

Newsletter Number 31

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you have all had a good start to the summer break. Despite it now being the holidays, the school has continued to have a little buzz of activity, with the bushcraft club running and rooms being emptied and decorated for September. Thanks to anyone who has already stepped forward to support practically over the summer, more below on **publicity** and other **opportunities to lend a hand** over the coming weeks. We would like to re-iterate how thankful we are for the support and encouragement that parents have shown over the past months and also take a moment to **celebrate our wonderful teachers** who have gone above and beyond to secure the ongoing provision of education and care for our pupils. We recognise that some families have faced particular hardships, be that health-wise, financial or other, and our thoughts go to all those who continue to face such challenges. Thank you to those who have been in touch to let us know of particular financial difficulties; if you feel a communication may have been missed, please do get in touch with Nilesch (finance@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk) so that we can follow this up with you.

This year has presented us with some real challenges, but our commitment to seeing the school grow and develop in a healthy and positive way remains strong. We will continue to keep in touch over the summer, as our plans for fully reopening the school in September develop.

Have a wonderful summer and keep safe.
Warm wishes
Sarah

On behalf of the School Leadership Team

Term Dates

	Autumn Term 2020	Spring Term 2021	Summer Term 2021
First Day of Term	Thursday 3 September (LS) KG staggered start	Monday 11 January	Wednesday 14 April
Last Day of Term	Thursday 17 December (KG) Friday 18 December (LS)	Friday 26 March	Thursday 8 July (KG) Friday 9 July (LS)
Half Term	Half Term Monday 19 – Friday 30 October	Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February	Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June
INSET / Bank Holidays [No School for ALL Children]	Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 September Monday 30 November	Friday 8 January Friday 12th February	Tuesday 13 April Monday 3 May (BH)

Further information about arrangements for the start of term will follow.

Garden Support Days (more below and details to follow): weekend of 15th and 16th August

Whole School Messages/Community Updates

NEW: Opportunity to lend a hand over the summer – Elderflower

To all KG parents AND other willing helpers:

Please can anyone help to redecorate Elderflower KG or help with other jobs in Elderflower:

- Stripping the walls and fixing cracks
- Painting with white paint
- Lazuring

We are recruiting for a new Kindergarten Teacher and would love to make them feel welcome in their room!

- Suggested dates: next week **Wed, Thur, Fri (22-24/7)**, but other times possible

Please contact Beate: beate.guertler-green@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk

Thanks very much!

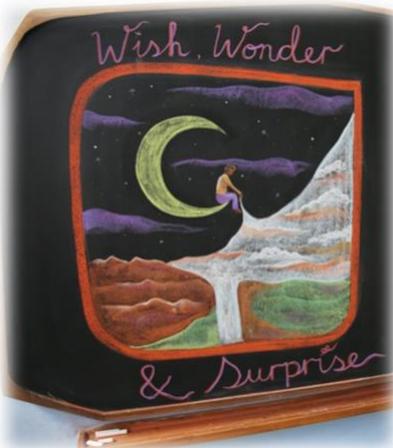
NEW: Lockdown Blossoms Collection

Please click on this [LINK](#) to access our first Lockdown Blossoms Collection, with **paintings, drawings, poems, recipes and more**, created and shared by our pupils during lockdown. If you 'missed the boat' on this initiative but feel you have some pictures of creative happenings from your home during lockdown (with a loose theme of 'spring-time') then it is not too late to get in touch. Rebecca will be taking this forward and if more contributions come through, we can expand the collection. Also, if there is enough interest, we will explore the possibility of making a publication. You can continue to send contributions to: lockdownblossoms@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk or contact Rebecca directly. Thanks.

NEW: Publicity Update from Rebecca

Thanks to the incredible dedication of all our staff we have been able to hold two Saturday Open Days this term, with both sessions being fully booked. Families enjoyed visits to all the different parts of the school, and met lots of the staff, both times in glorious sunshine. The school looked wonderful, clean and sparkling, with lovely work from the children laid out, and there were presentations on our amazing outdoor education programme, our innovative approach to science, our handwork curriculum that helps to integrate important development skills with other parts of the curriculum, creativity in the education, our beautiful baby and parent and child groups, and our wonderful nurturing kindergartens, the community hive project, the hall renovation, and lots more.

I am always struck by people's positive reactions to the way we educate and the setting we are able to offer, for some it really is life changing to find out an education like this is possible. Of course, we are also honest that it is by no means easy to run a school like ours, and that we do face lots of challenges, but I think our passion and determination to bring the very best we can to the children is what always shines through. Their responses always inspire me to find ways to promote the school more and share what we do as widely as possible. We plan to hold more events in the Autumn, with the format depending on the government guidelines at the time. Meanwhile please do share any positive news of the school with your circle of family and friends, and think about ways to engage the wider community and spread the word about what we offer. There are so many children and families that could benefit from being part of our community.



If you use social media please follow our Facebook page and share stories <https://www.facebook.com/Cambridge-Steiner-School-UK-363600590878607> We include news from the school, stories from alumni, interesting research articles, inspiring stories from other Steiner schools, crafts and other activities, so it is a good place to go for inspiration on a rainy day, or even a sunny day! Your support is always very much appreciated. In this vein I would really like to thank the publicity group who have been amazing in the generous help they have given in different ways to promote the school. Alessandra and Thierry helped with publicity and have shared ideas for promotions, Anusha has been working on some website analytics, Kelly has been taking lovely pictures for us, Yule is planning some articles to write for us and was a stalwart of the Open Days and Ginnie has given me an enormous amount of help with the Facebook page and our Marketing Plan. And thanks too to Simon for his help with the Open Day flier. I couldn't have done all this without them. Thank you so much everyone.

If you would like to update your knowledge about the school do feel free to take a tour or come on an Open Day yourself. For bookings, to make an application for a younger sibling, questions or suggestions please don't hesitate to get in touch at admissions@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk. In the meantime have a lovely summer and spread the word. With very best wishes Rebecca

NEW: Developing our Outdoor Space – update from Andor

Dear School Community,

In the next school year we are planning to work on redesigning the school gardens to create outdoor spaces where children can learn, play and find joy. There are three areas that we will be working on: the Courtyard Garden, which is located at the heart of the school, the Classroom and Kindergarten Gardens, which are the areas adjacent to the classrooms, and the Playground area, where children play during breaks and have their outdoor lessons. We are planning to turn the Courtyard Garden into a herbal and perennial flower garden, a place of beauty where children can learn about different herbs and flowers and their use for culinary and medicinal purposes throughout history. The Classroom Gardens will become vegetable and fruit gardens where children will experience making compost, care for and grow vegetables and learn about healthy nutrition and diet. In the Kindergarten Gardens we will be exploring how to create more climbing opportunities and play items/areas, and also expand our growing areas, develop the patio areas and refresh the pond.

The biggest job will be to redesign and re-landscape the main Playground area and to create an outdoor space that will be both a playground and gardens. The “crocodile” (the wooden construction running across the playground) is very old now and, sadly, it is very likely that it will need to be dismantled and removed. For this work to be accomplished we will work with professional landscape architects and gardeners. We will fundraise to raise money for the project.

In all this we would very much welcome your support and involvement. We always need garden enthusiasts to help on the ground. Another way to support the project is financial. If you are able to support this project or would like to be involved please e-mail me at andor.vince@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk.

On **Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th August** we will be holding ‘**Garden Days**’ at the school (timing will be staggered, more info to follow) where **everyone is invited** to join and lend a hand – we will work particularly in the Classroom and Kindergarten Gardens, so please bring your gardening gloves and join to help us to tame the greenery! Details of timings and specific job lists will be circulated beforehand.

Thank you.

Warmest wishes

Andor

NEW: Recipes from the Kitchen – Recipe No. 11 – Bombay Potatoes

Simple recipes which you can enjoy making with your children - Recipe No. 11 attached.

Reminder: School Association AGM – 11th August 2020

The AGM of the School Association will now be held on the evening of 11th August as a Zoom meeting. We had of course hoped that we would be able to hold this in person but there are certain formal administrative elements that need to be completed by the end of August. Whilst some charities have taken to cancelling their AGMs due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we understand that a recently held zoom AGM at one of our sister schools was quite successful. We hope you will be able to join us - wherever you may happen to be at the time! The agenda and other relevant documentation have been circulated. Zoom details will be shared nearer the time.

Reminder: PRELUDE – The Foundations of Steiner Waldorf Education – Introductory Online Course 2020-2021 open to parents

In the coming school year the UK teacher training courses will collaborate to offer a completely new venture: a weekly online course offering an introduction to Steiner Waldorf Education, featuring many widely known speakers. This can precede a full training, or simply offer an opportunity to get to know where we come from, what we do and where we are going. There is a flyer attached, and you can get more details on programme, cost and contributors by clicking here: www.aswte.org

We are in touch with the course organisers about a group booking and establishing a local learning community of participants. Please contact me if you are interested in exploring this further: sarah.fox@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk

Reminder: Diversity and Inclusion Group

Our Diversity and Inclusion group will continue to meet over the summer, please get in touch if you are interested in joining or finding out more - Anne, anne.patel@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk

