

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the summer term! Please do take the time to read this newsletter as it contains some important messages and details of upcoming events.

Best wishes

Sarah Fox

On behalf of the School Coordination Team

### **Whole school messages/ community updates:**

- Welcome – new staff members!
- After School Clubs
- Resources Coordinator Post – Interim Contact Information
- Housekeeping Reminders

### **Looking back:**

- AGM
- School Photo Day

### **Coming up:**

- Maypole dancing rehearsal for parents – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – from 3pm in the garden
- Musicians Rehearsal for Multicultural May Fair – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May – 3:15-4:30pm
- Oslo City Steiner School Pupils - Concert HERE – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May – 2 performances! 11:45am and 2pm! All welcome!
- Multicultural May Fair – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May – 11am-4pm
- Early Years Parent Talk – Children’s Drawings – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – 1:30pm-3pm
- Class Parent Evening reminders

Other reminders (see previous newsletters for more details):

- Inspiring Talk – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May with Sven Saar – 7:30pm
- Curriculum Talk – Art in the Curriculum – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May – 7:30pm
- Class 7/8 Presentations – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June
- Class 7/8 Play – A Midsummer Night’s Dream – 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> June

## **Whole School Messages/ Community Updates**

### **Welcome – New Staff Members!**

We are delighted to welcome three new members of staff to our school this term. Libby Merritt and Charlotte Burdett have joined our administrative team. Libby will be working alongside Nicola as our Compliance/Administrator Assistant and Charlotte will be supporting Elke at reception, as well as undertaking additional administrative duties around the school. In the Lower School we welcome

Francine Maas as our new subject teacher for Music. Francine will teach lessons with Class 3 through to Class 7/8.

### **After School Clubs**

The school is looking to expand its extra-curricular provision from September. Over the summer term we plan to trial some new after-school clubs. More information will follow. If you have any suggestions for clubs you would be interested in, then please get in touch with: [sarah.fox@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk](mailto:sarah.fox@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk)

### **Resources Coordinator Post – Interim Contact Information**

The School Coordination Team continues to hold the overall responsibility for the running of the school.

- Sarah Fox, Lower School Coordinator
- Beate Guertler-Green, Early Years Coordinator
- Nicola Conlin, Compliance Coordinator (alongside DSL and SENDCo)

We are continuing to recruit for a new Resources Coordinator. Until someone is appointed, please direct any queries as follows:

Invoices/fees information: [invoices@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk](mailto:invoices@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk)

Anything relating to health and safety within the school: [nicola.conlin@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk](mailto:nicola.conlin@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk)

If you would like to raise a concern or complaint: [joel.chalfen@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk](mailto:joel.chalfen@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk)

For any queries or concerns relating specifically to the Lower School or Early Years, please contact [sarah.fox@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk](mailto:sarah.fox@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk) or [beate.guertler-green@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk](mailto:beate.guertler-green@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk) respectively. Nicola Conlin remains our school Safeguarding Designated Lead [nicola.conlin@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk](mailto:nicola.conlin@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk)

### **Housekeeping Reminders!**

1. Parking on double yellow lines: please do not park on double yellow lines near the entrance of the school as this reduces the visibility dramatically and is illegal. It was also noted that visibility is compromised when parking along Hinton Road next to the field. It is safer to park on Ida Darwin Way or on Hinton Road towards Fulbourn Village. Thank you for your cooperation.
2. We have had two recent drain blockages due to blue handtowels being thrown in the toilets. May we please remind you (and your children through you) that at no occasion should these hand drying towels be thrown into the toilets. Blue handtowels do not decompose as toilet paper does and thus causes obstruction. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **Looking back**

### **AGM**

This year's AGM was well-attended and covered a range of issues relating to the ongoing development, challenges and improvements to the School. For those unable to be there, the financial statements and minutes will be prepared and published on the website shortly. The financial year ending August 2018 had seen changes to the management structure and a school inspection, as well as decisions about the structure of the kindergartens, a commitment to combined classes in the Lower School and the investigation into expanding into an Upper School. The need to review staff pay and conditions was also highlighted as a priority action. All this set in motion a process of ensuring the long-term sustainability of the School but were just first steps and required time to settle in. Unfortunately, this settling in process has been radically set back under the pressure of an imminent inspection under OFSTED.

The OFSTED inspections have brought significant challenges to the whole Steiner movement in England. Our School is as vulnerable to these as the others, but it is also important to acknowledge there are advantages too, as well as requirements for change and adaptation. Whatever the outcome of this, it will positively contribute to the ongoing review of the School and its future. Issues debated at the AGM included state-funding and the possible recruitment of a headteacher/principal. But the means of survival are premised not just on robust organisation and compliance but also confidence in the distinctive education we offer – the education you have chosen for your child/ren. The Trustees are wholly committed to ensuring this. As we navigate the challenges, we call on you for your commitment also.

The inspection is due at any moment – we are one of just three Steiner schools in England left to be inspected. **Please note that when the inspection is called, parents will be requested to complete a Parent View questionnaire.** This is a statutory requirement, informing the inspectors' judgement of the School and we would appreciate your completing this within the day.

Joel Chalfen, Chair of Trustees

### **School Photo Day**

Luckily the weather held out on Wednesday, and the school photos were taken outside in the garden, in the children's play areas, and the photographers even managed to catch up with Rosebud kindergarten on their way to the Fulbourn woods. Great fun was had with the group photos as well as individual portraits - including two sibling pictures when the youngest members of Buttercups wanted their big sisters nearby. Photo proofs will be available shortly and parents can choose different combinations of single and whole class shots either direct on line, or just handing the order form and payment to their class teacher. Prices range from £9.50 to £28 for different package combinations and sizes.

## **Coming up**

### **Musicians Rehearsal for May Fair – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May – 3:15-4:30pm**

To anyone interested in playing for the maypole dancing at the Multicultural May Fair, you are invited to a rehearsal on Tuesday after school in either the P&C/Community Room or the Hall – this

will be confirmed on the day. For further details do feel free to get in touch with Susanne Lauer: [Susanne.Lauer@gmx.de](mailto:Susanne.Lauer@gmx.de)

### **Oslo City Steiner School - Class 12 Concert at Cambridge Steiner School! Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> of May!**

We are delighted and so very fortunate to host Oslo City Steiner School's Class Twelve concert. The concert will be held in the school's Hall in two sessions.

**11:45 - 12:30** for kindergarten parents and young children

**14:00 - 14:55** for lower school parents and children

Who are they...?

*'In the subject lesson 'Music dissemination/ Music production' we learn how to work with music in a process of going from the greater "Me" to the greater "We". We learn how to work acoustically, in any room, with any genre, and to treat all music as chamber music, as a group and a team.*

*The main thing is to learn the power of "balance", and that everyone owns the responsibility, not taking focus from the soloist and "storyteller" and to learn the importance of being loyal to the group and the purpose of the song. We learn about how complex patterns and harmonies can be made easy, if everyone is doing their little part wholeheartedly.'*

They'll play Norwegian folk music sung Acapella, music by Toto, Supertramp, Fernando Sor, and Mozart, Jazz, and also more contemporary pop songs both Norwegian and English.

What do other people say...

*"... Like most of the Waldorf schools in Scandinavia, the Oslo Waldorf school does not take state exams, concentrating instead in the Steiner curriculum which is delivered with such effect that entry in to University and further education is achieved - with a high rate of success – by means of interview and portfolio.*

*Their two concerts...were extraordinary, with a range and texture of sound and musicianship that revealed a strong commitment to ensemble playing and a wide variety of musical genres. Whilst not an orchestra in the classical sense, their playing held something of the original Greek word 'orkheisthai', meaning 'to dance' – as each piece, whether jazz, classical or folk, had a lightness, harmonic delicacy and, most rarely, a wonderful attention to the power of diminuendo and the quieter ranges. Our students were spellbound in both performances – a testament perhaps to one of the Oslo player's suggestion that 'music is the closest thing to magic'.*

*...One Class 4 pupil told me 'It was the best concert ever' and I believe that the Oslo players' spirited but also self-effacing interpretations of a wide choice of pieces (from Rihanna to Mozart via Paganini and Fleetwood Mac) will stay with our pupils for a long time. The players' awareness of each other and their unassuming but highly skilled performances were authentic, deeply motivated and deeply moving...'*

*Dan Skinner, Michael Hall School.*

Hope to see you there!

Gideon Osimo, Pine Trees Class Teacher

**Multicultural May Fair – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May – 11am – 4pm**

As in previous years, we will 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.

On the day, please bring the following:

- a picnic rug
- any flowers to decorate the may crowns (whatever you can spare from your garden will be great, and dandelions and daisies look lovely, too!)
- food to share from your home country
- if you have a large table cloth you could bring that would be very helpful
- your dancing shoes

Looking forward to seeing you all there and - please don't hesitate to ask any questions you may have. If you can't make it for the whole day, then please don't let that stop you from coming along for however long you can!

### **Early Years Parent Talk – Children's Drawings – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – 1:30pm-3pm**

After our successful last parent meeting about child development, we would like to offer another interesting topic 'Children's drawings'.

When: Wednesday 22/05/19 - 1.30-3.00 pm

Where: Parent and Child/ Community room

Parents/carers and people generally interested in this topic are warmly welcome. Please let your teacher or group leader know that you are coming. Thank you.

### **Class Parent Evening reminders:**

Future Class 1 – 18 June - 8:30am – peep into Class 1/practical preparations

Class 1/2 – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 7:30pm

Class 3 – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 7:30pm

Class 5/6 – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 7:30pm

Class 7/8 – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 7:30pm (please note change of date)

Kindergarten – TBC

### **Other reminders/dates (see previous newsletters for more details):**

- May Bank Holiday – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May – no school for all children
- Inspiring Talk – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May with Sven Saar – 7:30pm

- Curriculum Talk – Art in the Curriculum – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May – 7:30pm
- Harvest of Work – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May – 2-3pm
- HALF TERM 27<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> May – school resumes on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June
- Class 7/8 Presentations – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June
- Class 7/8 Play – A Midsummer Night’s Dream – 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> June
- End of Year Ceremony – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July