



SteinerAcademyExeter Newsletter

Issue No 54 16th Sept 2016

Dates for your Diary

Sat 17 th Sept	Work day	Mon 17 th - Fri 28 th Oct	2 week half term
Wed 21 st Sept 19.00 - 20.30	Yr 7 open evening for prospective parents	Tues 1 st - Thurs 3 rd Nov	Kindergarten individual photos
Wed 21 st Sept 19.30	Class 2 parents' evening	Wed 2 nd Nov 9.30 - 11.00 and 19.00 - 20.30	PTFA meeting in Thomas Hall
Wed 21 st Sept 19.30	Class 1 parents' evening	Fri 4 th Nov 10 - 12	Open morning
Thurs 22 nd Sept	Class 6 parents' evening	Sat 5 th Nov 10 - 12	Reception open morning for prospective parents
Wed 28 th Sept 19.30	Class 5 parents' evening discussion with Alan re SATs	Thurs 10 th Nov	Martinmas - lantern walk for classes - time tbc
Mon 26 th Sept	Class 3 trip to West Town farm	Sat 12 th Nov	Class 9 Bar Mock Trial - Bournemouth
Thurs 29th Sept	Michaelmas class 1 - 9 parents invited at 1.15 please bring food to share - see below	Fri 11 th Nov	Martinmas - lantern walk for Kindergarten - time tbc
Wed 5 th Oct 9.30 - 11.00 and 19.00 - 20.30	PTFA meeting in Thomas Hall	Thurs 24 th Nov 4.30 - 5.30	Class 1 parents' evening
Wed 5 th Oct 19.00	Class 7 parents' evening	Sun 27 th Nov	Advent Spiral for Kindergarten, parents invited - time tbc
Thurs 6 th Oct 16.30 - 17.30	Class 4 parents' evening	Mon 28 th Nov	Advent spiral for classes parents invited to younger classes - time tbc
Fri 7 th Oct 10.00 - 12.00	Open morning for prospective parents	Fri 2 nd Dec 10 - 12	Open morning
Sat 8 th Oct 17.00 - 21.00	Ceildh for all families £5 per adult including food children free	Sat 3 rd Dec	Advent Fair
Wed 5 th Nov 9.30 - 11.00 and 19.00 - 20.30	PTFA meeting in Thomas Hall	Wed 7 th Dec 19.30	Class 6 parents' evening
Tues 11 th Oct 19.00 - 20.30	Yr 7 open evening for prospective parents	Wed 14 th Dec	Class 6 trip to the theatre
Wed 12 th Oct 19.30	Kindergarten parents' evening	Thurs 15 th Dec 19.00	Class 6 play
Thurs 12 th Oct 19.30	Class 8 parents' evening	Fri 16 th Dec 13.00. Last day of term	Parents invited to Christmas celebration. School finishes at 14.00 no afternoon care

Message from our Principal - Dress Code

Questions have arisen recently around the Dress Code and how it is enforced.

The Dress Code is under-pinned by a handful of educational, social and economic assumptions. Sometimes it is helpful to be explicit about these things.

First things first: clothing needs to be conducive to school work, which includes lots of movement; it also it needs to be comfortable and season-appropriate.

Then it starts to get complicated.

We all use clothes and personal adornment to signal all sorts of things: status, mood, intention, social preference. We also use them to project something of our personality and to mark our place in the world. The desire to do this at school increases as the children get older. Some are blissfully unaware of what they are wearing until puberty sets in. Others have their awareness heightened by peer pressure, older siblings, or their own interest in aesthetics and decoration.

We allow a discreet use of jewellery and make-up from class eight onwards. It is a balancing act between respecting the students' developmental phase on the one hand and reining in excess on the other.

We draw the line at unnatural hair colouring, facial piercings, or clothes that expose too much of the body. We share with the older students the impact their choices may have on younger children, reminding them that they may be role models without even knowing it. We also acknowledge the pitfalls of premature sexualisation and the dangers of awakening body-image issues in young children.

We also monitor logos and images. The not-so-subtle subtle impact of French Connection UK's advertising campaign a few years ago was an extreme example of how words and images float in front of us all the time and affect us unconsciously. Whilst branded clothes may be comfortable and discreet, they can also be a way of reinforcing status, an unspoken *'I can afford this kind of top, you can't'*. We also object to the use of the human being as an advertising hoarding. I am not aware that GAP and Jack Wills pay for the space they rent on our children's torsos. This is another interesting one to discuss with the students as they get older.

When students contravene the dress code we send reminders home and tell students to cover-up sometimes to turn clothing inside out. They very rarely object and usually take a *'it's a fair cop'* attitude. We also try to avoid embarrassing the student. They may not have an alternative to the top they are wearing or the torn jeans.

With hair dye the rule is *'get it sorted quickly or cover up'*. This is not always easy, and the guilty party soon discovers the dubious delights of repeated rinsing.

The key phrase in all of this is *'we draw a line...'* It has to be drawn somewhere, with as much sensitivity and consciousness as possible. We also draw a line under the amount of time and energy we are willing to invest in debate and discussion around what students wear. **Alan Swindell, Principal**

Volunteers needed

Are you interested in volunteering at school? We now have opportunities to get involved across the school. Please get in touch if you would like to offer your time.

Email: volunteer@steineracademyexeter.org.uk for more info. We look forward to hearing from you.
Kate Amphlett, Volunteer Co-ordinator.



A special week for the new Class 1



Class 1 children were welcomed by the whole school in their first assembly. They were led into the hall by their class 8 buddies whilst the rest of the school sang to them.



After a lovely lunch of some delicious food to share brought by Kindi parents, the transition children were taken up to the "transition arch" - the Yew tree, beautifully decorated with branches and flowers and where Frances was waiting for them together with her two assistants Zoe and Karen. Each child was led to the foot of the steps by their Kindi teacher who bid them goodbye and where they climbed up to be greeted and received by their new teacher Frances who shook their hands and placed a gold crown on each of their. Our children approached the steps confidently and with some anticipation as their Kindi friends, teachers and parents sang "Make good friends, but don't forget the old ones" to accompany them on this their very special journey to Class 1.

As a relative newcomer to this poignant celebration, one could not fail to be moved by its beautiful simplicity; the excited and proud look on the faces of the children as they took their big step away from Kindergarten, and the grace and warmth waiting for them in the form of their new teacher Frances. It was a joy to witness.

Thank you to those children, to the Kindi teachers, Frances and to everyone who made this year's Transition such an unforgettable and moving event. Go gently Class 1! **Lucinda Martinez, Kindergarten assistant.**

Kindergarten Gate

The double gates near the car park close at 9.05 so that the assistants can start the day with their children. Please don't use the Ark gate to leave the garden as this creates a safeguarding concern for their children. After 9.05 please go out the pedestrian gate and if necessary walk up the drive to the car park. **The Kindergarten Teachers.**



Welcome to Nicholas White - Eurythmy



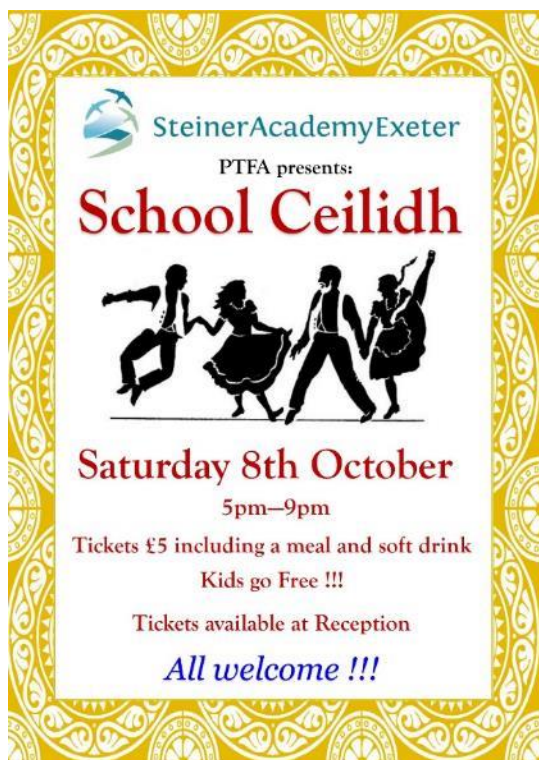
Nicholas White will be picking up the baton (or the copper rod) of teaching eurythmy in our school.

Eurythmy has been sadly missed in the timetable since Prue Benson's memorable input in our first two years of existence. The way in which eurythmy combines movement with music, speech, spatial and social awareness and aesthetics makes it the perfect tool for integrating the `active, creative and academic`.

Nicholas attended the first year of the Steiner Waldorf teacher training course in South Africa before moving to the Goetheanum in Switzerland to further his knowledge of the education. This led to the 4 year degree course in eurythmy before his return to the UK. More recently he has been teaching ICT at the South Devon Steiner school and accompanying eurythmy lessons there.

His first task this year was to put approximately 45 of us through our paces during one of our pre-term Inset days, a daunting task that left him seemingly unruffled.

Nicholas will be taking time to get acquainted with the school and the children, starting with the younger lower school classes and a modest timetable. This will hopefully expand as eurythmy starts to find its rightful place in the school. **Alan Swindell, Principal**



Year 7 admissions for 2017

This year is the first year in which we have had a class in year 6 (Class 5), the year in which, in the primary/secondary system, parents need to apply for a place at secondary school for the following year. We will be adding a whole new class to the current year group next September, to go through to Upper School alongside Jenny Wragg's class. **If your child is already in Jenny's class, there is nothing you need to do - the pupils will carry on right through to year 11.**

If you have a child who is currently in year 6 in another school, and you would like them to come here in year 7, you need to **apply now to the Devon County Council Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme**

at <https://new.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place> . The first round of admissions closes at midnight on 31st October.

If your child is on the waiting list for our current year 6/class 5, you should also apply for a place in year 7

2017 via the DCC Co-ordinated Scheme. If a place comes up for your child before the next academic year, they would simply join the existing class during this academic year.

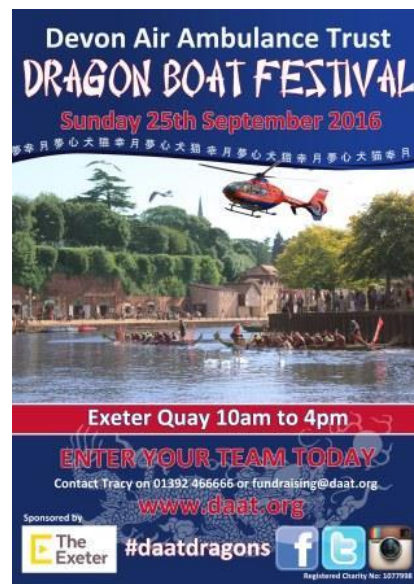
Year 7 open evenings We are holding two major open evenings for prospective parents of year 7 in 2017. These evenings will be an opportunity to experience some subject lessons, to meet teaching staff and to discuss any admissions questions. The evenings are Wednesday 21st September and Tuesday 11th October from 7pm. These events are aimed at prospective parents and families interested in joining the school in year 7/class 6 2017, but current parents are also welcome. **Jenny Salmon, Admissions.**

Dragon Boat Racing for Devon Air Ambulance



Staff and students are taking to the water to raise funds for Devon Air Ambulance by entering the Dragon Boat Festival on Sunday 25th Sept. Please join us on the day and sponsor us via

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/steineracademyexeter> or in the dragon tin in reception! We will be practising on dry land next week - I promise to take some photos! **Katie Young, Dragon Boat.**



After school Games and Gym Club

The format will be slightly different from how it was last year.

It will continue to be on Thursdays but will now run from 3.45 - 5pm. It is open to students in Classes 6, 7, 8 & 9. The first half of each term will be given over to games and a particular sport and gymnastics will then take place during the second half of each term - please see timetable below for details

Autumn Term

Block 1 (first half-term): Games & Ultimate Frisbee

Block 2: (second half-term): Gymnastics

Spring Term

Block 3 (third half-term): Games & Volleyball

Block 4 (fourth half-term): Gymnastics

Summer Term:

Block 5 (fifth half-term): Games & Basketball

Block 6 (sixth half-term): Gymnastics

Places are limited to a maximum of 20, so please email me at

daniel.friedeberg@steineracademyexeter.org.uk to book your child a place. Places will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis. If your child is only interested in attending certain blocks please clearly specify which ones they would like to attend.

Rather than paying per individual session as was the case last year, each half-termly block will cost £15; however there is no charge for students who are eligible for free school meals. Payment will be set up via your Parent Pay account once your child has been booked onto the block. As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me via email. **Daniel Friedeberg - Movement Lead**

Please note parents will not be able to get on site to pick up at 17.00 you are welcome to park in the school car park and arrange to pick your child up from there.

After school Drama Club

The club is now open to class 5 and takes place every Monday till 17.30. Please can you email reception by Monday 9.00 to let them know if your child will be attending drama club on a regular basis and if you are picking them up or they are making their own way home. The cost per half term will be £15 which will be added to your Parent Pay account.

Please be aware that you will not be able to gain access to the school site to pick up your child, a member of staff will escort students to the school car park gate at 5.30. You are free to park in the car park without a permit to pick up from clubs. **Danny Parcell, Drama Club.**

Housekeeping!

A few reminders, we don't want too many do's and don'ts, please be assured we put these in place for the safety of our children, staff and parents.

Please -

- Don't use your mobile phone on site.
- Don't come on site before 8.45.
- Don't send your children over the gate or attempt to get over yourself.
- No scooters or bikes to be ridden on site
- Only park in the car park if you have a parking permit (we hope to issue them on Monday)
- park legally and considerately locally
- when parking always be aware of small children and bikes
- if your child is ill inform the school before 9.00 by phone or email
- if your child arrive after 9.00 (class 8&9) or 9.15 (KG and class 1-7) please ensure they report to reception - they will be given a card to inform the teacher they have been placed on the register
- if you need to request time off for your child either a medical appointment or any other reason please fill out a S2 form as soon as possible

All of this information can be found in the parents' handbook we are currently updating it but last years is available on the website <http://www.steineracademyexeter.org.uk/information/parents-handbook> if you think something is missing or could be explained better please let us know via Katie Young Katie.young@steineracademyexeter.org.uk

Wanted - scrap copper



old electrical cables, pipes wanted for metal work.
Ruth Gardiner, Land Craft.

ruth.gardiner@steineracademyexeter.org.uk

Wanted - engines for class 9 physics in November



4-stroke internal combustion engines for class 9 to take to bits. If a parent or 2 is willing to take on the coordination of this please contact reception. Really we need 9 +, if you have more than 2 or 3 students to an engine then someone is doing nothing and getting bored. Ideally they would be small old car engines like an old mini or Morris minor engine. The modern engines are all electronics, sealed boxes and the large engines are too big to handle. A few big mower engines would work. We need to have the oil drained out of them and the exterior to be jet washed. The engines do not need to work but cannot be seized up, we want to be able to turn them over to see the crank shaft, pistons and tappets working. We will also need to borrow the

same number of socket sets when we take them to bits (and put them back together again. Can you get in touch via reception admin@steineracademyexeter.org.uk. Thanks, Martin Levien, Physics Teacher.

PTFA



Thank you to Andy Robinson for his wonderful photos. Andy is available for commissions - you can contact him via email: theforewarning@googlemail.com

The summer fayre went really well, we had a lovely day. Something like 700 adults came through the gate and we raised £4000 thanks to having multiple enterprises run by staff and parents all giving 100% of their takings to the PTFA. If you missed it the highlights were: Pony rides, puppet shows, pottery have-a-go, comedy and storytelling, live music, garland making, therapy tent, strawberry splat game, coconut shy, wholefood café, organic meat BBQ, strawberries and cream, ice-cream, tearoom, pre-loved clothing boutique, plants and books for sale and 12 quality artisan stalls (who took their takings but paid a pitch fee).

Big thanks to everyone who donated their time preparing for the day and helping on the day, we were a great team. Huge thanks also to all those who donated savoury dishes for the café and cake for the tearoom. **Next year's summer fayre will be on Saturday 1st July.** If you'd like to help in any way please get in touch ptfa@steineracademyexeter.org.uk
Chloe Wilson, PTFA Chair

PTFA meetings are every first Wed of the month (term time) at 9.30 and 19.30 in Thomas Hall - all welcome. Next one is Wed 5th Oct.

Don't miss the Ceilidh on Sat 8th Oct or the Advent fair on Sat 3rd Dec.



School meals

Parent Pay is working smoothly again. The only way to book and pay for school meals is via Parent Pay. Any problems please speak to reception, thanks. **The Finance Team**

The Ark@Steiner holiday club



Where learning is child's play

If you need care for the half term holiday in October please let us know by the 23rd September. If there isn't sufficient interest we may not be able to offer both weeks. To book please ring 01392 425551 or the club mobile 07516018985. We also offer breakfast and after school clubs. **Sharon Parrot, Ark@Steiner**

Community News, Events and Advertising

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

Please contact Katie Young if you would like to advertise here newsletter@steineracademyexeter.org.uk

Family looking for short term stay based in South Africa, we have 2 small children and are staying in the UK to be close to family till Xmas. We are looking for a house sit, rental or in-kind arrangement where we could stay Oct-Dec (or part of). Please contact: bridgetsteffen81@gmail.com or 0794731298

	<h3>Creative Contemplations</h3> <p>Explore the meditative and therapeutic aspects of crafting on relaxing and affordable two-day retreats. Accommodation, meals and nurturing provided. Bring your own project, or choose from ours. Beginners welcome.</p> <p>www.creativecontemplations.co.uk</p> <p>Retreats from £130 (instalments available)</p>	
<p>Boscastle, Nov 11th-13th, Beer, (pictured), Dec 9th-11th; Cheddar, Jan, 20th-22nd</p> <p>£10 donation to Steiner Academy, Exeter, for every place booked from this advert</p>		

Brood Film Fest 2016



You are invited to a free all day looped public screening of Brood Film Fest 2016; the first annual international short film festival focused entirely on early parenthood in the moving image. Drop-in to Exeter Phoenix anytime between 11am and 9pm to see the work of sixteen hand selected artists/filmmakers from around the world reflecting their own personal experiences of 21st century pregnancy, birth and new parenthood. From the ambiguous to the sublime, from the hilarious to the downright shocking, from the tragic to the transformational; Brood Film Fest brings you parenthood as never seen before in public. For more information, visit www.broodfestival.com

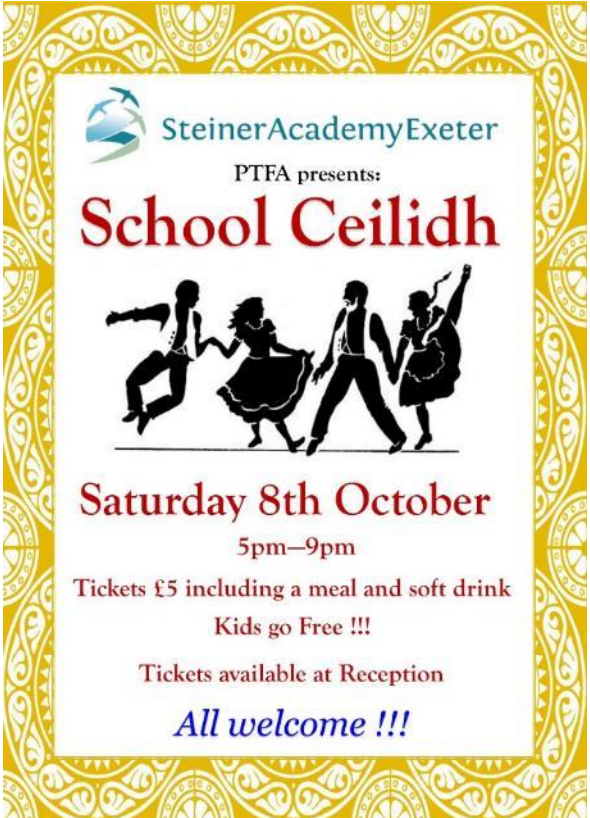
Bureau for sale



Offers over £100 to be sent by email to caroline.fisher@steineracademyexeter.org.uk by 10/10/16. Currently available to view (and take measurements) in reception. It is probably English and late 19th Century. Sold as seen, buyer to collect

Photographer

Andy Robinson who took the PTFA fair photos and the opening ceremony is available for commissions. Andy studied Photography at the University of Plymouth. He specialised in portraiture, but since graduating has worked on many different subjects, including weddings, social events & promotions. You can contact him via email: theforewarning@googlemail.com



SteinerAcademyExeter
PTFA presents:
School Ceilidh

Saturday 8th October
5pm-9pm

Tickets £5 including a meal and soft drink
Kids go Free !!!

Tickets available at Reception

All welcome !!!