

Newsletter Number 14

Dear Parents/Carers,

We started the week with the celebration of the Chinese New Year as Class 5 (along with some hard-working helpers!) adorned our doors with Chinese couplets and filled our tummies with delicious dumplings! Huge thanks to everyone involved! The week has also marked a new phase of development within the school, with Simon Birch coming on board to offer his support as we continue on our journey of school improvement. Next week some classes will be celebrating the festival of Candlemas (2nd February). This festival has different names and meanings to people all around the world. In pre-Christian times, it was celebrated as a festival of light. This ancient festival marked the halfway point between the winter solstice (the shortest day of the year) and the spring equinox. There are many superstitions connected with this special day. Many people believed (and some still do) that the weather at Candlemas predicts the length of winter that is still to come...

*'If candlemas day is bright with sun
Then the winter's but half begun
But if candlemas day is dark with rain
Then winter's power is on the wain'*

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend,
Sarah Fox
On behalf of the School Leadership Team



Quick dates for the diary (more details below):

February 10th at 7:30pm – EGM

February 13th from 2-3pm – Harvest of Work – all welcome

Tuesday 25th February – Carnival Celebration in Lower School

Saturday 29th February 10.30-2.30pm - Early Years workshop by Clare Caro

March 12th at 7:30pm *new date* – Parent Evening ‘The Challenge of Raising Children in the Digital Age’ led by David van Marle – all welcome

March 31st at 7:30pm – Parent Evening: ‘Eurythmy’ led by Sara Hunt – all welcome

April 1st from 2-3pm – Eurythmy harvest of work (please note change from 31st March) – all welcome

Whole School Messages/Community Updates

Message from Simon Birch

It was great to be in school this week, to meet with the staff and also with parents who made it along on Tuesday afternoon. I will be back in school on the 10/11/12 February and look forward to meeting more of you then. As I shared in my recent letter, my values are kindness and collaboration and these can go far. I believe your school to be staffed by committed and skilled educators and you have worthy people seeking to lead. I want to be part of a re-invigorating of the school. We can all come together to get the school on a surer footing, so the opportunities you have afforded the present pupils are open to future generations.

Staff Update – Anita Gilchrest- Supply Kindergarten Assistant (See staff photo board)

Anita:

'I am very happy to be reunited with my old Cambridge Steiner friends and colleagues, who I left 2 years ago for a brief interlude working in a state preschool playgroup. I have worked on and off for about 6 years at Cambridge Steiner school and keep coming back, as I love it very much, the peace, the environment, the ethos and above all the beautiful children. My own children have almost flown the nest, with short interludes coming back from travels or university and my youngest is about to embark on his final journey to independence this autumn.

Although I am not Steiner trained, I gained my experience in Waldorf education working for 2 years as Beate's Kindergarten assistant that has not just shaped the way I work but influenced my inner equilibrium as well.

I have a Cache level 3 qualification in Early years education and regularly attend an anthroposophic study group.'

Choir

Choir has sadly been cancelled due to lack of attendance. We may look at running it again in future if there is significant demand for it to restart. Apologies for the inconvenience.

Half Term – Holiday Clubs (posters attached)

Half Term Music School run by Francine Maas and Half Term Craft Club run by Andor Vince. Please see attached posters for details.

Half Term - Clearing the cloakrooms

Please ensure all shoes, boots, rain wear, coats and bags and anything else stored in the cloakrooms are removed for half term. These items need to be taken home and washed, ready for the new term. Having the cloakrooms clear will allow for a thorough clean.

Lost Property

We will display lost property in the hall on display racks, for one week, daily from 8-8.30 and 2.45-3.15 on February the 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th.

Any lost property that is not claimed by then will be recycled.

EGM - February 10th at 7:30pm – EGM

The Trustees of the Cambridge Steiner School Project give notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting of the School Association on Monday 10th February at 7.30pm in the School Hall.

The meeting will be an opportunity to both discuss and review important issues facing the School and you are all strongly encouraged to attend. Over the last weeks, there have been a couple of resignations from the Board of Trustees and some new trustees coming forward. It will also therefore be an opportunity to find out more about these changes. For further information, please get in touch with the current trustees at trustees@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk

Craft Group

All parents welcome regardless of craft ability! 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

Clothing/Book Swap – plus bonus swap after Harvest of Work

When: Every Friday am (for now) 8:45-9:15 (after morning drop off) PLUS a bonus swap session after the Harvest of Work on Thursday 13th February.

Where: Community room (behind reception)

Cost: Suggested donation £1

Please bring any outgrown Steiner suitable children's clothing (ages 0-12 years), including outdoor gear and accessories in freshly laundered re-useable condition, organised in to ages only and unwanted Steiner appropriate children's books.

All will be sorted on arrival, points allocated per suitable item and then you can rummage for lovely new items....

Come along and let's reuse, reduce and recycle!
Looking forward to seeing you and your lovely things to share!

Kelly Wawrzyniak (mum to Eva in Elderflower KG)

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

Coming up

Harvest of Work 2-3pm on Thursday 13th February

On Thursday 13th February we have our next 'Harvest of Work'. 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.

No school Friday 14th February

Please remember that school will be closed to all children on this day. School resumes on Monday 24th February.

Tuesday 25th February – Carnival Celebration in Lower School

A day of costumes, song, dance, pancakes and fun at school.

Carnival is celebrated in many European countries and corresponds to the English Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day on which families used up the remainder of their rich ingredients to make pancakes before the Christian 6 weeks fast period of Lent leading up to Easter. Carnival is a time of laughter, song and fun with the drama of a costume. In some countries there are street parades that last for days. For those not of the Christian cultural tradition, Carnival also gives us a break from the long grey winter months.

COSTUMES:

Can you please help your child to choose and put together a costume according to your class theme. Your teacher or child will tell what that theme is. We ask that you do not buy your child a ready-made costume. However, you can create a costume out of a variety of existing clothes from home, friends or from charity shops, boxes etc. We do hope that you will have some fun creating this with your child.

NB It is not necessarily the most expertly created costume that brings the greatest pleasure.

Please do talk to your teacher if you have any questions.

Ute on behalf of the Lower School teachers

Early Years workshop by Clare Caro Saturday 29th February 10.30-2.30pm, £35

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.