

Newsletter Number 15

Dear Parents/Carers,

*“The smallest candle can be seen brightly burning
Through deepest darkness see the light is returning
The smallest act of kindness can bring both joy and light
And if we work together we can lighten up the night.”*

(song written by a pupil at Ringwood Steiner School)



The children of Class 1-3 gathered in the courtyard on Monday to celebrate candelmas by making earth candles from all the stubs of wax leftover from the cold winter days and singing songs of the hope of spring to come. There were exclamations of delight from the younger children as at each return visit to courtyard through the morning they saw the little crocuses slowly open themselves up wider and wider to the sun above.

The week ahead offers more opportunities to come together as community, please see details below.

Wishing you all a great weekend,

Sarah Fox

On behalf of the School Leadership Team

Quick dates for the diary (more details below):

February 10th at 7:30pm – EGM – all welcome

February 10th-13th – Safer Internet Week

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

Thursday 5th March – World Book Day

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 – all welcome

Whole School Messages/Community Updates

Staffing Update – introducing David Harrison as School Bursar

We are very pleased to welcome to the School this week David Harrison into the role of School Bursar. This is a short-term post in the first instance but one which David has agreed to do on a full-time basis.

The role is a slightly new one for the School – David will be leading the administration team and business operations as school managers in the past have done but also taking strategic action on the School's governance and finance. This will provide the counterbalance to the work of Simon Birch who is focused more on educational management and processes. Both feed into the work set out in our plan for OFSTED but this is work that we recognise needs to be done even without that push, building and guiding our sustainability, growth and stability as an organisation.

A Change of Address

After some consideration over a period of time, the Lower School teachers have decided that they would like the children to address them using their first names in class, slowly phasing this in. New staff will be introduced using their first names. The children can continue to address their teachers using the titles 'Mr' or 'Miss', but they will be at liberty to drop the title.

Using first names in Lower School is consistent with what happens in our Kindergartens and drops the unusual combination of title and first names - as well as avoiding the often-inaccurate term 'Miss'. We do not believe that this change in address will alter the respectful relationship we foster between the children and their teachers.

Lower School Lunches – New Organic Menu

- New menu after Half Term
- Organic food from Riverford Organic Farmers <https://www.riverford.co.uk>
- Vegan and Gluten Free options everyday
- Trial period: first 2 weeks after half term

We are bringing back some popular winter recipes from the past with our upcoming new organic menu. We encourage every child to sign up for the first two weeks and try the meals **for just £14.25 for both weeks.**

Please sign up for the 2-week trial by Wednesday 12th February (next week).

You will need to opt in for lunches up to Easter by Monday 2nd March.

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

Craft Group will run 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

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)