

11 December 2019

## Newsletter Number 11

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Others,

Our American cousins recently celebrated their Thanksgiving , and I guess we could ourselves learn something from the tradition. Before we turn fully to Christmas, we could just think for a moment about all those who have contributed to the year that is drawing to an end.

Thanks to all, but especially Ute and all our volunteers. Also everyone who worked so hard to make the Advent Fair such a success. Thanks to all our Class Teachers, the Subject Teacher's, the SEN team, the Kitchen team and the Admin team. Thanks to the important work carried out in the Woodland Program, the Parent Craft group and Parent & Child. I can't complete this thank you list which is already too long without mentioning the trustees who give so much of their time and energy to the school, week in week out. This term saw Joel stepping down as Chair and Emil stepping up as Deputy Chair. Our gratitude to them both.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all those who have shown me a warm welcome, but also those who have been patient, warmed to me more gradually or helped me to understand some of the mysteries of Cambridge Steiner. I am sure I have made mistakes aplenty this term, but learning is a natural process, and I am given plenty of opportunities to refine the art and a generous amount of forgiveness. Thank you



My Christmas will be a busy one with a new pup in the house, plus my loyal spaniel Violet hoping for a memorable Christmas dinner, as well as the energy of a boisterous grandson and the love of his proud parents. It's a wonderful time for family, but also friends and sharing. I hope that Jimmy's Shelter in Cambridge will bring some cheer to all their visitors. I wish you all a very very happy Christmas and every joy for the new year. I hope very much it will be an outstanding year for the school, its staff and our wider Steiner community.

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](mailto:Amanda.kemp@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk)



### Music Harvest of Work

There will be a music Harvest of Work on Thursday from 2-3pm in the School Hall to showcase the musical achievements of the students so far this year. Class 4, 5, 6/7, and the school orchestra club will be performing various items. Please do come along and support the children.

### Camera request

Does anyone have an old working digital camera that is not being used at home please, that they would consider donating to the school? Ideally, we would have one in each classroom, but we are not there yet. Thank you

### Café Canoe

This Wednesday will be the last Café Canoe, so please do come along and support Class 6/7 one last time. Huge thanks to everyone who helped us achieve our target.



### Lunches next term

Next term we will be offering TWO options each day so that really there should be very few children not able to take up the hot lunch offered here every day. The new menu should

arrive with this newsletter, and I hope it will prove popular. An Ingredient breakdown for the entire menu was sent out yesterday by email so we hope you feel informed about the new menu for next term

Please encourage your child wherever possible to share in school lunches with their classmates. By including a second option each day we hope to allow children to explore making food choices independently. **The sign-up sheet gives you until Fri 13 December to opt for lunches** initially, and changes to this will be allowed up to Thu 16 Jan at 3pm.

## Fees

There are still a few outstanding fees invoices, and we really do need to settle the term's accounts. If you have any fees queries please do get back to Andrea Jarvis, Finance Officer [andrea@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk](mailto:andrea@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk). A couple of parents missed their invoices on email so do get back to us if you think that has happened to you as well.

## Anna Wain

Anna has taken a very tough decision, confident that it is in the best interests of her family, to return to home education, something the family has loved previously. We have been very fortunate to have Anna, Holly and April among us, and we will miss them all, however we fully acknowledge that every family has its own decisions to make and that no one should seek to intervene. Anna has been so generous in all her help with the library, and a fantastic Joint SENCo with Kelly, and we can only thank her with all our hearts and wish Anna and her family all the best going forward.

The SENCo role is to be temporarily held by Kelly with support from the SLT until we reappoint. The SEND team is still growing and I will do my utmost to support it the while we find a new SENCo. If you wish to discuss your child's progress, please continue to meet with your child's teacher (by arrangement) or ask via your child's teacher for a meeting with the SEN team.

## Books with Love

With the departure of Anna we are going to really need some extra support to keep the library progressing so please contact me if you have time ( and a love of books) to offer. We'd like to see the shelves filled to overflowing with books and enthusiasm. Does this sound like something you can help us with?

## Performances

A huge Well Done to everyone involved in the Christmas play, which was performed on Monday and Tuesday. Such a level of enthusiasm and commitment from both children and staff produced a memorable performance. Thank you of course to Mr David for all his hard

work. As I write this, there is still more to look forward to this week. I am not sure how the school building would cope with the onslaught without the support from our volunteers, and more especially Ute.

## **Farewell and Hello**

I can see from all our registers over the years that CSS has always been a place of departures and arrivals. This term is no different really. We have families leaving us as planned after a visit of one term or more, and others planning a trip abroad, hoping to rejoin us later in the academic year. To all those who have shared with us in our school journey and are due to leave us now, we say farewell and safe travels. In the new year we welcome new families keen to join us, and so it continues.

## **Breakfast Club**

When I got here in September I was told the school was crying out for extended hours and so we offered an early start from next month. For now, we haven't had enough interest in Breakfast Club to make it viable. But if interest develops we will be very happy to re-consider. As for an after school club, running Monday to Friday, we would need to hear from a considerable number of you before even running a trial. But it would still be helpful to know if it's something you were wanting or have been considering. Or even tell us what we got wrong in our proposal...

## **Maths club**

In the new year we would like to try a Maths Club for those students who are enthralled and fascinated by all things mathematical. It won't be a catch up class for anyone who is struggling behind a little, but a club for enthusiasts. Talk to your child's Class Teacher if you have a mathematician needing a challenge.

## **Up for Debate?**

If there is any interest, I would be happy to run a 6 week series of All Age debating sessions starting in January. The idea is that children (probably aged 10 plus) can join with parents and other adults to talk about topics that affect us all. It would need some sensitive direction to keep the discussion age appropriate, but a challenge worth tackling where there are questions to be answered. Topics for debate would be agreed by the group. Drop me an email if it's something you'd like to do.

## **Lifting**

Anyone wanting to learn to lift Kettlebells might like to come to a workshop in January. I have been coaching youth squads and adults in effective and safe lifting for years, both nationally and internationally, and am a Level 5 Coach and British Judge in the sport, so I thought while I was here I could offer a few insights, if anyone out there is looking to learn,

proceeds to the school. Drop me an email for details

### Next term

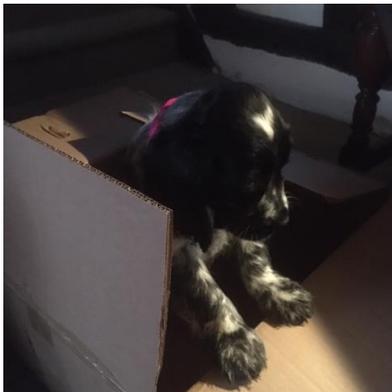
The new term starts Tuesday 7 January 2020

### Let us know

With every new venture, there will be uncertainty. We can't know if our projects such as improving the library, trialling a Breakfast Club, selling Birthday Cakes, and starting a Choir, are what you all want unless you tell us. So please do respond to the newsletter if you have something to say or suggest. Catch me in the corridor or book a time to come and see me, or email me if you prefer. Many thanks.

Best wishes

Amanda



(New pup arriving home last weekend)