

Dear parents,

Over the past few weeks there has been a wonderful flurry of activity across the school; we'd like to take a moment to share with you some of what has been happening, and also to look ahead to what is coming up before the end of term.

As we have quite a lot of things to communicate, here's a quick summary to help make sure you don't miss anything!

Whole school messages:

- Term dates 2019-2020
- AGM

Looking back:

- Workshops with artist David Newbatt
- Carnival celebrations in the Lower School
- Flint knapping in Class 5/6

Coming up:

- Eurythmy Sharing – Tuesday 26th March from 2-3pm
- WHOLE SCHOOL experiential parent evening – with a focus on the class 6-8 curriculum – Tuesday 26th March – 7:30-9pm
- Music Mandate Group and Concert (Thursday 28th March 2:15pm)
- Working party – Sunday afternoon 24th March
- Message from the Publicity Group
- Dates for the diary

Term dates 2019-2020

Please find attached the term dates for the next academic year.

AGM – date still to be confirmed

At the AGM trustees report on what has happened at the School since the last meeting and membership of the Board of Trustees is renewed. But it is also an opportunity for members of the association to understand and reflect on our objectives and strategies for running the School effectively. This year, amongst other things and at the specific request of one parent, we will be discussing the possibilities for seeking state funding. Anyone can join the association – there is no fee and it allows you to vote on association matters.

The school is currently looking to recruit additional trustees, if this is something you might be interested in or would like to find out more about, then please email

joel.chalfen@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk

Looking back

Workshops with artist David Newbatt

From the 6-9th of March David Newbatt (the man behind many of the beautiful murals we have painted around the school) visited us and held a number of workshops with parents,

pupils and teachers. Here's a little reflection from a parent who attended his crayon drawing workshop (shared with permission): *I so enjoyed the crayon drawing workshop with David Newbatt. I came out inspired and with a much better understanding of why the children draw with wax blocks in kindergarten and early lower school and then with the sticks later on. The idea of using colour subtleties, rather than a constraining line, makes so much sense for young children in their dreamlike world. Thank you to the school for arranging the workshop. I'd highly recommend it to parents, new and not-so-new.*



[Blackboard drawing workshop with the teachers]

Carnival

On Friday the 1st March the Lower School celebrated Carnival! Children (and staff!) were transformed into a wonderful array of characters (taken from the main lesson story themes for each year group) and in mixed age groups everyone took part in a range of different activities: drama, magic tricks, photography (using pin hole cameras) and of course, pancake making (and flipping!) It was a wonderful day, here are a few short reflections: *The children did various activities throughout the day and I had the pleasure of seeing their drama skits at the end of the day which really blew me away! The four performances incorporated all the different characters that were in each group, from an Egyptian pyramid brick to a pea, to Milly Molly Mandy and the goddess Athena! They were really marvellously executed!* (Miss Jody) ... *I enjoyed doing the play. It was nice to try and fit in all the different characters, I was amazed how we could make them all work together to make a story. I liked dressing up and seeing everyone's costumes. We learnt some great magic tricks and the pancakes were really good! For the pin hole cameras we had to stand really still, and use a dark room.* (Yano, class 8)



Just a taster – a full photo display will go up at school next week!

Flint knapping

On Thursday 7th March, Class 5&6 had the privilege of learning about prehistoric flint knapping from John Lord as part of their Prehistoric Britain and Primitive Technology outdoor lesson block. John is one of the most respected flint knappers in the United Kingdom, a Living National Treasure. He was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 2017 for his contribution to the flint knapping industry. The children learnt how to make the hand axes that the Neanderthals used to butcher animals. Some of these tools found in England date back to 700 000 BC. The class made fine blade tools, developed by our ancestors at the later stages of history as fine cutting tools. The children had an opportunity to discuss with John how our ancestors lived in prehistoric times, this leading to very interesting debates, including DNA as the blueprint of life.

The children will exhibit their work in the school's exhibition space at the end the corridor in the next few weeks.

Andor Vince (Outdoor Classroom Teacher)



Coming Up

Eurythmy sharing – Tuesday 26th March from 2-3pm – all parents welcome

Dear parents

You are warmly invited to come and watch the children demonstrate some of the elements they work on in the Eurythmy lessons. The mood will be of sharing rather than a performance but will give you an opportunity to discover more about this unique subject in the school.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Sara Hunt (school Eurythmy teacher)

Space may be tight, as the children will need room to move about – but we will do our best to find the best way to fit everyone in!

Reminder: there will be no Harvest of Work on the last day of term (2nd April), school will finish as normal at 3pm.

Whole school experiential parent evening – with a focus on the class 6-8 curriculum

On Tuesday 26th March – 7:30-9pm some of our Lower School teachers will be leading a 'hands-on' parent's evening exploring some of the curriculum content that our pupils encounter in classes 6-8. Sign-up sheets will go up at reception/outside the classrooms, and you can also email your class teacher to let them know that you plan to come. We require a minimum number of parents to sign up in order for the evening to run. All parents are welcome from right across the school – we look forward to seeing you there!

Music Mandate Group and Concert (Thursday 28th March 2:15pm)

Our school is looking to raise the profile of music and music tuition throughout the school day as well as in afternoon clubs. To facilitate this we have formed a Music Mandate Group. If you are enthusiastic about music, perhaps even have previous experience (although this is not necessary) and would like to join the group, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with Sarah Fox (sarah.fox@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk).

To get the ball rolling we are planning a concert for the children during the last lesson of the day on Thursday the 28th of March at 2.15pm. All the classes will be attending and parents are very welcome to come and listen as well. The concert will kindly be given by some of our alumni, but we would also like to invite our current students and parents to contribute. If you have a little piece or two you could play, please email Sarah (sarah.fox@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk) by Tuesday 26th of March to be included in the programme. Any instrument and level most welcome. There will be the opportunity after the concert to ask questions about the instruments or music tuition.

Claudia (parent of Lucas in class 2 and Lilly in Class 4) and Susanne (parent of Hughie in Elderflower kindergarten and Kyel in Class 3).

Working party – Sunday afternoon 24th March 1:30-4:30pm

If you have some time this Sunday afternoon, please consider joining us in the garden and in the school for an impromptu (but much needed!) working party. In the garden we will be tidying up the outdoor space and building a new fence around our Outdoor Classroom. Inside we'll be having a bit of a spring clean! There'll be jobs to suit all, so do please try and

make it along, even if it is just for an hour or so! A chance to chat with teachers and other parents, whilst doing something practical and of great help to the school. Thank you in advance, we so appreciate your help!

Message from the Publicity Group

Good at writing? Got an eye for graphics? Familiar with social media, and like taking pictures? WE NEED YOU!

We know the school is stretched at the moment, so we - as parents- are looking at how we can help to raise the profile of the school within our own school community, as well as outside it in the city of Cambridge and internationally. Watch out for us on Facebook/twitter/Instagram – more to follow!

We are considering creating a Yearbook of class photos, put together from activities each class has been involved in from the start of last year (classroom pics, festivals, and field trips). This hardback "Yearbook" would be available for purchase by parents at cost price, with a percentage added for fundraising. The aim is to produce a fun and enjoyable souvenir of the year- from kindergarten to class 7/8- that we hope you and your children will enjoy looking at many times over the years.

The school is also very happy to announce that we will be having a professional school photographer come to visit the Steiner School to take portraits of the children, both individually, and with their whole class, that you can order. The photographer will be spending the morning at the school in the summer term; details will be sent out closer to the time.

Catherina (parent to Jeronimo, class 7)
contact me on 07484 122647
or leave a message at reception
or stop me in the corridor!

Dates for the diary

Last day of term is Tuesday 2nd April

School resumes on Wednesday 24th April

Whole School Parent Evening – Art in the Curriculum – 21st May 7:30pm