

## Festivals and Celebration in Lower School 2019 – 2020

The celebration of the festivals throughout the year is important to mark the seasonal changes and the rhythms of the earth outwardly and inwardly. This creates a further supportive rhythm in the lives of the children as they move up the school. Each festival has its own distinctive mood and parents are encouraged to join with the teachers and children in building a tradition of marking the festivals. The Lower School children learn about festivals celebrated in other cultures throughout the year and connections can be made between cultures and their traditions.

Some festivals are celebrated as a whole school community, and some are just done in school during the school day.

| Date  | Festival/celebration  | When, how, for whom...   |
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| 28/9  | <b>Michaelmas</b><br><br><i>Please note that this is a Saturday</i> | On the Saturday closest to Michaelmas Day (September 29 <sup>th</sup> ), we celebrate together this festival dedicated to courage and good deeds. In spirit of the day, we have a tradition of providing opportunities for the community to work together to make a change.<br>We'll celebrate with all Lower School children, splitting up the classes and making multi-age groups with activities and games, including apple pressing and making dragon bread that is then shared with the whole community. Whilst the children are busy with their activities, parents are also given the opportunity to get involved, working together in groups across the school to bring some love and care to parts of the school building and grounds in need of 'face lift'. The Lower School usually perform a play about St Michael for the school community.<br>We very much hope that all families will join for this special day. |
| 18/10 | <b>Harvest of Work</b>  | At 2pm the children of the Lower School will present/demonstrate examples of their work as a 'harvest'. All parents, relatives and friends are welcome – and prospective families too.   |
| 8/11  | <b>Martinmas</b>  | As the evenings draw in we make lanterns and go on a lantern walk. This festival is at the time of Martinmas and the story of St Martin is told, it also coincides with the Hindu festival of Divali. It is a festival celebrating the divine spark within us as the cloak of winter darkens around us.<br>In the late afternoon of the Friday closest Martinmas (this year this falls on the 8 <sup>th</sup> November) Class 1-5 will meet with parents to eat, sing, hear a seasonal story and walk in the Fulbourn Nature Reserve wood. The classes will help prepare the space and make soup and rolls to share. Class 1- 3 will have lantern walk with their handmade lanterns. Class 4-5 have dark walk. Class 6/7 are welcome to join if they wish. All school families welcome.  |
| 23/11 | <b>Advent Fair</b>  | The Cambridge Steiner School opens its doors every year on the penultimate Saturday in November for its bustling Advent Fair. The whole community takes part in the preparations, there is a café, food stalls, craft activities, candle dipping, a Gnomes Grotto, puppet shows, the outdoor patio fire pit, games and activities, music and more... This magical event attracts students, faculty, families, alumni, friends and the surrounding neighbourhood.   |
| 26/11 | <b>Midwinter Advent Spiral</b>                                      | As the frosty mornings of winter begin, Advent brings a quiet hope and anticipation of Christmas. By creating a relationship to nature (it is a time of outer darkness and inner light), we move towards the true preparation for  |

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|       |   | Christmas, and away from outer materialism. An Advent Spiral has become a popular tradition and is one of the festive highlights of the year. During the morning the children will walk the Advent Spiral. The older classes will play the music. School only.  |
| 13/12 | <b>Christmas Play</b>   | At 2pm the teachers will perform the Christmas Play for the children. It is their Christmas Gift to the children.<br>All welcome.   |
| 3/2   | <b>Candlemas</b>  | Class 1-3 will celebrate Candlemas by making candles to place on the earth, bringing light back to the earth, hoping the seeds and plants will use them to grow and blossom well!<br>School only.   |
| 11/2  | <b>Safer Internet Day</b>   | Each year a different theme is explored with age appropriate activities to help support all children to develop their understanding of staying safe online.   |
| 13/2  | <b>Harvest of Work</b><br><i>Please note this is a Thursday</i>                   | At 2pm the children of the Lower School will present/demonstrate examples of their work as a 'harvest'. All parents, relatives and friends are welcome – and prospective families too.  |
| 25/2  | <b>Carnival/ Pancake Day</b>  | Over the years this festival has become one of the highlights of the calendar for many children of all ages in the school. Teachers and pupils dress up, (there's a theme for each class), with lots of fun, games, skits and pancakes as part of the celebration. School only but parents will see the costumes at drop-off and collect times. |
| 5/3   | <b>World Book Day</b>   | Details TBC   |
| 31/3  | <b>Eurythmy sharing</b><br><i>Please note this is a Tuesday</i>                   | At 2pm the children of the Lower School will present/demonstrate examples of their work in Eurythmy. All parents, relatives and friends are welcome – and prospective families too.   |
| 16/5  | <b>Multi Cultural &amp; May Festival</b><br><i>Please note this is a Saturday</i> | We celebrate the arrival of spring as well as the richness of our multicultural school community with maypole dancing, music, an international bring-and-share lunch, may crown making and the chance to chat and enjoy a lovely afternoon together.<br>All welcome!  |
| TBC   | <b>Whitsun</b>  | Details TBC   |
| 22/5  | <b>Harvest of Work</b>  | At 2pm the children of the Lower School will present/demonstrate examples of their work as a 'harvest'. All parents, relatives and friends are welcome – and prospective families too.  |
| 24/6  | <b>St John/ Midsummer Festival</b>  | Between 1.30 and 3 pm, we will celebrate with a picnic, songs, story and fire jumping (which is well-controlled). The Class 5 Olympiads will make and light the fire. The other classes will make cordial will provide flowers and make bees.<br>All school community welcome.  |
| 10/7  | <b>End of the year celebration</b>  | At 1.30 all parents and friends are very welcome to the end of the year celebration.  |

Please check school website and the school newsletter in the run up to each festival/event.