



# SteinerAcademyExeter Newsletter

Issue No 77 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 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

Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Class 3 - Kents Cavern trip	Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Community work day
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan after drop off	Parent choir - you must be able to make all 3 dates	Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> - Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Expedition Club weekend
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan 14.15 pick up	Spindlewood cake sale at the school gates	Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb 19.30	KG parents evening
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan 19.30	Class 2 parents' evening	Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb 14.15 pick up	Class 1 M cake sale
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan after drop off	Coffee and questions in Thomas Hall	Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Seize the day

## Saying goodbye to Christmas in Kindergarten



The children are getting ready for the first Forest day of the year while the adults fill the trolley with food and the old advent wreath. It is a cold, wintry, Monday morning and the children have noticed the chill in the air. At our base-camp by the fire we discovered that the big sail had blown from its rope. Luckily we had Pete with us to fix it. Up the ladder he went while a group of children watched him worked.

The children like working in the woods. A fallen tree has been the perfect prop to help develop their sawing and social skills. They taught each other how to use the saw safely and work as a team.



After our snack it was time to burn the wreath, a small ceremony to close the festive season and step into the New Year. Every adult and child got a green piece from the wreath, holding it above our heads we gave thanks and threw it in the fire. The fire suddenly blazed and the children cried in delight seeing the high flames that were created by the resin from the dried pine twigs.

To keep warm in the woods we play active games, sit by the fire and drink warm drinks. I do want to remind all parents to layer the children's clothing ( a lot of thin layers is better than one thick layer) and to make sure their child has a hat, mittens, scarf and warm socks. We wish you all a happy new year! **Steph Vis, Redwood**



## Changes to the timings of the school day?

### Length of school day and term times.

Following a consultation before the summer break we announced the intention to change school times this academic year. Due to a number of issues we then had to pause the process. We advised parents that if any changes were in the pipe-line that a minimum of three months' notice would be given. We have now had the opportunity to revisit many of the issues that prompted the proposed change in the first place and can confirm that no changes will be made to current school times. Some of you will be delighted with this outcome, others disappointed, but we know that pleasing everyone is never an option in this kind of situation.

Between the consultation and now, many in the school have adapted to the current times and find them, if not ideal, at least workable.

In deciding to stick with the current times we also looked at the length of terms and holidays and the overall time spent in school for children of different ages, comparing this with other schools locally. This has enabled us to opt once again for a two week autumn break and a slightly earlier finish in July. We have created the document included below in order to give the bigger picture.

During this process concerns over parking, traffic and planning permissions have always been in the background. It remains a condition of our planning permission that we stagger pick-up times as much as possible. We could still make a robust case for changes in the future, but on the balance of pros and cons and in the spirit of choosing which battles to fight, we have opted for the *status quo*.

### Times, Terms and Balance: SAE's approach to day and term length.

**SAE recognises the pedagogical, health and social benefits of a relatively short school week for the youngest children.**

- Children under five can access school all day every day but are able to attend for only 3 days a week and are able to go home at 2.15 every afternoon.
- Kindergarten age children can access afternoon school every day but are able to go home at 2.15 every afternoon.
- Children in class 1 (Y2) can access afternoon school but are able to go home at 2.15 on Monday and Wednesday and 2.00 on Friday afternoons.

- Children in class 2 (Y3) can access afternoon school but are able to go home at 2.15 on Wednesday and 2.00 on Friday afternoons.

**SAE recognises the pedagogical, health and social benefits of a relatively longer school week for older children.**

- Children in classes 3 - 7 (Years 4 - 8) can access afternoon school but are able to go home at 2.00 on Friday.
- Children in classes 8 - 10 (Years 9 - 11) are expected to attend school all day every day, including Fridays.

SAE monitors comparable schools (Steiner academies) and local Exeter schools. It seeks to align its day and term length with the other Steiner academies and the timing of its holidays with local schools.

Class 1 - 5 (Years 2 - 6) have school days of 6hr 45 mins. compared with the average in neighbouring primary schools of 6 hr.30. However, with Friday early finish (1hr 45 mins) we offer 45 mins less/ week.

Class 6 -7 (Years 7 - 8) have school days of 6hr 45 mins. compared with the average in neighbouring secondary schools of 6hr 20mins (we do 25 mins more) with an early finish we do 5 mins less a week.

Class 8 - 10 (Years 9 - 11) have school days of 6 hrs. 45 mins 5 days a week, i.e. 2 hrs 5 mins more a week when compared with the average in local secondary schools.

This gives 125 mins x38 weeks = 79 hrs extra. This is equivalent to offering an additional 11 school days. However, as we do 5 fewer days than neighbouring schools our older students have approximately 6 more days more than those in local secondary schools each year.

**SAE recognises the pedagogical, health and social benefits of a longer half-term break in the autumn term.**

**SAE aims to keep half-term length to a maximum of 7 weeks, with the ideal being 6 weeks.**

**Alan Swindell, Principal.**

## **Congratulations!**

Over 60 of our students had 100% attendance last term. Well done! (Not all are photographed here!)





## Thank you!

We raised £86.71 for Save the Children with Christmas jumper day. **Dana Jackson, parent.** Thanks to Dana to organising it all!

## A call for loose parts

The Site Development Group (SDG) is currently working on ways to enhance and enrich the children's play opportunities and experiences across the entire school. One outcome of this work is a desire and a need to facilitate the deepening of open-ended, movement-rich play through the use of loose parts that the younger children (Lower School) can build and create with. Thus, we would very gratefully receive any donations of wooden blocks, planks, boards, timber, plastic or metal pipes and tubes, car/ tractor tyres, wooden crates, chests, boxes, sleepers and pallets. **Please speak to reception if you have a donation.**

Also, if you work for a company that might be able to help provide these kind of items, or if you know someone who does, please let me know so that I can approach them. We are also looking for soil and wood/bark chippings. Please liaise with me if you have any leads or any questions. Many thanks in advance. **Daniel Friedeberg (on behalf of SDG)** - [daniel.friedeberg@steineracademyexeter.org.uk](mailto:daniel.friedeberg@steineracademyexeter.org.uk)

## Host families needed!

We are pleased to announce we will be hosting two language schools this year. The first collaboration with Exeter College, hosting a group of students from Thailand, who will be coming to the school for four weeks in April. Then at the end of the summer term, we will have our Italian students as we have done for the last two years. We are looking for host families for both schools, so if you think you could host a teenager for up to four weeks, please contact Reception. The Thai school will pay host families £130 per week. **Jenny Salmon, Resources Manager.**

## Parent and child groups

Spaces available on a Tuesday for 3 - 4 year olds and Wed for birth - walking



**SteinerAcademyExeter**  
creative, active, academic in balance

### Parent and child groups

Spaces available now in birth - walking  
and 3 - 4 yr old groups  
3 - 4 yr old groups highly recommended if your  
child is starting in reception 2018

Within the groups the rhythm is constant and this becomes a reassuring environment for parents and children to explore Steiner education. The Steiner philosophy runs through the groups, festivals are celebrated and seasonal crafts explored with the same reverence as the whole school.



For more information please email Tara Milford  
[parentandchild@steineracademyexeter.org.uk](mailto:parentandchild@steineracademyexeter.org.uk)

## There is still time to apply for Yr 7 2018



**SteinerAcademyExeter**  
creative, active, academic in balance

There is still time to apply for  
spaces in yr 7 for 2018  
Interested?  
Come and visit on Fri 3rd  
March 10 - 12

Book online [www.steineracademyexeter.org.uk](http://www.steineracademyexeter.org.uk)  
or email [admissions@steineracademyexeter.org.uk](mailto:admissions@steineracademyexeter.org.uk)



## LEGO NEEDED

If you have any Lego at home that is being unused please donate to our school. It is needed to deliver Lego therapy to some of the children. Please hand donations into reception. Thank you **Zoe Collins, teaching assistant.**



## Are you a closet Steiner Teacher? Time to come out.

At the end of this month we will be hosting a new type of event, but possibly one that will be needed more and more in the future. As a growing school we will continue to create new teaching posts for several years to come, as well as needing to strengthen and deepen the understanding and skills of our existing staff.

At the end of January we are hosting an open day for anyone who has ever thought about becoming a Steiner teacher. We expect that this will be interest to students currently in teacher training, to teachers who have worked in other settings but are in need of a different challenge and working environment, and also to parents whose connection with this education, although new, may be prompting them to consider a life and/or career change, now or in the future. The advert we have put out there says:

*If you are interested in broadening the reach of Steiner education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, come and visit us. Spend time in our classes and kindergartens, meet staff, pupils, governors and families. See a Steiner School at the leading edge of education in the South West.*

Even if your interest is only very tentative and such a step may seem far off, we would still love to see you. We learned from the Summer School event we ran in August that everyone has to move at their own pace but that everyone can benefit from a fresh perspective and from asking themselves some new questions. **Alan Swindell, Principal.**

If you would like to attend, please register with at

<http://www.steineracademyexeter.org.uk/information/open-mornings-and-days>

## School business manager needed!

We are looking for someone exceptional to fill our newly created post of SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER.

For more information and to apply see our website. <http://www.steineracademyexeter.org.uk/current-vacancies>

## COME JOIN THE SAE PARENTS POP-UP CHOIR!

**Fridays - 19th Jan, 23rd Feb, 16th Mar @ 9 - 10.30am.**

Attendance at all dates please as we will be working on the same songs to progress together.

Following on from the inspiration of Elli Shepherd, I am delighted to announce that we have the go-ahead to run a parents pop-up choir in the SAE music room on the above Fridays after drop off (this was overwhelmingly the most popular time). I'm sorry if there are any of you who can't make this, but sadly we're never going to be able to find a time that suits everyone.

Claire Johnstone is interested to come and support with a song(s) she can share too, and if anyone would also like to step forward, please let me know. PLEASE EMAIL ME TO CONFIRM YOUR INTEREST -

[fran.andre@steineracademyexeter.org.uk](mailto:fran.andre@steineracademyexeter.org.uk)

This is important as I will email you to remind you about choir rehearsals and will be the main method of communication. Very much looking forward to singing with you all! **Fran Andre, music teacher.**

## Congratulations



to Cillian McCarthy in Class 6M for achieving a silver medal in the 400m freestyle at a Level 3 competition in Bristol last weekend. Cillian has been training hard (10 hours a week) with Exeter City Swimming Club and quickly progressed from their Learn To Train programme to their Competitive Development programme. He has learnt a lot of complex skills needed for competitive swimming, including starting from the blocks, strokes, associated drills, race starts, turns, etc. During a typical Speed and Stamina session he will typically swim up to 3,000 metres over a 2 hour session. We wish Cillian all the best for all future competitions and training! **Daniel Friedeberg, movement teacher.**

## Easy fundraising for our school? - If you shop online you can!

If you register with <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> and find Steiner Academy Exeter you can raise money for the school. It is really easy to do - I promise it took me less than a minute to sign up (Editor)! We recommend you download the donation reminder. Easy fundraising doesn't affect the cost to you. Every time you shop online a donation will be sent to our school. It seems to depend on the shop as to how much they donate. It appears to be 1 - 5%. **Dan Nagy, finance.**



## Community News, Events and Advertising

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

### Lift needed

We live at the top of Farm Hill Road in Exwick and walk in and back from school come rain or shine. With winter upon us I would love a lift for us. My poor boy have frozen fingers - even with gloves on! Please contact Jess on 07401802820 or [jwetherden@me.com](mailto:jwetherden@me.com) if you can help.

### First aid courses run by our very own Danny Parcell!

Dear SAE community, I will be running a 1 day Emergency First aid course on February 14th at the school. This course will have a lot of emphasis on keeping young children safe. The whole day is available for only £50 for anyone with a connection to the Academy. Please contact me on **07904100228** or [danny.parcell@steineracademyexeter.org.uk](mailto:danny.parcell@steineracademyexeter.org.uk) to book a place.

I will also be running a 3 day First aid course 14-16th February which is available for £150 for anyone with a connection to the school.

This is a great introductory offer as I begin to offer First Aid training courses. Please feel free to contact me if you have a need for any specific courses or training. I can be quite flexible and we can run a course to suit your needs. Danny Parcell, First Aid Coordinator Steiner Academy Exeter.

**To advertise in this space** please contact Dan Nagy; [accountpayable@steineracademyexeter.org.uk](mailto: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.**

ENSWaP Conference 2018  
"Digital Reality in the Waldorf  
School" JOIN US IN



**Bologna, Italy** 13-15 April 2018 <http://enswap.org/conferences/2018-bologna/>

Digital technology has become part of our everyday life. Some people embrace it without any questions, others demonise it – but for most of us it is an exciting challenge. At our conference we aim to look further than the question of whether to use smartphones at school. We would like to explore such issues as:

- How can we find the right balance for our children?
- What is age-appropriate digital education?
- How to remain human and humane in this digital world?
- How to prevent game or social media addiction?
- What is SDD?
- What will the future look like?

**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!

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City Guilds  
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**Live band concert**  
**For our school community !!!**

# **Seize the Day**

*Bold, beautiful, frontline, original folk*

**At Steiner Academy Exeter**



**Sat. 3rd March**

Doors open at 5.30pm. Tickets £5, Children Free.

Tickets can be purchased at reception.

Drinks and snacks available on the day.