team was knocked out in the first round of the county cup losing 4-2 to a very good Richard Hale side.

Year 8

- Through to the 3rd round of the National Cup with a bye in round one and a win in extra time against Mossbourne Community Academy in round 2. The team now play Alexandra Park School on Monday 1st November in the next round.
- The boys were knocked out of the county cup losing 7-5 in extra time to Parmiters School in a spirited game, where the boys came back from 1-4 down to take the game to extra-time. Sam B has been our top goal scorer so far, performing at an exceptional level.



Year 9

- Knocked out of the second round of the National Cup by Glyn School after dominating the game for the first 20 minutes. An unfortunate free kick towards the end of the first half led to them scoring. After some great opportunities throughout the game we were still unable to score.
- Difficult start to our County Cup game finishing the first half 5-0 down. The team kept their heads up and played a much better second half, with the majority of the possession being within their half.

Year 10

- The Year 10 team beat Knights Templar School 8-3 to progress into the next round of the County Cup. This is to be played after half term.

Year 11

- Knocked out of the National Cup in round 1 by Dr Challoners despite playing some very good football.
- After beating St Columbus 3-1 after extra time the team are through to round 2 of the county cup



Senior

- After a bye in round 1 of the National Cup the team travelled to The Perse School in the second round where they won 5-2. Round 3 to be played after half term.
- Again the team got a bye in round one and will play at home to Marriotts School after half term in the second round.

U13 girls (Y7&8)

- The girls will play Beaumont School in the second round of the County Cup after half term.

U14 girls (Y8&9)

- Knocked out of the first round losing to Sandringham School in a closely fought competition.
- Through to the 3rd round of the County Cup after a bye in round one and a 3-2 win against Katherine Warrington School in round 2

We will look to play all years district football competitions after Christmas alongside our Saturday morning football fixtures.

Rugby update

Year 7-10 boys have enjoyed a good start to the school rugby season, playing against schools such as Broxbourne, Samuel Ryder, Freman College and Leventhorpe. It has been fantastic to see big numbers participating in these games and we now look forward to many more games in November and December where we will be playing fixtures against Chauncy, JWS and Goffs Churchgate schools. Our next Saturday fixture for Y7-9 is against Birchwood on the 13th November at 9am; all games are due to be played at Birchwood School.



Sports Leadership

Well done to the students who supported the organisation and running of the District Cross Country final last week at Simon Balle. As a consequence of their marshalling and support at the finish, alongside Simon Balle staff, this led to a very successful event.

The year 8 sports leaders have had a fantastic half term planning a wide range of sessions. As well as creating their own invasion games in small groups which they will be delivering to our younger year groups after half term.

Finally thank you to our sixth form sports ambassador students, Courtney (Y12), Grace (Y13), Kathryn (Y13) and Grace (Y13) who have been supporting lessons and clubs this year so far.



Inter House Sports



Our first Inter house sports competition of the year has taken place this week and so far it's been a resounding success. The weather has been kind after a forecast of rain for the week. The week started with Year 11 Football and Netball. Year 7-10 girls have continued with netball, whilst the Year 7-10 boys have participated in our first touch Rugby competition. So far at the time of writing, the results including the top 3 houses are as follows:



	Sports		Overall Year House winners
Year 11	Football 1. Lea 2. Beane 3. Mimram	Netball 1. Mimram 2. Beane 3. Lea	Beane
Year 10	Touch Rugby 1. Mimram 2. Beane 3. Ashbourne	Netball 1. Beane 2. New 3. Rib	Beane
Year 9	Touch Rugby 1. Ashbourne 2. Rib 3. Beane	Netball 1. New 2. Ashbourne 3. Lea	Ashbourne
Year 7 & 8	Results TBC - Please see @simonballesport for more updates		

Secondary Sports Extra-curricular programme 2021 Autumn term (second half)

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
Lunch (Indoor)	Sixth Form Fitness & Table tennis	Y7 Basketball (Mr East)	Sixth Form Fitness & Table tennis	Y8 Basketball (Mr Brennan)	Goalball (Mr Moses)
After school	Y7+8 Hockey (Miss Newman) Y9-11 Hockey (Mrs Scarrott) Y8 Rugby (Mr Brennan) Y9 Basketball (Mr Moses) Y11+Senior Football (Mr East)	KS3 Girls Football (Mr Doyle & Mr Read)	Y9 &10+11 Netball (Miss Davison & Miss Ansell) Y9 & 10 Rugby (Mr Moses & Mr Joyce)	Y8 Netball (Miss Newman) Y7 Football (Mr East) Y9 Football (Mr Moses) Senior Basketball (Mr Joyce)	Yr7 Netball (Mrs Scarrott) Y7 Rugby (Mr East) Senior Rugby 7's until Nov 17th - (Mr Brennan) Sixth form fitness

Larch sporting news

We have been delighted in the Larch to begin competing in matches and festivals against other schools for the very first time.

We have played our first ever netball and football matches with our football team winning 5-2 against Christchurch and our netball team just missing out in the last few seconds by one goal! They scored an impressive 16 goals!



Great successes were also had at a cross country event that we took part in this week against other schools. Individual medals were awarded to Grace in Year 4 who won the Year 3 and 4 event and to Jack in Year 6 who came third in the Year 5 and 6 event. Results were as follows:

Year 3 and 4 girls-3rd overall
Year 3 and 4 boys-2nd overall
Year 5 and 6 girls-2nd overall
Year 5 and 6 boys-1st overall

We ended the week with a tag rugby tournament for children in Year 6 at Hertford rugby club. This was a friendly tournament run by Saracens with great fun had by all. We are looking forward to more sporting fixtures and matches in the next half term.

PSA news

Friday 19th November - Bright and Beautiful Day

On Friday 19th November, Larch children are invited to come to school wearing full school uniform, but wearing an accessory in their class colour. See poster for more information.

Please bring in a donation or gift, matching the class colour. Donations will be made into beautiful rainbow hampers and these will be added to our Winter Raffle.

25th November - Doughies Pizza and Cookie Event

We look forward to Doughie's returning to Simon Balle with their regular and vegan home pizza making kits. These artisan kits are of exceptional quality and you can now add pepperoni as an optional extra to your kits. Doughies have launched bake at home cookie dough kits too. Choose from: Chocolate Chip, Chocolate Brownie and or Oat and Raisin. Please note, cookie kits are not vegan.

Orders need to be submitted via their [website](#) no later than **20th November**. We are able to offer this to all Larch families plus Year 7 students and welcome you to order kits to take for friends and family too.

Order here-----> [Doughies kits](#)

4th December - Frost Fair and Festive Market

Plans are coming together beautifully for our Frost Fair and Festive Market and we hope to really create an all-through feel this year. We will be based in the secondary phase and we are keen for secondary families to offer their support with the event, alongside our primary phase families. To register interest, [click here](#).

We are also looking for a number of stallholders who would like to take a pitch to form our Festive Market. Please email stallbooking@simonballepsa.org.uk for more information, giving a description of what you are able to offer, and we will send you a booking form providing we do not already have an existing booking that may duplicate your offering.

As always, we will be running our fabulous raffle. We are busy gathering prizes of any size, if you are able to make a contribution, please get in touch. We have previously been able to offer spa days, afternoon teas, experiences and more.

Thank you in advance, we understand this year is particularly difficult for many.



Secondary news

Volcano day- Secondary

Our Y9 students will be displaying their volcanoes in the hall on Wednesday 3rd November.

Dates for your diary

25th to 29th Oct

Tuesday 2nd Nov

Wednesday 3rd Nov

Wednesday 10th to 11th Nov

Wednesday 11th Nov

Thursday 18th Nov

Monday 22nd Nov

Friday 19 Nov

Wednesday 24th Nov

Friday 26th Nov

Monday 29th Nov

Wednesday 1st to 3rd Dec

Wednesday 8th Dec

Wednesday 15th Dec

Thursday 16th Dec

Friday 17th Dec

Wednesday 5th Jan

HALF TERM

Covid 19 vaccination for 12 to 15 year old students (TBC)

Flu vaccination Y7 to Y11 (TBC)

Volcano day Y9

Y11 geography field trip to Walton-on-the-Naze

Remembrance ceremony in school

Larch open evening for Reception places 2022

Larch open evening for Reception places 2022

Children in Need events

6th form open evening

Occasional day 1 - school closed

Occasional day 2 - school closed

Y12 geography field trip to Manchester

Larch open evening for Reception places 2022

Larch Christmas lunch

Secondary Christmas lunch

End of term - early finish

Start of spring term

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable half term, with a promising and exciting Autumn 2 to follow!

Best wishes,

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



Bright & Beautiful Day

Class colours:

- Red - Squirrels
- Orange - Hedgehogs
- Yellow - Badgers
- Green - Rabbits
- Blue - Deer
- Purple - Foxes
- Pink - Wrens
- Brown - Robins
- Black - Kingfishers
- White - Doves
- Silver - Swans
- Gold - Mallards
- Any colour - Owls
- Any colour - Eagles

Friday

**19th
November**

**Wear a
coloured
accessory to
school in class
colour**

**Bring in a
coloured
donation or gift -
in your class
colour**

**Donations will be
made into
beautiful class
hampers**

**Hampers will
feature in our
winter raffle**



SIMON BALLE PSA

Frost Fair

&

**Festive
Market**

SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER, 1-4PM

£1 ADULT ADMISSION, CHILDREN FREE

**LIVE MUSIC, XMAS TREES, CRAFT STALLS, RAFFLE,
GAMES, LICENSED BAR, FOOD, CAKES, STUDENT
RUN STALLS & MORE!**

simonballepsa.org.uk

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LEARN TO BALANCE AND RIDE AND DEVELOPING BETTER BIKE CONTROL COURSES (AUTUMN 2021)



One of the best skills children can learn, opening up opportunities for fun, independence, activity and health for a lifetime

LEARN TO BALANCE AND RIDE (L2BR)

- For children typically aged between 3.5 and 11
- 85% + of children are normally riding after 2 sessions
- 1 Instructor to max 5 children
- Balance bike and quality lightweight pedal bike for each child included
- 1 hour sessions

DEVELOPING BETTER BIKE CONTROL (DBBC)

- Follow-on course for new or inexperienced riders
- Covers key skills of starting, stopping, turning, looking, riding close to others, gears and signalling
- 1 Instructor to max 5 children
- Bike provided if required (extra £2.50)
- 1 hour sessions

Full course details at: www.hertsbalance.uk/course-descriptions

Saturday October 2nd and 9th

Venue: Cassiobury Junior School, Watford. WD17 3PD

Monday October 25th and Tuesday October 26th

Venue: Tudor Primary School, Hemel Hempstead. HP3 9ER

Wednesday October 27th and Thursday October 28th

Venue: The Ridgeway Academy, Welwyn Garden City. AL7 2AF

Cost: £30 for two sessions. £17 for one session.

For more information and to book, go to www.hertsbalance.uk/public-schedule-booking
email phil@hertsbalance.uk or call Phil on 07941 061717.

Private L2BR, DBBC and Bikeability sessions are available for children and adults and families. Details at www.hertsbalance.uk/private-sessions



HERTFORD RUGBY CLUB OCTOBER RUGBY CAMP

YOUTH RUGBY U10s - U18s



OCTOBER 2021
27TH

1 DAY RUGBY CLINIC

Venue: Hertford Rugby Club
Time: 10AM to 3PM
Age: U10 to U18
£35

OCTOBER 2021
28TH

1 DAY SPECIALIST SKILLS CLINIC
FOCUS: HALF BACKS & BACK 3 DEVELOPMENT
Venue: Hertford Rugby Club
Time: 10AM to 2PM
Age: U12 to U18
£35

£35
PER DAY



BOOK ONLINE AT:
WWW.CATALYSTCOACHINGCLINICS.CO.UK

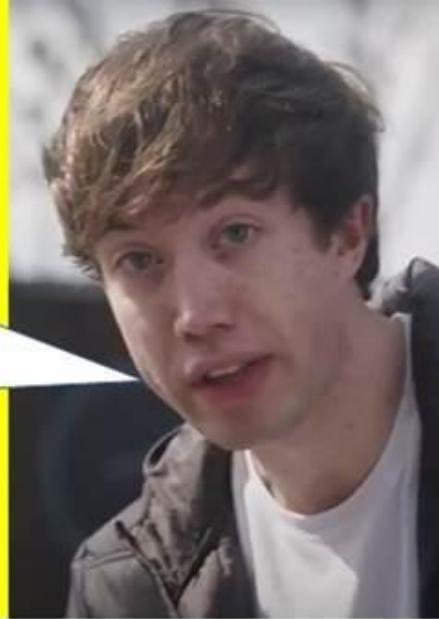
- Attack and Defence education
- Specific Skill Development
- Half Back Skill Development (Passing/Kicking/Catching)
- Back 3 Skill Development (Positioning/Kicking/Catching)
- Attack and Defence Skill Development
- Game based approach
- Functional movement and Mobility
- Athletic Development

In Partnership
with:
**CATALYST
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Contact:
info@catalystcoachingclinics.co.uk
www.catalystcoachingclinics.co.uk



Are you aged 16 or over?
Born in the UK from 1/9/02?
Unaware that Government
put money aside for you at
birth which could now be
worth £1,000 or more?



If your answers are 'yes' - then
find your Child Trust Fund at

<https://findCTF.sharefound.org>

or use the QR code →

The Share Foundation
PO Box 1172, Aylesbury HP20 9PG
Registered Charity no. 1108068
<https://www.sharefound.org>





WORMY SPAGHETTI

Disgustingly Delicious!

INGREDIENTS

FOR THE SAUCE:

- 1.5tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion
- 1 carrot
- 1 celery stick
- 1 garlic clove
- Optional: bay leaf
- 2 tins chopped tomato

FOR THE WORMS (SPAGHETTI):

- 520g Flour (00 is preferable but if you have Plain Flour that will work just fine)
- 200ml water- plus a bit extra, it will depend on the type of flour you are using
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- Extra flour for dusting and kneading
- 6-8 tbsp. of tomato paste
- Salt for the cooking water

METHOD

- Finely chop the vegetables
- Heat the oil in the pan and add the veg, and the bay leaf if using.
- Allow to soften for 10-15 minutes- get someone to keep an eye and stir this occasionally. Add a pinch of salt if using.
- When tender and slightly golden, stir in the tinned tomatoes- add about 75ml of water and leave to simmer for 15-20 minutes or until thickened making sure to stir occasionally so that the sauce doesn't stick.
- While you're waiting for the sauce to thicken you can get started on your worms.
- Sieve flour into mixing bowl and make a well in the middle for the oil and water.
- Add oil to the flour and add lukewarm water to the mix and blend together using a fork/your hands.
- Once the mix has started to take form, don't worry if it's a bit dry or crumbly at this stage, split the dough in two.
- Add 6tbsp of the tomato paste to one half. If the mixture is still a little dry you can add the 7th and 8th if needed. Mix this in with your hands, as you knead the dough it will mix to be one colour.
- To the other half add some more water if needed.
- Sprinkle some flour over the work surface and knead the dough until the mix has blended completely. Do this for both your white and red dough.
- All hands on deck! Now we need to make our worms. Pinch off balls of dough from your main ball, about the size of £1 coin.
- Roll this in your floured hands to make a tube shape, once the tube is as big as the hand continue rolling on the floured surface until the tube is about 1/3 cm thick.
- Place each tube on a floured chopping board until you're ready to cook. Do this for both the white and the red dough.
- Boil some water in a pan and add a pinch of salt to the water. Cooking time varies depending on the thickness of the pasta you have made, this averages between 30 seconds and 1 1/2 minutes. If you taste the pasta, you want it to still be slightly chewy but making sure the flour has cooked.
- Once the pasta is cooked, drain the water, save about 2tbsp and add to the tomato sauce and stir. Add the tomato sauce to the pasta.
- Serve on the plate and add a small sprinkling of cheese.



We're BeeZee Bodies, we run free, fun after school sessions in Hertfordshire to help children and their families learn how to make healthy habits for life!
[Click here to find out more about our programmes and sign up.](#)



DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR KIDS' HEALTH HABITS?



Fussy eater?
Won't eat their greens?
Serial snacker?
Couch potato?
Eyes bigger than their belly?

WE'VE GOT THE ANSWERS!

Book a free support session with a member of our wellbeing team!

We are experts in engaging children with healthy eating and physical activity and can help you turn healthy efforts into healthy habits for life.

Over a (virtual) cuppa, we will give you advice about family nutrition & exercise, and work together on a personalised behaviour change plan for your family.

We'll check in a month later to see how you're getting on!

Funded by Hertfordshire County Council, this free service is available to children aged 5-15 who have a BMI above the 91st centile (we can help you work this out if you're unsure).



SIGN UP FOR YOUR FREE SESSION TODAY!



beezeebodies.com/signup



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Hertfordshire

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