

Primary phase newsletter

Friday 16th June 2023

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today



All - through news

Welcome to our first newsletter for summer term (2). It certainly now feels like summer! Thank you to everyone for their patience this week with the hot weather. Our “ageing” buildings are not always helpful to learning in the hot weather but staff and students, with some modifications, have done so well. Our exam season now has an end in sight; internal exams now are in place for Y12 and then Y10 and the Larch assessments are almost complete.

Therefore as we approach the end of June and July, new opportunities emerge in our calendar. There are various sporting activities and opportunities on offer, music tours, a trip to France, numerous concerts and celebrations.

Annual sports days are being planned; secondary on June 26th and primary, on July 5th. We all look forward to slightly cooler weather and sporting opportunities for all.

I know that so many parents and also ex students speak so highly of how we truly develop the whole child and personal development is a high priority for us as “we create tomorrow’s citizens today”. However we also know that success at academic studies are also key indicators of wellbeing and choices in later life. Many students speak so highly of their studies citing certain subjects and teachers. Feedback from both staff and students in Y9 is so positive as they now have started their GCSE studies in preparation for next year.

Thank you too for your continued support. Attendance at parents evenings, concerts and other events continues to be incredibly high as we work together in partnership to support and encourage all of your children to achieve well and share our high expectations.

As I approach my final weeks here as Headteacher, I look forward to speaking with you at the many events ahead. We will shortly be sending out invitations to those children and young people who will receive an Award, nominated by staff as they have been wonderful role models and ambassadors for the

Simon Balle Community. To be honest, so many more children could receive the award but we ask teams of staff to try and select one or two students who have put in that extra effort and achieved so highly this year. This will take place on July 6th at All Saints Church, Hertford.

As this warm weather continues, we hope that every family can enjoy the outdoors, at some point in this coming weekend.

Uniform Donations

A pink poster with a white border and a background of black hearts and wings. In the top left corner, the words 'REDUCE', 'REUSE', and 'RECYCLE' are written in a stylized, colorful font. The main text reads: 'Pre-loved uniform Donate today!' followed by a recycling symbol. Below this, it says: 'We are looking to build our stock of pre-loved uniforms. Please donate any uniform that is clean and in good condition to the school office.' In the center, there are six images of school uniforms: a dark green cardigan, a white zip-up jacket, a dark green V-neck sweater, a maroon zip-up jacket, a black zip-up jacket, and a maroon zip-up jacket. At the bottom, there are two images of school skirts: a plaid skirt and a black skirt. To the right of the skirts, it says: 'Pre-loved uniform will be on sale at the Slice of Summer on 1st July, 12-4pm'.

End of term arrangements

Knowing the value of every day in education, and just how important it is to create a calendar that enriches and celebrates, there is no slowing down as we

approach the end of term.

The Sheringham adventures of Year 6 this week is just a small peek into what is on offer with adventures far and wide: students across the all-through will be engaging in trips such as Duke of Edinburgh, the MFL jaunt to France, our wonderful musicians setting off on their tour, the Colchester Zoo science trip, and the Amaravai Temple Trip, to name a few. In school there is much to be excited about, not least our upcoming Sports Days but especially the new beginnings that await as students get a taste of next steps on Transition Day, July 13th.

Then time to reflect and celebrate all that is wonderful in our community in events such as Celebration Assemblies, Year 8 Celebration Evening, Sports Presentation Evening, culminating in All-through Awards Evening at All Saints. A truly special end of term for all before we bid farewell for the summer.

**Larch primary phase ends 12.00pm July 21st.
Secondary ends 12.10pm July 21st (no food at break).**

PSA

Slice of Summer - Volunteers needed for our All through fete!

Will you help raise £5000 for the school minibus? If we exceed this- money will go to the new project- OUR SPORTS HALL!

1st July 12-4pm Slice of Summer - the BIGGEST fundraiser of the year. Come along and join in the fun, enjoy a beer or Pimms and the barbeque , and entertain the children!

Together, we can raise the money needed for the minibus and much, much more.

If you can spare an hour, we need adults and children to help with the games - we only ask for 1 hour. All children who get involved will get a house point and be entered into a draw to win a £30 Amazon voucher.

[To volunteer for the summer fair, sign up here](#) - tell us which game you fancy and if you want to be with a friend (Larch children will need an adult with them to supervise)

See you on 1st July! and thank you.

Summer Raffle

All form tutors and class teachers across the all-through have received packs of raffle tickets to send home.

Please return them as soon as you can to allow processing time.

There are some fantastic prizes on offer this year - do take a look!

SLICE OF SUMMER RAFFLE

Raffle tickets are available for each family and staff member of the all-through school community. Tickets for secondary families have been delivered to form tutors (please ask if you haven't received any) and to classrooms in the primary phase, in pre-printed returns envelopes. If you are able to support the raffle, simply complete and return the counterfoil, with your payment, in the pre-printed envelope. Returns can be handed in to either school office by 16th June to allow processing time ahead of the Slice of Summer. There are lots of incredible prizes on offer.

PLEASE ENSURE YOU COMPLETE EACH COUNTERFOIL PAID FOR, WITH AN ADULT'S NAME. WE NEED TO KNOW HOW TO CONTACT OUR WINNERS!

Simon Balle All-through School PSA
Registered Charity Number: 105501

Summer Raffle

Chicko bracelet from Chapter 79 Hertford. Cash Kidston Bluetooth radio from Albany Radio. £500 Voucher. 2 x £40 Vouchers for Domino. Bottle of Champagne from M&S. Teamport Karting Harlow - 5 tickets for 1/2 hour karting. £20 Voucher for Hertford Coffee Lab. Tickets for 2 people to visit Wilton Farm. Cut & Blowdry at Masin Porcino in Hertford. 2 day family river pass from Thames River Sightseeing. 3 months free membership at Anytime Fitness. Li-ion Cordless Drill from Wilko. Gullery entrance for 2.

Plus MANY more!

Draw to take place at the Slice of Summer - Saturday 1st July 2023
Promoted by Simon Balle PSA, Mangrove Road, Hertford, SG13 6AJ.
Registered under the Gambling Act 2005 with EHO.

My winning checklist. Have I...
 Written my family name here.
 Provided my correct information on EACH returned ticket.
 Paid my payment into school, or all other payment methods as instructed.
 Included my stubs with the correct payment, the cash or cheque, or the envelope.
 Received the envelope from my class teacher or Larch Reception by 16th June.
 Returned my envelope to the school office.
 Put my tickets in a safe place.
 Retained any unclaimed tickets.

PLEASE RETURN USING PRE-PRINTED ENVELOPE AND HAND IN TO EITHER SCHOOL OFFICE

SIMON BALLE ALL-THROUGH SCHOOL
MANGROVE ROAD, HERTFORD, SG13 6AJ

Doughies Pizza Kits - Orders and Competition

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

Pizza kits cost £6.50 and make 1x 12" pizza. Cookie kits cost £4.50 and make 5x cookies.

[Orders can be placed directly on the Doughies website](#) until Saturday 24th June and orders will be delivered to Simon Balle on Friday 30th.

Important information: Named Larch Centre orders will be distributed via classrooms. Named orders from across the secondary phase are welcome but **MUST BE COLLECTED** from outside the reception office immediately after school on Friday 30th. Please set a reminder, as any unclaimed kits will be assumed unwanted if not collected by 4.30pm.

<https://doughies.co.uk/products/simon-balle>



ORDER HERE

PIZZA & COOKIE EVENT Friday 30th June

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 25th July**
<https://doughies.co.uk/products/simon-balle>
30th June

Orders to be collected on **Friday 30th June**. Details will be shared with primary & secondary phases

Dates for the diary

WHOLE SCHOOL	
Friday 30th June	Doughies pizza kit delivery
Saturday 1st July	Slice of summer
Monday 3rd July	Inset Day
Sunday 9th July	Saffron Hall, 5pm
Monday 10th July	Stevensons 'pop up' shop 3pm to 8pm
Thursday 13th July	Year 6 Transition day
Monday 4th September	This is now an INSET day
Tuesday 5th September	All students return to school
Saturday 30th September	PSA Quiz with a Twist Night
SECONDARY	
Monday 12th June - Tuesday 27th June	Year 12 threshold exams
Monday 19th June - Thursday 29th June	Year 10 mocks
Tuesday 20th June	Mr Lovell's Piano Evening (Y8 & 9 students), 6-7pm
Thursday 22nd June	Guitar Platform Evening, 6 - 7pm
Tuesday 28th June	Rock Gig, 7pm
Wednesday 28th June	Mr Stevenson's Drum Evening, 6 - 7pm
Thursday 1st July and Friday 2nd July	Sixthform induction days
Thursday 13th July - Monday 17th July	Music tour
Monday 17th July - Thursday 20th July	Y8 French trip
PRIMARY	
W/C 19th June	Y2 parent consultations
Tuesday 20th June	Year 4, 5 & 6 String Showcase, 6 - 7pm
Thursday 29th June	Year 2 & 3 Strings + Year 2/3 Choir Showcase, 5.30 - 6.30pm
Wednesday 5th July	Larch sports day
Thursday 13th July	Larch celebration of learning straight after school
Wednesday 19th July	Year 6 graduation party 3.15-5pm (children only)
Friday 21st July	Year 6 final assembly 9am (parents/carers invited)

HomeRun app competition

Take part in the HomeRun competition for the chance to win up to £250 worth of kids activewear vouchers – there will be a winner from every school!

HomeRun is on a mission to help schools achieve a net zero school run and we need your help! Take part in our School Run Fun competition today. To enter, ask your child to draw a picture of their school run journey, or to write a poem about it, take a photo of the masterpiece and post it on your school's HomeRun app notices feed with the title "School Run Fun".

The Prizes - one individual from each school will win £25 and an overall winner and runner up across our HomeRun schools will win £250 and £100 respectively. The competition is open **until 30th June 2023**

Please visit

<https://www.homerun-app.com/competitionsr/sbs5964> for more competition details and to sign up to your school's HomeRun app.

Already got your HomeRun app? then you're all set to post your *school run fun*..

Primary news

It has been a wonderful start to the second half of this summer term. From academic achievements to trips (the residential in Year 6 - see below - and just as important to Paradise Wildlife Park for Reception today!); from sporting achievements to those preparing for music exams and many performance opportunities; and, as ever, the exciting breadth of our curriculum, in which children are engaging with such joy! Highlights within lessons include cycling in Years 3 and 4 (our school bicycles are such a great addition to our PE curriculum, and extra-curricular); swimming continued in Years 1 and 2 (joy in the water, and confidence and achievement gains seen every single week); and I'd particularly like to draw parents/carers' attention to writing at this point in the year. At this time we can see children applying so many skills to extended writing opportunities - all celebrated in celebration assemblies each week. These are always rooted in purposeful experiences - recounts (such as the trips above); historical understanding (the Year 2 re-creation of the Great Fire of London was highly memorable last week); and, as ever, inspiration from wonderful books.

Many thanks to all at this exciting time of the year!

The weather is obviously a challenge at times at this point in the year! Please can we ask for parental support in the following ways:

- Please apply suncream as needed before children come to school each day
- Please ensure that children have named water bottles and school uniform caps in

school each day

- Please ensure that any hayfever medication is taken before the start of the school day

We will always use our risk assessments, and our policies which are accredited as part of a 'sunsafe' school, to make decisions each day - utilising shade and indoors as well as making the best of all outdoor opportunities.

Much more specific information to come but we are so proud of your children's wonderful progress and achievements in phonics (especially Year 1), times tables (especially Year 4), and Year 2 and Year 6 recent 'special booklets'. With so many thanks for your partnership in learning - it is only together, between home and school, that we are able to celebrate such exciting progress.

Specific outcomes will be shared for statutory year groups before the end of term.

Year 6 residential

Earlier this week, Year 6 went on a 3 day/ 2 night residential to Sheringham in Norfolk for a geography trip to enhance their learning about the coast. We were very lucky to be supported by Mrs Ahmet from the secondary geography department. It is quite rare for a primary school to provide a curriculum based residential but the children got so much out of the experience! They learnt more about the human and physical features of the coast, investigated longshore drift and the effectiveness of coastal defences such as groynes, as well as other activities such as a coast and home town survey- and the children loved using litter pickers to help with caring for the environment! The children also enjoyed the beautiful weather with games and fun on the beach!

A huge thank you to our Year 6 children who displayed our Simon Balle values with such consistency and represented our school so well. An enormous thank you too to all staff supporting this trip - the care provided is always a 24-7 task; incredibly hard work but with great rewards!



Year 5 student leader applications

We have been so impressed by the applications received so far for student leaders in year 5. All of these roles require our values shown and commitment. We have reminded the children that the deadline for applying is next week and if they need help with their applications, for them to just let us know.

Please encourage your child to apply for one or more of the many roles and responsibilities on offer in Year 6: **Larch president, eco leader, music ambassador, sports ambassador, eco leader, Larch librarian and farm leader.** It is also a fantastic opportunity to experience applying for something- something they will be doing as they get older when applying for jobs and further education!

Extra-curricular activities in the Larch

The start of another exciting half term means another range of exciting after-school opportunities! In Explorers, children are engaging in maths reasoning to rounders, from karate to choir, from cricket to orchestra, from science to macrame and so much more. We are extremely proud of our enrichment offer, across KS1 and KS2, and crucially in our partnership with Busy Lizzies. Thank you for your support as parents/carers.

As you may have seen from social media this week, Busy Lizzies are celebrating their fourth anniversary at Simon Balle. Not least recognised by their outstanding Ofsted rating, we are so fortunate in so many ways to be working in partnership with Busy Lizzies. Parents/carers, will, I am sure, know of the relationships between BL and Simon Balle staff - our curriculum development, our support for children moving between our settings, and our communication for children in breakfast and after-school clubs. In terms of the site itself, BL are simply wonderful - the planting at the front of the Larch, and the BL community garden to be officially opened on 20th June! Their holiday club is now attended by an average of 50 children every day.

We wanted to just highlight some of the growth here in numbers, for it is highly significant!

- For breakfast club, Busy Lizzies were offering 237 breakfast club places across a week in 2019. This is now 411 places in 2023! On their busiest day, 93 children attend breakfast club.
- At after school club, Busy Lizzies are now offering 194 places across a week (in comparison to 169 in 2019), with 40 as a maximum in their Busy Lizzies room (indoors and outdoors) of an evening.

Adding this to our Explorers numbers means that each evening we have 130 - 150 Larch children staying every evening for enriching and exciting activities.

This is a great reflection as to parent/carer commitment and children's engagement, as well as to the breadth of offer that our staff can provide.

This does, however, all bring challenges! We are totally confident of the quality of our offer - both SB and BL - you tell us this in student and parent/carer feedback questionnaires. We are totally confident too in relation to safeguarding and wellbeing - despite the large numbers!

We just wanted to bring to your attention all of the above, should you be unfortunate enough to not be able to gain a place in your child's chosen activity, or within your needs for childcare with Busy Lizzies. We will always do our very best to support all, and to offer high quality provision, but, equally we will be clear about our capacity to ensure that this wonderful enrichment continues to be the highest quality that we can offer.

Primary sports day

Sports Day- Wednesday 5th July

The Larch sports day will be held on Wednesday 5th July this year. Please find timings for each phase below:

- 9:00-10:15- Phase 1 (Reception and Year 1)
- 10:30-11:45- Phase 2 (Years 2, 3 and 4)
- 12:00-1:00- Phase 3 (Year 5 and 6)

We welcome parents to attend for the morning of sports day and like last year there will be a designated area so you can clearly see the track with all children on the other side under shade. All children will be taking part in three races with Phase 3 taking part in four. Throughout the week there will also be athletics competitions in PE lessons where children will be competing in events such as the long jump and javelin to earn points for their houses. If we experience extreme weather like last year then this date could be changed but will be rearranged

and information given as soon as possible. We hope you are able to join us to celebrate our Larch sports day this year.

Eco Blue Peter Badge

by Daisy, Josh, Samuel and Seraphina in Y6

The Green Blue Peter badge is a badge you can receive by helping the environment.

How you get a green Blue Peter badge:

You can get a green Blue Peter badge by going on the website and doing anything eco. Eg: making bird houses, bug hotels, helping out with the environment and maybe even doing art with recycled plastic.

Apply for a Blue Peter Green Badge - CBBC

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/blue-peter-apply-for-a-green-badge>

PSA news Primary

Coloured Accessory Day*

Friday 30th June

Larch children are invited to wear a coloured accessory of their choice and bring in a **BOTTLE** donation to support the summer fair. No football kits or fancy dress please.

PLEASE PLACE YOUR DONATIONS DIRECTLY IN THE CRATES LOCATED AT LARCH DROP OFF POINTS AND CARRY ANY GLASS ITEMS FOR YOUR CHILD.

*Accessories such as coloured socks, footwear, sweat bands, caps, sunglasses, badges, hair accessories. Wearing a coloured accessory is optional.

SLICE OF SUMMER

Character Spoon Competition

FREE
ENTRY



Children are invited to decorate a spoon as their favourite book character. All decorated spoons returned to the Larch office by 28th June will receive a House Point (clearly label your spoon on the reverse with name and class) and will be displayed in the Larch Library.

A selection of spoons will be displayed at the Slice of Summer on 1st July, where your favourite character spoon can be voted for.

A £15 voucher from The Entertainer will be awarded to the most voted entry.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR DECORATED SPOON BY WEDNESDAY 28TH JUNE

Hertford Museum launch new 'Wellbeing Trail'

Hertford Museum have launched a Wellbeing Trail designed in collaboration with the children of Hertford St Andrew Primary School.

The trail is now available to collect from the Museum's front desk and provides a starting point for children, families and carers to talk together about ways to support their mental and physical wellbeing. Our new leaflet guides visitors around a number of exhibits with links to physical health, personal care, play, and music.

Children are encouraged to think about how they can incorporate some of the 5 Ways to Wellbeing into their daily lives.

Hertford Museum is free to visit. We are open Tuesday to Saturday 10am -5pm and Sunday 12pm -4pm.

18 Bull Plain Hertford SG14 1DT
Website: www.hertfordmuseum.org
Telephone: 01992 582686
Email: enquiries@hertfordmuseum.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 312142
Accredited Museum No. 807

Wellbeing Trail - Spring 2023

For further information on the 5 Ways to Wellbeing, visit www.nhs.uk or www.mind.org.uk



Why not try our trail which links to the 5 Ways To Wellbeing? Our Museum activities give you the opportunity to Give, Connect, Be Active, Take Notice and Keep Learning. Use the leaflet to take a guided tour of our exhibits and think about how you can incorporate some of these ideas to support your own daily life. Have fun!



- Give**
 - Share what you've learned with someone else
 - Volunteer some of your time with the museum or another organisation
 - Encourage others to come in and do their own Wellbeing Trail
- Connect**
 - Explore the trail with a friend
 - Find out more information from one of our friendly volunteers
 - Share what you've learned with someone when you get home
- Be Active**
 - Take the stairs!
 - Enjoy a walk around our beautiful garden
 - Go for a wander around the town when you've finished
- Take Notice**
 - Take a really close-up look at a painting and see what details you might otherwise have missed
 - Take a quiet moment on a bench, pause and see what exhibits you are drawn to
 - Use your senses - look, listen, smell and touch!
- Learn**
 - Find out as much as you can from the information panels
 - Come back regularly to continue learning about our new exhibits
 - Conduct your own research when you get home. Ask us if you need some help!



HERTFORD MUSEUM
Inspiring Generations

ORAL HEALTH FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

WHAT IS TOOTH DECAY?

Tooth decay is when the hard outer surface of a tooth is broken down or damaged by bacteria and acid making holes in the teeth, called cavities. Tooth decay can cause pain, and infections, and problems with eating, speaking, playing, learning, smiling and socialising.



Tooth decay occurs when foods and drinks with sugars and starches are left on the teeth.

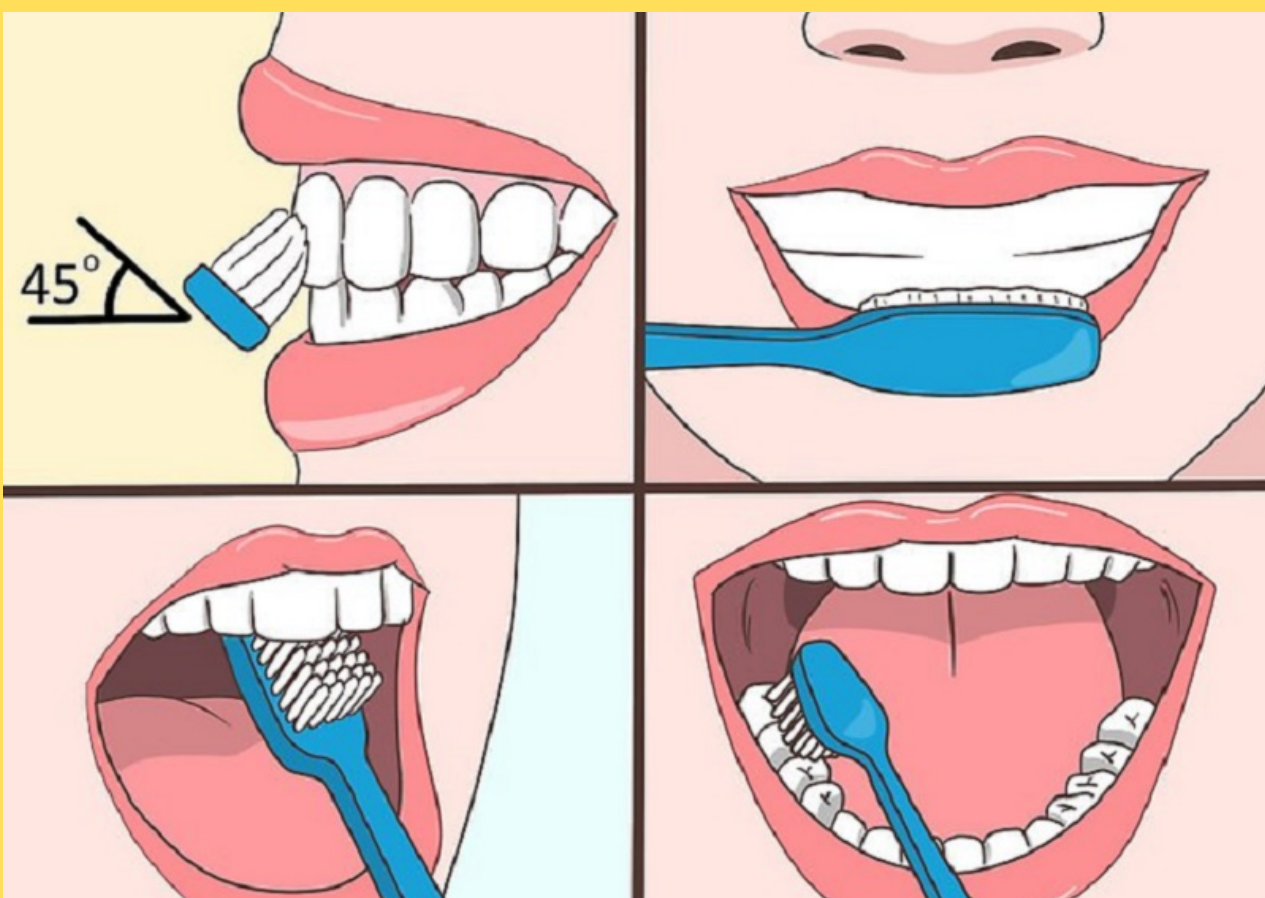
WHERE TO ACCESS A DENTIST

Scan the QR code or search "Find a dentist" for the NHS website.



Dental care is free for children and young people aged 0-19.

HOW TO BRUSH



REDUCE THE RISK OF TOOTH DECAY



- Brush teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste - no rinsing
- You should see a dentist at least yearly
- You should have fluoride varnish at each visit, this is free to all young people
- Use fluoride toothpaste containing between 1,350 ppm and 1,500ppm of fluoride
- Clean in between your teeth every day using floss or interdental brushes



TOP TIPS ✨

- Brush teeth morning and bed-time for 2 minutes with fluoride toothpaste
- Only use a pea-sized amount of toothpaste
- Spit out after brushing and don't rinse - if you rinse, the fluoride won't work as well
- Fizzy drinks, fruit juices and sugary snacks should be limited to meal times



- Brush to the beat - why not download the Brush DJ app and brush to your favourite song? ✨
- Set reminders and timers on your phone
- Go electric with an electric toothbrush