

Primary phase newsletter

Friday 1st July 2022

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today



All-through news

It has been a wonderful week of “welcomes”! We have welcomed our new Year 12 students as they now leave Y11 and exams behind and think about the next part of their journey. It was encouraging to see so many students from other schools wishing to join our special community. Mrs Ahmet will be the new Head of Y12, and she opened the induction programme with real passion for the year ahead.

As part of Y12 enrichment and a key aspect of “creating tomorrow’s citizens today”, all Y12 will be expected to act as a volunteer to a sector of our community. This year we have been excited to see how many students have really grown in character as they have embraced various opportunities and we want to expand this further. Parents in the “Larch” have many times commented positively on how mature and reliable our sixth form volunteers are and really good with our younger children. We would like to draw your attention therefore to the fact that we are looking for a Y13 “Gap Year” student from September 2022, to work in our “primary” office. This will be the third year we have used a sixth former; previous appointees have loved it as the role is highly varied and does have some contact with our youngest students. Please email Mrs Kirk (kirkkr@simonballe.herts.sch.uk) for more information or to show an interest.

On Thursday evening, we welcomed our new Y7 and it was wonderful to see so many parents and of course many familiar faces as our Larch parents swelled the ranks. At the expense of being nostalgic, I did think back to 2014 when I first met these wonderfully supportive families as they considered choosing Simon Balle All through school for their 4

year olds! Lucy Owen skillfully guided all parents through the Simon Balle values and vision, along with expectations for September. Meanwhile the new HOY 7, Ellie Newman with her team, did a brilliant job with our new students. Thanks to all.

On a different matter, but no less supportive, I was also heartened to receive several emails from secondary parents supporting my lament regarding teacher recruitments and in particular food. Thank you to all those who have offered support; we will most certainly be in touch as we want to ensure that food and cooking are still actively promoted in the temporary absence of a food teacher.

Music

Our musical students have been very busy, from Rock & Pop Exams, Piano evenings, to Larch Stars, and much more, please read about it here: <https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/musical-news-june-2022/>

Art - Subway transformation

Hertford secondary school students have visited a recently refurbished subway to see how their art has transformed the subway into a modern art gallery. This subway project for London Road and St Andrew Street started in 2020 with funding from the Aldi Development and a grant from Defra for air quality improvements. The aim of the project is to improve active travel routes to encourage more people to walk and cycle, leaving their car at home for shorter journeys. This project is all about working with the local schools and community. For the third year in a row, the students from Richard Hale School, The Sele School and Simon Balle All-through school have provided art worthy of a London gallery for the London Road subway in Hertford. The students are very talented, and this project gives these young people the opportunity to display their work in a public space and at the same time improving the local environment for everyone. Phil Bibby, Executive Member for Highways and Transport, Hertfordshire

County Council said “This really is a great project, working with both local schools and the community to encourage active travel, reduce car use and improve the Environment “It forms part of Hertfordshire County Council subway refurbishment programme and links into both the Local Transport Plan and the Corporate Plan vision of ‘creating a cleaner, greener, healthier Hertfordshire for all.’ Local member and former Hertford Mayor Cllr Bob Deering joined the new Mayor, Cllr Sue Barber to see the latest art installation.

Cllr Deering said: “I am very proud of our gifted young students who have once again produced outstanding work for everyone to enjoy. This subway is a popular route for access into town and to the local schools and we want to encourage more walking and cycling across the town.”

Ian Hawkins, Headteacher at Richard Hale school said “It is great for the students to have the opportunity to contribute to a local community project, which enables the community to enjoy their work. This project has allowed the students to showcase their talents to a wide audience and we are very proud of all the students involved.”

A spokesperson for Sele school said “This project really enables us to showcase some of the incredible talent and commitment our students have to their Art studies. We really enjoy being able to showcase some of the talents our students have to offer.”

Alison Saunders, Headteacher at Simon Balle All-through school said “I am extremely proud of the student’s artwork and was pleased that so many people in the local community would be able to admire it as they walked through the town’s subways.”

This is just the first stage for this year’s new art for Hertford and we are launching the community art competition for our second subway art gallery located between St Andrew Street and Aldi. The theme for the competition is places to see and visit by foot, bike and scooter and we are looking forward to seeing lots of interesting entries. So, get your paintbrush ready or your camera charged and enter this year’s competition and join our young artists in making Hertford the art centre of Hertfordshire. We need you to send a high-resolution image of your entry to subwayart@hertfordshire.gov.uk. The closing date for the competition is 31 July 2022 and the winners will be invited to an opening in August 2022.

Sports news

<https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/all-through-pe-sport-news-01-07-22/>

Primary news

Vice-principal’s welcome

It is a wonderful time of year to be welcoming parents to join us in the Larch. From Sports Day (Tuesday 19th) to the Year 2 celebration assembly (Wednesday 6th, 2pm) and the Year 6 graduation assembly (Thursday 21st), we look forward to welcoming you. We are also inviting all parents to join us in the Larch on Tuesday 19th from 3.30 - 4.30pm following Sports day, simply to visit your child’s class and view some of their learning (whether in their class books and/or on display). We know that Covid restrictions have meant that you have had fewer of these opportunities in recent years, and it is important to us that you can see their many achievements and progress. This event will be informal and allow you to visit classes in any order if you have two or more children.

A full round-up of celebrations will take place in a fortnight in our final newsletter of the year. But, just to give you a flavour of the last fortnight, well done to

.....

- Our cricketers - simply phenomenal achievements, not just locally but within the Hertfordshire County league
- Our pianists - a brilliant and professional set of musical performances enjoyed last week
- Our athletes - a huge team of talented students, impressing us greatly at the district athletics day, with both skills and demonstration of our values
- All of the Larch children for their excellent engagement in learning and remarkable progress shown as a result - from phonics in Year 1 to times tables in Year 4, from both KS1 and KS2 SATs to continued reading, writing and mathematics progress in every year group of the school - well done. All parents will receive clear reporting showing their child’s attainment and progress by the end of term.

As parents know, the breath and ambition within every subject in the curriculum is as important as the core curriculum. In these final weeks of this year, we look forward to

- A huge all-through concert in Saffron Hall this weekend - we look forward to so many musicians performing
- Our Year 3 trip to Verulamium and St Alban’s Abbey, providing depth to both the history and PRE curriculum
- Sporting opportunities including the Wimbledon trip, Girls’ football event and ‘Rapid fire’ for all Year 2
- Fantastic opportunities for student leadership with our Year 5 children applying

for and being interviewed for ambassador and president/vice-president roles.

And finally, we look forward to writing again next Friday (8th) with staffing news for next academic year.

Staffing news

As you know, Mrs Philip is expecting a baby this summer, and she is busy ensuring that every aspect of the Foxes last half term of Year 2 is full of memorable learning and exciting opportunities. Indeed at the time of writing she is busy ensuring informative parents' meetings with each of you, and the songs at the Year 2 assembly are something to very much look forward to! Mrs Philip's maternity leave will commence on Monday 11th July; please be assured that in the final weeks of term, Mrs Lafferty, ably supported by staff that the children know, including Miss Norbury and Mrs Bloss, will continue to support your children in a consistent manner. Thank you Mrs Philip and Mrs Lafferty.

I am pleased to be writing to let you know of happy news for Mrs Arnold, who is expecting a baby due in the autumn term. Many congratulations Mrs Arnold!

More Explorers news follows below, but I am also pleased to be writing to thank Miss Norbury for all of her wonderful contributions to Explorers (don't worry - Miss Norbury is staying with us in the Larch!), and welcoming Mrs Sansford to the Explorers role which she will begin in September.

Explorers 2022-2023

The Explorers after-school club offer for Years 3 - 6 after school for Autumn 1 will be released on Monday - please do look out for the great range of activities on offer. We release one half term at a time, but the offer across the year is exceptionally exciting - every sport we can think of (genuinely!), arts and crafts, choir and orchestras, chess and science, maths reasoning and yoga, Sketch-up (computer design) and running, dance and Spanish, crochet and Mandarin - and more. I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff very much for all that they offer - this is an enrichment programme which is so comprehensive and we know that commitment to learning in these areas is so beneficial for children's wellbeing and happiness, as well as the skills themselves. Please do talk to your children about what they would like to join - and welcome to our Year 2 cohort now joining Year 3! We have kept prices in line with this year to ensure that clubs are as affordable as is possible, with free and inclusive clubs available for Years 5 and 6 with football and netball training on a Monday, and Spanish on a Tuesday.

A few reminders about Explorers are as follows:

- Please sign up promptly upon receiving the google form - with such large numbers enjoying clubs, we can no longer accept late returns - thank you for your understanding.
- Activities run from 3.30 - 4.30pm at Explorers. There are some time differences for a small number of clubs (Karate, choir, for example) - but these are all specified on the google form. We look after your children from 3.15 - 3.30pm where they move to the right places and change where necessary. We are more than happy to also look after your children from 4.30 - 4.45pm, partly so that Explorers and Busy Lizzies pick-up times are aligned, but please feel free to pick up from 4.30pm if you prefer. Pick-up places will be confirmed by the Explorers team for each club on each evening.
- All children must commit for a half term of activities and must attend for the full hour. This is how they will thrive and flourish! From 4.45 - 6pm is where childcare is offered, and pick-up is completely flexible during this time.

With any queries once the timetable is published, please email explorers@simonballe.herts.sch.uk

KS1 clubs 2022-2023

We are also delighted with our KS1 club offer for 2022-2023. The clubs are every bit as varied and exciting as KS2 is above. These are run in a way to ensure that every Year 1 and Year 2 who wishes to take part in a club will be able to for at least one half term of the year - tasters for all the choices they have ahead of them! Most KS1 clubs do not run in Autumn 1, giving children the chance to first settle in new classes. We will be back in touch very early in September with opportunities to sign up.

Year 5 lunch in the secondary dining room

On Wednesday 20th July, Year 5 will eat their lunch in the secondary dining room to help support their transition into Year 6. The children will eat the same selection offered to the secondary students, and will eat there daily from September to help familiarise them with the secondary dining room before Year 7. If your child normally has packed lunch and you would like your child to purchase a school dinner for this day, please use the option on ParentPay.

Year 4 residential reminder

A gentle reminder to please pay the next instalment for the Year 5 residential 14th-16th September at Wildchild in Phasels Wood. If you need support, please don't hesitate to contact the finance department (finance@simonballe.herts.sch.uk) or Miss Boyce.

Roald Dahl Day

On Friday 9th September 2022 we will be celebrating Roald Dahl Day in the Larch. The day will be full of learning and activities linked to the year group's literary canon text and we welcome the children to dress up as a character from one of his books! Children are also welcome to wear yellow as an alternative (Dahl's favourite colour), but please no football shirts. We look forward to seeing some creative costumes and the children enjoying an immersive, memorable day!

PSA News

9th July - Slice of Summer, 1-4pm

Sincere thanks to all that have signed up to help with the summer fair.

We have almost filled all of the slots but still have a few gaps for the 2-3pm and 3-4pm sessions. If you are able to help, please express your interest here:

<https://forms.gle/8diK9aZiR2eV4r299>



Bottle Donations

Larch children were invited to wear a coloured accessory on Friday 1st, in exchange for a bottle donation to support the fair.

If you are able to donate a bottle, but have missed Friday's bottle drop off, please take your item to the office.

Thank you in advance.

Raffle tickets

Please return any raffle tickets as soon as is convenient, to allow plenty of processing time. The draw will take place on Saturday 9th July, at the Slice of Summer. There are some incredible prizes, including an iPad Air and £100 cash. We know you look forward to the draw.

Books are available to collect from both school offices, should you require any.

Dates

Sat 2nd July	Saffron Hall All-through music concert
Tues 5th July	Stevenson's pop up shop 3pm to 8pm dining room (secondary)
Wed 6th July	Art exhibition-everyone welcome
Thurs 7th July	Y9 theatre trip
Fri 8th July	Sports presentation evening (Year 5+)
Sat 9th July	Slice of Summer (PSA - all!)
Mon 11th July	Y8 trip Colchester
Mon 11th - Wed 13th July	Larch Parents' Evenings
Wed 13 - 16th July	Music tour
Thurs 14th July	Transition day (all-through)
Mon 18th July	Y7 RE trip
Tues 19th July	Primary sports day, primary celebration afternoon 3.15-4.15pm Y7 arts extravaganza-more details to follow
Thurs 21st July	End of term - early finish

SIMON BALLE SCHOOL'S
ADULT COMMUNITY CHOIR

TASTER SESSION

with

TAKE NOTE

WEDNESDAY 6TH JULY
2022

7:30 - 8:30 PM

SIMON BALLE SCHOOL
MANGROVE ROAD
SG13 8AJ

A FUN, FREE SESSION OF SINGING IN A VARIETY
OF STYLES WITH TAKE NOTE COMMUNITY CHOIR.
NO NEED TO BE ABLE TO READ MUSIC.
NO NEED TO HAVE SUNG PREVIOUSLY IN A CHOIR

Contact music@simonballe.herts.sch.uk
www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/music/take-note/