

# Primary phase newsletter

Friday 28th January 2022

*Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today*



## All-through news

We know that many of you will have joined thousands of others both here and abroad to celebrate **Burns Night** on the 25th. Robert Burns is Scotland's national poet and his songs and poems are known and sung throughout the world. We hope you all enjoyed your haggis, neeps and tatties!



## Holocaust Memorial Day

Our assemblies next week will focus upon this important day in our annual calendar. Year 7 will be also linking this with their work on “celebrating difference” within their values lessons.

You may have noticed in our last newsletter that we included some seasonal phrases for several of the **home or community languages** spoken by our families at Simon Balle. Whilst Hertford traditionally appears to lack ethnic diversity, especially in its lack of culturally diverse shops, places of worship etc, there are a growing number of families within our Simon Balle community who speak another language at home. We want to celebrate this as we understand the skills that are needed. Therefore do not be surprised if I ask several of you to contribute or even better do email me ([saundersa@simonballe.herts.sch.uk](mailto:saundersa@simonballe.herts.sch.uk)) with examples we can use or interesting stories. Thank you.

## Safer internet day- Feb 8th, 2022

[Safer Internet Day 2022](#)

We have started this term to focus upon certain elements of this huge and ever changing topic. Password changes and online safety agreements have been reintroduced and explained. We are currently carrying out an audit of where this is taught within and across our curriculum.

Herts For Learning have produced some very useful leaflets to help parents in their understanding on how to keep their child safe. Please take a look at the most recent and do contact us if you need further help. We are looking to put on some workshops but have not agreed dates yet due to the uncertainties that still remain with last minute changes due to the covid pandemic.

[Spring 2022 Online Safety Newsletter](#)

## Swimming Pool

As many of you are aware we are having to replace the lining of our swimming pool. This is disappointing as it was part of the big refurbishment project only 5 years ago. However, thanks to our amazing team, we are getting the work done in record time and to a high specification. We hope to reopen in early March. This is great news as swimming lessons are a key part of our primary curriculum along with our commitment to community lettings.

Finally a big thank you to everyone for their continued support and words of encouragement and thanks, during these most challenging times. Unfortunately the pandemic is not over and we are thankful for families who continue to test. Let's hope we will soon be in a position nationally when we are able to manage the situation and not disrupt education.

## Parents with children with SEND

We are delighted to say that due to overwhelming demand we have been able to secure funding for a further 3 workshops for parents and carers in Hertfordshire with children with ASD and/or ADHD.

The additional workshops will be on the topics of Stress and Anxiety, and Responding to Anger. Both of these have been in high demand and places book quickly.

Please share the attached flyer widely with your staff and family networks. We are happy for it to be published on social media. Parents and carers are able to self-refer using the Eventbrite links embedded in the flyer.

We thank you for your help in promoting this valuable source of support from HCC.

Best wishes,

*Jessica Foster-Edwards*

Parenting Consultant and Group Facilitator  
Supporting Links



[www.supportinglinks.co.uk](http://www.supportinglinks.co.uk)

## Primary news

Thank you to all parents for their support this fortnight, during which we have had an incredibly high number of Larch children isolating due to Covid-19. Thank you for staying in touch with us - we have been reassured that your children's symptoms are mild and we hope too that parents have stayed well. Thank you for all your work to support children to access their remote learning - it is much appreciated and allows us to continue to prioritise high quality teaching and learning within the curriculum, albeit in flexible ways!

When your children are visiting google classroom (or Go for Schools for Years 1/2), do take the time to ask them to talk to you about their knowledge organisers. Following all of the exciting work that took place to define the design of our all-through curriculum in each subject, Larch teachers in Years 1 - 6 are now using knowledge organisers in science, history and geography to support with clarity of the core knowledge being learned. At home, you could:

- Ask children to explain some of the specific vocabulary
- Show them one of the images and/or diagrams and ask them to explain the process of what is happening
- Talk about chronology - what happened in this period in sequence? What about before or after?
- All knowledge organisers will have at least one key question - can children answer this? How does their knowledge deepen from week to week?
- What is your child particularly interested in? Can they choose a part of the knowledge organiser to stimulate further reading, talking or research?

As I was visiting classrooms this week, I was thinking about and talking to the children about vocabulary - something that is a core strand to our literacy development work across the all-through this year. We aim for our classrooms to always be language-rich because we know that the size of a child's vocabulary is the best predictor of their future academic success. And so, examples of the words I collected on my journey around the Larch were:

- Year 1: Henry Moore, sculpture; preference, similarity, difference (please visit their art curriculum overview here: <https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/curriculum-overview/art/>)
- Year 2: Castles, drawbridge, portcullis, battlement, attack, defence (please visit their history curriculum overview here: <https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/curriculum-overview/history/>)

## Summer School

We are pleased to announce that, after the huge success of last year's Year 7 Summer School, we will be rolling this out again this summer for all students joining us in Year 7 this September.

We have seen firsthand the substantial impact it has had in supporting children making a successful transition, socially and academically. Therefore we are aiming for 100% uptake this year and strongly encourage all parents to take up this opportunity for their child, if at all possible

The Summer School will take place on Monday 22nd - Wednesday 24th of August with the students enjoying a range of academic and enrichment activities.

Further details will be shared with parents as part of the transition process in the summer term.

- Year 3: the 99 names for Allah in Islam, the Protector, the Exceedingly Merciful, the Compassionate, the Guardian, the Majestic, the Preserver, characteristics (please visit their PRE curriculum overview here: <https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/curriculum-overview/philosophy-religion-ethics/>)
- Year 5: hypothesis, thermal insulator, frozen, material, properties (please visit their science curriculum overview here: <https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/curriculum-overview/science/>)

Thank you as ever to you as parents for your engagement in your children's learning, across our broad and ambitious curriculum at Simon Balle. We have enjoyed welcoming you to recent workshops (whether virtual or in person) and we look forward to seeing Year 2 parents on Thursday 3rd February at 9am.

### **SEND parent coffee morning**

We would like to welcome you into the Larch on Tuesday 8th February @ 9am to join us for coffee and to give you the opportunity to network and learn more about services, outside of school, which are available to you and your child. We have a guest speaker from the charity SPACE who will be available to answer any questions. SPACE is a Hertfordshire based charity supporting families of children and young people who are on the Autistic Spectrum (ASD), have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or other neurodiverse conditions. We welcome all parents regardless of whether your child has an official diagnosis.

We kindly ask you to email the Larch office if you would like to attend in order to provide us with a rough idea of numbers.

### **Dates**

Wednesday 2nd February	BMX Academy day - letter to Year 5 sent this week
Thursday 3rd February	Year 2 learning across the curriculum live workshop, 9am - 10am
Tuesday 8th February	Safer internet day
Mon 14th to Fri 18th	Feb HALF TERM
Mon 21st Feb	Inset day school closed for students
Tues 22nd and Wed 23rd	Year 6 Macbeth performances in London
Friday 11th March	Year 5 tag rugby tournament
Monday 25th April	Year 2 trip to Windsor Castle

### **Year 5: developing independence**

As you know, we work hard to ensure that there is a progression in children's developing independence and responsibility whilst at the Larch (and beyond into the secondary phase). In order to achieve this, we teach children how to keep themselves safe, and we provide opportunities and experiences, at an age-appropriate level, for them to practice, and to thrive. Following lots of training, Year 5 children are now ready to be able to access and use more of our whole-school site. One example of this is children who have instrumental lessons who, from after half term, will be able to be responsible for their day/time of the lesson and making their way independently to the right room in the music block. We have clear systems which we will teach them - for example, signing in and out of each building. If they, or you, have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to ask.

For some families, this is also a good point to begin walking to and from school with more independence (this might be with an older sibling, or perhaps just part of the journey). If this is right for your child (and we fully appreciate it won't be right for everybody), please complete the Google Form 'Year 5 Walking Independently' <https://forms.gle/FBmMuJaPBe35x22Z9> by Tuesday 8th February 2022.



## **Simon Balle PSA have teamed up with **Joules** clothing to bring a Joules Seconds sale to Hertford.**

**The Joules team will be at Simon Balle All-through School on Wednesday 2nd March, selling heavily discounted end of line, imperfections, samples and returns. You will find a variety of clothing, footwear and accessories for all ages, sizes and occasions.**

**Tickets will *not be available on the door* and are strictly advance purchase only, via this link: <https://simon-balle-all-through-school-psa.sumup.link/> Tickets cost £6 and a limited number of just 65 will be released for each of the time slots. This is to accommodate Covid mitigations, as requested by Joules.**

**Please ensure you wear a face covering, unless exempt and kindly note children are not permitted.**

**Sale slots as follows:**

**6.15-7.15pm**

**7.30-8.30pm**

**You will need to show your proof of purchase upon arrival, and will not be admitted before your time slot.**

**Sales will close 24 hours before the event, or sooner should tickets sell out. The Joules team will be managing sales. All items are sold as seen, no returns or exchanges. Please do bring your own bags for your purchases.**



# CHIPS Playschemes



Have you got lots of energy, patience and understanding to work with children with a variety of special needs and their siblings in a regular group setting?

## Staff Needed for Saturday Clubs in Hoddesdon, Cheshunt & Bishops Stortford

Saturday mornings (2 – 3 per month) 9.30am - 1.00pm and a few days at Christmas, Easter and for 2-3 weeks in the summer holidays from 9.30-4.00pm

## Staff Needed for Saturday Clubs in Ware and Waltham Cross

Saturday afternoons ( 2-3 per month) 1.30pm to 5pm

Saturday mornings (2 – 3 per month) 9.30am - 1.00pm and a few days at Christmas, Easter and for 2-3 weeks in the summer holidays from 9.30-4.00pm

Flexible contract - we send out a rota in advance so you can choose the sessions you work

Assistants £8.91 per hour

Experienced assistants £9.37 per hour



CHIPS runs integrated Playschemes for children with special needs aged 3-19 years.

Contact Anita Ash by email

[anita@chipsplay.org](mailto:anita@chipsplay.org)

for an application form and more details.

[www.chipsplay.org](http://www.chipsplay.org)