

Primary phase newsletter

Friday 29th April 2022

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today



All-through news

We welcome all students and their families back after the Spring holiday, as we start the summer term. We have so much to look forward to this term including our very first cohort sitting their KS2 SATS! Our diary is bursting full with trips (Y2 were so excited this week as they went on their first school visit to Windsor Castle) both day and residential, concerts, sports events and our special all-through picnic to celebrate the 70 years that Queen Elizabeth has been on the throne. GCSEs and A levels have returned and Y9 will start their option choices in June.

With warmer weather we hope that all children and young people will take advantage of the great outdoors and keep active. Thank you for your support recently in discussion about phones, social media and keeping safe. We are glad that so many parents welcome the information and support. Keeping safe online is a key issue in our society and we attach the latest online safety newsletter from Herts For Learning, as well as a helpful information sheet around parents/carers' information regarding group chats. Please do read this as it contains very useful information and help.

We are also celebrating "a year in the life of our School Farm" this week. It has been a great success educationally and socially and both secondary and primary students have really enjoyed and benefited from the animals on site. As time has moved on, it has been great to see our young people develop independence and responsibility for their roles in caring for the animals. As well as this, we could not be more grateful to all of the families who take such important roles during weekends and holidays.

Climate Change Workshop

On Thursday 28th April, we welcomed Charlotte

Mendel, an En-Roads climate ambassador, to facilitate an interactive virtual workshop on climate change.

80 students from across years 6, 7 and 8 joined the United Nations Climate Summit which was a climate change role play activity. The students took on the role of leaders representing different sectors of the economy and governments to negotiate a climate deal to reduce CO₂ emissions.

The students participated enthusiastically and demonstrated teamwork and leadership skills throughout. It was fantastic to see the three year groups working collaboratively to solve the climate emergency which is one of the greatest challenges facing humankind.

We hope that this will act as a catalyst to further inspire positive behaviours and environmental stewardship within our community.

Environment Challenge: Are vampire appliances draining your energy?

There's been a [lot of talk lately about 'Vampire Appliances'](#): the things we leave plugged in that still consume energy. A recent study by British Gas estimated that as much as 23% of our electrical usage can be put down to so-called vampire energy, which means a national cost of around £2.2bn. And it's not just the financial cost: there's the environmental impact of producing all that extra electricity.

Your challenge this week is to see how many of these 'Vampire Appliances' you can turn off and unplug around your home. Look out for things like phone chargers (even ones that are turned off), TVs, lights on in unoccupied rooms... Then click on this link and tell us what things you've managed to turn off in your house.

Well done to all those that took part in the last environment challenge! Here are some photos of some of our fantastic students doing their part to remove litter from the environment.



Vacancies

Please look at our [vacancies page on the website](#) as it is regularly updated. Currently we are welcoming applications for a SENDO, a Health & Social Care teacher and a MFL teacher (Spanish and/or French). There may be some flexibility over working patterns for the right candidates.

Arbor

You should by now have received an email from admin@simonballe.herts.sch.uk inviting you to log into Arbor. There is also an app that you can download to make life a little easier. You can read more about [Arbor on our website](#). The new system will allow you to check and update contact details and other student information. Please be aware that the mobile numbers that we hold must be for an adult: you should not enter the student's mobile number into Arbor.

Congratulations

Congratulations to our D&T teacher Aisling Dowd who gave birth to her daughter on Saturday. Both Mum and baby are doing very well.

Music news

<https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/music-al-news-29-04-2022/>

Jubilee picnic

Just a reminder about the whole school picnic on Friday 27th May. The letter below goes into more detail and we hope that everyone will join in this unique celebration



Dear parents and students

In 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee after 70 years of service. We, like many other school, businesses, charities and organisations are going to mark this unique achievement.

The main events take place during half term but our 'Jubilee Picnic' will take place on Friday 27th May on the back field. The whole school (Reception to 6th form) will be involved. Our canteen will provide the picnics which will cost £3.50 for those who normally pay for lunch and will include a sandwich, fruit bag, cupcake and a drink. Payment will be via ParentPay and the closing date will be Thursday 19th May. Unfortunately we will not be able to accept payments after this date.

Students may bring their own totally nut free picnic. No other food will be available except for secondary break food.

Students should bring a small blanket (or something similar to sit on). Our music department will provide music and there will be games and competitions. Like our Christmas lunch we do hope as many students as possible will join in especially as it has been quite some time since we have been able to hold a large whole school event.

We will send out more information nearer the time and keep our fingers crossed for good weather!

Madeleine Harman, School Manager

School Parliament

Bernadette Devlin once said 'My function in life is not to be a politician in Parliament: it is to get something done'. Our School Parliament certainly has achieved a lot this year. A local town councillor, Vicky Smith, came to our last session and was impressed by how it was led by our students and the impact they are having within the school. Our last session focussed on the mental health app, TCUP, and feedback has been sent directly to the company to make improvements. We also audited school displays and two have now been designed by our Diversity Group.

We recently asked our current Year 12 students to apply for student leadership roles and their applications were a pleasure to read. They showed commitment to both the school, via volunteering, and to the local community. We are in the process of meeting with these students and organising future leadership roles.

In this cycle we are looking at how we can improve assemblies across the all-through school and what students would like to cover in lesson 5. In particular we are asking:

- Which topics in your year group have been helpful? What else would you like to be included?
- Are there topics which you think have not been covered well?
- Do you feel that there is enough time?
- Would it be useful to have an outside speaker or a senior member of staff lead on certain topics?

We are now beginning to explore future structures to the School Parliament to allow more leadership opportunities in key stages 2 and 3 and further integration with the primary phase.

Primary news

What a wonderful start to the summer term! The Larch has been alive with the buzz of learning, and opportunities both in the past week and the week to come abound! From trips (Windsor Castle and Paradise Wildlife Park) to academic enrichment (Year 3/4 maths day coming soon); from sport (the bikes are being serviced and football event letters going out today!) to music (a new term of lessons underway, as well as Tuesday string orchestra commencing)! Clubs are all well underway, and I have enjoyed visiting Explorers drama, mandarin and tri-golf, and KS1 book club, cricket and cross-country running! Thank you as ever as parents for your commitment to such activities - the breadth and ambition of all of the above is so exciting.

At the start of a new term, it is always a privilege and pleasure to talk to children about their learning as they immerse themselves into new units of learning across subjects. In Year 3, children have been inspired to apply their writing skills (grammar, vocabulary, creativity and more) to their inspiration from a great picture book - 'Journey'. It was great to read recount writing from Year 2 as well, following their exciting trip - all of the historical knowledge from their knowledge organiser came alive in their visit and workshop! I was delighted to receive visitors from Years 4 and 5 following a fantastic lunchtime tournament across several weeks - certificates for not only excellence in football, but true sportsmanship too, demonstrating many of our Simon Balle values, will be presented in assembly today.

I am also proud to be reading reports for Years 1, 3, 4 and 5 at present. These will be published on Friday 6th May on Go for Schools. We trust that the content will be highly informative for you as parents - both celebrating so many achievements, and being precise about next steps - in a personalised way for every child across the curriculum. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.



Year 6 - 8 study club - Reminder for Year 6
Study club is on every **Wednesday 3.15-4.15pm** and it is **free** to attend. Children can complete their home learning, read or do extra revision/practise in an area they need support with such as spellings or times tables. There is always an adult available to support the children with their work.

Please contact Miss Boyce or Mr Peters if you have any questions.

Trip to Windsor Castle- Y2

We were delighted that Year 2 were able to venture on their first ever school trip on Monday to Windsor Castle! There was a buzz in the air as the children came into school and we set off on our coach journey. We arrived in good time and began in groups with a self-guided tour around the grounds, which included visiting St George's Chapel, the State Apartments, Queen Mary's Dolls' House and of course looking at the features of the castle itself that we have learnt about in the last term. Many stewards and members of the public commented on

how well behaved and engaged the children were, they made us so proud!
We had our packed lunches, which was followed by a special session altogether called ' All About Castles.' We were able to reenact life in a castle, watching the drawbridge and portcullis in action, and some volunteers even got to try on armour! The session leader was really impressed by the children's knowledge.
Overall the trip was a huge success and we are so pleased the children enjoyed themselves. Thank you to all staff and parents who helped us during the day.

Mrs Philip and Mrs Riddle

Dates

Mon 2nd May	Bank holiday
Mon 16th - 18th	Y6 residential trip
Tues 17th May	Battlefields information evening
Thurs 18th May	Y10 theatre trip
Tues 24th May	Y8 parents evening
Thurs 26th May	GCSE & A level art trip
Fri 27th May	Jubilee picnic Y13 prom
Mon 30th - Fri 3rd June	Half term
Wed 8th June	Y8 theatre trip
Wed 15th - 17th	Y5 residential trip
Thurs 16th June	Y8 HPV2 immunisation
Fri 17th June	Doughies Pizza
Thurs 30th June	New Y7 parents evening
Sat 2nd July	Saffron hall music event
Tues 5th July	Stevenson's pop up shop
Wed 6th July	Art exhibition
Thurs 7th July	Y9 theatre trip
Fri 8th July	Sports presentation evening
Sat 9th July	Slice of Summer
Wed 13 - 16th July	Music tour

Thurs 14th July	Transition day
Mon 18th July	Primary sports day
Thurs 21st July	End of term - early finish

PSA News

Next meeting

Our next meeting will take place, in person, on Thursday 5th May at 7pm in the school library. We welcome families from both secondary and primary phase to attend - you do not need to be a committee member. Please bring your wonderful ideas along and help us to create some amazing memories for the children and school community.



Match Funding, 9th July - Slice of Summer

We are very much looking forward to bringing the school community together at this year's summer fair, after a two year pause!! Keep an eye out for sponsorship and volunteer opportunities in the next newsletter.

Simon Balle PSA is a registered charity and we are able to take advantage of match funding. This is where a company matches or contributes an amount based on the funds raised at an event, where one of their employees volunteers.

We understand that organisations such as high street banks, building societies, supermarkets and large corporations are likely to have a match funding scheme.

If your company has a match funding policy and you would be interested in helping at one of our events, please get in touch and we can see how this would best work. In terms of what you would need to provide to your employer this would generally be confirmation from the PSA as to the nature of the event, how much has been raised and evidence that the employee has helped out

It's as simple as that! Can you help?

psa@simonballepsa.org.uk

SLICE OF SUMMER
SUMMER FAIR
Match Funding
CAN YOUR COMPANY SUPPORT
OUR SUMMER FUNDRAISER?

DOES YOUR COMPANY OFFER MATCH FUNDING?

SIMON BALLE
ALL-THROUGH SCHOOL
SATURDAY 9TH, JULY 2022, 1-4PM

Larch Frozen Fridays

After a two year pause, we hope to re-launch the much loved Larch Frozen Fridays.

These take place each Friday, after the May half term break - weather permitting! Families can purchase ice creams and ice lollies after school and we are looking at ways to accommodate children who are signed up to after school clubs too.

To facilitate sales, we are looking for a small number of volunteers. If you are able to assist, please sign up via this link, where you will also be able to check sale dates: volunteersignup.org/WT7KY

FROZEN FRIDAY

CO-ORDINATORS NEEDED

After a two year pause, we would LOVE to offer the hugely popular Larch Frozen Fridays once again. To make this happen, we are looking for a small team of helpers to coordinate weekly stock ordering and sales during the final weeks of the summer term. Volunteers can sign up here: volunteersignup.org/WT7KY



Online Safety News



Summer 2022 | PARENT | CARER

Talking to your child about online sexual harassment, Children's Commissioner Guide

A guide for parents on how to talk to children about online sexual harassment has been published on behalf of the Children's Commissioner. The **guide** includes tips from young people about how parents can open up earlier conversations about sexual harassment, nudes, sexualised bullying, photo editing, body image and peer pressure.

'This guide serves as a starter kit – an entry point for parents and carers who want to talk to their children but need a bit of support to understand the issues and to start a conversation.'

Summary of top tips include:

- Start speaking to your children about these issues before you first give them a phone or set up a social media account. This might feel very early, but you can do it in an age appropriate way. It is better to be proactive than reactive. Don't wait for the crisis.
- Keep the conversation going. Adapt to your child so you can support them. Don't mention it once and think that's enough.
- Keep it casual, find everyday opportunities to speak about these issues with your child – like when you're walking or driving somewhere. Don't scare them with 'the big talk'.

The full guide can be downloaded from: [Children's Commissioner Gov. UK | Talking to your child about sexual harassment](#)



What to do if something goes wrong

Where to get help

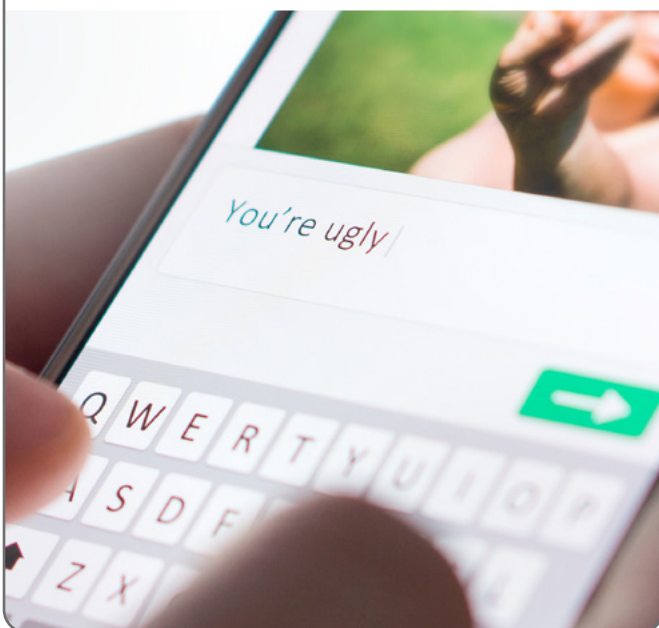
If you are worried that your child has had an upsetting experience online, for example if a nude image has been shared without their consent, it is important that you know where to go for immediate support.

- Contact **Childline/IWF Report Remove** if an image/video of an under-18 has been shared without their consent. [Childline | Remove a nude image shared online](#)
- Make a report to **National Crime Agency - Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (NCA CEOP)** if you think the image/video has been shared with an adult. ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting
- Visit the [NSPCC dedicated helplines website page](#) or call 0808 800 5000 or email help@nspcc.org.uk.
- Your child can also call (free) or email **Childline** themselves: childline.org.uk/get-support
- Speak to your child's **school**

NSPCC online safety hub

The NSPCC safety hub is organised by topic and holds lots of information and advice for parents and carers including [social media](#), [online gaming](#) and [parental controls](#).

The safety hub can also help with more difficult conversations around [sharing nudes](#), [inappropriate content](#) and [online reporting](#).



parentzone

Helping children cope with media coverage of traumatic events

Seeing coverage of upsetting local and world events in the news, online or on social media can be distressing for children, especially given today's 24-hour news availability. There are things parents can do to help children make sense of them.

Parentzone suggests five steps to help children cope with distressing events and suggests further support resources.

1. Give them space to talk
2. Create a sense of calm
3. Reassure them
4. Keep things simple
5. Listen to their views

Read the full article at:

[Parentzone | Helping your child cope with media coverage of traumatic events](#)



What is 'Genshin Impact'?

'Genshin Impact' is an action adventure game that was released in 2020 and it has become highly popular. Parentzone have put together a useful guide that explores the game's features, gameplay and potential risks, for parents to use in conversations with children.

[Parent Zone | What is Genshin Impact](#)

What is Yubo?

Yubo is a chat and live streaming app, extremely popular among young people. It was launched originally under the name Yellow, and was nicknamed "Tinder for teens" due to its swipe-to-match functionality which mimics the adult dating app.

Find out what parents need to know about Yubo in this Parent Zone article:

[Parent Zone | What is Yubo](#)

Search engines and what you need to know about safer searching

Parentzone offers a detailed parent guide to understanding search engines and how to help your child search more safely and positively.

[Parent Zone | Search Engines | What you need to know](#)

Remember - no filter is 100% effective!



Setting up parental controls

The online world gives everyone access to a huge amount of information, images and services, and this inevitably includes content that is inappropriate for children. Parental controls allow you to block and filter upsetting or inappropriate content.

Setting up parental controls and individual safety settings on your child's favourite app or game, can help stop unwanted contact from people they don't know.

NSPCC has produced a guide to the different ways that you can set up parental controls to help keep your child safe online.

[NSPCC | Parent Controls](#)

The information in the newsletter is given to help promote the safety of children and young people online.

Every care has been taken to ensure the information and any recommendations in the newsletter are accurate at the time of publishing. Schools must make their own judgements when sharing our recommendations with parents and carers and, where appropriate, always risk assess with their pupils and whole school community in mind.

This newsletter is brought to you by the Herts for Learning Wellbeing team as part of their online safety support for schools and settings in Hertfordshire. Contact the team at wellbeing@hertsforlearning.co.uk or call **01438 544464**.

Herts for Learning (HfL) is a provider of products and services to schools and educational settings. We believe that every young person, through access to a great education, should be able to realise their potential, regardless of where they live or their circumstances.