

27th March 2020

Newsletter Number 20

Dear Parents/Carers,

Amid the call to isolate, for our own and others protection, the sense that 'we are all in this together' has appeared only to intensify, both in a local sense and globally. I hope that this is something we can all draw strength from as we continue to journey together through the unknowns ahead.

Over the past week there has been a tremendous amount of collaboration and information sharing with our sister Steiner schools. The Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship has been hosting webinars for colleagues to join together, to discuss ideas and give support. Several meetings had over a hundred participants! The current situation calls every one of us to step up to a new way of being. It is such a privilege to work alongside such a wonderful team of creative and committed colleagues. Getting to grips with new modes of communication, and indeed new modes of teaching, is something we are grappling with, considering carefully and seeking to identify how best to proceed, recognising that our decisions are fluid and will continue to develop. In the midst of this incredibly challenging situation, something we keep on returning to is the question: what opportunities does this situation present? We invite you to join us in considering this.



Before we break for the Easter holidays next Wednesday, we will share some further information on our plans for the Summer Term. This will include clarity around home learning and support for families going forward.

A suggestion: to help keep our connections alive we encourage families to all light a candle in their own home at the same time each day (a time chosen by you) - to feel the connection of light and warmth, and to think of all the friends, teachers, colleagues who make up our school community.

I know this is a difficult time for many of you, and the next few weeks will be an adjustment for all of us. We are doing everything we can to support your children and families at this time and appreciate your patience and support.

Remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

Keep safe,
Sarah Fox
On behalf of the School Leadership Team

Coming up

March 31st at 7:30pm *Eurythmy Talk by Sara Hunt* to go ahead, via Zoom

You are warmly invited to a talk on Educational Eurythmy given by our Eurythmy teacher Sara Hunt. There will be an overview of the curriculum in each class and why it is considered to be one of the fundamental subjects in Steiner schools. We hope you will be able to join us. The meeting will take place on Zoom. A link and full instructions will be circulated early next week.

Trustees and Governance

As you will recall at the end of the last EGM on February 10th, we committed to a further update on a number of school business matters before the end of term. A key concern that needed addressing was ensuring accountability of the Board of Trustees whilst also taking into account potential legal anomalies within the current structure.

The meeting planned for April 1st has been postponed. However, a communication will be going out to all parents, staff and members of the association outlining the work that has been done towards proposing changes to the governance model of the association.. There will also be an update on the financial health of the school with proposals for changes from September.

We will also be able to update you on current membership of the board and its changing shape. As well as Alessandra Tosi joining, we have recently benefitted from the support and advice of Karin Schmitt, Richard Nobles and David Snashall. David is father of Joanna in Rosebud but brings experience as a headteacher, a school inspector, vice-chair of a local academy trust and an adviser to schools on employment law. Richard is a Law Professor at Queen Mary's University, London. His children are now grown up but he was chair of governors and finance at their schools – primary and secondary – for a period of 17 years. He comes to Cambridge Steiner School by way of his wife, a former senior lecturer at the Education Faculty at Cambridge University. Karin brings business experience as well as an interest in education. She has over 25 years of experience in successful leadership roles within the life sciences, biotech and drug discovery industries and currently holds the position of Chief Business Officer at Mogrify, a new Cambridge-based start-up company. She has also, for many years, served as a Director at the local German School.

All four members are currently coopted to the Board by the trustees and their formal appointment will be put to election at the AGM. We are still looking for further members and if you have not already expressed your interest (or suggested someone we should contact) please do get in touch by emailing trustees@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk.

Whole School Messages/Community Updates

COVID-19

We encourage you to keep up to date with the latest developments and continue to follow government guidelines. Useful links:

- <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

School Closure Reminder

In line with government guidance, Cambridge Steiner School is currently closed to almost all children. If your child falls into one of the categories below and you haven't already told us, please let us know immediately (email reception@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk). I would like to remind you that the current government guidance is that if it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.

- Any parent or carer in your household is a critical worker and you won't be able to care for your child or children at home. (See who counts as a critical worker [here](#).) It's up to you to decide as a family whether your child comes into school in this instance. We will support them in school if you need us to
- They have a child protection plan
- They have an education, health and care plan

Keep in touch:

- General enquiries: reception@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk
- Fees: finance@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk
- Early Years: beate.guertler-green@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk
- Lower School: sarah.fox@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk

Easy Fundraising for Cambridge Steiner School

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online, you could be raising a free donation for Cambridge Steiner School?

There are over 4,000 retailers including Just Eat, Now TV, uSwitch, Domino's Pizza and Audible ready to give a free donation every time you shop online via easyfundraising. It only takes 2 minutes to sign up.

Plus, for a limited time if you sign up and raise £5 in donations, easyfundraising will match it.

All you have to do is:

1. Go to: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cambridgesteiner/?invite=6x2ede&referral-campaign=s2s>
2. Click 'support this cause' and create an account
3. Choose from over 4,000 retailers to do your online shopping as normal and our cause will receive a free donation with every purchase you make.

Thank you for your support, you'll be helping to make a real difference to Cambridge Steiner School.

Summer Term Fee Invoices

The current pandemic will bring serious financial challenges to many in our community and we want to ensure that, where you are adversely affected, you feel free to open a conversation with the School about your fee payments. However, it is vital that everyone fully appreciates that the School remains wholly dependent on its fee income not only to continue providing support and learning throughout the period of interruption to regular activity but also to be ready to reopen our doors, with a full staff, as soon as we are given the go-ahead to do so.

Teachers are and will be working even harder throughout the coming weeks to adapt to the challenges and possibilities of remote learning; our School overheads of course must still be paid for; and, having always kept fees as low as possible, there is not sufficient reserve to cover those ongoing costs. We are seeking to benefit from some of the government relief being offered but it is not clear when exactly that will be forthcoming and, when it does, it will not meet all our expenses. We therefore do have to ask you to continue paying fees as we endeavour to sustain our distinctive education and provide both you and your children with the care and attention that our Steiner school uniquely offers.

To contact the School on any financial matter please email finance@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk.

Message from Floris Books

I hope that you, your colleagues, pupils and families are all well. In this time of uncertainty I wanted to get in touch to share our love and best wishes from all of the team at Floris Books and to offer our support for your parents. In these tough times we all have to stick together (even if it's only possible virtually).

Over the past week I've been contacted by a couple of Steiner-Waldorf schools asking if we had any books they could recommend to their parents now that their children are at home. I've created a blog post highlighting a range of our beautiful books, from board books for babies, to craft activity books to share together, to helpful parenting books. You can find the blog post here - <https://www.florisbooks.co.uk/blog/2020/03/24/resources-for-parents/>

The Floris team are now working from home remotely, but our warehouse is still open and able to send out books. We'd be happy to offer your parents 20% discount on any of the books featured on our blog post when they enter offer code SW0320 at the checkout. To make it as easy as possible for people to have access to books we've introduced free postage on all UK orders placed on our website too.

I hope that this is a bit of a help at this difficult time.

Anthroposophic Medicine Webinar

The North American Anthroposophic Nurses Association are hosting a webinar called 'Nursing Support and External Applications for Fever and Chest Congestion: Natural treatments you can do at home' on 2nd April 6.30-8pm EST. GMT this is around midnight but the webinar will be recorded and available for viewing after.

<https://paam.wildapricot.org/event-3796720>

Other Reminders/ Links

Simplicity Parenting [HOME PAGE](#) and [PODCAST](#)

Stories for Children in Times of Trouble - [The Little Prince](#) installments

[Talking to Children about COVID 19](#)

Post pictures and stories to the residents at Home Close, Cow Lane, Fulbourn CB21 5HB

Keeping children safe online:

- [Parental Controls](#)
- [Talking to your Child about Online Safety](#)
- [Inappropriate or Explicit Content](#)

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