

20 November 2019

Newsletter Number 8

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Others,

It is a very bustling time here in school. Families and staff alike are preparing for Saturday, while staff are very much in preparation for our next inspection. Others are focusing on preparations for Christmas. It's easy at busy times to forget our main purpose, caught up in all the busy-ness. Let's make this a busy but purposeful Advent.

The next school event, of course, is the Advent Fair. For those who are fairly new to the school, you may not be aware that the Advent Fair is historically the biggest fundraiser of the year, so please do get involved.



If you are keen to get involved in the work of the school, there are various ways in which parents and friends can contribute their time and experience. Drop me an email to find out more, please.

Amanda.kemp@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk

Advent Fair Clothing & Book Swap

Once again Kelly and Coralie will be running a bonus clothing and book swap for the whole duration of the Advent Fair, November 23rd! This will open up the swap to parents who can't make Friday mornings.

Please bring along your unwanted items as described in previous correspondence, preferably to us in the Community room beforehand on Friday mornings, leading up to the Fair weekend. Or with Charlotte, clearly labelled for Kelly and Coralie to organise before the Fair. Alternatively, if you have nothing to swap at the moment, but find something you like on the day, you may purchase any items for £1 each.



Choir

Developing our music programme is one of our aims this year. Francine our Music Teacher will shortly be setting up the Children's choir and has other exciting plans to extend the music provision.

Concert

Dear Parents and Friends,

The children will be presenting a music concert on the Thursday 12th December from 2-3pm in the School Hall. The concert is open to everyone and will be an opportunity for the students to present what they have been learning in music this year. The concert will include performances from the String Orchestra Club, a dramatic reinvention of 12 Days of Christmas from Class 5, an A Capella vocal performance of White Winter Hymnal by the Pentatonix from Class 6/7, as well as various solos. The students have worked extremely hard in their music studies and this is an important opportunity for them to celebrate what they have learnt in a supportive environment. Please do come along - bring your family, classes or kindergartens!

Francine Maas, Subject Music Teacher

Mon 25 Nov

Just to remind that this is a Training Day for staff and that consequently there will be no school for the children

SWSF visit

Last week we enjoyed a day long visit from Fran Russell and Kath Bransby from Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship (SWSF). They brought lots of helpful insight into what the Ofsted inspectors are particularly looking to see when inspecting a Steiner school.



Parent and Child

Thank you to Charlotte for stepping in last week (and this) in Emma's absence so that the sessions could still take place. We wish Emma a speedy recovery.

We would really like to build our Parent & Child programme. Are there any families you know who might like a free taster session? We have leaflets at Reception and we will be promoting it on Facebook, as well as giving a greater focus on it on our website. Many families with children in school today started their Steiner journey at Parent & Child, and we would like to see 2020 as a year of growth for these sessions.

Visitors

All visitors to the school need to be signed in, as you know, but also they need a lanyard and to be escorted. The office needs to be aware of their presence, their arrival and their departure.

If you have family staying with you, you may bring them in at collection or drop off, of course, to catch a glimpse of the school. But please don't attempt to tour the school: the children in school have the right to not be taken by surprise or peered at by strangers. All visits are escorted by a member of staff to prevent this.



Warm Feet Appeal

We have been in touch with Jimmy's Shelter in Cambridge and for our Christmas Appeal we will be collecting gifts of NEW socks for homeless people using the Cambridge shelter over Christmas. Please do join us in this by purchasing warm socks and sending them in. Class 5 has created a Sockometer so we can see how we are doing with collecting gifts. Class 6/7 is in charge of Quality Control and Class 4 will be writing to some Cambridge clothing stores to invite them to donate. The idea is to wrap the socks and send a message of kind wishes to the recipient. Donations of paper and ribbons would also be welcome to make sure every gift looks special.

Going around the classes, talking to the children about this appeal, it has been really interesting to hear their thoughts on homelessness, and how many socks we might conceivably collect. We have touched on percentages and addition, but also probability, multiplication and division.

If you decide to wrap socks at home, please add a small label identifying whether the socks are for men or women and the shoe size. We will need all socks in and wrapped by Monday 9th December at the latest please. **We are already accepting your gifts of socks**



Winter Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club - sign up now for January!!

Porridge & fruit - Monday to Thursday

Eggs and toast - Fridays only

Supervised games and activities in the hall

0730-0830

£9 per session for January 2020

If you are interested in a place for your child at Breakfast Club we need you to sign up for it so we can see if it is viable. We will trial it for the month, and take a decision based on take up and feedback. Please email andrea@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk to register interest

If there is sufficient interest we will also look to launch a Teatime Club 3pm to 5pm in the Spring.



Kitchen market on Fridays in December

CSS Kitchen Specials now available to order: order Mon to Wed for Friday collection. Our initial offering will be

Cakes: two sizes, three options

Decorated Birthday cakes: two sizes, three options

Crumble - a CSS favourite, two sizes

Vegetarian Lasagne

Supercharged Cookie Bags

Make your family weekend (or party) a little easier by ordering some CSS Specials in advance - and help school funds. Price lists will be out later this week

We are running this ***initially for December only*** so your support of this venture will really help decide its future.

Co-Housing Project – message from parents

We are a group of families seeking to set up a small co-housing community.

Our plan is to build a long-term community where we can live co-operatively, in an environmentally friendly way and where we can raise our children in a relaxed and supportive context. We have found a property to develop in Fulbourn and we are looking for more families that share the same vision and would like to get involved. If you are interested in hearing more details, please contact Federico Flego & Clara Panozzo (icocla08@gmail.com)

Best wishes

Amanda