

Newsletter Number 7



The Oak Tree - Fulbourn Fen

Dear Parents/Carers,
This beautiful picture has been kindly passed on to us by a parent this week: having this well-known tree, so much loved by the school children (and adults!), wrapped by a shining rainbow and by the sun's warmth is just the message of hope, strength and unity we all need in these times.
Have a good weekend!
Warm wishes
Sarah Fox

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Dates for the Diary

Saturday 28th November - Advent Fair - see update below

Martinmas celebrations will take place across the school the week of the 11th November. More information will follow via class teachers/departments.

Last day of term 17th December (Kindergarten) and 18th December (Lower School)

Spring Term starts on Monday 11th January 2021

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

Whole School Messages

Advent Fair Update

We have some exciting new plans for ways to mark our usual Advent Fair and fundraise for the school. We are looking at an online Advent Bazaar where we will provide goodies to share with your family at Christmas time. Ideas so far include Christmas Cards and Calendars, Bags, T-shirts, Crafts and Gifts, as well as some beautiful recorded stories and puppet shows. We would like to support some of our friendly local businesses that are not able to open during lock down and we are hoping to take part in a Twelfth Night or Three Kings Festival with Fulbourn Arts in January, rather than the planned Winter Festival at the end of November.

More details will be shared next week but if you would like any more information or are able to help make this lovely event happen please get in touch. Many thanks, Rebecca
rebecca.mitchell@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk

Help us Support Those in Crisis

As part of our Martinmas celebrations, the older classes have decided to support Cambridge City Foodbank instead of going on our usual lantern walk.

We will be donating food to them and ask that you **please donate a tin or an item from the most needed list** (poster attached).

There will be a donations box at the school gates at drop-off and pick-up time.

Please give generously by Friday 13th November. It will be much appreciated by those in crisis.

<https://cambridgecity.foodbank.org.uk/>

Alternatively, you can give the gift of light in the darkness by donating to the fuel scheme.

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/displayCharityCampaignPage.action?charityCampaignUrl=CambridgeWarmHomes>

PRELUDE Foundation Course in Steiner Waldorf Education

Testimonials from those joining from Cambridge group (there are fifteen of us enrolled):

"This was my first more in-depth exposure in my Steiner Journey and every week I am so much looking forward to each new lecture. The lecturers are outstanding, the communications during the sessions are very thought stimulating and I enjoy being immersed in this online community."

"I have been enjoying Prelude a lot and learned in a relaxed way from very passionate people. Looking forward to the following lectures."

Update from Alan Swindell, Course Leader:

THE PRELUDE FOUNDATION COURSE IN STEINER WALDORF EDUCATION HAS GOT OFF TO A FLYING START THIS ACADEMIC YEAR, WITH OVER 100 PEOPLE NOW SIGNED UP.

Parents, trustees, support staff, new and experienced teachers and home-schoolers make up the weekly cohort, with an average attendance of around 75 each Monday evening Zoom

session, with those unable to attend catching up via the recordings. Most participants are from the UK, but colleagues from Holland, Lithuania, Belgium, Iceland, Portugal and even India log on at 7.30 GMT to join, listen and engage. It is clear from the feedback we have received that the sessions are meeting a real need for those who want to deepen their understanding of this remarkable education.

With seven sessions completed and 24 still to go, it is not too late to sign up, individually, or as a group. Those who join us in November at the reduced price of £240 will be given free access to the recordings of sessions they have missed.

The price for a January sign up will be £180. As always, you can sign up for individual sessions at £20. Several schools and one home-schooling group have already taken advantage of the group discount (10% off for five or more, rising to 20% off depending on numbers).

For more information please visit the Prelude page on the ASWTE web site or contact me directly.

alan.swindell@aswte.org www.aswte.org/foundation-course

School Lunch Provision for Lower School - Update from Nilesh

We wrote to parents in September on our proposals for reopening the kitchen and providing hot lunches for the children in lower school (Kindergarten provision includes lunch). Our proposal was based on the benefits of hot, nutritious meals for classroom learning and attainment.

More recently the service has not been viable given the low take-up and unpredictability around children wanting meals for only part of the week. However, our proposal was based firmly on an experienced chef running the service on a fully costed basis. But to be viable it needed a high level of take-up which unfortunately didn't materialise as only 21 families confirmed that they would commit. Consequently, we will not be progressing with the re-opening for lower school at this time. We would like to thank all those parents who responded and provided comments.

Class 7/8 Projects - Seeking Mentors - ROCK CLIMBERS WANTED!

In Class 7/8 the students undertake a large, year long, independent project in their chosen area of interest. The project requires them to learn a new skill or develop an area of interest. Each student should have a mentor with whom they can meet on a regular basis to help support and guide them. We are still looking for a mentor for a **rock climbing project**. If you think you could be a good mentor and know about any of the above areas of interest (or know someone who could), please get in touch with me: jody@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk

Parent Survey – Thanks from Sarah

Thank you also to everyone who shared feedback via the Parent Survey. Your responses will feed into our self-evaluation process and review of our school improvement plan. Feedback is welcome at any time, please get in touch: sarah.fox@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk

Covid-19 Reminder

Please inform the school if you or your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). You are advised to get a test as soon as possible and stay at home until you get the result.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

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

Pyrites - Practical Skills Teacher Development Course

“Craft can offer many experiences. A sense of creativity, inspiration and imagination, a means of learning through making and a deep sense of empowerment and value. The Practical Skills Teacher Development Course aims to inspire, offer an opportunity for re-development and re-deployment of skills already acquired. Deepen our understanding for both the educational and therapeutic opportunities and value for the practice of traditional craft work and learning through making. The course is relevant for both Teachers & Parents.”

VENUE: Hereford Steiner Academy, Much Dewchurch. Hereford HR2 8DL

DATES: Seven weekends from: January till July 2021 Cost £1350

COURSE APPLICATION AND FURTHER INFO:

See poster and brochure for further info, dates, content and costs. www.pyrites.org

“Education is a process where the senses inform the mind through doing.”

Advent Strings

A small gift to unwrap each day of Advent beginning on Sunday 29th November and ending on Christmas Eve. Many of the gifts are handmade and they reflect the treasures of the mineral, plant and animal kingdoms and culminate in the wonder of the Nativity. Price £25 including postage. Please email elizaconway_8@hotmail.com or telephone 0115 9392353 to place an order. Thank you. Eliza Conway



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: Nilesh 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

