



The St Michael Steiner School  
**NEWSLETTER**  
March 2019

All Parents, Staff and Trustees are warmly invited to

**Annual General Meeting  
of the  
School Association**

Saturday 2nd March 2019

3:00 - 4:30 pm

(After the Open Day)  
at school

Minutes of the 2018 AGM were circulated  
to all Association members before half term.

If you need a copy, or have a question, please contact Birgit:  
[bursar@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk)

## From The College

### New Trustees

We are very happy to announce that we have successfully recruited two new trustees: Katie Sharrock has been a Kindergarten Teacher in our school for 16 years and is currently on sabbatical. She will have special responsibility for the Early Years. Stuart Purdy was a Class Teacher here for five years and is currently teaching Class 7 at Michael Hall. He will oversee Teaching and Learning in the Lower School.

This brings our trustee body to 6. The others are:

Brian Hipkin

Roy Allen

Margot Saar

Peter van Breda

In accordance with our Articles of Association, the new trustees will stand for re-election at the AGM on 2nd March.

### Consent forms and contact information

If you have not already done so, it is very important that you sign and return the consent form immediately as we require your consent for many of the regular activities that take place in the school, including trips, craft activities and processing your personal data.

**If your son/daughter travels home from school independently, please email permission for him/her to do this to your Class Teacher.**

Please also check that your contact details are correct on the parents' contact list and let Grace know of any corrections or changes.

To contact the College, email: [college@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:college@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk)

### School fundraising through Amazon Smile

The St Michael Steiner School is registered as a charity with Amazon Smile and Amazon will make a 0.5% donation on all purchases made through this scheme.

If you want Amazon to donate to The St Michael Steiner School Ltd, you need to start each shopping session at <https://smile.amazon.co.uk>

and select The St Michael Steiner School in the drop-down menu.

0.5% of the net purchase price (excl. VAT, returns and shipping fees) of your eligible purchases will then be donated to the school at no extra cost to you.

### Emails

To ensure that you get school emails, please add the main school email addresses to your address books to ensure that important correspondence from the school does not go into your spam folder.

These are:

[info@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:info@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk) (Grace)

[bursar@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk) (Birgit)

[finance@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:finance@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk) (Henry)

[schoolcook@stmichaelsteiner.com](mailto:schoolcook@stmichaelsteiner.com) (Meher)

Plus the relevant address for your class teacher, kindergarten teacher or main High School contact (see school contact list)

## What is the College?

The school has no Head Teacher but is led and managed by teachers and administrative staff working as The College.

The College is made up of staff members who are able and willing to take responsibility for the leadership and management of the school.

The College meets, at present, on Wednesday afternoons from 4-5:30pm. Meetings are chaired by a member of the group; a new Chair is chosen periodically by the group.

The College oversees the general wellbeing of the school, ensuring that the aims and vision are kept in mind and reflected in practice, and is responsible for managing and monitoring all aspects of the education and activities offered by the school. Their work is monitored and decisions are ratified by the school's trustees.

**Current College members are:**

Pat Alexander  
Amanda Bell  
Dorothea van Breda  
Peter Brewin (Chair)  
Maria da Costa  
Julian Coxon  
Vicky Dunn  
Leigha Hipkin  
Sarah Houghton  
Michèle Hunter  
Eleni Karakonstanti  
Birgit Möller (ex officio)  
Stella Ottewill  
Marta Pietrzyck  
Julia Wallace



# Letter from The College

Dear parents

As you are aware, there has been a recent spate of surprise inspections of Steiner schools by Ofsted, and we wanted to let you know the background, and how the school stands in relation to this.

In November, the DfE ordered Ofsted to inspect 5 independent Steiner schools without warning. These are called 'emergency' inspections. At the same time, they inspected all of the Steiner Academies, which are publicly funded.

As a result of those inspections, the School Inspectorate Service (SIS), which has been inspecting Steiner schools for the last 10 years, has ceased operations in the UK. All of the UK Steiner schools have now reverted to being inspected by Ofsted, as has always been the case for the Steiner Academies.

In January this year Amanda Spielman, Head of Ofsted, reported to the Education Secretary, Damian Hinds, that the Steiner schools recently inspected by Ofsted had serious failings. Damian Hinds recommended that Ofsted bring forward the inspection of the rest of the Steiner schools in England.

Our next inspection is due in November this year, but we think it will happen sooner, and we have been working with our trustees to ensure that we are compliant with the Independent Schools Standards (ISS)—the criteria upon which the school is inspected,— that we can provide evidence to demonstrate compliance, and that such compliance is embedded in our work.

Beyond this, because Ofsted inspectors have little knowledge of Steiner Education, and so don't always know where to look for how we meet the ISS, we have been looking at how we can be proactive and provide for them a comprehensive and coherent explanation of all aspects of our curriculum, as well as the ethos and understanding on which it is based.

One of the standards says that the education offered must reflect the ethos of the school. If parents have a good understanding of the philosophy behind our education, what we are teaching and why at each age, then they can support our work. Parental choice carries a lot of weight with the DfE, and your voices will be asked for (via an online survey) and listened to by the inspectors. If they are convinced that what you get from the school is what you expect, that your children are making good progress and that you are happy with their education, this will contribute enormously to a positive judgment.

To this end, we have recently updated our website. It is there that amongst other information you can find a statement of the School's Ethos and all our updated Policies. We are also developing a curriculum guide for the Lower school, similar to the Course Directory that is produced annually for the High School (available on our website). This will provide much more in-depth information about the Main Lessons and subjects that are taught at the school, as well as the rationale behind the way our timetable is structured. The work we have done so far is already on our website and will be updated and added to until the directory itself is published.

The aim of the weekly study group that meets from 8:40 to 9:40 am on Tuesdays, is to offer parents the opportunity to deepen their understanding of what we do, through study and discussion. The group has been meeting for more than 3 years and at the moment we have between 15 and 22 regulars; we welcome newcomers.

Finally, if you have any queries about Ofsted inspections or anything else to do with the school, please make an appointment to speak with your child's Class Teacher, or any other member of staff.

The College and Trustees

# WISH LIST

Every month we will publish a list of items that we need at school in case someone out there has them to give away, or knows where we can get them for not-too-much money. Some of these are ongoing needs:

- Working hand sewing machines
- A potters wheel (kick wheel or electric)
- Craft tools - woodwork, leatherwork, metalwork
- A large guillotine (for A3+ paper)
- 4 sheds: for gardening tools; games equipment; fairs/trips; general storage
- Gardening tools
- Top soil/compost
- A small fridge/freezer for the lab

Contact Julia Wallace, Sarah Houghton or Amanda Bell if you can help.



A big 'Thank You' to everyone who helped at the workday last Sunday.

Sarah Houghton



## Parent & Child Group News



Dear Parents,

I hope you are all well and those of you have had winter illnesses are now fully recovered.

During the first half of the Spring term our children have enjoyed being outside.

One particularly popular pastime was when they decided to crack big sheets of ice which formed overnight on our sandpit covers into as many pieces as possible. The sound of shattering ice was especially pleasing. When not absorbed in their own free play children, often joined alongside parents helping to make simple ice decorations to hang in the trees, sand log slices, and dip bees

wax candles around the crackling fire. From time to time they paused in their own explorations and observed or worked alongside us adults tending the garden. We refilled bird feeders, raked and deposited leaves into our new leaf compost container, spread sweet smelling woodchips and decorated our den with pine branches. We watched as blue tits and a robin investigated our bird boxes. "Robin's Hut" was especially welcoming and warm during our sessions for those of us who wanted to take shelter and play /relax in a cosy indoor environment. Together we adults were able to observe our children and notice how they develop from week to week, month to month.

This next half term our sessions run over five weeks:

**Wednesdays mornings: 27<sup>th</sup> February to 27<sup>th</sup> March**  
10.30 am to 12.30 pm (birth to 4)

**Thursdays afternoons: 28<sup>th</sup> February to 28<sup>th</sup> March**  
1.30 to 3.00 pm Woodland Garden Outdoor Group (birth to 6)

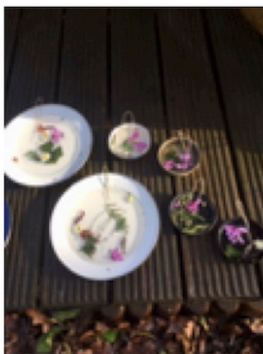
**Friday mornings: 1<sup>st</sup> March to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March**  
10.30 am to 12.30 pm (birth to 4)

We are starting waiting lists to open groups on Wednesday PM, Thursday AM as well as a new Birth to First Steps Group, which works out of the understanding of the young child enhanced by the work of Rudolf Steiner and Emi Pikler.

Please register interest for any of these groups initially with Grace at Reception by emailing: [info@stmichaelsteiner.com](mailto:info@stmichaelsteiner.com)

Please book and pay £35.00 by bank transfer for the half term for the Wednesday or the Friday morning groups.

Please include your name and heading, "Parent and Child," to Birgit Moller: [bursar@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk)



Thursdays continue to be a weekly drop-in group, bookable by mid-day on the morning of each session with Grace and £7.00 paid at Reception on signing in.

\*Please note that concessions are available.

You can contact Leigha Hipkin with any queries:

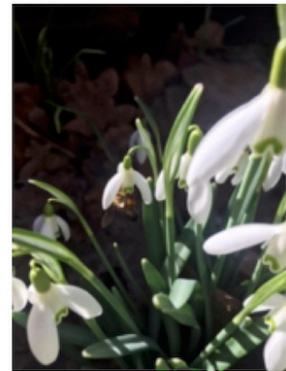
[leighahipkin@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:leighahipkin@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk)

Finally, if you would like to take a look, our latest Early Years video is up on our website in both the 'Parent and Child Groups' and 'Kindergarten information' sections.

Looking forward to seeing you,

Warmly,

Leigha Hipkin





### News from the Kindergartens

At the beginning of February, we celebrated Candlemas. The children enjoyed making their candles holders and beeswax candles.

*"King winter is here with his frost and snow  
He makes it cold and dark outside  
So light up a candle and we'll make it glow  
We'll drive away the dark,  
and make it light inside."*



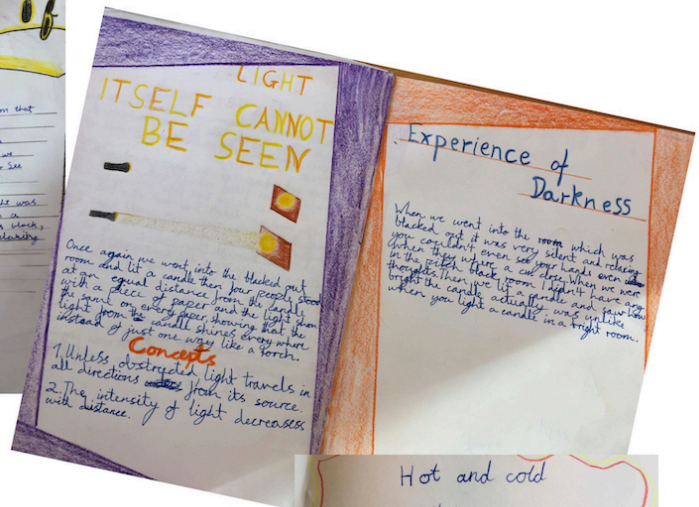
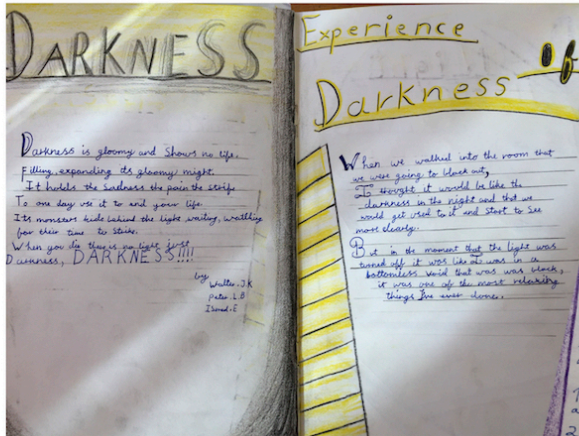
They loved the "Sweet Porridge" story and helping with the puppet show.



Jack Frost visited our garden recently too... and the children had a lot of fun!







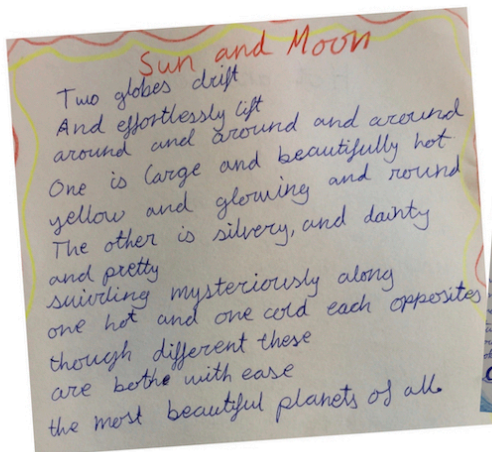
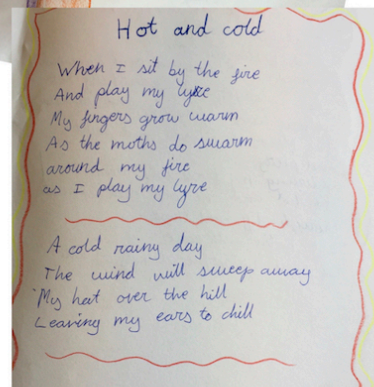
## Class 6

is currently studying Physics.

The teaching is based almost exclusively on experiments and demonstrations.

Before half term we looked at Sound, Light and Heat. The children were also given the opportunity to develop their creative writing through verse writing on these themes.

Eleni Karakonstanti



# Open Day



## The St Michael Steiner School

The only school in London offering Waldorf  
Education for children from 3 to 18

The St Michael Steiner School, Park Road, Hanworth Park, London TW13 6PN  
[www.stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk](http://www.stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk) [info@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:info@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk) 020 8893 1299  
Registered Charity No. 1094960



# The St Michael Steiner School Parent and Child Group Saturday Sessions in the Woodland Garden

19th January,  
2nd March, 18th May  
11am - 1pm

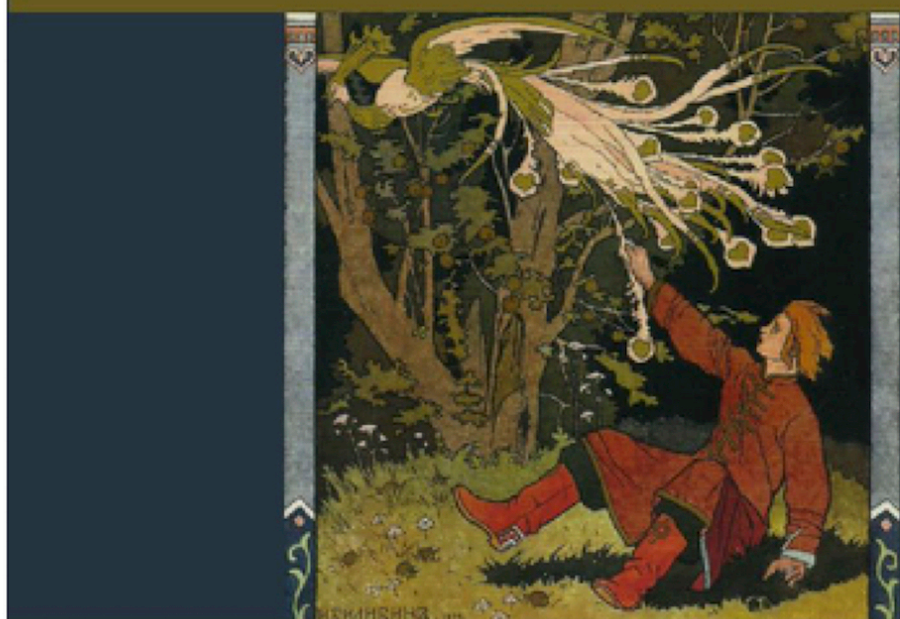


A free drop-in session during our School Open Days,  
with guided tours of the Kindergartens on request

The St Michael Steiner School, Park Road, Hanworth Park, London TW13 6PN  
Tel: 020 8893 1299 Email: [info@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:info@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk](http://www.stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk)  
Registered Charity No. 1094960 Company Limited by Guarantee No. 04364394

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## A Story That Could Be True



### Men and Boys Camp 10-12th May 2019

This is for fathers, godfathers, stepfathers, grandfathers and their boys to spend a weekend in adventure and fun with stories and campfires together. The weekend includes activities for boys, time for men as well as shared projects. It will be a gentle weekend with an emphasis on simply being together for the greater good and masculine creativity. This weekend offers an opportunity for the exchange of gifts between generations.

Stepdads, mentors, uncles and godfathers with boys and stepsons are most welcome within your specific family arrangements. Age for boys: 9 - 19. Accommodation is in shared cabins with four camping spots. Limited to 20 people. Food is included in the price.

*Where:* Avon Tyrell UK Youth Outdoor Centre (in the New Forest) Bransgore, Hampshire.

*Times:* Arrive from 16.00 Friday for dinner at 18.30, leave 15.00 Sunday.

*Cost:* £290.00 per man and boy pair. Bringing more than one boy, contact us.

**To book:**

Find out more email or call:

Elmer Postle: [elmerpostle@gmail.com](mailto:elmerpostle@gmail.com) / 07785926796

Dan Kidner: [dkidner@yahoo.com](mailto:dکیدner@yahoo.com)

Webpage: <http://www.owlcranial.com/home-page/men-and-boys-camp/>

To reserve your place, pay the full amount or a non-refundable deposit of £75.00 via bank transfer: marked as 'Fathers/Sons' to, Lloyds, Sort Code: 30-80-37 Account No: 31243260



# PRE-LOVED CLOTHES SALE

Children and Adults Clothes  
Pre loved & Good quality  
items at low cost.  
Donations welcome

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SAT 9TH MARCH 10-2  
@ ST MICHAELS STEINER  
SCHOOL, PARK ROAD,  
HANWORTH PARK  
TW13 6PN

ALL profit goes to the Bees!  
Supporting our outdoor curriculum  
through bringing a log bee hive and  
bee keeping to the school.

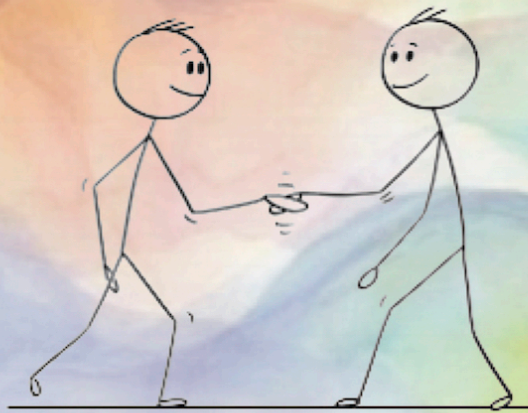




# Authentic Communication

A two day workshop offering practical tools to communicate skilfully.

Facilitated by Allan Sousa, founder of Oxygen, an organisation that works worldwide with schools and companies, introducing the principles of Authentic Communication.



**“Out beyond ideas of wrong doing and right doing,  
there is a field. I’ll meet you there.”**

*“NVC (Nonviolent Communication) guides us in reframing how we express ourselves and hear others. Instead of habitual, automatic reaction, our words become conscious responses based firmly on awareness of what we are perceiving, feeling and wanting. We are led to express ourselves with honesty and clarity, while simultaneously paying others respectful and empathic attention.” M.B. Rosenberg*

**Saturday 25th of May 10:00 - 17:30**  
**Sunday 26th May: 9:30 - 14:30**

**Fees:** £100 (Concessions Available)  
This event also fundraises for the school.

**Address:**  
The St Michael Steiner School  
Park Road  
Hanworth Park  
TW13 6PN

For more details and/or bookings contact:

Maria El-Halaby  
078792903788  
mariateresaelhalaby@icloud.com

Francesca Orsini  
stradeitaliane@gmail.com

*Early booking recommended as spaces are limited.*



## RAW HONEY FOR SALE

My brother-in-law, Robin, keeps around 50 hives on his land in Nutfield, East Surrey. He extracts the honey by hand and sieves it in his Mum's kitchen. It's pure, raw, unprocessed honey.

**£4.50 for a 250g jar.** 50p off your next purchase if you return the jar!

Message me and I will bring a jar to school.

Beth 07879 401911 (Kindie mum)



## OFSTED REGISTERED CHILDMINDER

- **Childcare from 7.30am-6:00pm 5 days a week**
- **Pick-ups exclusively from St. Michael's at 12.30pm or 3pm**
- **Breakfast before school from 7.30am**
- **10 minute walk to and from the school**
- **Home cooked, healthy food**
- **Kindergarten parent**
- **Large garden**
- **Dogs, cats and chickens!**

email: [elizabethlee0101@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethlee0101@gmail.com)  
tel: 07879 401911

