

The St Michael Steiner School

Hanworth Park, Park Road, London TW13 6PN

2nd October, 2015

Park Road, Hanworth Park, London TW13 6PN

Email: info@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk

Website: www.stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk

Dates for Your Diary

OCTOBER

Mon 5th (7-8.30pm) — Class 4 Parents' Evening

Mon 12th (7-8.30pm) — Class 2 Parents' Evening

Mon 19th (7-8.30pm) — Class 1 Parents' Evening

Mon 19th (7-8.30pm) — Class 5 Parents' Evening

Mon 19th (7-8.30pm) — Class 6 Parents' Evening

Thu 22nd (3.45pm) — School Ends for Half-Term

Fri 23rd (all day) — INSET DAY (no school)

NOVEMBER

Mon 2nd (8.30am) — Back to School

Sat 14th (11am-2pm) — Open Day

Thu 26th (9.30am-12.30pm) — Open Day

DECEMBER

Sat 5th — Advent Fair

Wed 16th (12.30pm) — End of Michaelmas Term

JANUARY

Wed 6th (all day) — INSET DAY (no school)

Thu 7th (8.30am) — Start of Spring Term

PARENT & CHILD GROUPS



It has been a pleasure to welcome back families from our groups last year, as well as the new ones who have just started. Our new 'Next Steps' group is getting off to a good start. Some of the children have come from last years 'baby' group. To see them crawling, climbing, walking in our garden is a beautiful sight to behold.

From the beginning of the term until half-term all morning groups will be outside in our Woodland Garden. Wednesday and Friday afternoon groups will be in the Kindergarten room in the main building.

Until half-term ALL groups will be on a weekly booking basis. Later in the term, the Morning Groups and Parent & Baby Group will be booked on a half-termly basis for up to eight families in each group. The Wednesday



and Thursday afternoon groups will remain on a weekly booking basis.

Please email/phone reception to book a place on the morning of your chosen session; details below.

- LEIGHA HIPKIN

Wednesday

10am-12noon – Next Steps (New Group)

For children who can now stand, up to 2 and a half years.

1.30-3.30pm – Parent & Child Group

From infants to 3-4 year olds.

Thursday

10am-12noon – Parent & Child Group

From infants to 3-4 year olds.

1.30-3.30pm – Outside Woodland Garden

Session for infants to 7 year olds.

Friday

10am-12noon – Parent & Child Group

From infants to 3 year olds.

1.30-2.45pm – Parent & Baby Group

For young babies, to 1 year / 18 months (who can now stand).



Cost

All sessions £6 per family

Concessions available – speak to Leigha

Your first visit to our groups is free



If you have something you would like to contribute to the Newsletter - maybe you would like to write something about a school event, or maybe you have been to an interesting talk outside the school, or perhaps you have a selection of photos! - send your contributions to admin@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk The deadline for the next newsletter is Sunday 1st November.

News from the Early Years

A very warm welcome to the start of our new school year from our two kindergarten groups. We have fifteen new children as well as two new members of staff in our early years team! In Maria's group we welcome siblings Narina and Esben, along with Grace, Georgia, Sammy, and James, brother to Henry. In Katie's group we welcome sisters Lila and Eady, along with Charlie, Leon, Deya, Will and Lilly. We welcome twins Guy and Giselle, one in each kindergarten. Each group has a healthy balance of boys and girls, and a range of ages.

We also welcome two new members of staff: Rachel Ford Blanchard who has joined us from Michael Hall, and Sarka Kubschova who has come from The Children's Garden in Richmond. They are working alongside Jeannette as assistants in the kindergarten, and also responsible for the Afternoon Club. Last but not least, we welcome Maria into her new role, joining Katie as a Kindergarten teacher. Leigha continues to lead warm and inspiring Parent & Child groups from Wednesday to Friday.

We have spent our first few weeks mainly in the garden, giving the children space and time to settle in their own way, with as much support as needed. We would like to thank Class 4 for the unique climbing platforms around the Lime tree put up at the very end of last year - this has been a huge success with the children. Also, our new Gazebo with its straw bale seating has given us a cozy and inviting story-telling space for the end of every morning.

The autumn term is filled with festivals as well as birthdays! We have celebrated the harvest, threshing and grinding the wheat, making corn-dollies and harvest wreaths, culminating in a feast of home-made bread, butter and delicious soup. We harvested our own radish seeds for next year and are waiting for the runner beans to set ready to harvest. This was followed by the festival of Eid when we transformed our gazebo into a rainbow-silk adorned tent. We listened to a simple version of the festival story, deeply rooted in the power of love - love of God and love of family. We shared home-made foods, songs, and drew cards for our families. Grateful thanks are given to Aaliya's and Musa's families, who have helped us in offering this festival for our kindergartens and brought a wonderful collection of dressing up clothes.

We are looking forward to Michaelmas when our task will be to create a new Sandpit in the Garden. Children from the lower and upper school will help us initially and we invite kindergarten parents to help us complete the sandpit over the coming days (and possibly weeks!)

We invite contributions of windfalls and other apples from your trees, for us to either dry on our apple-drier, or make juice with - our apple juicer is waiting to work!

My nice red rosy apple has a secret all unseen,
You'll see if you just look inside, five rooms so neat and clean.
And in each room are living, two pips so black and bright,
Asleep they are, and dreaming, of lovely warm sunlight.

Katie Sharrock
For the Early Years team

...E-Safety

The College would like to recommend a resource for parents who are concerned about keeping children safe online:

<http://www.theparentzone.co.uk/>

COMMUNITY PAGES

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SCHOOL DOES NOT ENDORSE OR RECOMMEND, EITHER IN GENERAL OR IN PARTICULAR, ANYTHING OFFERED IN THE COMMUNITY PAGES AND PARENTS ARE ADVISED TO CHECK THE QUALIFICATIONS OF PRACTITIONERS OR PEOPLE OFFERING SERVICES HERE.

My name is Ronja, a 22-year old student from the Netherlands and a former Steiner school pupil. I'll be coming to London in September to pursue a one year master's degree at Birkbeck College, University of London. I'm really excited, but I do have a 'small' problem: I have not yet found a place to live. This leads me to ask you whether there are any families out there who are willing to take students, such as myself, in for a certain period of time.

I'm an independent and easy going person and though I like to have a chat every now and then, I do keep myself busy most of the time.

My hobbies are reading, singing and playing the oboe (but don't worry, I'll leave the latter behind in the Netherlands). If I was to live with a family I would of course pay rent, but perhaps I could also babysit if you need me to. If this message has caught your interest and you'd like to get in touch, you can contact me by sending an email to ronjareyngoud@hotmail.com. I would be delighted to hear from you!

Kindergarten family seeking experienced, warm, gentle child minder with car to collect our two boys (ages 3 and 5) from the St Michael Steiner School kindergarten on Mondays and Wednesdays, drive them to our home in Hampton Hill, and look after them in our home until we return from work. Hours 3-6:30pm on Mondays, and 12:30-4:30pm on Wednesdays. Please email robinfawcett@hotmail.com if interested. Thank you.

I am both a parent at St Michael Steiner School and a part-time teacher. I know that some parents live far away or have work commitments before and after the school hours. I live in Hounslow East with my family (a 3-year-old boy, a 16-year-old girl and husband) and I would like to offer some help. You can drop off your children at my home in the morning and I will take them to school. I am also able to pick them up in the afternoon. We have a lovely Waldorf home with wonderful Waldorf toys and outside space. There are many activities and projects I could offer your children whilst they wait to be picked up: knitting, weaving, beeswax, play dough, felting, music (singing seasonal songs and playing the recorder and percussion), sewing, reciting and writing poems, reading fairy tales, performing little plays, free play on natural sheep skin, drawing and painting with beeswax crayons, skipping, riding wooden scooters, chalkboard drawing, construction with wood, Waldorf dolls, flower pressing, nature appreciation, cooking, gardening, help with homework, foreign languages, etc. I am also able to provide breakfast, snacks and dinner, and the children can also take a little nap if they are tired. I am able to provide a cosy family environment to the children. I am in the process of completing the statutory child minding qualification and I hold a Paediatric First Aid certificate. I have a valid DBS check and a Level 3 Safeguarding Children certificate. In addition, I have over 19 years teaching experience (references available). I hold a Post Graduate Certificate in Education from University of Nottingham and I am also completing my Master's degree in Special Educational Needs at University of Birmingham. I have Grade 4 Music Theory from ABRSM. I believe in holistic child development and education. I am currently attending the Waldorf Teacher Seminar at the Steiner House in London.

I would also be able to offer help on Friday evenings and over the weekend and school holidays.

Feel free to contact me at redcassandra@hotmail.com

Childminders

If you are a registered childminder or would like to do the free local authority training to become one; if you work or would like to work in a Waldorf inspired way, please contact Leigha or Katie. There are parents in the Parent and Child groups who need to return to work outside the home in Spring time. There are also parents in Kindergarten and older classes interested in part time/after school care.

We would be delighted to support you with half termly workshops/mentoring to help create a network of much needed childminders in our Community.

Thank you.