

Primary phase newsletter

Friday 23rd September 2022

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today



All-Through news

This past weekend has obviously been a momentous one for our nation. Last week, we used assemblies to reflect upon and celebrate the life and reign of Queen Elizabeth II. We remember with great fondness and pride as we recall our very special Jubilee picnic in late May when our all-through school celebrated her reign.

It has been remarkable and touching to listen to the personal comments from dignitaries, politicians, and ordinary people speak of her character; her kindness and compassion, her wisdom and always a deep sense of hope, the dignity and respect for all and her courage. These are the very same values and virtues which form the bedrock of our school.

As we enter therefore out of the "New Elizabethan Age" into the reign of King Charles III, we will continue to use her as our role model in our vision to "Create tomorrow's citizens today".

Open Morning

We wish to remind everyone of our Open Morning this coming Saturday, with tours of both the secondary school (for potential Y7 places, September 2023) and also the Larch (potential Reception places, September 2023)

By now all students involved should be aware of the arrangements. For secondary parents, please see below.

Community service

This year we are focusing upon the importance of volunteering and service; our sixth formers are all engaged in so many community activities across the whole school. Many are helping in the Larch, leading clubs, supporting in lessons and ensuring that all students feel supported and part of the community.

We are also delighted that over the past few months, the newly re-formed Duke of Edinburgh Award group have been very active with another 50 students completing their bronze expedition in the Chilterns, last weekend.

E- safety

Thank you for the feedback from the Y7 parents evening last week, and this along with individual comments from Larch parents, is helping to shape our presentations this year on e-safety, particularly the use of phones and access to certain websites.

Following on from this presentation to parents, a workshop has been held for Y7, once again educating them on responsible phone use.

Please find attached the latest Hertfordshire For Learning E-safety newsletter for parents. This provides useful information.



Dates for the diary

WHOLE SCHOOL	
Saturday 24 th September	OPEN MORNING
Thursday 22 nd September	AWARDS CEREMONY
Wed 5 th and Thurs 6 th October	Bag2School, textiles recycling
Tuesday 18 th October	PSA AGM
Friday 21 st October	Charity day in support of CRUK
Mon 24 th Oct to Fri 28 th Oct	HALF TERM
Saturday 10 th December	Frost Fair

LARCH	
Monday 26 th September	Reception parents morning workshop
Wednesday 5 th October	Larch Harvest Festival-children only
Mon 10 th Oct to Fri 14 th Oct	Larch parents evenings
Tuesday 11 th October	Flu injections Reception to Y6 Y6 Macbeth Workshop in school
Thursday 20 th October	Y4 theatre trip
Monday 7 th November	Larch book fair week
Wednesday 16 th November	A Celebration of Larch Music
SECONDARY	
Mon 26 th September	Battlefields parents information meeting
Wed 28 th to Friday 30 th September	Y10 residential trip
Thursday 29 th September	Y7 Form Tutors evening
Thursday 6 th Oct to Fri 7 th Oct	Y9 Battlefields trip (1)
Tuesday 11 th October (evening)	Y10 theatre trip
Wednesday 12 th October (evening)	Y11 theatre trip
Thursday 13 th October	Y10 parents evening
Thursday 13 th to Fri 14 th Oct	Y9 Battlefields trip (2)
Tuesday 18 th October	Politics trip to Houses of Parliament
Tuesday 1 st November	Y8 HPV injections Y9 volcano day
Thursday 3 rd November	Y12 chemistry trip
Wednesday 9 th November	Y9 parents evening
Thursday 10 th November	EPQ evening
Monday 21 st November	Wind & Brass Concert
Thursday 24 th November	Piano Recital Guitar Platform

Primary news

A buzz of learning is certainly evident in the Larch this week! From our Reception children's very own versions of the Enormous Crocodile to the return of orchestras and choirs from Years 1 - 6, it has been busy and exciting both during and after the school day!

Thank you in anticipation to children from Years 4 - 6 joining us at Open day tomorrow. This is the first year we have opened the whole site at this point - we hope that there will be a great sense of community as parents visit in preparation for Reception admissions in September 2023.

We are offering two further dates for prospective Reception parents to visit, so that we hope all interested parents/carers can make a day and time to suit them:

17th November at 6pm

30th November at 9am

Knowledge organisers

We wanted to write to let parents/carers know that we are using knowledge organisers, across our all-through school, to support children with their developing vocabulary; with their increasing knowledge, building on prior learning; and their constantly developing understanding of how subjects and units link to one another (for example, different periods of history in chronological order, or how concepts are related from one subject to another - for example, negative numbers in maths and science and geography).

Class teachers are really keen for parents/carers to be as involved as possible with our use of knowledge organisers as these are, in essence, one page plans which help us all to talk about the really important and inspiring concepts and language that brings an area of learning alive!

Please see your child's go for schools and /or google classroom as teachers will share knowledge organisers for many subjects including science, history and geography - and more to follow. Any questions are welcome.

Pastoral and personal development

Information evening for parents/carers of Years 5 and 6 students will be on Wednesday 19th October 6pm.

At Simon Balle All-through School we are passionate about our children's holistic development. This is our vision; this is our purpose. A key part of that is to work closely with parents/carers in order to support students as they develop their character and to provide them with the skills and knowledge to become model active citizens who understand how to be happy and responsible. To that end we are inviting parents to school to explain ways in which parents/carers and us at Simon Balle can focus on the personal and pastoral development of our students. This includes outlining our enrichment opportunities, PSHE education as well as local and national trends so you as parents have a sound understanding of risk and with the knowledge and skills necessary to support your child.

Parent workshop opportunity: google classroom for Years 2 and 3

On 19th October, Miss Ridley will be running a Google Classroom workshop for Year 2 and 3 parents/carers. The aim of the session will be to go through the basics of how to log in, access documents, submit work and to answer any questions you may have. Closer to the time, we will send out a Google Form for you to sign up as we can only allocate a certain amount of places due to the number of Chromebooks we have to use. We

look forward to welcoming you; this was a popular workshop last year!

Harvest

On Wednesday 5th October, Larch children from Year 1-6 will be attending our annual Harvest Celebration alongside learning about Harvest.

If you are able to donate any tinned or dried goods for Hertford Food Bank, we would be very grateful and ask that these are brought in on Monday 3rd October. Please no glass containers.

Unfortunately due to the size of the church and the number of children from Year 1-6 who will be seated, parents will be unable to attend. We do, however, look forward to sharing photographs of our celebration with you all.

A Larch sporting update

Swimming Provision for this academic year

We are pleased to let you know that we are able to offer swimming for children in Year 1 all the way to Year 6 again for this academic year. Swimming is a key area of the Physical Education curriculum and we are fortunate to have a pool on school grounds to give this opportunity to all the children. Please see below for when year groups will be swimming this year. A letter will follow with more detailed information for each year group.

Year 6 swimming- Tuesday 4th October until Tuesday 13th December

Year 3- 5 swimming- Week commencing 27th February until week commencing 15th May

Year 1 and 2 swimming- This will begin after Easter in the summer term for 10 weeks. We will confirm exact dates nearer the time.

PE kits

As the weather starts to get colder please ensure that children have a fleece and joggers that they are able to wear for PE lessons. If children are wearing tights, please make sure that they have some socks in their bags as well for PE.

We are pleased to let you know that Kids Connection now has more PE tops for Years 3-6 back in stock if you were unable to purchase one over the summer holidays. Please ensure that your child has the correct Simon Balle PE top by the end of September please.

Music lessons

Y4-6 experienced awe and wonder on Wednesday when Mr Peach and Mr Dear demonstrated the excellent selection of brass instruments the children have the opportunity to learn at Simon Balle. If your child is interested in learning an instrument,

please contact the music department for more information: music@simonballe.herts.sch.uk

Residential

Our Year 5 students had a fantastic time on their first ever residential last week, camping at Phasels Wood! We were so proud of the values they showed, from courage to responsibility, from respect to hope. They enjoyed learning bushcraft, including making dens, fires and toasting marshmallows, abseiling, archery and lots of brilliant forest games and more!



Farm

We are currently celebrating a brand new home in the library for our tortoises Flash. Zippy and Turbo - edible flowers, lots of daylight, a grass area and soil - they are spoiled indeed!

I have been promising some new additions to the farm - look out for our two new guinea pigs - joining this week! Please see our social media pages for up to the minute information and photos!

Please email larch@simonballe.herts.sch.uk if your

family is able to help at weekends or in the holidays.

PSA news

PSA AGM - 18th October

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 18th October, from 6.45pm in the ICT suite, opposite the Dash Cafe. The meeting is open to all and we hope to see lots of new faces. Please join us when you can. The AGM will begin at 7pm and will be followed by a meeting to review Frost Fair plans and outline other upcoming events.

We are reviewing our committee members and volunteer database and kindly ask you to take a couple of minutes to complete our volunteer registration form:

<https://forms.gle/Cau8MmLkwrygfMVe8>

Frost Fair - Winter Raffle, 10th December

We are working incredibly hard to source some attractive prizes for our Winter Raffle.

If you, or your company, would like to support us this year by making a donation then please get in touch. psa@simonballepsa.org.uk

We are also looking for event sponsors. Would you like to sponsor the giant inflatable snow globe or the games zone?

Bag2School - 4th and 5th October

We have booked a textiles collection with Bag2School. Please keep an eye out for a bag and flyer that will be coming home with your child(ren) to support this initiative. We welcome you to drop off any unwanted textiles on 4th and 5th October to the container near the swimming pool. Help us repurpose your unwanted items, reduce the strain on landfill and raise funds for the school at the same time.

Request for old shirts/painting aprons

If you have any old adult shirts that you wouldn't mind donating to us for art classes, can you please drop off at the Larch office.



ONLINE SAFETY NEWS

AUTUMN 2022.

TALKING TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT ONLINE ABUSE

New advice from the NSPCC

Many children enjoy playing online games and having a social media presence. As children get older this often involves speaking with others online and with this comes the potential risk of grooming and exploitation.

Speaking to your child from a young age about who they are talking to online and helping them recognise when a conversation may be putting them at risk can help to keep them safe from abuse. The NSPCC has published **new advice** on how to start age-appropriate conversations with your child on this challenging topic. The advice includes how to:

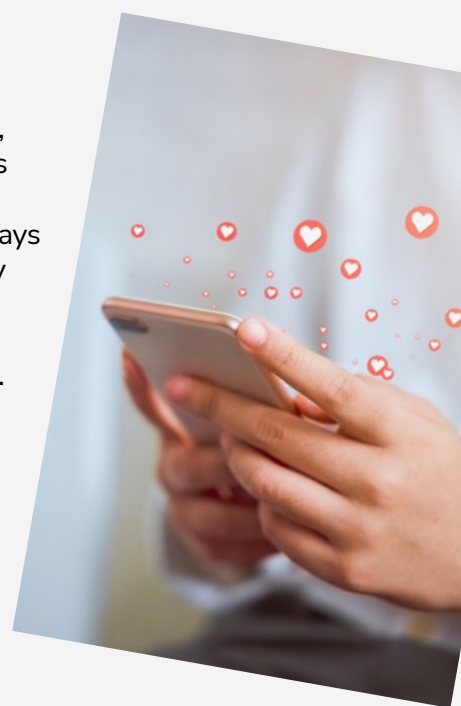
- help your child recognise unhealthy online chat
- have age-appropriate conversations about sexual abuse
- explore the different communication features online
- review safety settings.

Help children stay safe on chat apps

The NSPCC have also published **safety guides** on chat apps. Chat apps allow users to send messages, videos, photographs and documents to individuals or groups of people. Personal safety settings should always be used to help ensure children only receive messages from people they know and trust and messages from strangers are automatically blocked. Reassuring children they can talk with you if they feel they may have had a risky conversation is to be recommended.

Most chat apps do have safety settings, if this isn't the case then such platforms are not to be recommended for children.

If you're worried about something a child or young person may have experienced online, you can contact the NSPCC helpline for free support and advice. Call **0808 800 5000** or **contact NSPCC online**.



ONLINE GROOMING

Grooming is when a person builds a trusted relationship with a child or young person with the intent of tricking or pressuring them into giving something they want from the child. Groomers often want something sexual from a young person. Groomers may use tactics such as flattery or blackmail to get nude images, videos or have sexual conversations with young people. This grooming process can take place over a short or long period of time.

Anyone under 18 who has an explicit or nude image of themselves posted online can anonymously and confidentially **make a report** to the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF). The IWF can then contact the website where the image has been posted to try to get the image removed.

Nobody should blackmail or pressure anyone into doing something sexual online. If someone is doing this to your child you or they can also make a report to the **Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP)**.

Young people can also speak to a **Childline counsellor**.

The Childline website has further **advice** for parents/carers including:

- the signs of grooming
- how to tell if someone is a groomer
- what to do if you think you are being groomed.

GAMING COMMUNITIES?

Gaming communities are platforms which allow gaming fans to meet, chat, watch top gamers in action via live streaming, access forum discussions and keep in touch with others who have similar gaming interests.

Reddit and Discord are two popular sites associated with social gaming communities. Both these sites have an age rating of 13+.

Parent zone has put together a **guide** to help families understand the benefits and risks of gaming communities for children and offer suggestions of how parents can help support safety on such sites.

Read the **Parentzone guide to Reddit**

Read the **Parentzone guide to Discord**



LIVE STREAMING

In a recent survey carried out by Ofcom it was reported that six in ten children aged 3-17 (57%) used live streaming platforms to watch online content. A much lower proportion of children streamed their own videos in real time for others to watch (15%). The research found that the platforms used most to watch live streams were YouTube and TikTok.

(Data source: Ofcom Children and Parent: media use and attitudes report 2022)

The NSPCC has published guidance to help parents/carers understand some of the risks associated with both live streaming and watching live stream channels. Once content has been livestreamed, there is the risk that videos are saved and re shared without permission. Its possible for strangers to make contact with a child about their livestreamed content and start a grooming process.

The **guidance** gives an overview of some of the features that help reduce risk for children.



ASKING THE AWKWARD

‘TALK LITTLE. TALK OFTEN. ASK THE AWKWARD.’ (CEOP)

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) has put together guidance on ‘Asking the Awkward’, and this includes talking about teenagers their social or romantic online lives! For many young people, and adults, the online world is an essential component in starting, continuing and ending a romantic relationship!

There are short **films** that you can watch with your child to help start conversations.

“Our introduction to Asking The Awkward helps you to prepare for regular conversations with your child about online relationships and related topics. It also offers advice on how to keep conversations positive and what to do if your child tells you something that worries you.”

Access the guidance.

NEW RESOURCE: THRIVE ONLINE

Supporting young people with SEND

This new resource is for schools and parent/carers to help support young people with SEND, aged 11 and over, to thrive online.

“These resources are designed to empower young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to build happy and healthy online relationships.”

The **resources** for parents and carers are designed to help start conversations and help support your child around the topics of:

- online pornography
- healthy online relationships
- digital wellbeing
- nudes



The **resources** contain key information and conversations starters and videos to help answer frequently asked questions from parents and carers.

Questions such as:

- *How do I explain to my child what a healthy relationship is?*
- *My child trusts everyone online, what can I do?*
- *My child is secretive about who they talk to online, what can I do?*
- *What should I do if my child starts a romantic relationship with someone they met online?*

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 HFL Education 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**.

HFL Education 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.

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Once you have chosen the value you would like to apply for, simply go to cycle2work.info and register using your unique employer code.



You'll need to complete your application between 1st September and 30th September 2022

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£100	£500	£1,000
£8.33	£41.67	£83.33
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£51.75	£258.75	£517.50

*Please note this is the amount that will appear on your payslip, numbers have been rounded up to the nearest pence. Based on a Additional Rate Tax Payer on a 12 month hire agreement

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