

# Secondary phase newsletter

Friday 21st October 2022

*Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today*



## All through news

This has indeed been a busy half term when we arrived still with the "taste of summer" on our lips and we end feeling that the seasons are changing and winter drawing in. Please remember that we put our clocks back one hour on SUNDAY 30 OCTOBER (at 02.00am) so we have lighter mornings and darker evenings.

A few reminders and observations as we end this first half term.

Thank you and well done to those students who have attended school for 100% of this term. Excellent attendance is a life skill and is one of the threads of being "a flourishing citizen". From time to time, most people get ill and a sick day occasionally is understandable. However, a reminder that we in schools take attendance very seriously and we do chase all absentees, with consequences for those who choose not to attend.

School uniform- the new PE kit worn by our students is very smart. A reminder to parents that we always have on site "well loved uniform for sale" at low prices. Do call or email our office teams for further help.

We are very aware of the consequences of recent price increases and that for some families, difficult decisions are being made. This is the same in school, both personally for staff and also as an organisation. Mr Ayres, as part of our Y7 and Y8 "rotation" is leading our students to carry out research and understand how we can individually address environmental issues, such as recycling and energy use. Schools too are facing incredible hikes to their gas and electricity bills. We too must address lowering consumption and a more efficient use of all of our resources. We shall be sharing more about this in later newsletters.

Our "ECO" clubs have recently been awarded the "Green Flag" award and we look forward to more students joining with us to tackle some of the big issues.

The Government has recently published guidance to schools sharing their expectations of good behaviour. To this end we have revised our "Behaviour" policy in

line with expectations. Whilst there is little new (a few tweaks, for example a temporary exclusion of say, 1 or 2 days is now called a suspension) it is good to remind parents, staff and students of our stance and high expectations. To this end, we will be rolling out a series of workshops to explain our "curriculum for behaviour" to all students over the coming weeks. And finally, as a Senior Leadership Team, we belong to many national networks. The recruitment of staff at every level- teachers- teaching assistants- administrators- site staff is reaching a serious crisis with no applicants. Pay traditionally in schools is poor and in particular a job that is often for term time only and not a full year.

We are interested in hearing from you or anyone you know in your community- Teachers- Teaching Assistants- Administrators - in fact anyone who might be interested to work here in our school. We may not have a specific job at the moment but things change rapidly.

We are currently interested to hear from anyone who can teach science- maths- computer sciences- sociology- good teachers who enjoy teaching Y6 or would love to teach Y7!

Also science technicians- teaching assistants.

We look forward to hearing from you.

All that is left to say is wishing everyone a good rest over half term so we can all come back refreshed and ready to continue to learn well in this second part of the Autumn Term.

## Green Flag

As previously shared earlier this term, Simon Balle has achieved the Eco Schools Green Flag thanks to the students in our school, led by Ziva, Lily, Lucia and Edith.

They took part in environmental reviews of the school to evaluate what the school is doing well and what needs to be improved, they spoke to staff and students, created action plans for targets for the school, led an assembly to raise awareness and even led a stall at last year's Frost Fair to raise money! Our new Year 6 Eco leaders Daisy, Josh, Seraphina and Samuel have taken over and have started

working with secondary peers to continue our student leaders' vision to reduce the impact the school makes on the environment and to make a positive impact.



### **Cleaning at Simon Balle**

We have begun a regime of night time cleaning and you therefore might notice activity on the site and lights on out of hours. As a school, we are going to great lengths to reduce our energy consumption and carbon footprint and we would like to briefly explain why the decision has been made and what we are doing to mitigate any increase in energy consumption.

Firstly, there is a nationwide shortage of cleaning staff and this is particularly acute in Hertford. By implementing night shifts, we are able to offer longer shifts to fewer staff, making recruitment and retention easier whilst also improving quality of service. By reducing the number of cleaning staff on site, we are able to reduce the area being cleaned at any one time, meaning fewer areas requiring lighting. In 2020 we replaced all of our fluorescent lights in the school with efficient LED lighting to minimise the energy consumption of our lighting. In addition, by cleaning at night, any electricity is charged at our night rate, meaning a saving of around 30% in electricity costs.

### **Sports hall consultation**

Last week we were very excited to share initial design proposals for a new sports hall with our staff, students and parents, details of which can be found [here](#).

We have since received an overwhelmingly positive response to our online questionnaire. If you have not already submitted a response, the questionnaire will remain open until the 31st October and your thoughts and views will be very warmly welcomed. As part of our public consultation, we have been keen to speak with our students to ensure that their voice and opinion is heard. From the 31st October, we will be launching a consultation week throughout the school from Early Years to Sixth Form. We will be

working with students in lessons, linking the sports hall design and planning process to their curriculum lessons. We can't wait to see what the students come up with and share it with our architects and design team.

### **BBC Share Your Story**

BBC100 'Share Your Story' is part of the BBC's centenary celebrations, where they plan to visit around 400 secondary schools across the UK in 2022. We were fortunate to have them visit our school on Tuesday. Our students in Y6,7,8,9,10 and sixth form took part and were able to listen to one of the BBC's Ambassadors, Nicholas Hamilton, British racing driver and former Simon Balle student.

Nick shared his unique and powerful story which highlighted to our students that no matter your background, you can achieve anything. Students had an opportunity to ask questions and to find out more about Nicholas including his story and racing career. All our students found the sessions enjoyable and enlightening.



### **New Free Wellbeing service**

We would like to promote a new free service to help young people manage their worries. With YOUTH - Children & Young People's Digital Wellbeing Service Hertfordshire's children and young people, who are experiencing emotional health problems and/or their parents/care givers, can now use a new free digital wellbeing service, without the need for a professional referral.

Asking for advice and help early, is the healthy, safe and positive choice for having good emotional and mental wellbeing – far better than trying to cope alone with worry and overwhelming feelings. This new free service is for children and young people aged 5-18, who are registered with a GP in

Hertfordshire. It will initially be available from Monday to Friday, 2-10pm at: [www.withyouth.org](http://www.withyouth.org) providing:

- Instant online messaging
- Helpline: 0208 189 8400
- Lumi Nova (most suitable for ages 7-12) - therapeutic digital gaming app providing goal based help for social/separation anxiety and/or phobias, using the most beneficial parts of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT). Access via the link is instant (no referral needed)
- Worksheets, quick tips and other resources to help
- Additional one-to one and/or group support
- Signposting to other services

## PSA news

### Doughies Pizza Event- 18th November

If you are a Doughie's fan or just love a good quality PSA pizza or cookie, then it's time to place your Doughies orders, for delivery on 18th November. Kits (vegan kits available) can be ordered directly from Doughies **before** 14th November, 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. Named orders from across the secondary phase are welcome but **MUST BE COLLECTED** from outside the reception office immediately after school on Friday 18th. Please set a reminder, as any unclaimed kits will be assumed unwanted after 4.30pm. They will not keep unrefrigerated over the weekend and we are unable to offer home deliveries or refunds.

### Frost Fair - Volunteers needed, 10th December

We are looking for a number of students, parents and staff to support this year's Frost Fair.

This is one of the biggest events in the all-through calendar, and is a lovely opportunity to build the community and support the school.

You are welcome to take a slot with a friend or family member and can choose from a variety of areas to cover. From games, raffle tickets and festive inflatables to the mulled wine, cakes and festive food stand.

House Points will be awarded when a student fulfils their volunteering slot (please check with an adult at home before signing up).

Please sign up via the link below:

<https://forms.gle/TxFqpd0xq4UbKGjQ8>

Thank you in advance - without you giving just an hour of your time, we simply could not host such a wonderful event.

### Standon Calling, 20-23rd July 2023

Standon for Schools is back.

Summer Tier tickets closing soon.

When a booking is made via our unique link, the PSA will receive a percentage of the sale at no cost to the customer. Please share with friends and family, making sure to copy and paste this link.....

<https://go.kaboodle.co.uk/simon-balle-all-through-school-SG138AJ>



**SIMON BALLE PARENT STAFF ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**

**18th November** Doughies Our next pizza and cookie event is booked! Open to all, booking close on 14/11/22

**9th December** Y7 House Hamper donation day. Larch festive accessory day for bottle donations.

**10th December** Frost Fair and Festive Market. 12-4pm. Join us for an afternoon of festive fun and shopping.

**STANDON CALLING**

Standon Calling 20-23rd July 2023

**LAST SUMMER TIER TICKETS**

Book via our link and fundraise for Simon Balle PSA at no additional cost

Standon for Schools is back! Summer Tier tickets closing soon.

When a booking is made for **STANDON CALLING** via our unique link, the PSA will receive a percentage of the sale at no cost to you. All orders placed by 30th October will generate an extra donation.

Please share with friends and family, making sure to copy and paste this link.....

<https://go.kaboodle.co.uk/simon-balle-all-through-school-SG138AJ>

Scan here for tickets

**Frost Fair Volunteers**

We are looking for a good number of student, parent and staff volunteers, from both phases of the school, to assist with this year's magical Frost Fair on Saturday 10th December, 12-4pm. If you are able to volunteer before, during or after this event, please complete our form. See school newsletter for link or email [psa@simonballepsa.org.uk](mailto:psa@simonballepsa.org.uk)

Students that sign up AND attend their slot(s) will receive house points. Please check with your family before signing up.

[psa@simonballepsa.org.uk](mailto:psa@simonballepsa.org.uk)  
[simonballepsa.org.uk](https://www.facebook.com/simonballepsa)  
[Facebook.com/simonballepsa](https://www.facebook.com/simonballepsa)



## The Herford Pantry



*A little bit of help can make a big difference*



- Saturdays 11-12am
- Mondays 1-2pm
- Wednesdays 1.30-2.30pm



The Network Hub, Fleming Crescent, Sele

- Bring a bag
- Collect free fresh food
- Help reduce food waste

*With fresh baked goods from*



## Dates for the Diary

WHOLE SCHOOL	
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	OPEN MORNING
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct to Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct	HALF TERM
Friday 11th November	Remembrance service
LARCH	
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct to Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Larch parents evenings
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Flu injections Reception to Y6
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Y4 trip
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov to Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Larch book fair week
SECONDARY	
Tuesday 1st November	Y8 HPVI injections Y9 volcano day
Thursday 3rd November	Y8 parental connection evening
Wednesday 9th November	Y9 parents evening
Thursday 10th November	EPQ evening

## Secondary News

### Year 9 battlefield trip

The Year 9 Belgium trips to the First World War battlefields took place once again this month after a three year hiatus, with over 120 students exploring sites related to the conflict in and around Ypres. The

trips were a resounding success and students were able to deepen their understanding of the First World War, which they study in history lessons and through war poetry in English, as well as enjoying the novel experience of a residential trip with their peers after so long without the opportunity to do so. The students were given the chance to explore a number of sites related to their study of the First World War, such as the solemn Commonwealth military cemeteries at Tyne Cot and Essex Farm, the fiercely-contested site at Hill 60, the reconstructed trench at Sanctuary Wood and the poignant Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate, at which students on each trip were selected to lay a wreath on behalf of the school community.



Throughout the trip, students were respectful, engaged and inquisitive, making the most of the opportunities for education and remembrance. The master of ceremonies at the Menin Gate was effusive in his praise for their conduct, describing our cohort as exceptional, and the head of Australian war memorials went out of his way to explain to staff how impressed he was. We would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff who made this trip possible, in particular Mrs Cowan, and hope that every student was able to make the most of this opportunity to walk in the footsteps of those who lived, fought and died on the Western Front during the Great War.





## Sixth form parliament visit

Our A level politics students visited Westminster this week and were given a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament, as well as taking part in a workshop to learn more about government and the legislative process. Twenty-five students from Year 12 and 13 went on the trip and were guided around the Palace of Westminster, including inside the Lords and Commons chambers, learning about the building's long history and the parliamentary procedure that takes place inside it. The subsequent workshop gave students a chance to deepen their understanding of democracy, laws and debating, dividing into two sides in order to debate and carry a motion to see how legislation is created and refined. All the students were fascinated by the inner workings of government and the grandeur of the palace, with Emma in Year 13 commenting that she "loved the interactive session and the stories about the historic events that have affected parliament over time". Overall, the trip was a great success and an opportunity for our A level politics students to become more engaged and informed citizens.



## English news

It's been an exciting and busy time in the English Department.

Year 7 had a visit from celebrated author, Jonathan Stroud, promoting his newest *Scarlett and Browne* book, which was very well received. He shared the covers from different translations of his work and thoroughly entertained his appreciative audience.



To complement our studies on the writing of the Great War, English staff joined Year 9 and the History Department in a residential area of Ypres, where we visited battlefields, museums and memorials. Essex Farm is where the Canadian surgeon poet, John McCrae composed his famous poem 'In Flanders Fields' and it is always my favourite part of the trip to visit where he wrote it- and where he almost threw it away.

### *In Flanders Fields*

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields*

Punch  
Dec 8-1915

John McCrae



Finally, we have had two visits to see the touring production of 'An Inspector Calls' at the Cambridge Arts Theatre; we took Year 10 on one night and Year 11 the next night. It was great to see the iconic Stephen Daldry set explode again, as this was the trip which was cancelled at the very start of Lockdown. It was full of drama and helped our students engage with their GCSE studies. None of these great opportunities could be accomplished without the commitment and dedication of the Simon Balle staff - from all departments, not just English- who enabled them to go ahead.

## PE News

### District Cross Country League



Last week saw the final round of the District Cross Country League take place at Simon Balle. The final took place in glorious conditions giving us some very quick races. In the Year 7 Girls race Cora N, ran a great race finishing first and as a consequence winning the Year 7 league, as well as helping her teammates to a silver medal in the team event. Alfie P(Y8) finished a close second in the Junior boys race, however due to his win in round 1, he tied for first place overall in the league, well done Alfie and helped the Junior team to 3rd overall. In the Senior races both Lillian S (Y11) & Alfie P (Y11) finished in the top ten overall. We now look forward to the District Championships on Weds 9th November at Simon Balle starting at 2.15pm.

## Netball News

The year 7 netball team had their first ever fixture representing Simon Balle this week. The match was against Presdales and the players were very excited about the match. Despite it being a challenging game and not getting the win we desired, all players showed excellent resilience and perseverance. The players have started developing the connections both in attack and defence. As a team we have a few things to work on, but the team has so much potential and I look forward to our upcoming games.

## Hockey News

Congratulations to Reggie H (Y12) who has been called up to a National Hockey training camp, very exciting news and more information to follow on his progress over the next year.

## Football News

Our teams have all been in action cross both the National and County cups, around follows below; Year 10 won in the first round of the County cup beating Leventhorpe 3-1 with a fantastic team effort. After we conceded early on from a fast break we kept our heads high and kept a high level of pressure across the pitch. Following on from our first substitution of the game Ralphy was able to score with his first touch of the ball. Second goal came from a well taken corner from Ollie to Jack in the box to finish. Final goal for Will from putting their keeper under pressure and then tapping the ball over the line. Our defensive line worked excellently together to help prevent the pace of their wide midfielders from making a breakthrough on goal.

The Year 9 Boys are through to the next round of the County cup after beating Sherrardswood with a convincing display from man of the match Ephraim D in midfield. The boys now play Marriotts school in the next round in November.

Year 8 are through to the 3rd round of the national cup after beating Verulam 5-4 in extra time - a really close game that was great to watch.

The senior football team are through to the second round of the National cup after a good win against Leventhorpe and the 3rd round of the County Cup after a convincing win against Townsend School. Games against Great Baddow and Sandringham to be played after half term in their respective competitions. .

The U13 girls were narrowly beaten by the Sydney Russell School from Dagenham in a game that could have gone either way. The team will start their county cup campaign against Rickmansworth.

## Inter-House Sport

Inter-house Sports took place this week with Year 7 up to Year 12 involved with all students participating in either Rugby, Hockey or Football.

So far the Overall results are as follows;

### Year 7 (Rugby & Hockey)

Rugby:                  Hockey:

1	Beane	1	Lea
2	Lea	2	Ashbourne
3	Mimram	3	New

### Year 8 (Basketball & Benchball)

Basketball:                  Benchball:

1	Beane	1	Rib
2	Mimram	2	
3	Ashbourne	3	

### Year 10 (Rugby & Hockey)

Rugby:                  Hockey:

1		1	New
2		2	Lea
3		2	Ashbourne

### Year 11 (Rugby & Hockey)

Rugby:                  Hockey:

1	Lea	1	New
2	Mimram	2	Rib
3	Ashbourne	3	Beane

### Year 12 Football

1	New
2	Ashbourne
3	Lea

More results to follow in the next newsletter and well done to all those who participated, especially those in some challenging weather conditions.





East Herts  
Community Safety Partnership

# HERTFORD LARK IN THE



# PARK

**FREE**  
No need  
to book

**FOR 11 TO 19 YEAR OLDS  
OCTOBER HALF TERM**

*The sessions are fully supervised and include a varied mix of sporting activities  
and team games, designed for all abilities.*

**HARTHAM COMMON, HERTFORD SG14 1QR  
FRIDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 3:00-5:00PM**

If you have any questions, please contact  
[community.safety@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:community.safety@eastherts.gov.uk)



EastHertsDC



eastherts



easthertscouncil

**We are thankful to the following organisations who have contributed towards these activities:**

Hertford Town Council, Ware Town Council, Buntingford Town Council, Bishop's Stortford Town Council, Network Homes,  
Sporting Inspirations, Hertfordshire County Council's Services for Young People & East Herts Council.



# Welcome!

# Autumn 2022

To our Autumn edition of the Schools Stay Safe Newsletter.  
Read on for advice on ways to stay safe for you and your family.

## Chimney Safety in your home

As the colder months approach, we look to heating our homes with a cosy fire.  
But have you had your chimney swept lately?

*Chimney sweeping is recommended in October and February due to frequency of use during the winter period and build-up of soot in the chimney breast.*

To keep your family safe, follow these guidelines:

- Keep chimneys and flues clean and well maintained.
- Make sure embers are properly put out before you go to bed.
- Always use a fire guard to protect against flying sparks from hot embers.
- Be aware that chimneys that have been lined still require regular sweeping.

How often should you clean your chimney?

- Oil - Once a year.
- Gas - Once a year.
- Bituminous coal - Twice a year.
- Wood - Up to four times a year.
- Smokeless coals - At least once a year.







## Halloween and Fancy Dress

Do you know the dangers around Halloween costumes catching alight? It is good to know the likelihood can be avoided with a few simple steps.

### Advice for parents

- Check that all Halloween and fancy-dress costumes you buy carry a CE or UKCA mark on the label.
- All Halloween and fancy-dress outfits should always be kept away from fire, lit candles, and all other naked flames.
- Do not carry pumpkins with lit candles inside, consider using battery-operated candles instead.
- Children should always be supervised by a suitable adult.
- Homemade fancy dress costumes or those not tested to the same flammability standards may ignite easily and burn quicker.
- Ensure children can be seen in the dark. Think about wearing something reflective such as a reflective strip, and carry a torch.

Fire Chiefs urge care and caution with children's costumes ([nationalfirechiefs.org.uk](http://nationalfirechiefs.org.uk))



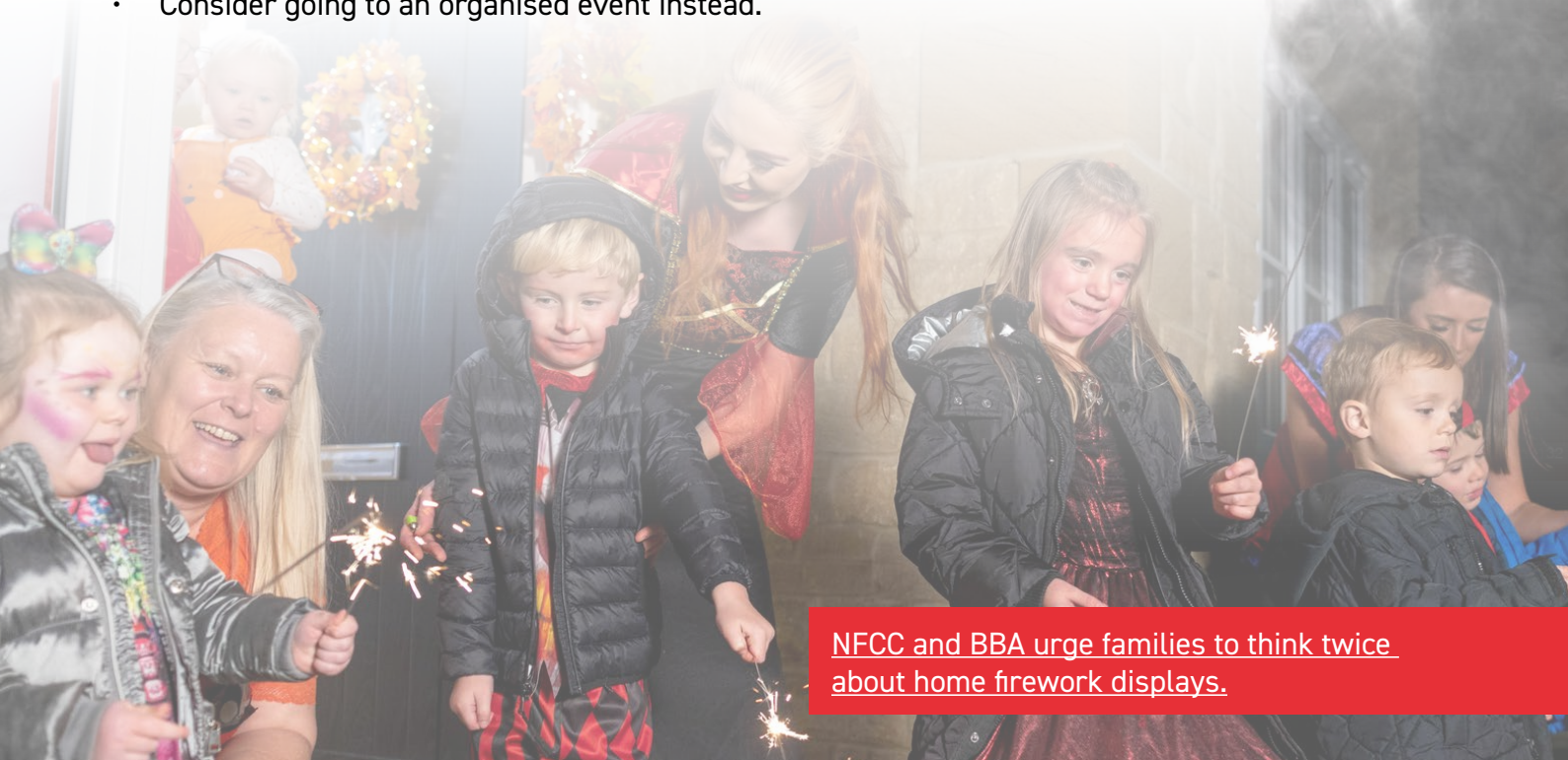


## Fireworks

Firework displays at home can be great fun, but it is important they are used safely. Children tend to get hurt rather than adults so you must keep them safe!

Sparklers can get almost 5 times hotter than cooking oil and should not be given to a child under 5.

- Always buy fireworks from a reputable shop and ensure they conform to British Standards – check they have BS7114 written on the box.
- Do not buy them from an unlicensed market stall or anywhere you are not sure about.
- The public can buy and set off most fireworks that fall under categories 1 to 3.
- Always read the instructions carefully.
- Ensure you have plenty of room to set them off.
- Make sure there is only one person in charge of the fireworks.
- Don't drink any alcohol until they have all been set off.
- Never return to an unlit firework, it could still be live.
- Make sure you extinguish all embers before going to bed.
- Consider going to an organised event instead.



NFCC and BBA urge families to think twice about home firework displays.



## Carbon Monoxide

As we approach the colder months, we all look to putting the heating on again. It is vital that you service and maintain your boiler once a year. It will prolong the life of your boiler and may protect you from harmful carbon monoxide gases.

**If you have a carbon monoxide detector installed at home, it will alert you to a leak immediately.**

You should test it once a week where possible. If your detector sounds you should:

- Stop using all appliances and evacuate the property immediately (try to stay calm and avoid raising your heart rate.)
- Call the National Gas Emergency Service number on 0800 111 999 to report the incident or the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Gas Safety Advice Line on 0800 300 363.
- Not go back into the property (wait for advice from the emergency services.
- Get immediate medical help.

[Carbon monoxide: general information - GOV. UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

### Did you know?

- Carbon monoxide does not have a smell.
- It is known as a silent killer.
- It is highly poisonous and is a flammable gas.
- Home boilers that are installed incorrectly, and the use of BBQs and portable generators inside homes can produce carbon monoxide.
- A brief exposure to small amounts of carbon monoxide may cause headache, flushing, nausea, dizziness, vertigo, muscle pain or personality changes.
- Exposure to higher amounts may cause movement problems, weakness, confusion, lung and heart problems, loss of consciousness and death.

**If you need any further information or advice on any of these topics, please feel free to call our friendly staff at your local station:**





- **Hertford Fire Station**  
01992 507611  
[Hertford.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Hertford.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk)
- **Cheshunt Fire Station**  
01992 901900  
[Cheshunt.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Cheshunt.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk)
- **Bishops Stortford Fire Station**  
01279 696800  
[BishopsStortford.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:BishopsStortford.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk)








If you're having a problem with **benefits, work, debt, housing, consumer rights and more,**  
**WE CAN HELP YOU** with free, confidential and impartial advice

#### GET ADVICE BY:

-  Calling our local **Message line 01920 459944** (any time) and one of our advisers will call you back (usually within 24 hours except weekends)
-  Requesting **email advice** or a **call back** from our website: [www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk](http://www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk)
-  Contacting us via **Facebook Messenger**: [www.facebook.com/EastHertsCitizensAdvice](https://www.facebook.com/EastHertsCitizensAdvice)
-  Going to our website at <https://citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk/get-advice/> for online information resources

We may also be able to arrange a face to face appointment or a home visit if, after an initial assessment, we feel that it's required to move you forward.

#### CONNECT WITH US

-  @EastHertsCitizensAdvice
-  @EastHertsCAB
-  @Citizens Advice East Herts

Charity reg no: 1083211



## Citizens Advice Contact Centres

If you need extra support to access our advice, come along to a Contact Centre.

We do not give full advice at these sessions but our friendly, experienced staff will **assess how to move you forward with your issues**. They may refer you to a more relevant service, help you to self-refer, arrange for an adviser to call you, arrange for a face to face appointment or arrange a home visit.

Each Contact Centre has a **free phone** and **computers** that you can use to access our service if you can't do that from home.

**Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church**  
**34b South Street, CM23 3AZ**  
**Tuesday 12-2pm**

**Hertford Sele Community Hub**  
**18 Fleming Crescent, SG14 2DJ**  
**Wednesday 11am -1pm**