

Primary phase newsletter

Friday 13th January 2023

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today



All through news

A Happy New Year to all.

Thank you once again for the messages of congratulations. Many of you will remember or know Cynthia Stroud (now Cynthia Tooley) formerly of "Pretty Gorgeous Cakes" and more latterly of "Jedidiah" food parcels. Cynthia has now relocated to Buckingham, continued her passion for Jedidah's work there, and remarried. Congratulations to Cynthia for she too has been awarded an MBE! Some of our families have been involved with Jedidiah, either giving or receiving help. As a school over the past few years our awareness that many of our families do struggle with the cost of living influences many decisions we make. We thought we would share just a few things we always consider: Trips- how many take place for a particular year group and are they a fair and inclusive price. Uniform- how much can be bought from local stores-ensuring we are not continuously asking for £1 donations or wearing special clothes (that often need to be bought, for example themed dress days, non uniform day). We know that many costs can not be avoided but please be assured that there is always support if requested and that we are only too aware of the issues faced by many families.

Despite some teething issues with our new security system on site, we believe that the new fencing and barriers are already ensuring that the site is safe at all times of the day. We thank you for your patience and support with this, including doing all we can to be respectful and mindful of our neighbours and local community when considering making journeys to the school site.

Safeguarding informs so many of our daily actions; indeed it is our primary focus as we ensure the welfare and safety of our students. An example of this would be this week's all through staff meeting which focused, amongst other things, upon latest developments in safeguarding and various aspects of what we do including our recording and documentation. We are continuously reflecting so carefully on the culture and ethos we are building in order to always prioritise the wellbeing of every child and young person. It is part of all staff's daily practice and overseen by the safeguarding team who work together closely and meet weekly to discuss families who need support, and to reflect on all of our practice - always looking for new ways to improve.

Our passion in this area is something we are proud of but we realise that many of the things we are doing are not necessarily visible and therefore we will be sending out a half termly newsletter which will highlight some of the actions we have taken in response to parental comments, to provide the latest guidance on trends to help inform and guide parents or just to provide details from our own improvement plans. Our plans are always rooted in national guidance and with a great awareness of local concerns. The first news bulletin will be sent the last week of January to prepare for "safer internet day" on February 7th 2023.

Music news

In Music, as we welcome the new year in, we are preparing for our upcoming musical events. Please take a look at our January news, including our Carol Services, Meet the Music Ambassadors, and our all upcoming dates!

<https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/musical-news-january-2023/>

Staffing recruitment- see attachments

In the past, advertising vacancies on our newsletter has been successful as local people and families are eager to work in our school. We are now starting to recruit teachers for September. This week we are advertising secondary posts but will shortly be looking for primary colleagues. If this is not your subject specialism but still are interested, please email in and we can arrange a conversation. Thank you.

<https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/community/vacancies/>

Attendance matters

As we start the new school term, we are asking for your support in ensuring your child achieves 100% attendance - for the remainder of this academic year and future years. Regular school attendance will give your child the very best start in life, providing opportunities to learn, develop and succeed. Missing school could result in your child falling behind which could impact on their confidence, health and wellbeing.

This term the attendance team are launching a number of initiatives to promote and celebrate both excellent and improved attendance. This will include an attendance cup competition across all phases and rewards given linked to our values. We are also reviewing and embedding a new lateness process to ensure students are punctual to school and in between lessons in the secondary phase.

There is also a wide range of support available to help you and your child achieve 100% school attendance, but please:

- Encourage and ensure your child attends school regularly and punctually
- Notify and discuss with your school of any concerns relating to school attendance at an early stage
- Notify the school immediately if your child is unable to attend school if they are unwell
- Maintain a regular routine – bed-time and morning routine to help your child to get to school on time

We are concerned with the number of term time requests for holiday and I will be sharing in the coming weeks, information about the introduction of Fixed penalty notices.

Children only attend school for 190 days out of 365. This leaves 175 days for holidays. Avoid term time

holidays – these are unauthorised absences (unless in exceptional circumstances)

Let's all work together to make every day count and support your child to achieve 100%

Volunteer minibuss drivers wanted

From time to time we need volunteers to help us take students on school trips - mostly local. If you passed your driving test before 1991 and have CAT D on your licence then you would be able to help. Full training will be given. If you are able to help us or need more information then please email admin@simonballe.herts.sch.uk and we will

Summer school

*We are pleased to announce the dates of this year's Summer School for all students who are due to begin Year 7 with us in September 2023. Our Summer School is something we are very proud of and both the engagement levels and outcomes show just how valuable and integral it is to the transition process. The programme itself is devised on the basis of research as to what is most effective and involves a range of academic and enrichment activities. The Summer School will take place **Tuesday 29th - Thursday 31st of August** and we strongly encourage all parents to take up this opportunity for their child, if at all possible, as we know what a vital part it can play in supporting children to make a successful transition, socially and academically.*

Further details will be shared with parents as part of the transition process in the summer term.

<https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/transition/year-6-in-to-7-transition/summer-school/>

SEND team

If you would like to book a virtual appointment of up to 15 minutes with a member of the SEND team use the following link:

<https://calendly.com/send-drop-ins/send-drop-in-meetings?month=2022-12>

PSA news

Festive Jumper and clothing donations needed!

Many festive jumpers and items of clothing, including costumes, are purchased for Christmas and worn for a very short period of time, before being discarded. Recently, a great suggestion was made to us - to collect unwanted festive clothing during January. Items of all ages and sizes would be well received, from jumpers and PJ's to nativity costumes. Please

hand in your donations to the Larch office for safe keeping. We hope to offer a pop up shop next November.



23rd January - PSA Virtual Meeting

Please join us for our next virtual meeting on Monday 23rd January. You do not have to be a committee member to join - everyone is welcome. Please email psa@simonballepsa.org.uk for the Zoom link. It is a great opportunity to learn about the upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. We are keen to hear event and fundraising suggestions too.



Standon Calling, 20-23rd July 2023

☀️ Standon for Schools is back ☀️

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>

Dates

WHOLE SCHOOL	
Monday 13 th to Friday 17 th Feb	HALF TERM
Monday 20 th Feb	INSET DAY school closed for students
Saturday 4 th Mar	Big Band evening
SECONDARY	
Monday 9 th Jan 6pm	Y11 Business trip parents information evening
Tuesday 17 th Jan	Y11 parents evening
Thursday 19 th Jan	Y9 flu vaccinations Spanish trip parents information evening 6pm
Tuesday 24 th Jan	6 th form open morning Y9 preferences evening 6.30pm
Thursday 26 th Jan	6 th form open morning Y11 parents evening in hall 6pm
Tuesday 31 st Jan to Friday 3 rd Feb	Business studies trip
Thursday 2 nd Feb	Y8 theatre trip (evening)
Friday 3 rd Feb	6 th form open morning
Wednesday 8 th Feb	A level drama trip 'Othello'
Monday 27 th to 2 nd Mar	Spanish trip
Tuesday 28 th Mar	Y13 parents evening
PRIMARY	
Friday 20 th Jan	PSA UV party
Tuesday 31 st Jan	Beginners woodwind concert
Monday 6 th Jan and Friday 10 th Jan	Year 1 balanceability
Thurs 9 th Feb	Beginners brass concert
Thurs 9 th Feb	Home netball and football matches (amongst other dates!)
Tuesday 14 th March	Year 2 strings training programme celebration

Thursday 16 th March	Year 2 Windsor Castle trip
Wednesday 22 nd March	Year 3 Celtic Harmony Camp Prehistoric Experience (more news to follow for Year 3 parents!)
Wednesday 22 nd March	A Larch celebration of music, 6pm
Wednesday 29 th March	Year 4 performance

Primary news

Learning in the Larch

The first week of term has been filled with so much learning! On Wednesday, I walked around the Larch and found such a wide range of lessons!

Reception have been learning about their literary canon text 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. They were discussing the different places the children go through and were sharing their opinions on the story! Year 1 were using chromebooks to explore a painting application to create a wonderful range of pieces! They were trying the different functions to create different effects.

Year 2 were working in pairs to create fantastic gymnastics balances and shapes with their bodies. I was so impressed by their collaboration and support for each other!

Detailed drawings of close ups of flowers was happening in Year 3. The children told me how they were learning about the artist Georgia O'Keefe and how their drawings were similar to her pieces.

Year 4 have been reading their literary canon text 'Journey to Jo'burg' and showing real maturity with asking questions and discussing parts of the text.

Fractions have been the focus in Year 5 maths, with lots of practise of multiplying improper and mixed numbers with whole numbers. The children were really confident with explaining key vocabulary and their reasoning!

Year 6 have been learning about Goodnight Mr Tom and writing formal letters to contrast with their informal diary writing last week. They've really immersed themselves in learning about WW2 and applying their knowledge to their writing.

Year 2 dropping off/picking up points

Although the construction works are now complete for the Jubilee Suite, we have had overwhelming positive parental support for the new arrangements in place - particularly as Year 2 children are dropped/picked up in the same place as all other year groups. We will therefore continue with the revised arrangements rather than revert to the trim trail area directly outside the Year 2 classroom

doors.

Watches

A reminder to please ensure your child isn't wearing a smartwatch that connects to the internet at school. If your child is using a Fitbit to keep track of their steps, please ensure your child knows how to access the clock face so they aren't distracted when checking the time in class.

We highly recommend an analogue watch to support your child with learning how to read time. All rooms in the Larch have clocks.

KS2 break time snacks

Please ensure your child has a healthy snack for break times. This could be in the form of fruit, vegetables or something like breadsticks. These types of foods tend to ensure the children have more energy and focus for the remainder of the morning, compared to high sugar / less filling foods like biscuits or crisps. We thank you for your ongoing support.

Toy donations for reception

After Christmas some of you may be clearing out your children's toy cupboards to make space for the new bits. Can we please ask if you are getting rid of any of the following to please donate to Reception as they will be greatly appreciated;

- small world people
- remote controlled toys
- animals including insects and sea creatures
- puzzles
- lego people
- games
- vehicles
- number blocks toys
- instruments
- numicon equipment

If you have anything suitable please bring to the Reception classrooms in the Larch and we will happily take them off your hands.

Year 6 Study Club

A reminder that every **Wednesday 3.15-4.15pm**, **there is a free study club** for children to attend to complete home learning, read or practise their spellings. You do not need to sign your child up and they can go on an ad-hoc basis. They will do this in a secondary classroom and can be collected at 4.15pm by the main reception. If you wish for your child to stay until a younger sibling's after school

club finishes, they can wait in the main library to read.

An adult is there to support them. Please ask your child's Year 6 teacher if you'd like more information.

PSA - Larch KS1 AND KS2 UV Party - 20th January

A reminder for those wishing to attend the Larch UV Party, please complete the registration form before purchasing your ticket.

See email sent on 11.1.23 for further information.



JOIN US!



Be part of a collaborative and supportive team, in an 'Outstanding' school, that puts the students at the heart of all we do.

At an All-through School:

- The Educational journey is consistent
- The students share a united vision.
- We can boast a rich, all-through curriculum
- Relationships grow and develop over 14 years



CREATING TOMORROW'S CITIZENS TODAY



WE ARE RECRUITING A

Teacher of:

FRENCH OR SPANISH

(Primary or Secondary)

**Are you able to inspire the
linguists of the future?**

Simon Balle All-through School is known for its high expectations, first class education and its innovative approach. Our vision and values underpin all we do.



FOR MORE INFO:



01992 410400

creaseyj@simonballe.herts.sch.uk

<https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/community/vacancies/>



We are recruiting a...
Teacher of:

SCIENCE

Are you able to inspire the next generation of Scientists?

Simon Balle is known for its high expectations, first class education and its innovative approach. Our vision and values underpin all we do.

FOR MORE INFO:

Contact us on 01992 410400
or creaseyj@simonballe.herts.sch.uk
<https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/community/vacancies/>



We are recruiting a...
Teacher of:

MATHS



Are you able to inspire the next generation of Mathematicians?
Simon Balle is known for its high expectations, first class education
and its innovative approach.


Our vision and values underpin all we do.

For more info:

Contact us on 01992 410400

or creaseyj@simonballe.herts.sch.uk

<https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/community/vacancies/>

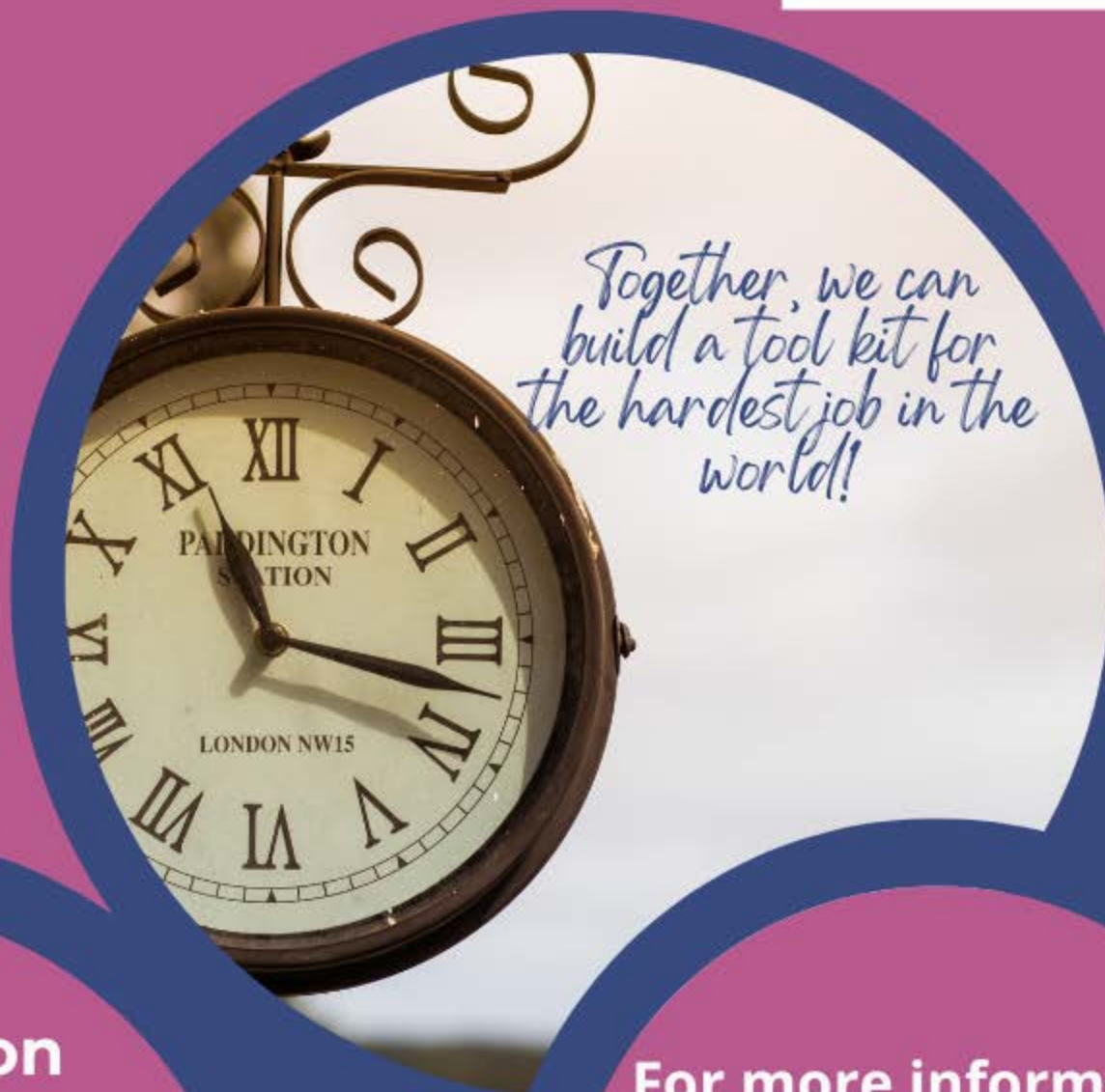
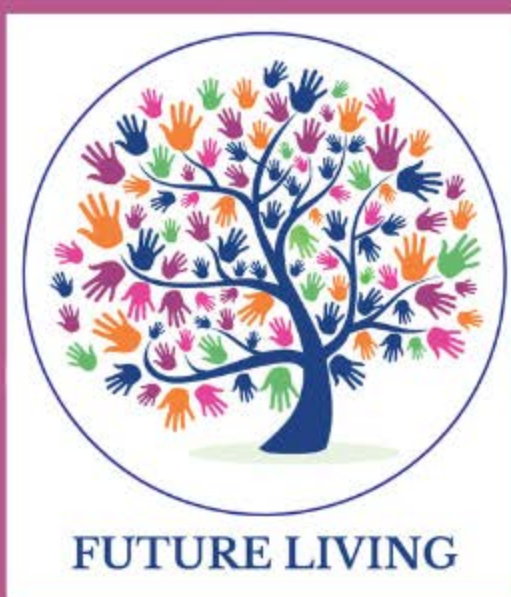


Kids Kit

A workshop for parents focusing on:
Routines & Boundaries

What will I learn in this workshop?

- ✔ Why we need to structure routines and create boundaries
- ✔ How this can make your child feel safe
- ✔ How to take back control of your relationship with your child



FREE session
10:00 - 12:00
16th January
2023
Vale House, 43
Cowbridge, Hertford
SG14 1PN

For more information
contact:

info@futurelivinghertford.co.uk
01992 537344



FUTURE LIVING PRESENTS.....

Drama Project

Got what it takes to take centre stage?

Join us for our FREE Drama project at Vale House Hertford!

Suitable for those aged 11 - 14

Monday 13th - Thursday 16th

February

10:00 - 14:30

Lunch provided!

To secure your place contact:

info@futurelivinghertford.co.uk



Winter health update - January 2023

For parents/carers and education and childcare settings

From Geraldine Bruce, Head of Health Protection, Hertfordshire Public Health

As children return to schools and childcare settings, we expect to see many more cases of flu, COVID-19 and other infections that affect children's breathing (known as 'respiratory infections'). There also continue to be high numbers of scarlet fever cases, which can spread quickly, but can be easily treated with antibiotics. To help us through this term, this leaflet has five simple steps we can take to protect children, minimise the spread of illness in schools and childcare settings and protect others.

1	<p><u>Stay home if unwell</u></p> <p>Infections can spread quickly in schools and other childcare settings. If your child is unwell and has a fever they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and their fever has gone.</p> <p>Adults should try to stay home when unwell and consider wearing a face covering to protect others if you do have to go out. Don't visit people in hospitals or care homes if you have a fever, a cold or symptoms of a stomach upset.</p>
2	<p><u>Keep hands clean</u></p> <p>It is important to help children understand that keeping hands clean can stop bugs from spreading. Help your child wash their hands regularly at home with soap and warm water. More information here.</p>
3	<p><u>Catch coughs and sneezes</u></p> <p>Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is a simple way to help stop illness from spreading. Keeping rooms well ventilated will also help prevent the spread of winter illness.</p>
4	<p><u>Get vaccinated if you're eligible</u></p> <p>Now is a good time to check your you and your family's vaccinations are all up to date. If you are unsure your child has had all their routine vaccinations, you can check their personal health record (Red Book) or ask your GP. You can also check the childhood immunisation schedule online.</p> <p>And it's not too late to get the free NHS flu jab or nasal spray this year if anyone in your family is eligible. The NHS will be contacting parents of children who have not yet had their flu immunisation. Flu nasal spray clinics are still taking place in some schools this month, or for children aged 2-3, please contact your GP to arrange an appointment.</p>
5	<p><u>Be scarlet fever aware</u></p> <p>Call your GP for advice if you think your child has scarlet fever. More information about scarlet fever can be found on the NHS website. If you are concerned about a rash that your child has, advice is available here: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/rashes-babies-and-children/</p>

Further updates and resources can be found here:

www.hwehealthiertogether.nhs.uk

www.gov.uk/government/news/back-to-school-advice-issued-amid-high-levels-of-flu-covid-19-and-scarlet-fever

www.e-bug.eu

www.gov.uk/government/publications/infectious-diseases-schools-and-other-childcare-settings