

Primary phase newsletter

Friday 01 April 2022

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today



All-through news

Welcome to the final newsletter of this term. Christmas now seems a long time ago and we are all looking ahead to enjoying warmer weather and lighter evenings. Year 7 particularly enjoyed their residential visit last week. Sunny Suffolk, a beautiful seaside setting and wonderful grounds of a manor house- a wonderful backdrop to a set of adventures. It was a great experience for all; many of the young people had never been away from home before so had to overcome this challenge. A big thank you to all staff who went and to the young people who were a credit to the Simon Balle Community.

Year 5 and year 6 are now looking forward to their own residential adventures, nearer home! In the last newsletter, we thanked families for their continuous support. This included taking a responsible attitude with regards to managing covid. We continue to hear of both children and staff who are poorly but know that most families are managing this well.

Last night we were thrilled to see the return of the ever popular "Evening of Drama", after an almost 3 year interval. The variety of the event was astounding; starting with a showcase of work created in KS3 lessons, an A Level monologue and also with Y6, Y7, Y8 enrichment students showing their skills. What then followed was the "traditional" House Drama event but with 2 houses working together to perform a 30 minute play. And what great and amusing performances! "The Greatest Showman" (Mimram/Beane), "A Very Potter Musical" (Ashbourne/Lea) and finally "Annie" (New/Rib). With around 20 students from Y7-Y12, in each performance, plus scrip writers, choreographers,

producers, lighting experts, music and sound technicians- all students- it was a feast to behold. A huge well done to all students. Thanks too to Ms Palmer, Green and Wallace and other supporting staff. And to a marvellous and responsive audience. It is great to have this back! Well done.

National Reading Champions Quiz

On Wednesday 30th March two teams of 4 students represented Simon Balle All-through School in one of the cross-regional heats for the National Reading Champions Quiz. Both teams did an excellent job at answering the quiz questions. Team B came 3rd out of 25 schools and Team A narrowly missed 3rd place by just one point. Very well done to Sophia Bloss, Summer Lafferty, Amelia Czapp, Harry Brunton, Eloise Canham, James Chase, Audrey Pirt and Charlie Howes!



Covid

Although restrictions are being eased unfortunately covid is still in circulation in the community and it is worth bearing in mind the following:

Be kind – respect people wearing masks or keeping their distance from you. They may well be very vulnerable to infection

Be informed – know your level of risk and get good, trusted advice on managing it

Be vaccinated or boosted – ensure you and those around you are vaccinated when invited

Be safe – manage your risk when socially mixing (hands, face, space, fresh air)
Be prepared – if you get Covid, stay at home and get early treatment should you need it.

Local traffic and roads around Simon Balle

There is a serious and growing problem with speeding traffic on London Road along a school route used daily by parents and children as they walk to Simon Balle schools. Drivers are frequently flouting the 40mph speed limit and driving at well over 50mph!

The road meets every criterion for the installation of a speed camera with the single exception that not enough 'serious' accidents have yet occurred. This is a road that is heavily used by HGVs, has an average of 35,000 vehicle users daily, no safety barriers (these were removed in the lower section in 2020 and never put on the top section) and a walking route to not only to our school but four other nurseries and primary schools within a mile radius.

Increased community pressure has resulted in more frequent police speed checks using radar guns during recent months and the police have quite reasonably targeted school pick-up and collection times for these exercises.

An on-line petition has been set up to ask the police to install speed cameras along this stretch of road. If we as a school are promoting walking to school we must ensure that the roads are safe for our students. To that end, we would ask you to scan the bar code which will take you to the campaign. The more signatures the better!



<https://www.change.org/StopLondonRoadSpeeding>

Feedback on flu vaccination programme

We have been asked for feedback from parents on last year's flu immunisation programme. Please click on the link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/family-feedback>

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

To celebrate this unique event we will be holding a whole school picnic on Friday 27th May. All students from Reception to Y13 will be involved. Picnics can be ordered the same way as the Christmas lunches via

ParentPay. There will be competitions, games and much more. More information will be sent out after the Easter holiday

Move to Arbor

A quick reminder that you will be receiving a welcome email from Arbor in the first week back after the Easter break. This new MIS will take over some of the functions of Go4Schools immediately (attendance and homework) while behaviour and assessment/reports will migrate at a later date (we will keep you fully informed).

Please be patient with us all as we learn how to use this new and exciting system over the next few weeks!

You can read more about the changes on our [website](#).

Vacancies

We are currently looking for an English teacher, Health & Social Care teacher and an IT technician. Full details, including job and person specifications, can be found on our website.

Eco-Schools governing body committee



Dropping litter causes harm to wildlife and habitats. We all play a vital role in protecting and enhancing our environment. Please do not drop litter, and even better: pick some up during your Easter Holiday.

Environmental Challenge: How much litter can you collect in one hour?

Email a photo to browns@simonballe.herts.sch.uk to gain a house point (include name and year).

Music news

See the link below for our Music News, from Curriculum to Exam Results to Concerts! Well done to all!

<https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/musical-news-01-04-2022/>

Reach out for Refugees

The 'Reach out for Refugees' day was a great success. If you click on the link you will see that already at over £11,000 has been raised including offline donations that have been made. If Gift Aid is added in this takes the total to over £13,500. This will allow us to help so many people. You are still able to donate to this cause and a big well done to all the Hertfordshire schools which took part.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/ReachOutForRefugees>

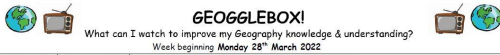
Geography Update

This term saw our Yr10 GCSE Geography students complete their coasts and urban fieldwork. Students spent the day in Walton-on-the-Naze collection primary data which they will have to write about in the exam next summer. The students were fantastic on both days and have been excellent at creating the different methods of data presentation. Next year we hope to run fieldwork locally for all KS3 classes.

The Geography team ventured out to the primary school this term, teaching a Yr5 class all about the Alps and what an alpine environment would look like. We were very impressed with the ideas they had and also their knowledge of different countries around the world.



Geography enrichment this term has been focusing on GIS skills. Students have been using our digital software to map locations around the world, work out distances as well as plan their own journeys. Yr7 also had the opportunity to practice the map skills they had learnt at the start of the year. The students used OS Maps and GIS to explore Bawdsey Manor and its surrounding before going away on their residential trip.



The show	The channel	The day/time	The rundown	Catch up?
Villages by the Sea: Clovelly	FOUR	Monday 28th 19:30 - 20:00	Archaeologist Ben Robison reveals the story of this Devon coastal gem's transformation from fishing village to romantic Victorian seaside resort.	BBC Player
The Man	FOUR	Monday 28th 19:30 - 20:00	Following the acquisition of Thainstone Mart, Sheep auctioneer Colin visits two rival farmers desperate to outdo each other on sales day.	BBC Player
Devon and Cornwall	FOUR	Monday - Friday 19:05 - 21:00	Shepherd Steve and Croppin prepare for a speed shearing competition. Wheelwrights Greg and Mike build a gun carriage for the HMS Warrior. Chef Greg goes foraging for inspiration.	A14
Headertails - Meet Your Ancestors	FOUR	Monday 28th 20:00 - 21:00	Ella Al-Shanabi and Andy Sarkis investigate what Headertails looked like and how they lived in their Ice Age world.	BBC Player
The Golden Age of Steam	FOUR	Monday 28th 21:00 - 22:00	[Post-watershed] Home movies tell the story of how, when steam started to disappear in the 1950s, volunteers were able to save some of the trunks and the engines that ran on them.	BBC Player
Stream Days	FOUR	Tuesday 29th 19:30 - 20:00	First transmitted in 1986, Mike Knighton travels across the western Highlands on one of the most picturesque railways in Britain. From Fort William to Millport.	BBC Player
Villages by the Sea: Lindisfarne	FOUR	Tuesday 29th 19:30 - 20:00	Archaeologist Ben Robison discovers the story of the monks and villagers of the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, off the Northumberland coast.	BBC Player
Getaways	FOUR	Tuesday 29th 19:00 - 19:30	Holly Hamilton and 17 Children report from the Greek island of Crete, known for its beaches and ancient history. Axl Dooz Doherty visits Costa Parais Langford, Ireland.	BBC Player
Villages by the Sea: Robin Hood's Bay	FOUR	Wednesday 30th 19:30 - 20:00	Archaeologist Ben Robison reveals the story of smuggling intrigue and brewery on the Yorkshire coast.	BBC Player
Scotland's Sacred Islands with Ben Fogle	FOUR	Wednesday 30th 20:00 - 21:00	Ben Fogle explores Celtic island life and whether the physical aspect of the landscape makes it easier to make spiritual connections.	BBC Player
The Earth Is Blue as an Orange - Storyville	FOUR	Wednesday 30th 22:00 - 23:15	[Post-watershed] A Storyville documentary that follows Mia and her three siblings as they create a film to make sense of being transgender in Ukraine.	BBC Player
Villages by the Sea: Walsborough	FOUR	Thursday 31st 19:30 - 20:00	Archaeologist Ben Robison discovers the surprising story of this former medieval port on the Suffolk coast.	BBC Player
Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs	FOUR	Thursday 31st 19:30 - 20:30	Paul sails along a much-loved route through the Kyle of Bute to Dunoon, before heading to the Borders and exploring the forgotten lochs of Fife.	BBC Player
World's Most Scenic River Journeys	5	Friday 1st 19:00 - 20:00	We go down roads made dangerous by sharp limestone. A fishing spot awaits and we chat with a park ranger who tells us of an industry that came, left its mark and vanished.	My 5
Unreported World	5	Friday 1st 19:30 - 20:00	Post-pandemic, Thailand's cryptocurrency market is booming, with tech traders and rural farmers alike working in digital money leading to riches for some and ruin for others.	A14
Coastal Britain with Kate Humble	5	Friday 1st 20:00 - 21:00	Starting on Plymouth's wooden pier, Kate Humble's journey begins with a boat trip to the Islesles, which her Victorian guidebook recommends as the best way to view these impressive chalk features.	My 5
Coasting with Susan Gilman	5	Friday 1st 21:00 - 22:00	[Post-watershed] Susan kicks off her new series by setting sail on a cruise to the sunny Canary Islands aboard the Regal Princess First Step to the island of Gran Canaria.	My 5
Earth's Sweet Rivers II	TWO	Friday 1st 21:30 - 22:30	[Post-watershed] The Yukon is a river of wild extremes. Home to bears, moose and huge salmon, the riches of North America's frozen river have sustained people for centuries.	BBC Player
Matt Baker: Our Farm in the Dales	FOUR	Saturday 2nd 19:00 - 20:00	Just six months since the loss of his beloved sheep, Matt's makeover of the gully and seating area begins to take shape, and the sports venture is put to rest.	A14
Countryfile	FOUR	Sunday 3rd 17:30 - 18:30	Ain't Ben and Sean Fletcher celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. Claire Marshall investigates whether toxic herbicides are linked to Parkinson's Disease.	BBC Player
Devon and Cornwall: Coastal Lives	FOUR	Sunday 3rd 20:00 - 21:00	This special programme meets the people whose lives revolve around the south-western coast's 1000 miles of shoreline, from foraging to freeriding.	A14
Fish Town	FOUR	Sunday 3rd 20:30 - 21:00	Six-year series about the UK's biggest fishing port, Peterhead. The Reliance heads to a fishing ground off the Shetland Isles in search of whitefish and prawns.	BBC Player



The second half of the spring term saw the launch of Geogglebox. Every Monday students are sent a list of different television programmes which are on during the week. This is a great opportunity for students to find out more about topics they enjoy and continue to learn at home. Please ask your daughter/son about this and join in with them if possible. A list for this week can be seen on the right. To support this the department has been running Geogglebox Tuesdays. Each week on a Tuesday lunchtime students can join up in G2 to watch a Geography themed program. We have watched a mixture of two series both by David Attenborough, Green Planet and Planet Earth. Students are exposed to lots of new vocabulary in Geography with the subject being one of the most important when it comes to developing literacy. To help students learn and embed new vocabulary, at the beginning of the year we started our 'Geography Word of the Week'. The image below shows you the different words we have used so far. Please encourage your daughter/son to use them. Our first word next term is Sovereignty.

School Parliament

School Parliament continues to flourish under the stewardship of Ewan and Amelie (Head Boy and Head Girl). So much has already been achieved and it is great to see the level of debate and discussion in all parts of the school. The School Parliament recently took over school charities and it was great to see them choosing to support the Ukraine Refugees and providing educational materials for all form groups in our all-through school. In addition, they organised a sixth form charity football match for Red Nose Day and after an exciting draw the bookies underdogs, Year 13, went on to win on penalties. This is an event that will hopefully become an annual event on the school calendar. The crowds and atmosphere made it a really special occasion.

Today we have our School Parliament meeting discussing the impact of the mental health app 'TCUP', house events, diversity and ideas for displays around the school. We also have a special guest from a Herts Councillor, Vicky Smith, looking to set up a Youth Council in our local area. Exciting times!

Primary news

It has been a wonderful spring term, in which we are so proud of the children across the Larch. Celebration assemblies - for both KS1 and KS2 - are simply my favourite time of the week, in which it gives all staff great pleasure to reward children for demonstrating so many of our Simon Balle values. Each child receiving a values or superstar certificate, or coming up to celebrate their contribution to a match or concert, or being praised for their recall of times tables, their commitment to reading, their handwriting or more, is rightly so proud of what they have achieved - it is the best part of what we do as staff! As well as individual rewards, they are captivated to know how each house has performed - they recognise that through showing our Simon Balle values, they are contributing to our special community and making their peers proud too. There is simply too much for me to mention all here. Yet, beginning with sports, it has been a wonderful term. Just this week, we are celebrating our footballers and netball team, and a fantastic group of collaborative, competitive, resilient cross-country runners, with so much to celebrate.

Last week, our spring term Larch music concert was a wonderful culmination of all things musical this term. We are so grateful for your highly positive feedback as parents, for example: *'Just wanted to say how wonderful the Larch Concert was last week. We are always so impressed with Team Music. The children were able to shine and your relaxed yet focused and high standards approach is such a strength of the school at large. Thank you for putting all the hard work in to support the children, you are very much appreciated and valued.'* Well done to both choirs, strings and wind/brass orchestras - we are in awe of all you are achieving.

I wanted to also mention our wonderful Year 6 cohort. It is an exciting, but also slightly daunting, time for them as they prepare for their KS2 SATs, their Year 6 residential, and their graduation from the Larch. With so much to look forward to next term, I wanted to thank them now for their commitment to their learning. We know that all their hard work, and their responsibility to their learning, is going to help them so much in progressing well and being ready for all the exciting prospects of the secondary phase. Keep going Year 6 - fuelled with brioche and orange juice, we thank you for attendance at boosters, 100% attendance at school, a small amount of practice over Easter (as well as a wonderful break!) and brilliant focus in the next few weeks in particular - well done! Across the Larch next half term is an exciting period. All aspects of enrichment and trips are fully in motion! Please see dates below, and in emails to each year group, in relation to swimming (Years 1, 2, 5 and 6); trips out of school and visitors in school; balanceability workshops; Years 5 and 6 residential; music and sport continued; and more! We are so

pleased to be offering our children the breadth and ambition of the whole curriculum, across all subjects.

Staffing

We are writing to let you know that unfortunately, Mrs Hall will be moving on from Simon Balle at the end of April 2022. We are indebted to Mrs Hall for the expertise that she has offered us in relation to all aspects of special educational needs. We know that many, many parents, as well as staff, have benefited greatly from her knowledge, as well as her passion for every child receiving the support that they need and deserve. We hope that Mrs Hall will remain closely connected with us, and she will be handing over to Miss Williams, as part of our SEND strategic team, at Simon Balle All-through School, as 2022 proceeds.

Accent catering

Please find here

<https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/daily-life/canteen/> the new menus for after the Easter break. Many thanks to our KS2 lunch inspectors who have provided very positive feedback - specifically around the exciting and fresh salad bar daily, the now much wider range of panini options (again daily), and the pasta options daily as well as the continued three week rotation of main and vegetarian mains. We continue to welcome all feedback, and look forward to a new term.



Link below for pumpkin recipe cards:

https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/daily-life/canteen/?preview_id=445&preview_nonce=c7c51f2109&thumbnail_id=-1&preview=true

Punctuality

An important reminder, please, that punctuality to school is incredibly important. Our soft start in the Larch is between 8.40am and 8.50am, meaning that the absolute latest time that children should be entering school is just before 8.50am. If they can be on site from 8.45am at the latest, it means that, even when parents are dropping siblings, all children are in school to benefit from the early morning learning that is set. The formal day of lessons begins at 8.50am, so arrival after this time means that children are missing out on important learning. Please help us to help your child/ren by ensuring that they don't miss out - thank you.

Author Visit

By Holly, Summer and Jenson

On 8th March, the author Ny M Jones visited the Larch Centre to share with us the books she has written. She read an extract from a book she has published, Imani, by Siarrah Qadri-Warburton. A lot of books have morals and special meanings. Ny showed us that anyone can be an author at any age for example she worked with a girl at only the age of 12. She explained many ways people have become authors.

After school ended, Ny came to the Larch library and sold signed copies of books she had written. We saw lots of people thoroughly enjoying their new stories.

World Book Day

Written by larch librarians (eva,Zachary,Ethan,lola)

Year 3 reading

We had a visit to year three to read to them a book about a flute and a monster and the year threes loved it. We got to read with multiple books and magazines.

Year 2 reading

Our visit to the children began with a book called Hugo being read to Foxes. It was my responsibility to read the book properly. The children also chose their own books to read to me.

Reception Reading

After the main book we split into smaller groups. I loved seeing the wonder and joy on their faces as they looked at the colourful pictures. It was amazing and a really fun experience to be a part of.

Larch Pre-loved uniform

After the Easter holiday, we welcome donations of any unwanted Larch uniform, especially in older sizes. Please only donate clean items that are in good condition.

You will find a small selection of pre-loved uniform hanging on a clothes rail outside Larch reception, weather permitting.

Please do take what you need. Donations to the PSA can be made via bank transfer: 202037 30829781 Quote 'preloved' when paying.

Slice of Summer

We are very much looking forward to this year's summer fair, after a two year pause!! We are offering members of the Simon Balle community the opportunity to take a pitch at the Slice of Summer on 9th July, before we open bookings to the wider community. Please contact stallbooking@simonballepsa.org.uk stating what you are able to offer. Booking forms will be issued, provided what you are offering does not clash with an existing stallholder.



Volunteer opportunities

Wind and Brass Concert (secondary) - Saturday 23rd April

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

volunteersignup.org/WT7KY

Primary dates

As well as dates shared previously (for example, the exciting Year 6 and then Year 5 residential trips), we also wanted to highlight the following:

Monday 25th April - Year 2 trip to Windsor Castle (history curriculum focus)

Thursday 28th April - Year 1 trip to Paradise Wildlife Park (science and geography important curriculum links)

Friday 6th May - Year 4 Ancient Egypt day (History Off the Page)

Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th May - Year 1 Balanceability workshops (in school)

And finally....

With many thanks to all families for their great support of Simon Balle, and your children/young people, this term. We know that our community and our partnerships between home and school are what makes us strong, even where challenges are inevitably faced. Wishing you all a restful and happy Easter break, however, this is enjoyed by families across our all-through school. We look forward to welcoming students back on Wednesday 20th April 2022.

With all best wishes,
Mrs Alison Saunders (Headteacher); Mrs Rachel Kirk (Vice Principal)

Dates

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
Tues 26th April	Y8 parents evening
Mon 2nd	May Bank holiday

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The advertisement features a yellow background with faint icons of school supplies. It displays a collection of school items including a white shirt, a dark tie, black shoes, a grey notebook with a black pen, and several blue 'EMMA' brand nametags. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner, and a red speech bubble contains the school ID '37273'. The MyNametags logo is in the top left, and the Queen's Awards for Enterprise logo is in the top right.

