



SteinerAcademyExeter Newsletter

Issue No 91 2nd Nov 2018

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

Mon 5 th Nov	Whole school returns from half term		Fri 9 th Oct 10.00 - 12.00	Open morning for prospective parents (reception 2019)
Tues 6 th Nov 16.00 main hall	Parent and staff festival meeting		Mon 12 th Nov	Martinmas/lantern walk open to all
Wed 7 th Nov 12.30 - 17.00	Upper school trip to Henry V @ Northcott		Sat 17 th Nov 10.00 - 12.00	Open morning in KG for prospective parents
Thurs 8 th Nov 19.00	Class 1H and 1Z parents' evening		Sat 17 th Nov 10.00 - 16.00	Work day

Message from Paul

Dear Parents,

I hope that you have had a restful half term. That these two weeks came on the back of just 2 days in school after our Ofsted inspection must have made October feel rather different than usual. I write at the end of a 3-day stretch of inset days where teachers and staff have again been setting their shoulders to some major structural and procedural changes in and around the school. Physically, the school site will appear subtly different from aspects to both site care and signage, as well as how we work with behaviour and communications.

As I shared at our parent forum before half term (on 18th October), our progress towards being a good school by any yardstick, including Ofsted's, and an excellent Steiner Waldorf school is going to be a shared journey over these next six months. Many of the changes we are undertaking internally and the details of the staff trainings, I will not be sharing blow by blow, but rather trying to offer an ongoing description of changes on the ground. For this next week, starting on Monday, pupils and students will encounter a slightly crisper approach to register taking and lateness marking that will, for instance, become particularly alive in our fire drills. The processes around behaviour spoken of by Sarah Stone (below) will make for a new level of parity and clarity in our support for children. Aegir Morgan (Vice Principal) and Tracy Adams (US Lead) will be working with Julie Skinner (Ted Wragg trust) on learning walks across school to move forwards our dialogue on teacher and classroom standards. Tamsin Robertson from Babcock LDP will be in school on Monday supporting Kindergarten colleagues step forwards with a renewed vision from their work together over these inset days.

There are a few staff changes around the site that are interim adjustments ahead of our organisational review. I have written under separate cover to parents of Kindergarten and Class 2 of the immediate changes that affect them. In an ideal world, our work at this point would be looking to drafting adverts for new teachers to join us as we expand in September 2019, but regretfully we are not in that position. To those reflections of crisis management we need, actually, to hold our hands up and say that yes, this is not ideal, yes, this puts additional strain on those students who struggle with change and transition, and I am sorry for this.

In the light of due planning and resetting something of our template, Simon Bissett and colleagues from Babcock LDP will be in school for the next two weeks conducting interviews with all teachers and staff in order to bring some clarity to our roles and responsibilities within the school so that we can be clear amongst ourselves, and with you as parents. A report will go to our new Academy Management Committee (AMC) towards the end of November and I will provide an update here in the newsletter.

On that front, our new AMC met on Tuesday (chaired by Paul Jones) to establish our way forwards in a number of areas, and then on Wednesday colleagues from the Regional Schools Commissioner's (RSC) office visited the school to discuss our future post-Ofsted. Whilst the minutiae of these conversations are inevitably confidential, I left feeling very positive for the future, and the challenge that we spoke of during our parent forum, of embodying an excellence in the Steiner Waldorf education offered by this school, and the potential partners that might help achieve that.

As promised, I will post timings (AM, PM & eve) for 3 parent forums as soon as the Ofsted report is published. I anticipate that there will be many, many questions in its wake, about the school's past, present and future. Whilst times of transition can be chaotic, I need to pay tribute to the courage of staff at this time, and their presence in these inset days. The discipline of our verses, Bothmer movement and singing is an immediately applicable model for our corresponding holding of classes, and I know that we are a different collegiate body today than we were some four weeks ago. I would also like to say thank you for the messages of support received from you as parents, as well as your feedback and challenges. I have asked Julie Skinner to help me address all formal complaints that were outstanding at the time of the Ofsted inspection, and to help us renew our communications policy and procedures. I will continue to share progress in this parent newsletter and increase its regularity to weekly.

For now though, maybe that's enough, and I look forward to seeing many of you at the start of school on Monday. Best wishes, Paul.

Update on behaviour and consequences

As part of our new Behaviour and Consequences procedure, we are introducing a new system from Monday 5th November 2018. This procedure is targeted specifically around the low level disruptive behaviours which impact on learning in the classroom and the high level serious incidences i.e. physical violence and behaviours that make it unsafe for a child to remain in their classroom. Our approach, as always, is to work in partnership with all parents/carers and we would be grateful if you could go through the attached flow chart and discuss with your child/ren. Teachers will also be going through this new behaviour procedure on Monday with their classes.

Children with additional needs will continue to follow their pre agreed Education Health Care Plans and Individual Behaviour Plans.

Thank you for your support in this.

The lovely fluffy Behaviour Team

Martinmas/lantern walk

The nights are drawing in, the leaves are falling, and the fires are warming our homes. As Michael and his dragon fly, we turn toward Martin and the beauty and compassion he teaches us. We have found the courage within to tame the dragon at Michaelmas, and now it's time to show compassion and protect the spark that shines within us all- bringing this light into the darkness of winter.

In early November there is often a patch of sunlight in the dark days, as we are experiencing now. This is traditionally referred to as Saint Martin's Summer.

To celebrate this, we would like to invite all staff, students and parents for a lantern walk around the school itself- bringing the heart of our community together into light. This will take place on Monday 12th November (following the Martinmas date on the 11th).

We would love for this to be a community celebration with all classes involved in contributing in some way, from Class 3 baking cookies, to the older students 'holding' the route and helping along the way with water, song and light.

There are so many ways we can all make this a memorable experience with our students- songs, tableaux, play/performances and the grotto areas that Helena will be organising with parent volunteers. We propose there to be a rolling start to the walk with a window of arrival that allows parents to arrive with their children, find their lantern and bring light into the darkness.

You will notice that the details are not finalised, and this is intentional. We would like to open the planning up to the community. Therefore, we will hold our first joint parent and staff festival planning meeting on the first Tuesday after half term (6th November) at 4 pm. If you would like to be involved in the planning of this beautiful festival, please come along!



Martinmas-

Martin was a Roman soldier, his whole family were Roman soldiers and so this was the natural and only route for him to take and he was very successful in it. One day, Martin was riding in his full Roman colours when he saw a poor man begging and shivering at the city gate.

This man could not be saved by Martin, but the love and care Martin felt for this man was so overwhelming that he got down from his horse, drew his sword, and sliced his long cloak in half, giving half to the shivering man. Giving away his uniform got Martin into trouble, not only with his peers but also with his family, but it encouraged him to leave the army and take a different route in life.

This act of kindness not only warmed the man's body, but also his heart and enabled his light to grow stronger and shine brighter.

Martin's offering should inspire us to see the courage and light in all and to nourish and share within this light into the coming darkness of winter. **Hettie Geering, on behalf of Steiner Academy Exeter**

The 'Yurture Space' (really?!) has arrived! Watch this.....er.....space!



Lunch menu

Week beginning	Week 1 5 th Nov 19 th Nov 3 rd Dec 17 Dec		Week 2 12 th Nov 26 th Nov 10 th Dec	
	Main	Desert	Main	Desert
Mon	Tomato and basil pasta with seasonal greens	Homemade Cake	Macaroni cheese with seasonal green veg	Homemade Cake
Tue	Veggie hotdogs in a bun with onions and tomato and coriander salsa. Salads	Fruity jelly with cream	Homity pie with roasted autumn veg	Fruity jelly and cream
Wed	Seasonal soup with homemade rolls and chunks of cheese and salads	Fruit yoghurt	Seasonal soup with homemade rolls and chunks of cheese with salads	Fruit yoghurt
Thu	Veggie or organic beef Lasagne with seasonal greens	Fruit	Veggie or organic beef Spaghetti bolognaise with seasonal green veg	Fruit
Fri	Pizza ¹ with a selection of salads and potato wedges	Biscuit	Homemade veggie burgers (contains nuts) in a bun with salads and potato wedges	Biscuit

After feedback from upper school students we are starting to offer a light lunch for them. This option will cost the same and will include a sausage roll or cheese and onion slice with a juice or milkshake and flapjack. **Lou Dudley.**