



SteinerAcademyExeter Newsletter

Issue No 75 8th Dec 2017

Dates for your Diary

For meetings outside of school hours please use the West Garth Road pedestrian gate to access the site. All evening meetings start at 19.30 unless indicated

Tues 12 Dec lunch time	Christmas lunch - please book on parent pay, it says winter stew but it's not!		Wed 3 rd Jan	Children return to school
Tues 12 th Dec 19.00	Class 7 midsummer night's dream		Fri 5 th Jan	Open Morning
Wed 13 th Dec	Class 9 Christmas Carol at Northcott		Fri 12 th Jan after drop off	Parking meeting in Thomas Hall
Fri 15 th	Wear a Christmas jumper and make a donation for Save the Children		Thurs 25 th Jan 19.30	Class 2 parents' evening
Fri 15 th Dec gates open at 12.45	End of term. School finishes at 14.00 no afternoon care provided. Celebration parents invited at 13.00		Fri 26 th Jan after drop off	Coffee and questions in Thomas Hall
Tues 2 nd Jan	Inset day no children in school		Sat 28 th Jan 10:00 - 16:00	Community work day

Advent spiral

A magical experience



The word Advent derives from Latin, meaning arrival or to come. Advent signifies endings and beginnings and is a time of preparation; the mood is

one of peace and calm, but also of joyful anticipation - particularly for the children - Christmas is coming! Advent begins on the Sunday closest to November 30th and ends four Sundays later, celebrating the coming of winter's darkness and the beauty of light within it.

The spiral represents natural renewal, mystery and life, and appears symbolically in ancient and modern cultures throughout the world. The advent spiral is built from evergreen leaves to symbolise vibrant life even in the coldness of winter.

In the centre of the spiral will be a lit candle. One at a time, each child will carry an apple with a small unlit beeswax candle placed inside it; slowly walking along the spiral path and lighting their candle from the centre light. On their return journey each child will place their apple and candle where they choose along the spiral path. Soft music will be playing. By the end of the celebration the path will be beautifully lit, a reminder that even in the dark days of winter we can bring light into the world to help us on our journey.

Governors meeting with Parents

The first meeting with parents took place on 15.11.17. Ten governors were present together with 25 parents who had children in all years at the school. The governors introduced themselves before Jenni Shute, a parent governor, who did a wonderful job in collating the responses, gave a very clear and succinct feedback and explained how the governing body noted and will act on the responses. Our role and function as governors was explained and then an open Q&A session followed.

It was a positive session and parents were constructive and they were clearly engaged with the school. Questions around the number of GCSEs students take was a hot issue and pertinent following Aegir's presentation at the governor's Teaching and Learning committee only an hour earlier. The questions about the number of GCSE exams students take and their relationship to a Steiner education came from parents with children of all ages and not just those with older children.

It also became clear that parents wanted more advice on progression routes post 16 not only for themselves but also for their children. For instance how many GCSEs and the grades needed for courses in further education and/or employment. Did employers and colleges understand the principles and experiences of a Steiner school?

Other concerns were about the dangers for cyclists in particular travelling to the school; car parking and courtesy of the staff on the school gates.

There was a lot of talent in the room and a number of parents expressed an interest in wanting to be more involved with the school and the meeting represented the largely positive response of the questionnaires. Parents liked the school and the experiences their children are getting. Since the meeting governors have had meetings with interested individuals and we need to think of how we can progress this interest.

It was an invaluable meeting for the governors and we hope for the parents. We have fed back to Alan and now the skill is to demonstrate we are listening and acting upon the issues raised. The latter is a job for the staff at the school. The 3 key messages; GCSEs and the Steiner dividend, progression routes post 16 and information packs and finally, road safety issues. These are all areas where parents are keen to be involved.

It was agreed that the meeting would be at the very least an annual event. A happy and peaceful Christmas to you all. **Steve Jones, chair of governors.**

Parking - our children's safety and consideration of our neighbours

Parking is a hot topic at the moment and one that is only going to get bigger as the school grows. There are many great ideas being discussed but **we need your help** to realise them! Please attend a meeting onthe school is happy to facilitate the meeting but it would be great if we could have a parent to

chair the meetings. Please contact Katie Young if you are interested or can't make the meeting and would like to share your ideas or volunteer to help.

Below are some photos and words from neighbours we have received very recently. Please consider the issues from our neighbours perspective and consider our children safety.

There are frequent examples of parking being unsafe / careless, dam right lazy and disrespectful to existing residents.

I am aware of our ward members concerns, who in turn is responding to local concerns, as to your use of the nearby play area and issues such as this do little to alleviate concerns and in fact exacerbates locals frustration.

I let a comment recently pass where I asked a parent to move due to blocking me in and to which I was looked at like an inconvenience and for which a number of unrepeatable comments where muttered under breath.

I, and I know a number of residents are losing patience with this, we accept it is limited to term and indeed collection / pick up times but the situation needs to change and your parents are doing little to enhance your reputation.



In order to improve safety for children we would also ask that anyone dropping off children park/stop considerately and legally, i.e. do not park

- overhanging driveways
- around corners
- on the bus stop
- where you block sight lines
- Where you might impede other vehicles

...even for a few minutes.

Due to the narrow width of Roundhill Close we would request that parents do not park in this road.

To further improve safety we would suggest that

- you use the turning triangle further up West Garth road, so that children can be dropped on the correct side of the road for the school entrance.
- that the area outside school be kept purely for cars stopping to drop children off, so please do not park and leave your car in this area.

- you drop off confident children at the turning triangle, where they can walk down on the pavement without the need to cross the road.
- unaccompanied younger children can then be dropped as close to the school as possible.

Facilities Team

Free School Meals, Pupil Premium (PP) and Universal Infant Free school Meals (UIFSM)

Important action required by 8th January

Your children may be eligible for free school meals and for additional Pupil Premium funding.

This is different from Universal Free school meals which all KG and class 1 children are eligible. If all parents apply that are eligible the school hopes to raise about £90,000 which is used for your child to help to:

- subsidise the cost of school trips
- pay for additional staffing
- provide for small group or individual tuition
- provide a wide range of extra-curricular activities

If you receive any of these benefits listed below you are likely to be eligible:

- If Income Support (IS),
- Income-based & Contribution-based Jobseeker's, Allowance (JSA) or Employment and Support, Allowance (ESA) on an equal basis,
- Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit,
- Child Tax Credit without Working Tax Credit (WTC) and annual income below £16,190 a year
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (IBJSA)
- Entitled to Working Tax Credit run-on (for a further four weeks after no longer qualifying for WTC)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

To register for FSM you will need to apply you can use the DCC) [online application form](#), which you can email to freeschoolmeals@devon.gov.uk or print out and post to FSM Team, Room L102, County Hall, Exeter EX2 4QD.

Parents and carers can also ring the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019. You can also pick up a form at the school reception. If you are unsure if you are registered you can ring the above number at DCC and they will check for you. If you have any questions please ring Mark on 01803 762783 or email finance@steineracademyexeter.org.uk. **Mark Eyers, Finance**

School photos

Our school photographers came in and took portraits of our students on the 29th November.

Your child should have given you a proof sheet with details of how to view and order these photos.

Please note, if you have not received this proof, click the link below and fill in the relevant information. The photographers will then be able to send you your unique reference number for ordering.

<https://ordermyphotos.co.uk/proofs/index.asp?eventcode=566229>

Community support

I have been reviewing the role of the class rep with governors, teachers and parents. I have been aware of issues within the role. Some parents have found it too big a job to take on others have been confused

by what the role entails. Some parents have felt isolated in the role and others have felt they couldn't join in as they aren't in the role but it is clear that community is important to us all!

As a school with our new system (Arbor) teachers and support staff are well placed to send out information and reminders efficiently, accurately and officially. Parents can also ask for a message to be sent out until contact lists are set up. Please contact Katie.young@steineracademyexeter.org.uk

Rather than asking class reps to help teachers will ask the whole class and then follow this up by approaching individual parents to get involved.

During parent evenings there will be a section given over to community support.

- Asking for specific help (cleaning rota's, accompanying trips,)
- Encouraging someone to take on arranging a social once a term
- Working out the contribution the class will make to the next fayre and who is going to co-ordinate this
- Discuss setting up an email group (yahoo or something similar) or a Facebook page that will help parents keep in contact and arrange socials and fayres

Due to the new Data Protection guidelines the advice is that as a school we don't provide contact details of our parents. If there is a named person who is setting up an email group their details can be passed on to new parents. Parents are welcome to set up their own contact list and distribute it.

The school will provide an email address for ideas to help improve the school and community. ideas@steineracademyexeter.org.uk

There will be a half termly coffee and questions meeting run by Aegir Morgan and Katie Young. This is a place you can ask questions and bring ideas on how to improve our school and community. **Katie Young Communication Lead.**

Kitchen Instagram

Check out our lovely school meals!

http://instagram.com/steiner_kitchen_exeter



Guitar lessons

Matt Bray, our super new additional guitar teacher (Rupert is now completely full up!) has spaces for more guitar pupils. He can teach acoustic, electric and bass guitar. Parents can contact Matt directly on

exeter@yourguitaracademy.com. Lessons are £15/half hour and there may be some PPF support available for students who are eligible. **Fran Andre, Music teacher**

Advent Fayre

We had a bright and cold day for the fayre; turn-out was good and lots of people volunteered. Our first time contributions were an art exhibition by Class 10 students and a Winter Fairy Forest waiting room complete with activities, drinks, snacks, face painting and Class 7 Elves escorting children to the Forest.

We welcomed back the wonderful Winter Fairy Forest and Stuart's Organic Meat BBQ and Class 4 did an amazing job with the pizza oven. Preloved was staffed by Spindlewood KG, Candle Dipping by Class 1M, Wreath making by Elmwood KG, the Tea Room by Class 5 and Cherry Tree KG, Craft Room by Class 3, Tombola by Class 6W, Expedition Club ran a stall, as did Class 4 selling crafts parents had made. Various lovelies (including my Class 7 daughters) helped in the café. Good job everyone.

Big thanks to everyone who baked cakes and biscuits for the Tea Room and made savoury dishes for the Vegetarian Café, this raises lots of money as it is cost free to the school.

All the food cooked in the café kitchen this event was vegan and the majority of ingredients were local and in season. All the fresh supplies bought for the various food outlets at the fayre were organic and from local suppliers, the rest was also organic and came mostly from Essentials Trading. So not only did we raise nearly £4000 for the school, we also supported a number of local businesses including Emma's Bread, Shillingford's Organics and West Town Farm.



Thanks VERY MUCH to Alice, Callie, Jane, Silverbirch KG and the Craft Group for building the Fairy magic, Claire and Paul for the stage management and music, Governor Morag for the parking management, Arabella for the stalls management, Kayte R, Cate, Caroline, Bernedine, Gina, Jane, Nora and Steve the Chef for being stalwarts, Mark and Matt for counting the coins, Richard for being the pizza man and Class 9's Buzz, Lewis and Alex for set up and early gate help.

We are particularly grateful to those staff who give up their time to make the fayre a success - all those who leave their classrooms clean for us! - plus Katie Young for producing the programme and publicity materials, Art lead Laila Darwish and the Class 7 students for the sign writing, Alice Knight for all her help in advance and on the day, Laila Darwish, Theresa Trapp, Frances Dathan, Jenny Salmon and Alan Swindell for giving up their Saturday to help, and Stuart Smales for making it all possible.

Thanks also to all the students who performed, we hope to see you again next time.



Julia who did at least half of the coordination of this fayre has now resigned from the PTFA committee. Julia was deputy treasurer and brought us both attention to detail and dry wit, she will be sorely missed.
Chloe Wilson PTFA Chair

Arbor - parent portal



We have many parents who are now using the parent portal, thank you it makes our life a lot easier! If you haven't yet logged on please do so. If you are having difficulties please contact reception, they can send out help documents. If you are still having problems please drop into reception on a Tuesday after drop off and Katie can help you. At the moment we are still using parent pay for payments so please don't make payments on Arbor!

Next school years term dates (2018 - 19)

Autumn term 2018

Tuesday 4 th Sept 2018	Inset/non pupil day, class 1 picnic
Wed 5 th September	Class 1 - 10 return to school, KG picnic
Monday 22 nd October- Friday 2 nd November	Half term including 3 day of Inset/non pupil days
Friday 21 st December	End of term. School finishes at 14.00, no afternoon care.

Spring Term 2019

Monday 7th January 2019	Return to school for staff and children
Monday 18 th - Friday 22 nd February	Half term
Friday 5 th April	End of term. School finishes at 14.00, no afternoon care.

Summer Term 2019

Tuesday 23 rd April	Inset/non pupil day
Wednesday 24 th April	Children return to school
Monday 6th May	May day bank holiday
Monday 27th May - Friday 31 st May	Half Term
Thursday 18 th July	End of term. School finishes at 14.00, no afternoon care.

School bee keeping

Are you interested in our bees? Would you like to attend a study group learning about bees and looking at Steiner's lectures on bees once a half term? Please contact Samantha Buckle to register your interest.

Samantha.buckle@steineracademyexeter.org.uk

A chance to make slippers and puppets with Samantha Buckle, KG teacher

Slipper making course - 6 places @ £60 each - £50 concessions
We will wash the wool, dye (attempt) and then have a go at making slippers. I estimate 3 Saturdays will be needed.

I would also like to offer a workshop on making simple puppets for storytelling at home with your children - will include a simple seasonal puppet show for inspiration.

1 day workshop, 10 places available, price tbc.

Both courses will be Elmwood kindergarten, booking essential, dates will be confirmed in January. Please bring lunch to share. 10% of proceeds to local children's charity the rest of proceeds to the school.

Please contact Samantha to register your interest. Samantha.buckle@steineracademyexeter.org.uk

#CHRISTMASJUMPERDAY

Make the World better with a Sweater –
Friday 15th December

Save the Children
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

JOIN US ON 15 DECEMBER!
Put on your Christmas jumpers drop a donation
into reception and help children worldwide
GO ON. MAKE THE WORLD BETTER WITH A SWEATER.

christmasjumperday.org

Giotto Jumbo Colouring Pencils

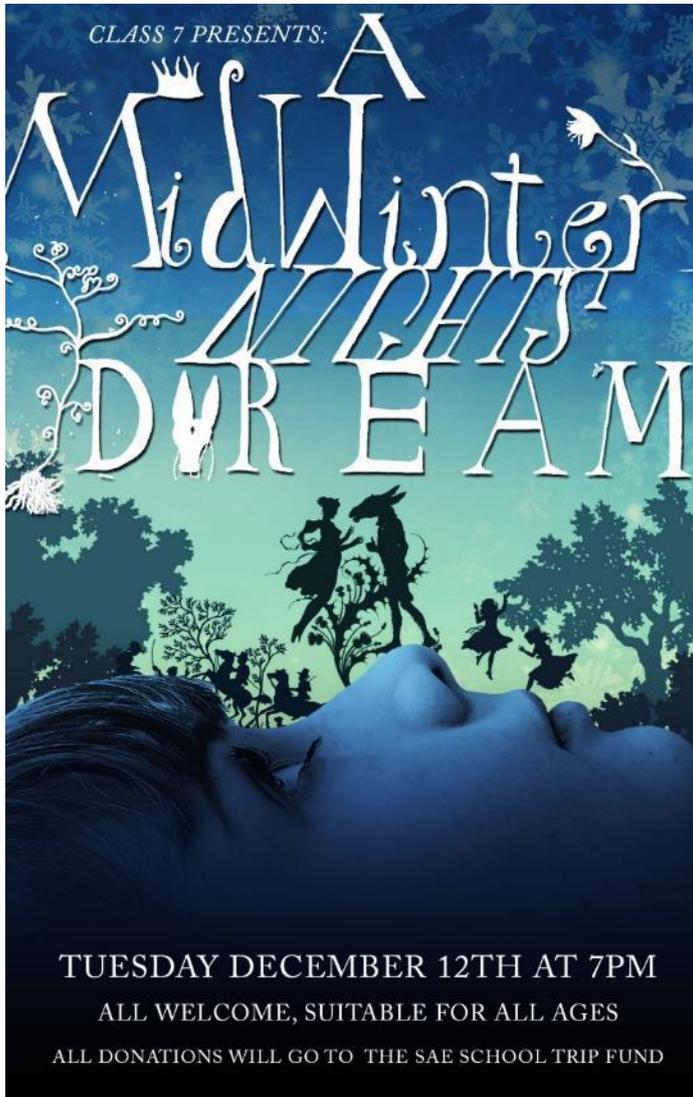


We are selling 12 Giotto Jumbo Colouring Pencils (pencils we use at school) for £ 6.50. Available till Thurs. 14. Dec.2017.

Giotto Mega coloured Jumbo Colouring Pencils, manufacturer of Lyra Ferby Pencils, have a highly pigmented coloured head. Made with wood from sustainable forests (FSC). 12 assorted colours.

Please email Ilse if you wish to purchase any. Cash only.

ilse.canvin@steineracademyexeter.org.uk



Weleda Advisor Kayleigh Diggle Elmwood mummy. Offering advice and offers from the natural skin and healthcare range Weleda. Also founded by Rudolf Steiner, 1921. Follow me on fb @wellbeing.advisor.kayleighdiggle.devon or contact me on 07956714214. Samples available at Kindy.

Vinyasa Flow Yoga Classes @ Steiner Academy Exeter

- Mondays 6 - 7pm & 7.30 - 9pm
- Thursdays 6.30 - 8pm.

- Drop in, mixed level.
- 60 minute classes £7
- 90 minute classes £8 or buy 6 classes for £42 making all classes just £7!

Community News, Events and Advertising

Disclaimer: Placement of advertisements does not imply endorsement by SAE of the products or services offered.

Adorable baby guinea pigs £25 a pair. Call Penelope on 01364 643117

To advertise in this space please contact Dan Nagy; accountpayable@steineracademyexeter.org.uk

Our prices are;

- £15 per term (approx. 6 newsletters)
- £8.00 per half term (approx. 3)
- 1 off event per newsletter £3

If it is free event that would benefit the school community we will advertise it for free. Please pay in advance. The best format for an ad is jpeg and/or words. **Katie Young, Editor.**