

Secondary phase newsletter

Friday 3rd December 2021

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today



All-through news

I am sure like with us, the past 10 days since the last newsletter has sped by, mainly due to two shortened weeks. We hope that most families managed to fit in different things; we know of long weekends away seeing family and friends as well as Christmas shopping! Having been away and seeing quite a bit of snow, hopefully everyone kept warm and safe.

With advent calendars being opened, even by secondary students, the Christmas season is upon us and we are all hopeful that this year it can be a very special one. We are still planning on holding Christmas lunches and carol services, always keeping an eye on how to keep safe.

We know from almost daily briefings that unfortunately the numbers of positive cases of Covid, are particularly high in East Hertfordshire, and the numbers within our primary phase reflects the current trend. We track each case and do work closely with Public Health; cases appear to be linked mostly via family members. In secondary we return to mask wearing in communal areas and we are already aware that we will have to carry out LFT in January upon the return to school, for 11-18 year olds. Please continue to support and help us.

Thanks to students for support at open events - Larch and sixth form

We have been holding a number of "open events" over the past few weeks. A special thank you to our students- they are the ones who always "sell" the school and its special community to our guests. We were delighted with the numbers looking around the

sixth form; with 27 courses offered, some of which are not offered in many local schools (e.g. Computer Studies, Environmental Science, Music, PRE etc) students have a wide and attractive choice. There is still plenty of time to apply, so we look forward to receiving your application and do tell your neighbours and friends.

In the Larch, our Year 5/6 children are to be highly commended. Although we provided them with a route map (on a practical basis for moving around with groups of parents), everything they shared was entirely personal to what they felt was important about the Larch. Prospective parents and staff were simply blown away by their maturity, belonging to our community and pride in the wide range of areas they shared. A huge thank you to all! Our third and final open afternoon is on Wednesday 8th December at 4pm. Please do call the main office to book on to a tour if you have not done so already.

We have also now received the numbers applying for Y7; record numbers indeed, with almost 900 applications and 200 first choices (as well as our 60 Larch students)!

Christmas lunch

We have nearly 700 students having Christmas lunch but a reminder that there is no other food available so students who have not bought a lunch will have to bring a packed lunch.



Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 10th December students and staff will be able to wear a Christmas jumper to school in support of Save the Children. Families can pay via

<https://christmas.savethechildren.org.uk/fundraising/Simon-Balle> (minimum donation £2.00)

Save the Children works in many ways to improve the lives of children around the world. They protect children in conflict, help tackle the climate crisis, fight child poverty in this country and want to transform children's futures. Please support this very worthwhile cause. We look forward too seeing an array of festive jumpers!

Flu vaccine

The nurses will be back on Thursday 9th December for the flu catch up session. If you want your child to have the nasal spray please email admin and the necessary form will be sent to you. Those who have already completed the forms will be sent a reminder that their child will receive the vaccine on the 9th.

Sixth form and primary requests

As you may or may not be aware it is that time of year again when we as a school focus on reflecting on those who are less fortunate - we may often get carried away with our own fortunes and so we aim to donate as much as we can in this time of year to give back to the community. This year we have organised a donation to the local Hertford and District food bank. We will need the assistance of parents in donating whatever they can to the food bank this year, not only to show our support as a school but to enhance the community in which we live. This year we have given the responsibility to the students to help promote and successfully manage the food bank this year and over the course of the next two weeks will be visiting your children's form rooms to continue encouraging and educating them on why and how we do this.

The closing date for donations is the 13th December and we are looking for a range of non-perishable items such as: tinned and canned items (potatoes, beans, tomatoes etc), rice, jars (jams etc), sanitary products (deodorant, toothpaste, baby wipes etc) but a limitation in pasta (as requested from the organisation). However, any of the items above would be more than suitable as well as any other non-perishable items that comes to mind!

We're hoping for a huge increase in donations this year due to COVID 19, and that's why we are asking each student to donate at least one item and bring it

into their designated donation area, or the Sixth Form learning centre and primary front office by the 13th so that we are in time for sending it out! Thank you for your donations.



Secondary News

Catering news

Please click on the links below for some winter recipes. These are available to view on our website.

<https://cdn.realsmart.co.uk/simonballe/uploads/2021/12/02153433/DECEMBER-OVER-10S-RECIPE-CARD-1.pdf>

<https://cdn.realsmart.co.uk/simonballe/uploads/2021/12/02153438/DECEMBER-OVER-10S-CHRISTMAS-RECIPE-BOOKLET-1.pdf>

Music news

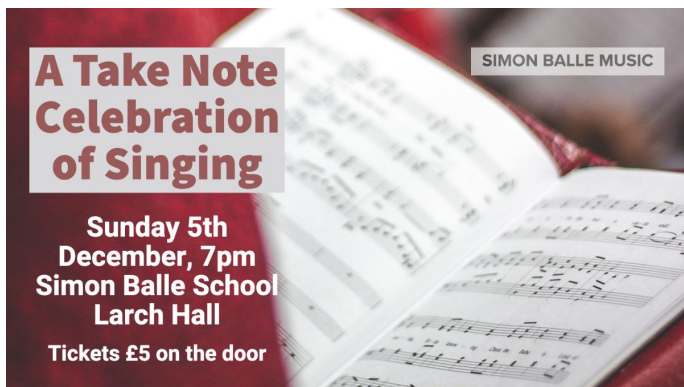
Last week we held our annual secondary **Piano Day**. Mr Lovell organised many activities, including a video, recitals and a masterclass. For a full round-up, please click on this poster.



The annual carol service for our secondary phase is on **Monday 13th December at 7pm at All Saints' Church**. It will involve all secondary choirs, the Concert Band and Saxidentals. Years 7 and 8 will have their own service on Tuesday morning. We look forward to welcoming our Simon Balle community to this event at the church. For details of how we are helping to keep everyone safe, please click on these [audience protocols](#).



This Sunday, Take Note, our adult community choir, has a celebration of singing. It promises to be a great concert bringing back this brilliant choir. Next term we will once again be recruiting for new members.



Term dates

These are the term dates for the academic year 2022/2023

(Please note there are still three INSET days to be set)

Autumn Term 2022

Thursday 1st September: INSET 1

Friday 2nd September: INSET 2

Monday 5th September: School starts for all students

Half term: 25th to 29th October

Friday 25th November: Occasional Day

Monday 28th November: Occasional Day (to be confirmed)

End of Autumn Term: Wednesday 21st December. (early finish – time TBC)

Spring Term 2023

Thursday 5th January: School starts for all students

Half term: 13th to 17th February

End of Spring Term: Friday 31st March. Normal school day

Summer Term 2023

Monday 17th April: School starts for all students

Monday 1st May: Bank holiday

Half term: 29th May to 2nd June

Transition Day: Thursday 13th July

End of Summer Term: Friday 21st July (early finish)

Penguin Parade

THE PENGUINS HAVE GONE SHOPPING FOR PRESENTS! CAN YOU SPOT THEM IN THE SHOPS AROUND WARE HIGH STREET? FIND ALL 12 FOR THE CHANCE TO WIN A PENGUIN!

Until 17th December

DONATE HERE!



@CHARLIE_DARNIAC

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
KNITTEDTRAILWARE@GMAIL.COM



SCHOOL UNIFORM CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR 2021

Your local branch is St Albans
131-135 Victoria Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 3XS
Email: stacustomerservices@stevensons.co.uk

FESTIVE OPENING TIMES

Monday 20th December – Monday 3rd January – CLOSED
Tuesday 4th January – OPEN 9 - 5.30
Wednesday 5th January – OPEN 9 - 5.30
Thursday 6th January – OPEN 9 - 5.30
Friday 7th January – OPEN 9 - 5.30
Saturday 8th January – OPEN 9 - 5.00
Sunday 9th January – CLOSED
Normal opening hours resume from Monday 10th January

Festive Break:

Our stores will be closing over the festive period to allow our staff who work very hard over the summer to spend some time with their friends and families.
Please see above opening times for your local branch.

Online Ordering:

Please place any online orders before **Wednesday 15th December** to ensure in stock items are dispatched before the festive period. While closed we will continue to process online orders, however due to the time of year and how Christmas bank holidays fall it may take up to 14 days for orders to arrive with you.

Online Ordering (Cont.):

Orders placed online for collection will be processed once the store has re-opened.
Please only come to collect your orders once you have received a confirmation email to say the order is ready to avoid disappointment.

Customer Service:

Our Customer Service teams will be working remotely over the festive period so whilst our phone lines are closed you can still reach one of the team via email if you need advice on products or sizing.

Wishes...

We'd like to wish our customers a lovely festive break! We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

For more information about us visit
www.stevensons.co.uk

STEVENSONS

SCHOOL UNIFORM OUTFITTERS

