

Primary phase newsletter

Friday 27th January 2023

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today



All-through news

Welcome to this newsletter; four weeks back and already several parents evenings, information evenings, trips and events. Thank you to every parent for their support; we know that children and young people can thrive only when parents work together with schools, sharing a common aim and language.

PE

As School Leaders, we are committed to ensuring that the education provided is of the highest quality for your children. Whilst there is so much to celebrate, we also continuously strive to tweak and improve our work. As we work all through, it is exciting to take an area across the school and look at provision from reception to Y13.

This week we spent a whole day focussing on the quality of provision in PE, across our all-through school. We were delighted to see such passion and engagement for PE across all students and staff. Strong starts to every lesson were evident, as were excellent attitudes to learning and relationships between staff and peers, and peers with one another, including in leadership situations! From swimming to football, gymnastics to netball, and theory-based lessons too, the purpose of learning was so well described by our students of all ages. Extremely high numbers of students are engaged in extracurricular sporting provision (for example, 86% of our KS2 students), and we analyse this participation in every way possible to ensure an inclusive approach - our aim being to support your children to be lifelong participants in sport with an understanding of why this is really important! As always, we take away next steps including helping students to understand explicitly what we teach and why (the progressive order, the value etc) and how their learning is assessed at each stage, so that they have the same in-depth understanding that staff do. There is so much to celebrate with such a wide range of extra-curricular activities too: indoor athletics at Lea Valley, Year 5/6 netball and football, Year 10 basketball, boys' and girls' hockey ... Let's leave you with one particularly exciting success of the week as

Reggie in Year 12 has been selected by the Sporting National Governing Body to enrol on the BTEC Diploma in Sporting Excellence. Well done! Excellent and elite sporting performance as well as daily demonstrating our Simon Balle values in sport are equally celebrated at Simon Balle. Thank you to all staff in our all-through PE department for their commitment, expertise, inspiration and depth of knowledge to ensure the very best curricular and extracurricular offer.

SEND

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

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

Anything with wheels - Club

Mr Brown is in the process of setting a club for the students at Simon Balle All-through. We need your help!

Any parents who may have any old tools, engines, BMX, motorbikes or anything mechanically related please could you get in touch on the email above. We really appreciate your support! Mr Brown will be sharing more information as the club develops.

A promotional graphic for the 'Anything with wheels' club. It features a photo of two students, a boy and a girl, working together on a project in a workshop. The photo is overlaid with a green banner at the top that says 'Simon Balle'. Below the photo is a green banner with the text 'Anything with wheels' in yellow and 'The new SBAS Club' in white. To the right of the banner is the Simon Balle logo and a list of items with checkmarks: Bikes, Cars, Carts, and BMX.

Simon Balle

Anything with wheels

The new SBAS Club

Bikes ✓
Cars ✓
Carts ✓
BMX ✓

CONTACT MR BROWN

brownl@simonballe.herts.sch.uk

Parking

It has been raised by the fire department that the access road leading to the Hockey Club car park is not passable for emergency vehicles (This is an emergency access road to Balls Park). The car park is private and an access road and is not for parents either dropping off or picking up. Thank you for your cooperation.

PSA news

Volunteer Opportunities

We are in the process of compiling a new volunteer database.

If you are interested in volunteering at future events, please register via this [form](#). You will be contacted when there are volunteering opportunities available. Thank you in advance.

HOW TO HELP

Simon Balle PSA

1. Register via this form



2. You will be emailed with volunteer opportunities and invited to sign up via either:



Google Form



VolunteerSignUp link


3. Wait for an email confirming when and where your help is needed - please check your junk folder.

psa@simonballepsa.org.uk

Doughies, Friday 3rd March

Our next Doughies delivery will be on Friday 3rd March. Orders from primary and secondary phases can be placed now via the [Doughie's website](#). The closing date for orders is Monday 27th February.



PIZZA & COOKIE EVENT

Friday 3rd March

We've teamed up with Doughies for a fun family night in. Order your pizza & cookie making kits and you'll receive everything you need to make artisan margherita pizzas (regular or vegan), and warm gooey cookies in your home oven.



Orders to be placed via the Doughies website by **Monday 27th February**
<https://doughies.co.uk/products/simon-balle>
 Orders to be collected on **Friday 3rd March**. Details will be shared with primary & secondary phases

ORDER HERE

My Nametags

My Nametags offers sticky customisable name labels, suitable for uniform, PE kits, shoes, lunch bags, water bottles and more.

Scan the QR code to save 20% off all orders. When you enter **37273**, our school ID, a percentage of your order total will be donated to Simon Balle PSA, at no cost to you.



REDUCING LOST PROPERTY IN SCHOOLS & NURSERIES!



24% of every order will be donated to our PTA/School! Just use our school ID at the checkout.

School ID: **37273**



SCAN ME TO SAVE 20%

www.MyNametags.com

Dates for the diary

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
Wednesday 1 st Feb Wednesday 1 st Mar Wednesday 15 th Mar Thursday 16 th Mar	Strike dates
SECONDARY	
Tuesday 31 st Jan to Friday 3 rd Feb	Business studies trip Year 11
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'
Tuesday 7 th Mar	Y13 parents evening (revised date)
Monday 27 th to 2 nd Mar	Spanish trip
Monday 6 th Mar to Wednesday 8 th Mar	Y10 geography field trip
Monday 20 th Mar	Y10 parents exam and information evening
PRIMARY	
Tuesday 31 st Jan	Beginners woodwind concert
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

Change of address

Please don't forget to let us know if you ever move homes and your child has a change of address. Please let Mrs Harding know in the office if you need to update any information:

larch@simonballe.herts.sch.uk

Music for all

We are conscious that with so much amazing work to develop string players, woodwind players, brass players and more - we don't always use the newsletter just to celebrate our Larch children's general musicianship. Every single child is developing such a great understanding of music! In assemblies, they listen to wonderful music - always carefully selected, and listening for instruments, themes and aspects of musicianship linked to the curriculum: for

example, tempo, pitch and dynamics. KS1 just love singing assembly - and they are learning so much from singing technique to confidence to oracy. In class lessons, it is wonderful to see the breadth of the curriculum from ukelele (Year 5 currently) to use of Soundtrap (a specialist online playing and composing software programme, for Year 4 currently) to glockenspiels for pitch and active body percussion and dance for rhythm!

Attendance news

We are delighted to announce that we have received a national attendance award from @FFTEdu. Our Primary students' attendance is one of the highest in the UK. The awards have been given to schools with attendance in the Top 10% and Top 25% schools nationally for the 2022 Autumn term. Thank you all for your support.



Larch PE Events this term

There is so much going on that we must use this space to celebrate opportunities! A huge thank you to Mrs Riddle and Mr Leonard - we will not be able to cover all here!

- Our netball and football teams have had a brilliant start to 2023: so far two convincing wins at home, but also, within this, such amazing demonstration of our Simon Balle values in fantastic team-play and respect for those we play against.
- Deer class went to a Wodson Park Sports Development Day last week where they were able to try a range of different activities.
- Children from Reception to Year 6 enjoyed having assemblies with BMX, skateboarding and inline skating champions. They enjoyed watching their demonstrations and tricks with so many children inspired to have a go at one of these new sports.

Other events this term

- Friendly football and netball matches running alongside the evans and hope cup
- Year 5 and 6 sportshall athletics competition
- Year 1 balanceability sessions

- District netball tournament
- District football tournament
- Cross country for Year 3-6

UV Parties

A huge thank you to the PSA and to you as parents for supporting the UV parties last Friday. The pay it forward idea was warmly received, your generosity and kindness appreciated. It was great to see so many children in the Larch having a wonderful time -and, in particular, to see their strong friendships and relationships with one another. Whether playing games, taking part in dances, spending time together or even taking a quiet break, children were consistently demonstrating the outstanding behaviour and attitudes we routinely expect - thank you! As well as being a huge success for all that had such fun, the PSA were able to raise £1130.





School Nursing

Public Health Nursing 5-19 Team Newsletter

Welcome!

As a new term begins, the school nursing team continues to support children in Hertfordshire Schools.

Ways to contact us:

0300 123 7572 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)

Our referral website, which also has information about our service:

<http://ow.ly/eeWe50KI1gW>

Please see below our Workshop link, with lots of advice and support on your child's emotional health, returning to school, and more.

<http://ow.ly/Qn9G50KI17f>



www.healthforkids.co.uk

A fun and interactive website for children to access health information, with also information for parents available.

Who we are?

Hi I am Chloe, a Public Health Staff Nurse who works in the school nursing team.

My role is to support children and young people with their emotional health and wellbeing, conducting the Lancaster model questionnaire in school and supporting other professionals with public health advice.

Being a qualified paediatric nurse, I have experience in a variety of settings, which can help to offer advice and support to children, young people and their families.



Keeping your child safe online

Talking with your child is the greatest tool keeping them safe online. Talking regularly and making a part of daily conversation, like you would about their day at school, will help your child feel relaxed when having these conversations about staying safe online. This will encourage your child to come and speak to you if they have any problems online.

Parental controls

Parental controls allow you to block or filter upsetting or inappropriate content that your child may access. Parental controls work across devices, Wi-Fi, and individual apps.

Parental controls can help you to:

- Plan what time of day your child can go online and how long for.
- Block apps and websites that may have inappropriate content depending on your child's age.
- Manage the content different family members can see if using a shared device.

For further support please see NSPCC website for guidance on how to apply parental support:

www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety

Relaxation Exercise

Visualisation is a great technique to make your child feel calm and relaxed.

Imagining they are some where else, like the beach or a theme park, may help distract their thoughts and calm down quicker.



Top Tip

Practicing calming techniques when children are in a good place and not feeling stressed, will help them to use techniques more effectively in situations when they really need them.

Top tips for dental health

You can make sure your child's teeth are healthy by:

- Brushing their teeth for at least two minutes, twice a day using toothpaste (using a timer is helpful for this).
- Using toothpaste with fluoride provides further protection to teeth.
- Making sure they brush every bit of each tooth, front, back, top and bottom.
- Visiting your dentist at least 6 months/ once a year.

If you do not have a dentist for your child, you can visit the NHS website or contact 111 to find one nearby.



Eye Development

With our Healthy Child & Young Person Assistants (HCYPA) visiting schools to complete the vision and hearing screening on reception aged children, we wanted to share some tips that may help with promoting healthy eye development.

- It is recommended that children should spend at least 2 hours outside every day, all year round, for exposure to natural light.
- Screen time should be limited to 30 minutes at time.
- Too much screen time can cause eye fatigue, blurry vision and dry eyes.



If your child is referred to eye clinic following screening, please ensure you attend to have your child's eye health followed up and offered the correct treatment if needed.

For any questions regarding your child's vision or hearing screening, please contact:

0300 123 7572



Hertfordshire
**Family Centre
Service**



Want to know more about the Public Health School Nursing team in Hertfordshire?

Check out our platforms:



<https://www.hertsfamilycentres.org/info-and-advice/parents-and-mums-to-be/school-nurses.aspx#>

www.hct.nhs.uk/our-services/school-nursing



07480 635 050

Confidential text message service ran by the school nursing team for 11-19 year olds. Text in any health and wellbeing concerns



@hct_schoolnursing

@teenhealth.hct



@HCT_SchoolNurse



🔍 Hct SchoolNursing



www.healthforkids.co.uk/hertfordshire



www.healthforteens.co.uk/hertfordshire



School nursing duty number

0300 123 7572

9am – 5pm Monday to Friday
(excluding bank holidays)