

17 May 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please see below our weekly newsletter, with some important notices and information about upcoming events.

Best wishes

Sarah Fox

On behalf of the School Coordination Team

Whole school messages/ community updates:

- School Development Evening – June 18th - 7:30pm
- Drama Club with Mr David
- Photographs Reminder
- Waldorf 100 Hanging – Exhibition Reminder

Looking back:

- Multicultural May Fair

Coming up/reminders:

- Curriculum Talk – Art in the Curriculum – Tuesday 21st May – 7:30pm
- Early Years Parent Talk – Children’s Drawings – Wednesday 22nd May – 1:30pm-3pm
- Harvest of Work – Friday 24th May – 2-3pm
- HALF TERM - 27th – 31st May

Other reminders:

- Class 7/8 Presentations – Saturday 8th June
- School Development meeting – Tuesday 18th June - 7:30pm
- Class 7/8 Play – A Midsummer Night’s Dream – 20th and 21st June
- Class Parent Evening reminders

Messages from the Community

- Bushcraft and woodcraft activities: Summer Holiday Clubs

Whole School Messages/ Community Updates

School Development Evening – June 18th 7:30pm

As mentioned in last week’s newsletter, the School Coordination Team has been working alongside staff, trustees, parents, pupils and external advisors to revise the school’s improvement plan. We greatly value the commitment and input of you, our parent body, and we plan to host a parent’s

evening next term, on Tuesday 18th June, that will focus on the school's plans for improvement and developments for the future. There will be the opportunity for discussion and feedback. We hope you can make it along.

Drama Club with Mr David

Next half term I will be running a drama after school club on either Mondays or Fridays from 3:15-4:15. I hope to run the club for the whole of next academic year too. Doing drama with children is one of my all time favourite things. I have written our class plays for the last 8 years and have enjoyed doing drama workshops at the Carnival celebration with mixed age groups. The process of co creation in drama has a magical quality to it as the play begins to take on a life of its own. Drama is also a means by which we can explore the boundaries of ourselves in a playful and safe context. It is a very social activity that builds self confidence.

The sessions will include drama games, speech exercises, collaborative storytelling and improvisation. We will begin by working on co created stories and building a piece together from there that we will perform during the last session. I would also be keen to put on full scale productions at some stage.

The sessions will be open to children from Class 1 up. Numbers are limited to 14 children. I also need a minimum of 8 to be able to run the sessions. The dates for Mondays would be: 3,10,17,24 June and 10 July (£35 for the half term) and the dates for Fridays would be: 7,14,21,28 June, with no sessions on 5th and 12th July (£28 for the half term).

Sign-up sheets will be at reception (I will need to know numbers by Friday 24th May in order to confirm the club will run/ which day). Please get in touch if you have any questions: david.vanmarle@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk

Warm Wishes

David

School Photographs – Reminder

Teachers are handing out school photos; you should receive your child's portrait and class photo with an envelope to give back to your class teacher, or order direct on line. Also available are large whole school photos, available for order; please see Elke at the front desk if you would like a memento of all the pupils and teachers of the lower school gathered by the crocodile. Orders for photos need to be placed, if possible, over the next two weeks before the start of the half term break- by Harvest of Work on Friday 24th May.

Waldorf 100 Hanging – Exhibition Reminder

A reminder that our school Waldorf 100 hanging will be exhibited at the Cambridgeshire Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers (CGWSD) triennial exhibition on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th May (10am-4pm) in Grantchester Village Hall, Grantchester, Cambridge. Come along to the exhibition and let your children see their hanging form part of an exhibition! Have a go

at spinning and weaving - experts will be on hand to help! There will also be a pop-up cafe selling lots of cake, tea and coffee.

Looking back

Multicultural May Fair

"May, queen of blossoms,
And fulfilling flowers,
With what pretty music
Shall we charm the hours?
Wilt thou have pipe and reed,
Blown in the open mead?
Or to the lute give heed
In the green bowers."
E Thurlow

MAY FAIR MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL Saturday 11th May
and the unveiling of our Waldorf 100 wall hanging



There were flowers, pretty music, dancing, changeable May weather and delicious food from lands far and near. The small wide-eyed children were taken to Maggie's puppet land as the taller ones

laughed over David's story; strains of joyful music floated down the corridor as the band practiced while parents laboured under the weight of tables and chairs and arranged food and drink. And at the back of the hall hung a mysterious white sheet.

We counted more than 24 nations represented in our welcoming circle on the green at noon where we greeted one another in these different languages, enjoying a few national costumes and many colourful clothes - and even an Israeli dance. How privileged we are to be part of such a multi-national, multicultural school. Rebecca Mitchell reminded us that we are also part of a worldwide Steiner Waldorf movement with over 900 schools. We can see this as we pass through our school corridor filled with uniquely decorated postcards from schools of every continent.

So what was behind the white sheet? A vibrant, beautiful wall hanging celebrating the natural world. All our children from 3 years upwards have made a contribution with felting, sewing, embroidering, doll making, weaving etc. With great energy, commitment and artistry Tina and Olia have orchestrated this celebration of a hundred years of Steiner Waldorf education. *

A myriad of different food tastes were on offer when at last we could eat. A special mention goes to China for the pop-up dumpling bar - delicious. While hail and rain stopped play for a while - dancing around the colourful maypole was later enjoyed by young and old and we thank the parents and children who played specially for us.

Finally, the joy is also just being together, making new friends, chatting and laughing with the old and observing how the children never seem to be tired of playing together.

*The wall hanging will be on show at Granchester Village Hall on Sat/Sunday 25th/26th May 10-16.00hrs. It is part of an exhibition by the Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers and there will be opportunities for anyone to have a go at spinning or weaving. Do visit!

Inspiring Talk by Sven Saars – A parent's reflection

It was very inspiring and encouraging. Sven had a lovely and very clear way of explaining and illustrating the adolescent years and how the Steiner curriculum supports this developmental stage. It really brought the power of this education home to me and that it would be very beneficial for all Steiner educated children to benefit from this education until they are 18 or 19. Sven showed us that each year builds on the next to finally culminate into the Class 12 projects and Class 12 play in which all what they have learnt and have become comes together as pieces in a magnificent puzzle: the Class 12 Steiner Waldorf Graduate.

Coming up

Curriculum Talk – Art in the Curriculum – Tuesday 21st May – 7:30pm

This talk was delivered at the SIS inspectors annual conference in September 2018 where it was met with high praise. It also ignited great interest in Steiner education: several of the inspectors inquired where the nearest Steiner school was as they were keen to send Grandchildren to one! Whilst giving

particular focus to art as a subject, the talk will explore how and why our approach to teaching all subjects in the class teacher years is a fundamentally artistic one.

Early Years Parent Talk – Children’s Drawings – Wednesday 22nd May – 1:30pm-3pm

Children’s drawings are absolutely fascinating as they portray the essential elements of the developmental process. In the same way as the first babbling is unconnected with particular racial or national characteristics, children’s pictures are also universally human. In the period of the first seven years the language of symbols is echoed all across the world. If we look closely we see that each child conveys their own beautiful messages through the dialogue of their illustrations, but in doing so demonstrates the universal vocabulary of early childhood drawings. Cherish your children’s pictures from their first scribbles to their more complex narratives. They are a gift and they are an expression of who they are and the phase they are in.

If you want to find out more please do come and join us on Wednesday afternoon (22nd May) at 1.30pm in the Parent and Child room.

Harvest of Work – Friday 24th May – 2-3pm

All welcome – come along and see what the children in Lower School have been learning about this term.

HALF TERM - 27th – 31st May - School resumes on Monday 3rd June for all children.

Class Parent Evening reminders

Future Class 1 – 18 June - 8:30am – peep into Class 1/practical preparations

Class 3 – re-scheduled – **new date is Tuesday 4th June 7:30pm**

Class 5/6 – Tuesday 4th June 7:30pm

Kindergarten – TBC

Other reminders/dates (see previous newsletters for more details):

- Class 7/8 Presentations – Saturday 8th June
- School Development meeting – Tuesday 18th June
- Class 7/8 Play – A Midsummer Night’s Dream – 20th and 21st June
- Class Parent Evening reminders

Messages from the Community

Bushcraft and woodcraft activities: Summer Holiday Clubs

This summer we will be running a summer holiday club over two weeks. The holiday club will be run from Monday 15th to Friday 19th July at the Cambridge Steiner School in Fulbourn and from Monday 22nd to Friday 26th July 2019 at Abington Woods, Little Abington village.



The children will engage in bushcraft and woodcraft activities such as fire lighting, outdoor cooking, tracking, foraging, green woodworking and learning survival skills. The children will listen to stories and play outdoor games.

The holiday club is suitable for children from age 7 to 12.

The club starts at 8.30am and finishes at 3pm. The cost of the club is £35 per child per day with subsequent siblings £25 per day.

Spaces are limited. If you would like more information or you would like to enroll your child on the holiday club, please e-mail Andor Vince at vinceandor@outlook.com or call 079 52635317.