

Primary phase newsletter

Friday 11th November 2022

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today



All through news

Despite returning less than 2 weeks ago, the term runs on at such a pace. Over many years, parents frequently talk of one of the strengths of Simon Balle School, is the communication between home and school. As we roll out our cycle of meetings we continue to run our academic consultation meetings online, using "school cloud". Many schools now are using this facility and most parents prefer the ability to talk to staff from the comfort of their own home. However, we still very much value face to face meetings; this is why each year group have opportunities for curriculum or pastoral information meetings held in school. A big thank you to the Y8 parents who last week not only attended our "connection" meeting but have overwhelmingly provided such positive feedback. The key messages of the evening were around assessment and learning as well as keeping the young people safe.

The school calendar each year is full of regular events. Last week was the ever popular "Volcano" day and from the onset of the all through school, some of our youngest children have joined with Y9 to learn more about volcanos. This year once again, the volcanos took a variety of forms; from models to pictures, cakes to explosive interactive designs. A wonderful and exciting day for all which has enriched the geography curriculum for Year 3 too.

Today, another important event will take place at school and no doubt we will share with you the details when we next communicate. As a school with little tradition (having been built in 1957) and wanting to establish community events which we believe share our values, several years ago we began to hold an annual "remembrance ceremony", held in the school playground. This year, now with so many young people and students on site, we will be holding two events. Once again, a group of students will take key roles, including this year two of our Ukrainian students who will read out the Ukrainian national anthem, as part of our ceremony.

If you are interested in learning more about any of the things we do, do ask your children or do not hesitate to contact myself or other staff as we are always happy to receive comments that help us to improve or suggestions.

May I thank the parents who responded to our latest call regarding recruitment of staff. Whilst currently we do not have many vacancies, we are eager to hear from people who might like to work with us. This makes it easier when things do crop up.

Sixth form at Simon Balle

We are pleased to announce our **Sixth Form Open Evening**. Please find all information [here](#), which takes place on **Wednesday 23rd November 5.30pm - 7.30pm**. Internal students in Year 11 and prospective external students are all welcome, so please do spread the word.

Great representation

We are excited to be writing to let you know that Mr Moss and I are engaging in a Hertfordshire-wide professional development programme across 2022-23 in relation to Great Representation at Simon Balle All-through School. Building on such important and impactful work last year, during which we achieved a silver accreditation for our Race and Conscious Equality Charter Mark, we are eager to continue to build on our journey. As you are all aware, at Simon Balle All-through School, we passionately believe that we are "creating tomorrow's citizens today". So we are asking ourselves what does that mean for race equity and equality? How can we continue to have a positive impact not just at Simon Balle but for all of our community and indeed society overall? What more can we do to promote our Simon Balle values of respect, kindness and hope for the future? We recognise that neutrality is not possible - instead we are instilling an anti-racist approach in all of our teaching and all of our pastoral education. From curriculum to PSHCE; from recruitment to leadership; from the voice of our students, parents,

staff and governors to our libraries, policies and assessment, this work is crucial to our moral imperative and our strategic planning. We will keep in touch through newsletters and our website here: <https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/inclusion/equality/>

Statutory Admissions Consultation 2024/2025

School Admissions Consultation 2024/25

The consultation on Hertfordshire County Council's school admission arrangements for 2024/25 is open until 11 December 2022.

The county council proposes to:

- Reduce the published admission number (PAN) at 5 community primary schools for 2024/25
- Retain the remainder of the County Council's existing admission arrangements, including PANs, Relevant Areas and schemes of coordination for 2024/25

Go to www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions2024 for more information about the consultation and to respond online.

**Have
your
say**



Consultations are also taking place on the admission arrangements for some schools and academies that are responsible for their own admissions.

You can also view the proposals for these schools at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions2024



Simon Balle All-through School is consulting on the proposed admissions arrangements for the school year 2024/2025 and is seeking responses from parents/carers, schools and community groups. The proposed changes are:

1. Changes to the sibling rule within and outside Hertford.

The reasons for the consultation are:

1. The Full Governing Body aims for the school to be for local children.
2. The Full Governing Body wishes to reduce traffic in and around the school to protect the safety of students
3. Hertfordshire County Council is a sustainable travel council and the school joins with its aims to protect the environment.

The consultation period takes place between 1st November and 12th December 2022. If you wish to make any comments regarding this consultation please email admin@simonballe.herts.sch.uk.

The proposed admission arrangements can be found on the school website (<https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/admissions/sec>

[ondary-admissions/](https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/admissions/sec)).

Simon Balle All-through School Hertfordshire County Council is also running a consultation on the proposed admissions arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for the school year 2024/25 and is seeking responses from parents/carers, schools and community groups.

HCC's proposed changes:

1. To retain the remainder of the county council's existing admission arrangements for 2024/2025, including PANs Relevant Areas and schemes of coordination.

The consultation period runs until 11th December 2022. Please visit

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions2024 for more information and to respond online.

Children in need



At Simon Balle, we are committed to the incredibly important causes that Children in Need supports every year. A short summary is provided below, and we recognise the importance of our students understanding charity giving in these ways.

Payments, however big or small, can be made via ParentPay

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=9084>

Larch students will be able to wear 1 spotty item on the day, with their school uniform – spotty socks, spotty tights, spotty jumper- just think spotty!

At BBC Children in Need, the money raised by you is put to work throughout the whole year. The financial support is committed to funding grassroots organisations and project workers in every corner of the UK, who provide the vital relationships and support to help the children who need the support most. This helps them to be the best that they can be. Last year the charity helped nearly 460,000 children and young people to overcome their challenges. This included supporting children and young people living in poverty, providing emergency support to families in crisis, providing comfort to children feeling sad, lost and alone, helping children overcome social injustice and supporting children to feel safe and secure again. Here is a snapshot of the positive changes made:

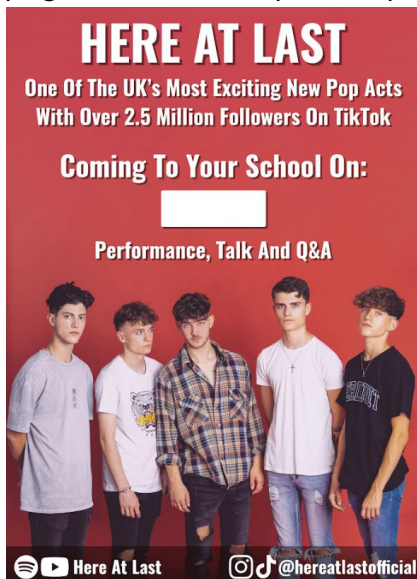
- 179,000 have stronger self-belief
- 179,000 enjoy better relationships
- 150,000 have increased essential skills
- 151,000 have stronger emotional wellbeing

83,000 are more empowered
83,000 have better physical wellbeing
32,000 are safer

Anti-bullying week

We will be supporting and promoting this year's Anti Bullying week, commencing on the 14th November. Odd socks day will start the week on Monday 14th November, This year's theme is 'Reach Out'. Students across all phases will be taking part in a number of activities that include quizzes, assemblies, surveys and student led activities.

On Friday students in Y7-10 will have the privilege of a live performance from the band 'Here at last'. They will then be delivering key messages about mental health, staying safe online and cyber bullying.



For anti-bullying week (14th-18th November) students will be completing the [SBAS Community and Kindness Calendar](#). The SBAS Community and Kindness Calendar helps to encourage everyone at Simon Balle to think about kindness because, as we know, small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

Each day of the week, students will write down all the ways in which they have been helpful at home, been kind to themselves, helped their classmates and their teachers, shown kindness in the community, and helped to protect the environment.

Antarctica day flag competition

On 1 December 1959, 12 countries signed the Antarctic Treaty – an international agreement to designate Antarctica as a continent of peace and cooperation.



Over sixty years on, the Antarctic Treaty has expanded to include 54 countries and continues to shine as a rare beacon of international cooperation. The Treaty governs much of the politics, activities and responsibilities within the Antarctic continent and waters south of 60 degrees latitude. For example, all scientific observations should be made freely available to all researchers, no military bases or weapons testing are allowed, and the dumping or burning of any rubbish is prohibited.

To celebrate this milestone of peace in our civilisation, the anniversary of the Treaty is recognised each year. The 1 December is celebrated globally.

We are looking for students to create a flag that represents Antarctica.

This will be taken to Antarctica by a research scientist. The scientist will send us back a photo of them with your flag in Antarctica.

How to enter.

On A4 paper make a flag that represents Antarctica. It must be as bright and colourful as possible. It needs to stand out against the snowy backdrop of Antarctica.

Please bring your entry to Mrs Ahmet or pass it to member of the Geography department
Deadline 18th November 9.00am



MCR Pathways Mentors

Could you share an hour a week to be a mentor? You could help change a young person's life...

No young person should feel alone. MCR Pathways provides support through pairing young people in secondary schools who are care experienced or who

have other areas of disadvantage in their lives with trained and carefully matched volunteer mentors. This one-to-one relationship is what makes the difference to their confidence and future. Take the first step to becoming a mentor today: <https://bit.ly/ShareAnHour>



The Autism and ADHD transformation programme, which includes Hertfordshire County Council, NHS trusts, HPCI and local voluntary organisations, has been working hard to improve services for families and young people. A key area of work has been ensuring you know where you can go to access support in your local area. This will hopefully help you get access to support as early as you can.

To find out more about the support available please watch this 3-minute animation or visit the Herts Local Offer.

<http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/autismADHDsupport/hertfordshire>

PSA news

Doughies Pizza Event- 18th November

Last weekend for orders!

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 - 10th December, 12-4pm

We have filled around a third of [volunteer slots](#) for the Frost Fair and are incredibly thankful to those that have signed up. Staff, students and family members from both phases, if you are able to cover a slot at the fair, please complete this form:

<https://forms.gle/vHLufK1XirYRswt8A>

Shortly, our **Winter Raffle** tickets will be available to both phases. With over 40 exciting prizes, ranging from £100 cash, dining vouchers and paintballing to hand crafted items carefully made by our stallholders, there really is a prize to suit all.

Pre-order your Frost Fair [tokens](#), before 2nd December, to save time queuing during the fair. Larch orders will be sent home via classrooms and secondary orders can be collected from the front office the week of the fair.

Attendance matters

Attendance Ladder



Regular and timely attendance is a critically important part of giving children the best possible start in life. Students who have attendance levels of 97% or above (our target for each child) will benefit from everything the Simon Balle community has to offer. The Covid pandemic disrupted attendance patterns in a dramatic way but we are now in the post-pandemic phase and it is crucial that we work together to support each child in reaching this target. Please remember that we are here to help.

Support for Autism and ADHD in Hertfordshire

<https://simon-balle-all-through-school-psa.sumupstore.com/product/frost-fair-token>

Our **artisan gin** is back by popular demand for the 2022 festive season. Made by our friends at Spirit of Hertfordshire, orders can be placed online and collected at the Frost Fair from the SoH gin stand. Select local pick up at check out and note Frost Fair collection. 18+ only.

<https://spiritofherts.co.uk/product/simon-balle-hertford-festive-gin/>

Save the date! **9th December**, the day before the Frost Fair, we will be inviting Year 7 to take part in a House Hammer competition and for the Larch to take part in a sweet treat or bottle donation day. More information to follow!

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.

DOUGHIES PIZZA

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Scan here to order

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

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

also consult with other local schools. If conditions pose a significant risk, the school or parts of the school will close. There is a robust system for notifying families which includes: news of any school closure or part school closure will be made available to parents via the school website, www.simonballe.herts.co.uk. We will also send email notification to parents and students as well as updating our social media pages.

Dates for the diary

WHOLE SCHOOL	
Friday 18 th Nov	Children in Need Day - donations via ParentPay
Friday 25 th Nov	Occasional Day 1
Monday 28 th Nov	Occasional day 2
Tuesday 29 th Nov	Inset day - school closed for students
Saturday 10 th Dec	Frost Fair
Wednesday 21 st Dec	End of term - early finish
Thursday 5 th Jan	Term starts
LARCH	
Thursday 17 th Nov	6pm Tours for prospective reception parents
Tues 22 nd & Wed 23 rd Nov	Y6 Shakespeare festival
Thursday 24 th Nov	Flu jabs Reception to Y6
Wednesday 30 th Nov	Larch tours for prospective parents
Tuesday 13 th Dec	Y1 pantomime trip Larch evening Carol Service - All Saints Church
Wednesday 14 th Dec	Larch morning Carol Service - All Saints Church
Thursday 15 th Dec	Reception Nativity 10am
Monday 19 th Dec	Larch Christmas lunch
SECONDARY	

Music news

<https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/musical-news-november-2022/>

School closure

The school may have to suddenly close for a number of reasons including no heating or no water but the most common reason is severe weather. The Headteacher, members of SLT and Premises staff assess the situation in terms of health and safety. We

Mon 14 th to Thurs 17 th Nov	Y13 fieldwork trip
Wed 23 rd Nov	6 th form open evening
Wed 30 th Nov to Fri 2 nd Dec	Y12 fieldwork trip - Manchester Science trip to Cern, European Organisation for Nuclear Research
Thursday 8 th Dec	Y12 parents evening
Monday 12 th Dec	Secondary evening Carol Service – All Saints Church
Tuesday 20 th Dec	Secondary Christmas lunch

TERM DATES FOR 2023/24

We know that families like to know the term dates well in advance so they can organise holiday during the school holiday periods.

Friday 1st September	Inset 1
Monday 4th September	All students in
Monday 23 rd to Friday 27 th Oct Half term	
Friday 24th November	Occasional day 1
Monday 27th November	Occasional day 2
Tuesday 28th November	Inset 2
Friday 22nd December	End of term
Monday 8th January	Term starts
Monday 19 th to Friday 23 rd Feb Half term	
Monday 26th February	Inset 3
Thursday 28th March	Term ends (Good
Friday 29th March)	
Monday 15th April	Term starts
Monday 6 th May	Bank holiday
Monday 27 th to Friday 31 st May Half term	
Friday 19 th July	End of term

Primary News

It has been a wonderful start to the second half of the autumn term.

We hope that you know that parent feedback is incredibly important to us and that it is always acted upon. One piece of feedback received is that Larch parents would really welcome a quick guide here as to upcoming things to remember! Whilst we love to share the detail of teaching and learning, we recognise too that school and family lives are busy. So, as well as referring to the all-through dates above, please note the following:

- Please can all children have their Simon Balle

PE kit in school every day. This allows for PE lessons twice a week, clubs and flexibility for more. From January 2023 all children should be wearing Simon Balle PE kit for all clubs and activities (including football, dance etc). We are confident that this is the right decision for all children and we wanted to give you advance notice so that you understand that if children come home in PE kit, the PE kit needs to be returned to school the following day. If children do not have kit in school, we will loan them lost property so that all children always take part fully in PE lessons - but please do not rely on this because we have limited supplies. Thank you!

- **Odd socks for anti-bullying week - Monday 14th November.**
- **Wear something spotty (with uniform) and contribute whatever you can to Children in Need via parent pay - Friday 18th November.**
- Add any necessary payments for **Christmas Lunch** by 1st December.
- Note all **Christmas dates** with care:
 - Reception Nativity: 15th December, 10am
 - Larch Christmas Carol Service 13th December for performers in the evening, all Larch children 14th December in the morning
 - Christmas jumper day - 8th December

There is much more to look forward to for specific year groups, including the Year 6 upcoming Shakespeare performances in London.

We will continue to share specific dates and deadlines as clearly as we can - it is a good problem to have that there is so much going on that we need a guide for us all! Next fortnight I will be writing with a spotlight on enrichment in the Larch - just so many KS1 and Explorers clubs to celebrate - and a huge thank you to all - children, parents and staff!

Travelling Book Fair

This week we have had the Travelling Books book fair in the Larch library.

Books were available in the library for students to browse during the school day and the book fair was open to students, parents and carers after school each day. Our children have enjoyed the browsing experience! Every afternoon has been so busy so we are equally sure that parents and children have enjoyed the shopping experience! The book fair enables us to raise money for new books for our two school libraries, so we thank you all for your support and we hope that children are enjoying their new books. A love of reading is central to all we do at Simon Balle.



Christmas lunch

Larch students will have their Christmas lunch on Monday 19th December. Those who normally have school lunch on Monday will automatically have a Christmas lunch. If your KS2 child would normally have a packed lunch, and instead wishes to have Christmas lunch, please pay £3.75 on parent pay before Thursday 1st December. If your child normally has a school lunch you will need to pay £1.25 on ParentPay by 1st December to cover the extra cost of the meal.

We hope that all children will be looking forward to and join us in this annual festive occasion!