

## Newsletter Number 16

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a lively start back to school we have had this week, with Carnival in the Lower School, puppet shows and play in the Kindergartens and the excitement of snow all round.

Please see below an update from Simon Birch, along with some other important messages and information about upcoming events, including our whole school parent evening on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March will focus on 'The Challenge of Raising Children in the Digital Age' led by David van Marle. Wishing you a wonderful weekend and happy leap year!

Sarah Fox

On behalf of the School Leadership Team



*Communal mural made by the Lower School children this week*

### Quick dates for the diary:

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February 10.30-2.30pm - Early Years workshop by Clare Caro

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day

March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm – Parent Evening 'The Challenge of Raising Children in the Digital Age' led by David van Marle – all welcome – DETAILS BELOW

March 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm – Parent Evening: 'Eurythmy' led by Sara Hunt – all welcome

April 1<sup>st</sup> from 2-3pm – Eurythmy harvest of work – all welcome

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May - Oslo City Steiner School Music Concert – more details to follow

Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup> – Multicultural May Fair – all welcome – more details to follow

Date TBC – Eurythmy Performance by the West Midlands Stage Group – more details to follow

## Whole School Messages/Community Updates

### Update from Simon Birch

Dear Parents and Staff

Further to recent updates, I am writing to inform you of how we are currently trying to accelerate the Cambridge Steiner School journey of school improvement. Clear leadership and accountability are top of the list. At governance level, the Trustees are striving to recruit to the Board and a skills audit and identified training needs matrix will assist. We have already welcomed two new trustees but would welcome recommendations of anyone external to the parent body particularly with HR, Educational or Steiner experience.

Sarah Fox has agreed to step up as Education Manager. This post comes with elements of Headteacher responsibility, particularly in terms of leading the school through the on-going Inspection process. Sarah enjoys and merits great support and confidence from school staff and I know you will all be keen to assist her in anyway. The SLT with Beate, David and Paul will continue to be the base-rock of the school and will seek objective guidance from David Harrison (Bursar) and myself as school advisor. David van Marle will assume the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead, with Beate and Sarah as deputies. David Harrison is working closely with the admin team to strengthen processes.

The teachers continue to work tirelessly and while all changes should assist the quality of Teaching and Learning we will ensure the pedagogy and essence of the school remains precious. We will improve processes but nothing will impinge on your children in terms of the joys of education. We do want to be more outward-facing and share best practice from other Steiner and indeed mainstream schools where appropriate.

One of our biggest priorities is to get communication right and we want to be really open here so we can drive forward as a community. The following points of contact are all available through admin and the appropriate person will respond quickly to any questions or concerns. We want Pupil and Parent voices to be heard through this period of improvement.

Kind regards,  
Simon Birch, School Advisor

Contacts:

Classroom functioning – Class Teachers

EY matters beyond – Beate

Lower School beyond – Sarah

Whole School - Sarah

Safeguarding –David, Beate or Sarah

Concerns/complaints – David Harrison

Finance – David Harrison

Trustee – Joel

Attendance – School office

### **Invoices**

Please ensure all invoices for fees have been paid. If there any queries or you haven't received your spring term invoice, please email [finance@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk](mailto:finance@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk) Invoices are being prepared for those children taking lunches and will be going out very soon.

Andrea

### **Lower School Lunches – Opt in by Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March**

The deadline to opt in for lunches up to Easter has been extended to Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March. Please send any feedback about lunches to Pheobe: [phoebe@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk](mailto:phoebe@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk)

### **Craft Group**

Craft Group runs every other Wednesday, starting the the week we come back from half term, Wed 26th February.

We are making little creatures for the Parent & Child room, and will be making marionettes for Rosebud KG.

No experience needed! Come for tea, coffee and a chat, meet other families and make new friends as well as keeping hands busy. Small children welcome.

For more information, contact Tina Tribe (mum to Amelie & Isabella, Classes 5 and 1) at [craftgroup@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk](mailto:craftgroup@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk)

### **Contributions to the Newsletter**

If there are things you would like to contribute to the school newsletter, please contact reception: [reception@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk](mailto:reception@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk)

### **12 months - 12 fairytales: a campaign by the Friends of Waldorf Education**

With their campaign "12 Months – 12 Fairy Tales", the *Friends of Waldorf Education* invite you to travel around the world with twelve stories, taking readers on a colorful journey of stories, fables, and legends from all over the globe.

See Press Release attached for more details.

### **ENSWaP Conference 2020 - The Art of Recognition - April 17-19<sup>th</sup> 2020**

Dear Waldorf Parents from all over Europe and beyond, let's meet again this year and discuss topics that interest us all in this fast-changing world! Together we can help our children to get the education that they need in order to become themselves. The 2020 conference of the European Network for Steiner Waldorf Parents will be held in Kyiv in Ukraine. We will listen together to inspiring speakers, exchange experiences, build bridges between people and countries, and have time to get to know each other and have lively discussions. See poster attached for more details.

## Coming up

### **Early Years workshop by Clare Caro Saturday 29th February 10.30-2.30pm, £35 – 1 or 2 places still available**

Clare Caro has led two workshops previously in our school which have been extremely successful. They were about attachment and caregiving and outdoor play. This specific workshop explores risk taking in early childhood. Please talk to me if you like to have more info. I can highly recommend her workshops.

Beate (Early Years Coordinator) - poster attached – contact number for booking on the poster.

### **March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm - Parent Evening 'The Challenge of Raising Children in the Digital Age' led by David van Marle – all welcome**

The world in which our children are growing up is very different from what we experienced. The growth of the internet has revolutionised the way young people communicate, spend their time and exist within the world. Whilst this technology presents many novel and exciting opportunities, the pitfalls and challenges are great. The potential negative impact on young people's mental health and wellbeing is frightening.

How do we help our children to navigate this new and ever changing digital world? If this question interests you come along and be a part of this world cafe style evening in which we will explore these questions together.