

Primary phase newsletter

Friday 17th March 2023

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today



All through news

Welcome to our latest all through news. Recently parents within our community received news of their Y7 allocations for September- emotions mixed with excitement and also apprehension. Soon we will roll out our well established and highly regarded transition programme.

It is that sense of community that I want to write about today. Daily I am reminded by parents, visitors and the children themselves how strong that sense of the Simon Balle Community is. How grandparents, parents and now their children are part of who we are; who knows who in Hertford and how so many people are linked. In so many ways this is important, for our values and high expectations are accepted and lived out. Communities help each other to grow and flourish and so many ex students are eager to help us on our next journey. Indeed, our latest addition to the Governing Body, Adam Cooper, a parent, came here himself (actually before I was Head!)

So many of our traditions and experiences are held dear. This week I watched as our Y3's were totally engrossed in producing their best cursive handwriting for the Queen Mother's national writing competition. A tradition that others will remember. Obviously there is some interest in the community as to when I will myself "go to the palace" to receive my award. To be frank, I have no idea. However last week, David, my husband and I attended a Hertfordshire civic reception for award winners, 2022-2023. To my utter surprise I was greeted by a rallying call out of the blue "Mrs Saunders" only to be approached by two women, who told me they were ex Simon Balle students.

When you realise just how few people receive an award, how amazing is it that one of your ex students is there for the very same reason. Verity Naylor (ex Birch) is Director of Operations for the Paralympics and had exciting stories to tell. Her visit to the palace is very soon! You can tell how proud I was for her! Of equal delight was when she and her sister Lucy recounted how many ex Simon Balle friends they

have and how important their time in school was. So, the Simon Balle Community ever expands and indeed continues to create tomorrow's citizens! Well done Verity!



Music news

A fabulous musical half term is taking place, with so many performances and celebrations. Please take a moment to read our online newsletter and listen to some of the music!

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

Antarctica Flag

Our Antarctica Flag has reached Antarctica! Natalia Ford volunteered to take the flag to the Rothera Research Station. Natalia is the 'Antarctic Infrastructure Modernisation Project' Sustainability Manager. As you can see from the photographs there is a lot of construction going on at Rothera at the

moment to modernise the facilities there and to improve the sustainability of the buildings and infrastructure there.

Well done to all of the students who contributed.



Dates for the diary

WHOLE SCHOOL	
Friday 31st March	End of term (normal finish time)
Monday 17th April	Start of summer term
Monday 1st May	Bank holiday
Monday 8th May	Bank holiday
29th May to Friday 2nd June	Half term
SECONDARY	
Saturday 18th March	A Celebration of Singing and Strings (6.30 - 8.30pm)
Monday 20th March	Y10 parents exam & information evening
Tuesday 28th March	Rock Gig (7pm)
Wednesday 29th March	Drama showcase
Monday 3rd April to 7th April	Y8 and Y9 sports tour
Tuesday 18th April to 21st April	Y7 residential trip to Bawdsey
Saturday 22nd April	A Celebration of Wind & Brass (6.30 - 8.30pm)
Wednesday 26th April	Y8 parents evening
PRIMARY	
W/C 20th March	Reception parent conversations
Monday 20th March	Year 4, 5 & 6 Ware Drill Hall Music Festival "Esther" (7pm)
Wednesday 22nd March	Y3 Celtic Harmony camp trip
	A Larch Celebration of Music (6 - 7pm)
Monday 27th March	Cross Country Event, Hertford Rugby Club
Tuesday 28th March	KS1 SATs parent workshop, Larch Hall
Thursday 30th March	Y4 performance 5pm (change of date)
Friday 31st March	Year 6 Sports Leader morning
Tuesday 9th-Friday 12th May	Year 6 SATs week
W/C 22nd May	Y1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 parent consultations (Y2 after May half-term)

Primary news Learning in the Larch

Over the last two weeks there has been so much happening in the Larch!

Reception children have noticed that you need to add more days when changing the date in the morning if there has been a gap where we haven't been in school such as after a weekend, such as adding 2 to the number rather than just 1. Many children were then inspired to challenge themselves to try and identify lots of different ways to make different numbers such as 11 or 16! They were so enthusiastic as they discovered new ways to create the number of their

choice by adding and subtracting different amounts!

Maths galore has been happening in Year 1! As I visited the classes, the children were practising remembering the names of various 2d and 3d shapes through songs and I was so impressed by their recall as their knowledge was being embedded from their working to long term memories.

A wonderful trip to Windsor Castle has taken place to enrich the children's understanding and knowledge of castles based on what they have learnt in history this term. It has been brilliant to see the children retaining their knowledge from what they have learnt in lessons and then being able to make connections in a real life context, such as identifying the various parts of a castle!

Children in Year 3 have been learning how to create Google Forms to send surveys out to others and collect data. The children showed me some of the questions and multiple choice answers they had created, and how to access the results they were receiving as their peers and class teachers answered their questions. A fantastic piece of knowledge to learn that comes in handy for many jobs and when doing research for further study!

Along with their learning in class, Year 4 have been inspiring us with their rehearsals for their upcoming performance! They have been showing such fantastic values whilst remembering their different parts such as their lines and when to come on stage, supporting each other, walking to the secondary hall to rehearse, adding props and practising their singing with such confidence! We can't wait to see the final performances!

Year 5's quality of writing has been getting stronger and stronger! Based on their most recent piece of writing on 'The Boy in the Tower', the children have been writing newspaper reports about the events that have been unfolding in the story. I have been so impressed by the vocabulary they have been using, alongside other grammar and punctuation skills such as inserting parenthesis with brackets and relative clauses to add extra information about the details of the events.

Year 6 have been looking at formality in their writing, using their literary canon text 'Holes' to inspire both very formal writing to persuade a judge to close Camp Green Lake and informal letters to family members to spark a feeling such as sympathy or reassurance in their reader! It is a tricky skill to ensure your writing is appropriate for the audience and purpose, and Year 6 have been really securing this skill whilst discussing suitable vocabulary and grammar techniques to put into their work.

Wheelpower assembly

On Wednesday we were delighted to welcome a Paralympic athlete into school to talk about their life experience of being in a wheelchair and their career as a Paralympic athlete. The children learnt about the Paralympic movement and how this started at Stoke Mandeville, different sports in the Paralympics and how they can be adapted as well as learning about the Paralympic Torch, which the children were able to look at and hold.



workshops from EYFS to Year 6 teaching about how to take care of and be safe around dogs.



Larch Science Week

The children in the Larch have also been celebrating 'British Science Week'. The 2023 theme is 'Connections' and the aim was to highlight how Science has so many connections to our everyday lives.

The week started with a 'bang' as our Secondary school colleagues led a fun filled science assembly for EYFS and KS1.



Year 3 had a visit from GSK Science Technicians who ran a STEM workshop all about 'The Senses'. They got to take part in smelling, touching and taste tests!



Years 4 and 5 had the opportunity to visit Hertford Museum where they attended a hands-on workshop exploring the adaptation of a range of animals.

Over the next few days a representative from 'The Dog Trust' visited, delivering assemblies and



At the end of the week our Head of Science and Lab Technicians visited Year 6 to share some of their practical science demonstrations and lead a Q&A session for the Year 6s thinking about their move to the Secondary and studying science in the future!



It was a really busy fun filled week and we are looking forward to seeing all the entries to the science poster homework due this week.

PSA news

1st July Slice of Summer - Volunteer Opportunities

Plans are coming together for this year's Slice of Summer. We are keen for both phases of the school to unite to create a truly all-through event.

If you are able to volunteer at the Slice of Summer, please complete this form as soon as you can but ideally before 1st June. This will help us to then confirm volunteer sign ups in good time.

<https://forms.gle/XtwzEkR6eXh3bNN4A>

Stallholder Registration

We have reviewed how we manage external stallholder bookings. If you wish to be added to our stallholder database, please complete this form:

<https://forms.gle/pztbAoBeUNiV6m4V7>

When we are planning an event, be it the summer and winter fairs or fashion and beauty evenings, we will contact those registered - with a booking opportunity, if appropriate.

Soon, we will be opening up new stall holder bookings for the Slice of Summer, do register if you wish to express interest. Please note, we will prioritise bookings to previous stallholders and goods/services which do not conflict with existing bookings, plans and arrangements.

Thank you for your interest and support.

20th March - PSA Meeting

Please join us in the Jubilee Suite on Monday from 7.30pm to learn about upcoming events, such as the Music Department's Wind and Brass evening on 22nd April (Sign up to help here:

volunteersignup.org/WT7KY).

Monday 20th March
Thursday 4th May
Thursday 15th June

7.30-9pm
Refreshments from 7pm

Jubilee Suite

Enter via double gates, to the left of the Larch Hall.
Jubilee Suite is located between the science block and trim trail.

PSA meetings
All welcome

20th April - Bag2School Collection

We have booked another Bag2School collection, just in time for your Easter holiday spring clean!

Before the Easter break, each child in Larch will receive a recycling bag. Secondary families are welcome to participate too. More information to follow!

If you are able to volunteer with this initiative, please sign up here: volunteersignup.org/WT7KY

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about iPADS

Apple debuted the first iPad in 2010, kickstarting the tablet market, and it remains the best-selling tablet to this day. Although Apple doesn't offer a child-specific version, iPads are hugely popular with youngsters due to their ease of use and endless choice of apps. There's a selection of models, with different-sized screens and distinct features – including the standard iPad; the iPad Air; the iPad Pro; and the iPad mini. Thankfully, they all offer parental controls so you can regulate how your child uses the device ... and how long they spend on it.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PHYSICAL DAMAGE

While some tablets (such as the Amazon Fire Kids editions) come with rugged shock-proof cases, iPads aren't built for rough and tumble. They're also more expensive than most other tablets, and any damage your child's iPad suffers could be costly to repair. Buying a child-friendly case and screen protector for the device could be a wise move, especially if it's being used by younger ones.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Like most digital devices, tablets have the potential to become quite addictive. You might find your child spending too long staring at their iPad, which could lead to irritability, mood swings and a loss of interest in more important tasks. If this happens, be sure to visit the built-in screen time settings and ensure you limit how long they're able to spend on the device each day.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

18
CENSORED

Even if it would never occur to your child to go searching online for age-inappropriate sites, apps or information, there's always a possibility that something unexpected – perhaps a video that auto-plays or content incorrectly suggested by an algorithm – could appear on their tablet and upset them. You can help prevent this by adjusting the content settings (see our 'top tips' section below).

SIRI SUGGESTIONS

The parental controls built into iOS (the fundamental operating system of Apple devices) enable you to block access to most age-inappropriate content – but your child could potentially still bypass these restrictions (either accidentally or deliberately) by using Siri, Apple's voice-activated digital assistant. To avoid this, toggle the 'Ask Siri' functions to 'off' in the iPad's settings menu.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Before letting little ones loose on an iPad, it's a good idea to set up Family Sharing, as this lets you utilise the parental controls to manage exactly how your child is able to use the device. You can do this fairly easily by going into the iPad's settings; once there, you'll be able to add an existing Apple account (if your child already has one) or set one up from scratch.

APPLY SOME LIMITS

The 'Downtime' function allows you to tell the iPad to lock itself at certain periods (at mealtimes or before bed, for instance), while 'App Limits' removes access to certain apps once they've been used for a specified length of time each day. The iPad can display a reminder when these limits have nearly been reached, letting your child mentally prepare for the end of their gaming or viewing time.

STOP ACCIDENTAL SPENDING

To empower your child with an increased sense of freedom on their device (without giving yourself something else to worry about in the process) you could enable the iPad's 'Ask to Buy' feature. Whenever your child tries to download or buy an app, game or product, the iPad sends you a request to approve (or deny!) it. This option only becomes available if you've set up Family Sharing.

SET CONTENT AND PRIVACY RESTRICTIONS

The parental controls can stop the iPad from displaying explicit or age-inappropriate content (in apps like iTunes and Safari, for instance) when your child is signed into their account. You'll also be able to restrict the capacity to download and install apps, and you can specify permissions which prevent children from changing the iPad's privacy settings once you've selected them.

TRACK IT DOWN

Just like the iPhone, Apple's iPads have 'Find My' software to help you locate your child's iPad – or indeed, any linked Apple devices that have gone AWOL, including phones, watches and AirPods. If you enable 'Find My' in the settings menu, it will display the last known location of an iPad that's been misplaced, as well as giving you the option to lock a missing iPad that you suspect has been stolen.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



NOS
National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Easter Egg Drive

Future Living Hertford is collecting for families in need this Easter. The generosity shown by the Simon Balle community in the Christmas Gift Drive made such a difference for the families we work with.

We will be passing on donated Easter eggs to clients so they have the opportunity to make Easter special for their children.



What to do...

- Donate an Easter egg for a child. (We are looking for eggs for all ages from babies to teenagers.)
- Drop off the eggs at the school office.
- All donated eggs to be in school by Friday 24th March.



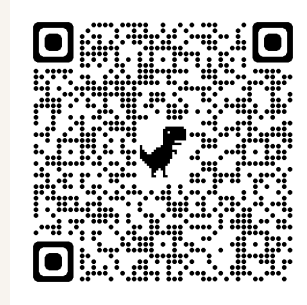
Registered Charity No: 1155145



Hello, parents & guardians!

We are **BeeZee Bodies**, and we work with Hertfordshire County Council to provide FREE (and FUN!) healthy lifestyles support for families.

We run **BeeZee Families** courses after school, across Herts, or you could join our online courses instead. We have new groups beginning in May. Click below to sign up for your family's FREE place!*



SCAN ME WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA OR CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP!



*to be eligible for this awesome free service, your family must live/go to school/be registered with a GP in Hertfordshire and include one child aged 5 - 15 who is above their ideal healthy weight



Roll into Spring

Each year, 20th March marks the first day of SPRING! As we look forward to longer days and warmer weather, try these tasty **Rainbow Spring Rolls** to get you excited for all the yummy vegetables to come over the season.

Ingredients:

For the roll:

- 1 Spring Roll Wrapper (Rice Paper OR Small Tortilla Wrap)
- Red & Yellow Bell Pepper
- Cucumber
- Carrot
- Purple Cabbage

Any other veggies you like or have in the fridge (it doesn't have to be a rainbow!)

For the dip:

- 2 tbsp Soy sauce
- 1 tsp Hoisin
- 1/2 tsp Rice Vinegar
- 1/2 tsp Maple Syrup
- 1/2 tsp Sriracha

What to do:

1. Choose which veggies you'd like in your roll and chop them all into thin matchstick-size strips
2. If using rice paper, soak in warm water until it softens and becomes flexible. If using a tortilla wrap, skip steps 2 & 3
3. Remove the wrapper from the water and place it on your chopping board - pat it dry with a paper towel
4. Add your assortment of colourful veggies to the centre of the wrapper
5. Fold the sides in towards the centre, and roll it up tight from the bottom
6. For the dip: measure all ingredients into a small bowl and stir to combine
7. With a sharp knife, carefully cut your rainbow spring roll in half, dip and enjoy!

Top Tip

If you don't have the ingredients for the dip on hand, soy sauce by itself tastes great too! You can also experiment with other ingredients you have to create your own sauce!

LIONEL BART'S
Oliver!

Lionel Bart's award-winning adaptation of the classic Dickens novel Oliver Twist springs to life.

This exhilarating story of one boy's survival against all the odds is packed with pathos, drama and outstanding musical numbers.

Food, Glorious Food, I'd Do Anything, Where is Love?, Consider Yourself, As Long as He Needs Me, Who Will Buy? and *Reviewing the Situation* are all musical theatre classics.

A great musical for all the family.

Ticket order form	Adult	U 16s	Qty
Tues. 28th March at 7.30pm	£19	£17	
Wed. 29th March at 7.30pm	£20	£17	
Thurs. 30th March at 7.30pm	£20	£17	
Fri. 31 March at 7.30pm	£21	£17	
Sat. 1st April at 2.30pm	£21	£17	
Sat. 1st April at 7.30pm	£21	£17	

Discount of £1 per ticket on bookings of 10 or more adult seats booked at the same time for the same performance

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....Post Code.....

Email.....

Tel.....

How to get tickets

On line: www.waremusicaltheatre.org.uk

Phone: 07754 781049

Post: Ware Musical Theatre Box Office

12 Raynham Street, Hertford SG13 7DF

Cheques payable to Ware Operatic Society

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope

Date.....

Venue: The production takes place at The Drill Hall, Ware SG12 9HP. Directions on Google maps

Parking: Recommended Amwell End West car park or Kibes Lane car park

By Rail: Ware (Herts) Station 3 minutes walk.

Regular trains run from Liverpool Street via Tottenham Hale (around 45 Minutes)

To keep you informed of future productions and to give you the opportunity of priority booking we will include you on our mailing list. We will not pass your details on to any third party. Ware Musical Theatre is committed to protecting personal information. For details of our Privacy Policy please visit our website.

Ware Musical Theatre is a Registered Charity 282781



Ware
Musical
Theatre

LIONEL BART'S

Oliver!

**Tues. 28 March
to Sat. April 1, 7.30pm
Sat. Matinee 2.30pm**

**Ware Drill Hall, Amwell End
Ware SG12 9HP**

Book, Music and Lyrics by LIONEL BART

Orchestral arrangements by William David Brohn

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International
All authorised performance materials are supplied by MTI
www.mtishows.co.uk

Book tickets online at
www.waremusicaltheatre.org.uk
or phone 07754 781049

