

11th September 2020

Newsletter Number 1



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been great to get back into the swing of things with our full school reopening, and what a blessing to have the sun shine back as we continue to spend as much time outdoors as possible.

Have a happy and restful weekend!
Warm wishes
Sarah Fox

*Dates for the Diary
Staffing Update
Creative Skills Blocks
After School Clubs - feedback form
The 'crocodile' and school gardens
Open Morning - 26th September
Diversity and Inclusion Group
Prelude Course
Take the Bus to School
Other reminders/general information*

Dates for the Diary

Michaelmas won't be a whole community event as was the case in previous years; although we do plan to celebrate with the children in school, more details will follow.

We are planning a **Community Evening** for later this half term, a date and more details will be with you shortly.

We have provisional dates for the **Advent Fair (28th November)** and **Multicultural May Fair (15th May)**. We will need to get creative when planning these events this year, to make sure that we adhere to covid-19 guidelines and keep everyone safe. If you have any ideas and/or would be **interested in being part of a team to work on this**, then please do get in touch: sarah.fox@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk

Term Dates for 2020-2021 can be found on the [school website](#).

Whole School Messages

Staffing Update

A very warm welcome to Irena Baruch, who has joined the Early Years team as Elderflower Kindergarten Teacher, and also to Tim Kasley who will be Elderflower Assistant. With Beate stepping down as Early Years Coordinator, Renata Stenczel and Irena Baruch will share the role of named Early Years Manager. Beate will continue to support the team with mentoring, supply and helping to establish the Late Afternoon Kindergarten Provision. Rebecca Mitchell will also be joining the team, providing Administrative and Compliance Support.

We are very glad to share that Kelly Scott will be continuing as part of the SEND team, as a 1:1 teaching assistant. There are some other initiatives developing within the SEND department, more on this in the coming weeks.

We are sadly saying goodbye to Catherine Jacobs and Andrea Jarvis; we would like to thank them for all their hard work over the past year in supporting the admin team and wish them all the best for the future.

We are taking a step to assess the financial viability of the school kitchen and for now it remains closed. We would very much like this service to continue and are actively exploring ways to reopen. We will be in touch again shortly to ask for some feedback regarding this.

A full staff list is available [HERE](#) on the school website.

Creative Skills Blocks - opening up to the local homeschooling community

We are delighted to share with you the news that for the coming academic year, class 7/8 will be doing a new and inspiring range of Creative Skills blocks during the afternoons. These include a range of practical and artistic activities such as: Fresco painting, as part of a study of the Renaissance, copper beating linked to Metallurgy in Chemistry, hat making, book binding and more..... Steiner emphasised the importance of hands-on learning for teenagers to bring them out of themselves and to distract them from their turbulent inner lives. It will increase the continuity and depth of experience for the children that they experience through Main Lesson blocks. These blocks will also be opened up to homeschoolers of the same age, thus helping to increase the visibility of the school, bring in income and hopefully recruit more children for the class. More info is available on the school website - [click here](#).

After School Clubs (Lower School) - Feedback Form

Thanks to everyone who has responded already; if you haven't done so already, please do follow this [LINK](#) to provide us with your feedback.

The 'Crocodile' and School Gardens

As you will all be aware, this year we are planning to remove the “crocodile” and create a new playground that will include teaching gardens. The crocodile has served the school for years to the delight of the children and it has become a favourite part of the school for many parents and staff. Sadly, however, it has reached the end of its life and that it is time for it to retire.

We are looking to re-design the school playground into a new space that will include teaching gardens to extend our provision for outdoor education and provide a more meaningful space for work and play. The project will be challenging as we would like the gardens to reflect the ethos of our school by being a creative environment where children can find joy in hands-on learning, and to be a place of beauty and inspiration. We would like to include a perennial flower garden, a vegetable garden, space for outdoor learning and a more inspiring place for craftwork. We are looking for a design that can be partially implemented by the school community and the school children, with the support of professional gardeners and other professionals.

We have been offered a generous donation of £10 000 towards the project but this won't cover the full cost of dismantling and landscaping, in which case this term we will start fundraising and will ask the school community to try to match the donation. The first phase will be the removal of the crocodile in the near future.

During the autumn term we will be presenting some ideas on the garden design to the school community and we will keep you informed about the project as new developments arise. In the meantime, if you have any queries or suggestions please e-mail me on: andor.vince@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk. Thank you.

Andor Vince, Outdoor Teacher

Open Morning - Saturday 26th September - flyer attached, please share

We will be holding an open morning on Saturday 26th September (flyer attached). If you know anyone who may be interested in attending or finding out more about our school, please do share the flyer or put them in touch directly with Rebecca: admissions@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk

Diversity and Inclusion Group

The Diversity and Inclusion group is continuing to meet, please get in touch if you are interested in joining - Anne, anne.patel@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk

Reminder: it's not too late to sign up for PRELUDE – The Foundations of Steiner Waldorf Education – Introductory Online Course 2020-2021

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. 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

The introductory evening on the 14 September is a free taster session; you can book in for it following the link on this [page](#).

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

Community Messages

Take the Bus to School

Dear parents of CSS,

We are hoping to be able to offer a bus service for those children that live in Cambridge and whose parents have working commitments that imply they cannot do drops off/pick ups at school. This was a long established school service which is now run voluntarily by parents. The current Covid-19 situation means that now we might be able to offer this service just two days a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please, do get in touch if you wish to know more (route, price, schedule, safety, etc.): icocla08@gmail.com.

All the best,

Clara & Federico (parents to Emilio & Manuel)

Other Reminders/ Links

Support Links

If you're worried about your **child's anxiety**, YoungMinds is a charity dedicated to children's mental health. They've opened a [parents' helpline](#) for confidential, expert advice. You can reach them at 0808 802 5544. They can also give advice on supporting children and young people through **grief and loss**, click [HERE](#) for more details. [Winston'sWish](#) and [HopeAgain](#) are two other organisations which can offer support. For younger children, a therapeutic story may help, Badger's Parting Gifts by Susan Varney, is a lovely example.

Covid-19 Information and Links

We encourage you to keep up to date with the latest developments and continue to follow government guidelines. Useful links:

- <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>
- NHS: [What parents need to know about COVID-19](#)

Please remember to inform reception if anyone in your household is displaying symptoms of COVID-19, and get tested (more info on testing [HERE](#)) – please let the school know immediately if your child tests positive for Coronavirus.

Please keep in touch

If you have any questions or concerns directly relating to your child, please do contact your class teacher in the first instance.

Key contact information:

Admissions: Rebecca Mitchell – admissions@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk

Fees and finances: Niles Jethwa – finance@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk

Safeguarding Lead – David van Marle – david.vanmarle@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk

SENDCo – Charli Waller (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday) – charlotte.waller@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk

Reception/Admin: Charlotte Burdett (Monday-Thursday) and Bridget Crabb (Monday, Thursday, Friday) reception@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk

Education Manager – Sarah Fox (Monday-Thursday) sarah.fox@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk