

Primary phase newsletter

Friday 27th May 2022

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today



All-through news

Welcome to our final newsletter this half term. We are ending this with a very special community event, once again demonstrating the uniqueness of our all through school. Whilst we are on our normal "spring bank holiday" away from school, the nation will be celebrating the Queen's

Platinum Jubilee, with various events and activities. Therefore we are holding our own celebratory picnic.

Mr Ford (Sixth Form Team) has produced a very special video. Starting with some of our students in the Larch, he asked them about the Jubilee and their ideas about what life was like in Great Britain in 1952. This then is followed by a presentation of events from 1952, with our Student Presidents choosing their most memorable moment. Older children will watch this before they go outside for the picnic, awards and tree planting. We are anticipating a very special day and a memorable event where the whole school will be together - from our youngest reception children to Y12 (unfortunately the public exams continue!)

A big thank you to all those who have made this possible.

Therefore we wish you all a memorable "Jubilee Day" wherever you are.

School Games Mark Gold

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2021/22 academic year. The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward and recognise school's engagement in the School Games against a national benchmark and to celebrate

keeping young people active, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

We are extremely proud of our students for their dedication to all aspects of physical activity and school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who make our events possible. We believe in the power of physical activity and school sport as a school and give opportunities to our young people from being a participant, leader, official or volunteer.

School Mini Farm

The farm has been with us just over a year now - it was quite a momentous opening, after the third lockdown, with the community back together again, uplifted by the Big Band.

The farm has continued to give us all joy, each day, including weekends, holidays, even Christmas Day! For this, we are incredibly grateful to our parent community - and, of course, the children. Apart from Cookie's escape tricks (!), all is well - and the chickens are laying incredibly well at the moment.

Mr Tweed and his site team are to be thanked for ongoing maintenance - incredibly important for the farm - and you will see some renovations taking place at present. A little reorganisation has seen the guinea pigs now moved next to the rabbits, and the chickens will soon have increased space, which is important given the longer periods of Avian Flu experienced where they need to stay enclosed. A new roof too is being built. All of this makes better use of space within the farm - you heard it here first that we may be considering a new animal or two joining us!

In the meantime, if you have not been on the farm rota before, and would be interested in doing so, please email larch@simonballe.herts.sch.uk. It could be primary or secondary parents/students (although KS3 students would need to be accompanied by a parent) - and there is no minimum expectation - even once or twice every few months is helpful. The rota is always sent out for you to say what you would like to do. Mrs Harding (who I must also say an enormous thank you to for daily giving of her time for the farm!)

is happy to show anybody the ropes if you are new to the farm. Thank you all.

Eco challenge



Cycling and walking is far better for the planet than travelling by car. Please send photos of you cycling somewhere, such as the shops or park, that normally you would have travelled to by car. If you can tell how far it was, even better. Please email photos and details to: browns@simonballe.herts.sch.uk.

Attendance Matters

It is so pleasing to see the wonderful attendance figures in the primary phase and I wanted to share with you the year group breakdowns and thank you for your continued support.

Year 1 98.3%
Year 2 97.0%
Year 3 97.7%
Year 4 96.4%
Year 5 96.5%
Year 6 98.4%

Primary news

It has been an extraordinary few weeks in the Larch - from music to sports; from the Year 6 residential trip to the Year 4 Ancient Egyptian day; from swimming for Years 1, 2, 5 and 6 to Year 1 balanceability ... and much more - an enriched curriculum indeed. And yet, I wanted to focus in this newsletter on children's academic progress, as it has been a busy half term with KS2 SATs (our first ever!), KS1 SATs and preparation for both the Year 1 phonics screening check and the Year 4 multiplication tables check. In these year groups, and indeed all year groups, we have been delighted to see children's focus and commitment to achieving at their best. They have been highly motivated and happy to be challenged in their learning; they have shown our Simon Balle values of responsibility and resilience; they have frequently asked if there are any more tests they can sit! As parents know, we believe passionately that there is no tension between excellent academic progress and a broad curriculum with many enriching experiences. Your children are absolutely a testament to this. We thank you, as ever, for your support - please keep up the phonics (Year 1)

and times tables (Year 4) practise over half term, and, of course, reading for all.

At the time of writing, everybody is looking forward to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations tomorrow. It is truly special to be able to celebrate this landmark moment as an All-through School and we look forward to coming together across all year groups, enjoying music, games and sports, bunting, flags and special cupcakes!

Larch PE Kits for September 2022

We have been delighted to have had the opportunity to take part in many sporting events and fixtures so far this year and this has led to us reviewing our PE kits for September 2022. We have made the decision that from September 2022 the Simon Balle PE top shown below will be for children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. The Simon Balle PE t-shirts that correspond by colour to the children's houses will still be for children in Reception, Year 1 and 2. As always, please purchase the relevant tops from Kids Connection in Hertford.



Social media permissions: across the Larch

We greatly value the role of social media in allowing us to inform, delight and celebrate in learning, events and opportunities at Simon Balle. We know too that many within our Simon Balle community enjoy engaging with our all-through school in this way. This has perhaps been particularly true of the last two years, where the importance of communication virtually has been heightened. Even with a wonderful return to face-to-face events, social media continues to have an incredibly important role - giving a glimpse or window into all that is taking place! Our e-safety policy guides all that we do, and our principles are such that we would never use full names of children on social media platforms. There are, of course, important reasons why some children may not have photographs presented on social media - we will always be respectful and vigilant regarding this. However, the situation in the Larch has got a little complicated for some families, whereby parents may give permission for photographs for some events (for example, for music or permission given for a specific

area) and not for others. This, as we are sure you can understand, is not workable - and we do need one clear set of permissions for the use of photographs. We would urge you to consider granting permission if you have not done so in the past. The nature of technology has changed, and if photographs are on part of the web, in theory they could also be on social media. As well as this, it allows us to truly celebrate the achievements of all.

If you would like to change your permissions in any way, please email larch@simonballe.herts.sch.uk
If you have given permissions in some areas, and not others, then we will be contacting you following half term, to clarify whether you would like to give social media permission for all or no events. Thank you.

Year 1 Badgers

We are delighted to let you all know that, a little earlier than expected, Miss Williams has had a beautiful baby boy - named Frank Aubrey. We wish Miss Williams a wonderful maternity leave and all happiness in her family.

As Badgers parents will know, Mrs Arnold is now teaching Badgers on a Monday and Tuesday, and Miss Emery is teaching them Wednesdays - Fridays. A plea from both teachers that if Year 1 parents are sending an email related to teaching and learning, please send it to both teachers so they are both kept informed (arnolda@simonballe.herts.sch.uk and emeryj@simonballe.herts.sch.uk). As always, if your matter relates to admin (include absence, collection, a general query etc), please email larch@simonballe.herts.sch.uk.

Year 5 student leadership opportunities

On Thursday, our newly appointed sixth form presidents launched the student application process through an assembly to Year 5.

There are many roles to apply for to begin in Year 6, and application forms are available on Google Classroom, Go4Schools and there are hard copies in classrooms.

- Larch presidents
- Eco Leaders
- Music ambassadors
- Digital leaders
- Sports ambassadors
- Larch librarians

The deadline for applications is **Friday 23rd June**; please contact your class teacher if you have any questions or would like support with completing an application.

We look forward to receiving applications!

Year 2 End of Year Assembly

We are delighted to invite you to our Year 2 End of Year Assembly, which will take place on **Wednesday 6th July at 2pm in the Larch**. The children are looking forward to showing and performing highlights from their learning this year, and we are also conscious that as families you have had limited opportunities to come into school over the last two years, so we really hope you are able to join us! Please save this in your diaries.

Many thanks,
Mrs Philip and Mrs Riddle

Busy lizzies Holiday club

Hi Everyone,

We are delighted to announce that we are ready to open bookings for our Summer 2022 Holiday club at Simon Balle and we will be open for the first three weeks (Monday 25th July to Friday 12th August).

We have two exciting holiday booking options for your children to choose from:

Holiday Club

Exclusive to Busy Lizzies nursery children at Simon Balle and all Simon Balle children from Reception to Year 6.

We will be based in the Larch Hall and have sole access to the playground and Astro turf. We will offer free flow play and have various games and activities as we did in our previous holiday clubs. Activities include: Air hockey, board games, arts and crafts, small world/construction area, dolls house, snooker/pool, dance mat, loombands, reading/quiet area and many more. We will also offer outside play to include our ever popular ezy riders, bikes, trikes and various sports, alongside our gardening club and access to the farm. Weather permitting, we will hold our epic water fights to cool down too!

Football and Sports Academy

For Simon Balle children from Year 1 to Year 6.

The main sport will be football but we will enjoy other sports including cricket, dodgeball, archery etc. with the additional sports chosen by the children each day.

The football and Sports Academy will be run by Billy Rouse who your children will already know as he works at our breakfast and after school club. Billy has an FA coaching badge and has two years experience working at Tottenham Hotspur's soccer schools and academy. He will be joined by Kofi who has

qualifications in activity leadership and 3 years coaching in schools and holiday clubs. Mr Llewellyn will also attend if he can keep up with the pace!

We will also join the Holiday club children each day for a big dodgeball battle and an epic water fight (weather permitting).

We have sole access to the Astro turf, and on particularly wet or hot days we will move the academy indoors to the school's gym hall

There are two time sessions available for the Holiday club and Sports academy: 9am to 3pm is £30 and 8.30am to 5pm is £40. Please note the Sports academy will be 9am to 3pm but you can choose the 8.30am to 5pm session and your children will join the holiday club between 8.30am to 9am and then 3pm to 5pm.

Booking forms are available by emailing Busy Lizzies at BusyLizziesSB@gmail.com or you can collect from the Larch Reception.

Once booked, you will have a free cancellation period in case your circumstances change until 17th June but after this time payment will be expected even if you don't use the sessions. Therefore, please only apply if you will need the sessions. Bookings will remain open until 20th July or until the places have been sold out.

We hope to see you during the Summer holidays!

PSA

Larch Frozen Fridays

We currently do not have enough helpers for our Frozen Fridays to be a regular occurrence.

If you are able to help with sales after school on a Friday, either on the playground or the Year 2 pick up area, 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



17th June - Doughies Pizza and Cookie Event

If you are a Doughie's fan or just love a good quality pizza or cookie, then it's time to place your Doughies orders, for delivery on 17th June.

Kits (vegan kits available) can be ordered directly from Doughies before 13th June, but please do remember to include your child's name and class.

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

Important information: Named Larch Centre orders will be distributed via classrooms and sent home

with the children.



PIZZA & COOKIE EVENT

FRIDAY 17TH JUNE

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 11th June
<https://doughies.co.uk/products/simon-balle>

Orders to be collected on Fri 17th June. Details will be shared with primary & secondary phases

9th July - Slice of Summer

This year's exciting summer fair offers something for everyone. If you are able to support this event by taking a volunteer slot, please complete the form in the link below.

We particularly encourage Year 6 students to get involved, before they graduate to the secondary phase.

<https://forms.gle/Y1reNF3tBqw9oum77>

We are looking for a number of empty, washed, screw lid wine bottles. Please drop them off at the office where they will be put to good use!

Raffle tickets will soon be available. Top prizes include: iPad Air, £100 cash, FitBit Inspire, Spa Day for 2, Swimming Lessons, Gym Membership plus a selection of items donated by our external stallholders.



.....Finally

We wish you all a happy, restful and hopefully sunny half term break, and we look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 6th June 2022.

Best wishes, Mrs Alison Saunders (headteacher) and Mrs Rachel Kirk (Vice Principal)

Dates

Mon 30th - Fri 3rd June	Half term
Wed 8th June	Y8 theatre trip
Wed 15th - 17th June	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 all-through music concert
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 (Year 5+)
Sat 9th July	Slice of Summer (PSA - all!)
Wed 13 - 16th July	Music tour
Thurs 14th July	Transition day (all-through)
Tues 19th July	Primary sports day - more details to follow
Thurs 21st July	End of term - early finish

