

# Secondary phase newsletter

Friday 17th December 2021

*Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today*



## All-through news

The past week has been a special one for so many members of the Simon Balle Community and whilst we all understand that care still needs to be taken, there has been a real feeling of festive normality.

Christmas activities take a special meaning for our youngest children; from the reception nativity play, to Christmas lunch and the Carol Services. In secondary we share some of these traditions; this year, our Year 7 and 8 cohorts attended the Carol Service at All Saints Church and were inspired by the music and the readings. The previous evening families joined us at All Saints Church, and although not as packed as in previous years (and with everyone wearing a mask) the music, carols and festive spirit was really appreciated by everyone.

Primary school lunch was served on Wednesday, whilst the secondary Christmas lunch (almost Hogwarts style) on Thursday, served over 740 meals. Turkey, or the vegetarian option, with all the trimmings was thoroughly enjoyed by all. A special thanks must go to our catering staff who have provided more than 1000 Christmas dinners this week!



Our school vision of “Creating tomorrow’s citizens today” is never far from anything that is planned. Music for the last 20+ years has played such a vital role in our community, enabling young people to enjoy and learn an instrument, opportunities to join with others in a choir, the joy of performing and for some, the dream of taking music one step higher into a career or vocation. For all, this musical experience stays with them for so many years, as it forms friendships and for parents brings so much joy. Seven years ago, our vision was for this to be integral to our primary planning. And so the vision is now becoming a reality and the Carol Concert on Tuesday night was an emotional testament to this. With a large strings section, a concert band and vast choirs (in all, there must have been 70 children performing) plus wonderfully confident readers, we along with so many proud parents celebrated the Christmas spirit at All Saints Church.



Music does not automatically happen; hours of planning, practice and rehearsals together add up to the very highest standards we witnessed both at the primary and the secondary concert (equally impressive numbers).

Years 7 and 8, then were invited the following day to

the concert, with the whole of “the Larch” attending on Wednesday morning.

A huge thank you to all performers alike and also to “team music” for their wonderful dedication, commitment and hard work in inspiring our children and young people to be such great musicians.

### **Frost Fair news**

A huge thank you to all those who worked so hard to make this happen, as it was a great success. Thank you also to those families and students who both came and enjoyed the stalls and games, and also those who contributed. We raised over £5000, towards school funds.

We would like to thank Yvonne Adshead for all her work and commitment to the school over the years. She started at the school September 2007 and joined SLT in 2012. Yvonne has line managed a number of departments and taken a very active role in the training of new teachers, working with the Alban Federation. Her contribution to the Senior Leadership Team has been invaluable and we will miss her wisdom and practical problem solving. However, we will still be able to ask the occasional question as she will continue to teach sociology two days a week, freeing up more time for her to spend with her family. We wish Yvonne every success and happiness in this new chapter of her life.

### **Covid and LFTs**

It is very important to continue regular twice weekly at-home testing during the Christmas holidays. Students will be notified of when they should come to school for LFT testing prior to the start of the new term. Information about the COVID-19 vaccinations can be found on the links below -

Information on vaccination for 12 to 15 year olds can be found in the [COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 12 to 15 guidance](#).

[Further information on the coronavirus booster vaccination](#) and booking a vaccination can be found on [NHS.UK](#).

An information leaflet on [what to expect after vaccination](#) is available to download or order.

### **Fundraising**

We are pleased to report that we raised £1,493.32 for Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. We were treated to a huge variety of festive themed jumpers and students enjoyed wearing something fun to school. In addition, the Children in Need Appeal raised a further £1,132. We have also just received notification that we raised £476.28 for the Poppy Appeal. Thank you also to the sixth formers and staff that took part in Wednesday’s Santa Dash.



### **Keeping fit, well and safe**

Our local orienteering club (Hertfordshire, <https://www.herts-orienteering.club>) are organising a Saturday morning event at Panshanger on January 8th. Orienteering is a fun sport (many of you will know that our Headteacher is a keen and very active orienteer) and can appeal to both serious runners and families who may wish to walk and take exercise.

### **Mentoring**

We would like to welcome Natasha Mowatt to the school who has taken on an exciting role as a pathway co-ordinator for Young Herts Talent. She will be working with students from Y6 - Y13.

We now have a new programme running in our school - **Young Herts Talent**. It's a school-based mentoring programme that connects caring, adult mentors with young people who need additional encouragement and support. Mentors meet their young person for an hour a week to listen and encourage their young person to engage with their education and build the self-belief they need to go on to a positive destination such as further education, employment or training.

*If you would be interested in becoming a mentor, visit our website to register for more information at <https://mcrpathways.org/Herts/>*

Finally both Rachel Kirk and myself would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and commitment to our Simon Balle Community. As a community we frequently educate and speak of our “values”- those which we believe make humankind great citizens. One of these is “hope”- particularly at this challenging time we need hopeful people who are kind and live well together. Unfortunately we often see otherwise, even within our wider community. Our final words of 2021 are some written by Year 5, read at our Carol Service.

*I hope that your homes are filled with love and Christmas spirit*

*I hope that you share smiles with everyone in your path. But the most magical thing about Christmas is those that we share it with.*

*I hope that this Christmas homes will be filled with laughter, fun and the smell of the best roast dinner.*

*I hope that this Christmas we can share love, shelter and food with those who need it most.*

*I hope that families can reunite, sharing hugs and kisses.*

*I hope that this Christmas all wishes will come true.*

*I hope that this Christmas traditions begin, continue or grow*

*I hope that this Christmas will be cosy and calm*

*And so a very Happy Christmas and a safe, healthy New Year.*

## Secondary News

### Staff news

We are delighted to announce that Ms Robinson (maths) has had a baby boy and Ms Wootton (MFL) has had a baby girl.

Miss Stuart (Head of Art) is leaving to take up a post at The Pearce School, and Mrs Petengell (TA-Maths) is taking up a new career opportunity. We wish all well.

### Staggered start in January

Please can you ensure that you refer to the recent letter which outlines the testing times for each year group- many thanks. The information for students can be viewed [here](#).

## PE and Sports news

It's been a fantastic term where many of our secondary students have availed of the many opportunities available to participate and represent the school across many activities. There have been many key highlights this term which include;

- A vibrant extra-curricular programme across Football, Netball, Hockey, Basketball, Visual Impaired, Table Tennis, Badminton, Lunch-time Fitness groups, KS4 participation lunch clubs, Rugby, Sixth form Volleyball and Inter-House Sports.
- Boys and Girls teams represented across District, National and County competitions
- Girls football is now back with teams represented across Y7-11 in all levels of competitions.
- U13 Table Tennis District Champions
- 58 Year 7 students have participated in Netball club with 45 students representing the school.
- Students have been selected to represent the District and County in football across Key Stage 3 & 4.
- The school has hosted the District Cross Country League Championships
- Saturday Rugby fixtures were back this year where we played block fixtures against Samuel Ryder and Birchwood.

So much sport has taken place and as we anticipate 2022 we have the following to look forward too and much much more;

- [Secondary Sports Enrichment Programme 2022](#)
- Fixtures across many sports and can all be accessed through our [PE & Sport website](#)
- Saturday Football is back with 9 block fixtures pencilled in throughout the Spring term starting with our first games against St Edmund's College on 8th Jan (Year 7-10).
- District Boys and Girls Football competitions
- District Y7 & 8 Sportshall Athletics League (Feb 2nd, 9th and the final on the 23rd Feb)
- Herts Schools Cross Country Championships takes place on **Saturday 5th February - Westminster Lodge**
- District Netball and Hockey
- Girls Herts Cricket competitions
- District Basketball
- Herts Rugby 7's and 10-a-side tournaments
- District Swim championships - 28th March
- Sports leadership programmes

So as you can see, so much to look forward to and please do visit our [PE & Sport website](#) for more information. If you have any questions or queries on our PE curriculum and/ or our sports programme

please contact us at [sport@simonballe.herts.sch.uk](mailto:sport@simonballe.herts.sch.uk)  
 From everyone in the PE & Sports Department have a fantastic Christmas and best wishes for 2022.

### E-Scooter information from Hertfordshire Council

Dear School

I hope you're well.

I'm writing to you on behalf of Hertfordshire Road Safety Partnership who have concerns over the illegal use of privately owned e-scooters.

E-Scooters are readily available to purchase and sales are expected to increase over the festive period. However, it is currently against the law to ride a privately owned e-scooter on a public road, cycle path or pavement. Private e-scooters can only be legally used on private land (with the landowners permission).

Illegal use of e-scooters can lead to a Police warning or seizure of the e-scooter. E-scooter use on pavements, cycle paths or roads can lead to serious injury for pedestrians, scooter riders and other road users.

To help educate parents and pupils, please find a short animation at the link below and an image attached. Please circulate this information to your school community via the usual channels.

[E-Scooters-720p-211129 on Vimeo](#)

Kind regards

Sarah

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNCIL OF PARTNERSHIP**

## Know your Scooters

### Electric Scooters

- Illegal to use on public roads, cycle paths and pavements in Hertfordshire
- Electric scooters can be seized by the police, you could be fined and get points on your licence
- Can only be used on private land with the Landowners permission
- High cost

### Manual Scooters

- Active and sustainable mode of travel
- Keeps you fit
- Low cost

Hertford Jan. 8th

# newcomer ORIENTEERING

for families for runners

Your kids will drag you back. Come and see! Fitness gain without pain. Come and see!

by kind permission of **TARMAC** A CEM COMPANY

**Panshanger Park, Hertford**

**Sele School, Welwyn Rd., Hertford SG14 2DG**

**Saturday, 8th January 2022**

First time participants go **FREE** (adults and kids!)  
 Due to Covid precautions, pre-entry is essential by e-mailing the organiser at [panshanger@herts-orienteeing.club](mailto:panshanger@herts-orienteeing.club) with your names and ages

Start any time 10:00-11:30 from near Thieves Lane entrance

Incorporates Hertfordshire Youth League - earn points for your school or club

- ▲ A range of courses from 2-6km. to let you choose the challenge
- ▲ We'll give you a map showing a series of checkpoints for you to visit
- ▲ A timing chip registers each checkpoint. How fast can you go?

Full Details online

**Hertfordshire Orienteering Club** [www.herts-orienteeing.club/fixtures](http://www.herts-orienteeing.club/fixtures) [hertfordshire orienteeing](https://www.facebook.com/hertfordshire-orienteeing)

## FULLY FUNDED CAMPS

@ Chauncy School, Ware

# Multi-Sports and Netball

December: 22,23,24,29,30,31  
 January: 4

Check out the links below to book!!!!

Get your unique **HAPPy** Booking Code from your child's school to access any of the camps

Scan the QR code to search and book a camp

Hertfordshire's Holiday Activity Programme **HAPPY**

**HCF sports**

## Dates

Friday 17th Dec	End of term - early finish
Wednesday 5th Jan	Start of Spring term
Tuesday 8th Feb	Safer Internet Day
Mon 14th to Fri 18th Feb	HALF TERM
Friday 21st Feb	Inset day - school closed for students
Mon 3rd Mar	DTP/MenACWY injections Y9

*Wishing you all the best for the Christmas holidays*

*Best wishes,*

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