

Primary 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)!

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.



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!

Sixth form and primary requests

As you may or may not be aware it is that time of year again where as a school we 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 you 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.

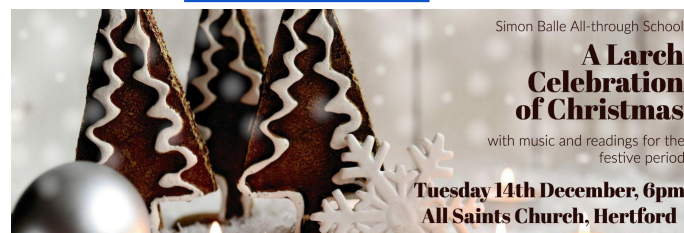


Primary News

Music news

Tuesday 14th December at 6pm in All Saints' Church. The String Orchestra, Wind Band and both choirs will be involved. There will be rehearsals during the day and on Wednesday 15th in the morning all students in the Larch will have their own service.

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](#).



Both Larch choirs are performing at the **Frost Fair** this weekend. We are delighted that so many students take part in the choirs each week.

Each week as part of the Key Stage 2 celebration assembly, we celebrate some Larch musicians for an

achievement that week - our **Larch Stars**. Well done recently to:

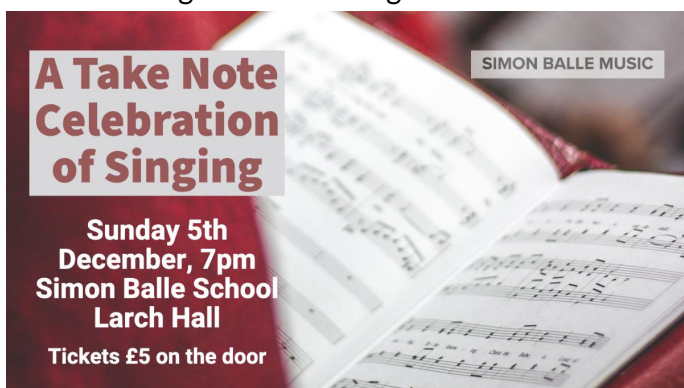
Lola M, Alex H, William J, Edith T, Eva O & Leigha C and congratulations to everyone who has been a Larch Star in recent weeks.

Next week is our last week of Instrumental lessons, choir rehearsals and orchestra rehearsals. The last week of term is always busy, so there will be no rehearsals apart from for the Carol Services.



Over the holidays, it would be great if all musicians could perform at home to friends and family, to celebrate their achievements. Do take a picture and email to the music department! House Points will be awarded for all the concerts we hear about. Performing is just as important as practice!

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)

