

Primary phase newsletter

Friday 18th March 2022

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today



All-through news

Welcome to our penultimate newsletter this Spring term; and spring is definitely in the air, bringing with it real optimism. Indeed optimism and hope are present in our school values!

However, the news is not all positive; we are still encountering covid cases and the greatest impact currently is on staff absence. Thank you for your patience again. Also we are all affected by the images we see in the media about the war in the Ukraine- this is why we, along with so many other schools nationally, are holding a day next week to reflect and also raise funds (see below).

Yet, we need to keep positive and active! When talking to other headteachers we all believe that the things we value are returning as before. During the last few weeks it has been incredible to once again see the wonderful talent and hard work of so many of our students as they performed in various musical events. We have been deeply touched by the comments and messages we have received from so many of you, as you have appreciated the high quality you have seen. The annual Big Band evening was inspiring and in particular, the "junior Big Band" who had only played together 3 times, so impressed the audience and gave a real sense of hope of what is to come! Since that evening the Big Band has played at two further venues- the Secondary Headteachers' Conference and the Mayor of Hertford's Evening Dinner. Again, people outside of our community have been amazed by what they have seen. Equally important has been the vocal event (including our adult choir) and various "primary" concerts. Music is alive and flourishing amongst our very youngest children; from the beginners in Year 2, to the Year 6 who are taking national performing exams from grade 1-5! Some of our talented musicians are learning 2 or 3 instruments!

International Women's Day

Across the all-through school it was an important celebration of International Women's Day (IWM) last week. Assemblies for all year groups marked the past (IWM founded in 1910); the present (celebrations discussed global female politicians, inspirational female figures including their lead on climate change, and female achievements from Afghan women in particular following the challenges of the resurgence of the Taliban in 2021); and the future - hope in the further work taking place to address inequalities. Students of all ages were highly engaged in discussions - thank you to all.

PSA thank you

We would like to thank the PSA for all their hard work in raising funds for the school. The Joules sale held on 2nd March was a great success and refreshments provided at our recent music events were much appreciated by our enthusiastic audiences.

Ukraine

Our 6th form students will be raising funds for Red Nose Day (Comic Relief) on Friday 18th March. Various activities have been planned. However, the student Parliament felt that it was important to raise money for Ukrainian refugees. Hertfordshire schools have come together to do something positive, with the principle of keeping it simple and collaborative.

The rest of the school will therefore be taking part in 'Reach out for Refugees Day' on **Monday 21st March**. Students, across the all-through school, can come to school wearing a blue/yellow item such as socks, a badge, scarf, ribbons, hairband - the colours of Ukraine but also Hertfordshire. Please use this link to make your donation

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/simon-balle1>

Vacancies

We are advertising a number of teaching and non teaching jobs. Do you, or your friends, colleagues or

family want to join our incredible community and make a real difference to the lives of the young people in Hertford?

We are currently looking for a music teacher, a teacher of Health and Social Care, a Head of Faculty (3-D design), an English teacher, a music teacher, a MCR Pathways co-ordinator and an IT technician . [Please visit the school website - vacancies](#) - to find full details and our application packs.

Parking

We are receiving more and more complaints from local residents about parents dropping off/picking up/parking in areas they should not be using. Both Mangrove Drive and Balls Park are private roads and must not be used. Nor should the space outside White Lodge be used as this blocks the homeowners exit/entry.

There is plenty of parking available at the Old London Road car park (next to the fire station for up to 1 hour free if you display the permit which can be obtained from the school).

Please have some consideration for our neighbours and please refer to our previous newsletter in relation to the walking bus if this could help to support your family.

Arbor

We are in the process of moving to a new Management Information System (MIS) called Arbor. The new system will go live straight after the Easter Holidays. Invitations to set up accounts will be sent to students and parents over the next few weeks. [You can read more about the changes on our website.](#)



Primary News

Another exciting fortnight in the Larch has been enjoyed by all, with highlights including our Year 2 string performance (their very first concert in which they were brilliant and excitable in equal measure!), and both tag rugby and hockey festival events. It is great to see too Year 5 and 6 swimming beginning this week. A very big well done to all!

Year 2 and Year 6 reports have now been published to parents and we hope that you have found these informative - both in being hugely proud of your children's achievements across the curriculum, and in providing you with specific next steps to enable them

to continue to fulfil their potential. Mrs Saunders and I were delighted to read all that has been achieved, from Spanish and French to those learning a musical instrument, from reading, writing and mathematics, to PE, geography, science, PRE, learning for life and more. We are proud of our broad and ambitious curriculum at Simon Balle, we are very appreciative of the hard work that teachers have put in to ensuring that each report is completely personalised, and we are very grateful to parents for your continuing partnership with us and all the support you provide at home.

Parents' evening for Reception will be in school on 28th and 29th March (please see your email for further details), with your child's report to follow at the end of the academic year. Year 1 and Years 3 - 5 reports are already in process and will be published at the end of April.

It will not be long before the Easter holidays are upon us! We hope for more and more Spring days! The Easter holidays are long this year - almost 2 ½ weeks - so each teacher will be carefully setting home learning to inspire every child. As appropriate to the year group, it will be creative, engaging, focussed and relevant. Set in the usual ways (Google classroom, Go for schools, Tapestry), it will not be daunting in terms of the time required, but will be incredibly helpful to children's learning in the summer term. Do enjoy reading with your child too (in the sun perhaps?!).

Reminders

Just a reminder please that, before school, children should stay with their parents until the whistle blows at 8.40am. At this point, all children can make their own way into school where there are early morning activities available in every classroom (for example, busy fingers in Reception, returning to marking and feedback comments in KS2). Please ensure that children do not use playground equipment before school (as it is not staffed, it is not safe to do so), and that they do not play games such as football - there isn't sufficient space for this at this time! Thank you for your support in ensuring children are punctual - all should be in the school playground by 8.45am and therefore in classrooms by 8.50am at the latest.

Staffing

I am delighted to let you know that Mrs Philip (Foxes class) is expecting a baby at the end of this academic year in July. On behalf of the whole community, we wanted to take this opportunity to offer her our congratulations.

Exciting recruitment is underway, both internally within Simon Balle for leadership positions and externally due to maternity leaves - we look forward to providing you with a complete staffing picture very

soon.

Bikeability courses

Learn to cycle & bikeability courses' taking place at Sele School There are three courses, learn to cycle suitable for 4-6 years old, level 1 bikeability for 7-9 year olds and level 2 bikeability for 10+ year olds.

Here's the website with further details:

<https://www.hertfordcyclehub.co.uk/pages/bikeability-courses-2022>

PSA News

25th March - Doughies Pizza and Cookie Event

Final weekend for orders. Order by Tuesday 22nd March

We look forward to Doughies returning to Simon Balle with their 12" regular and vegan home pizza making kits next week (25th March).

These artisan kits are of exceptional quality and you can now add pepperoni as an optional extra to your kits. Please order directly via the Doughies website, including name and form/class.

<https://doughies.co.uk/products/simon-balle>

Doughies have launched delicious bake at home cookie dough kits* too.

Choose from: Chocolate Chip, Chocolate Brownie and or Oat and Raisin.

Please see [website](#). *Please note, cookie kits are not vegan.

Regrettably, Doughies are unable to offer gluten free kits.

Important information: Larch Centre orders will be distributed via classrooms and sent home with the children. Orders for the secondary phase are welcome but **MUST BE COLLECTED** from outside the reception office immediately after school on 25th. Please set a reminder, as any unclaimed kits will be assumed unwanted after 4.30pm. They will not keep unrefrigerated over the weekend and we are unable to offer home deliveries or refunds.

Volunteer opportunities

We've had an amazing time with the return of events at school. These are always fantastic opportunities to meet new parent volunteers who kindly give up their time to support the PSA with providing a bar and refreshments or other activities. A huge thanks to everyone who recently volunteered at the Big Band

Evening and the Vocal Showcase - your support is greatly appreciated!

If you'd like to get involved, more helpers are needed please with the setting up and running of the bar at two upcoming events and with pizza kit packing and distribution (secondary phase) for our Pizza and Cookie event:

Doughies Pizza - Friday 25th March

Drama Showcase evening (Secondary) - Wednesday 30th March - .

Wind and Brass Concert - Saturday 23rd April

As a volunteer, you get to meet and chat with other parents within our school community, feel directly involved in fundraising for the school's future projects and even build life-long friendships and you are guaranteed to have a great time. The list of benefits to getting involved is endless - why not give it a try? We're a very friendly bunch!

No need to worry if you've not been involved in a bar event before - a briefing and guidance will be provided beforehand and on the day.

Please follow the link below and volunteer for as much as you can do. We'll be in touch to discuss the rest.

Signing up for any of the above is quick and easy, and can be done via:

volunteersignup.org/WT7KY

Music

There is so much happening in music at the moment. Do please click on this link for much more information about what has been happening as our events return.

<https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/musical-news-18-03-2022/>

Dates

Tuesday 22nd Mar	Y7 residential trip
Thursday 24th Mar	Y12 parents evening
Friday 25th Mar	Y7 residential trip returns
Wednesday 30th Mar	Drama showcase evening
Fri 25th Mar	Doughies Pizza
Wed 30th Mar	Drama showcase evening
Friday 1st Apr	End of term - normal finish time
Tues 19th April	Inset day
Wed 20th April	Students back in school
Sat 23rd April	Wind & brass evening
Monday 25th April	Year 2 at Windsor castle
Mon 2nd May	Bank holiday
Week beginning 9th May Year 6 parents)	Year 6 SATs week (please look out for an important letter arriving today for
16th - 18th May	Year 6 residential trip
30th May - 3rd June	HALF TERM
15th - 17th June	Year 5 residential trip
Thurs 21st July	End of term (early finish)

GET CREATIVE

WITH JAM ARTS

FREE ART CAMPS FOR CHILDREN AGE 8 - 14

4TH - 14TH APRIL 2022

11AM - 3PM

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BOOK HERE: WWW.JAM-ARTS.COM

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GET YOUR UNIQUE HAPPY BOOKING CODE FROM
YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL TO JOIN OUR CAMPS!



EASTER RUGBY CLINIC DATES



1 TO 1 SKILL DEVELOPMENT

FOCUS: PLAYER POSITIONAL GUIDED
Venue: Hertford Rugby Club
Time: 60mins Sessions
Age: U10 to U18

PRICE:
£25



1 DAY SPECIALIST SKILLS CLINIC

FOCUS: HALF BACKS & BACK 3 DEVELOPMENT
Venue: Hertford Rugby Club
Time: 10AM to 2PM
Age: U12 to U18

PRICE:
£35



Contact:

info@catalystcoachingclinics.co.uk
www.catalystcoachingclinics.co.uk





PIZZA & COOKIE EVENT

FRIDAY 25TH MARCH

We've teamed up with Doughies for a fun family night in. Order your pizza & cookie making kits and you'll receive everything you need to make artisan margherita pizzas (**regular or vegan**), and warm gooey cookies in your home oven.

Orders to be placed via the Doughies website by Saturday 19th March
<https://doughies.co.uk/products/simon-balle>

Orders to be collected on Fri 25th March. Details will be shared with primary & secondary phases

THE HERTFORD & WARE

Flyer

Issue 2 March 2022

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Stanstead Abbots river view by Stephanie Adams

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