

The St Michael Steiner School

Friday Bulletin

12th June 2020

Dear Parents

In response to some enquiries in the last week or so, we would like to give you a bit more information about the issues we are dealing with.

While our approach to returning children to school may seem over-cautious from the outside, the school is in a vulnerable position. We have been told by the DfE that we should regard the government guidelines as regulations, or we could face prosecution. Our insurers also require that we keep to the guidelines, otherwise our insurance is invalidated, and we would be operating illegally if that should happen.



There has been so much adverse publicity about Steiner schools in the last year, if what we decide to do is perceived as reckless, it would be devastating for us. So, regardless of personal opinions about how we are being advised to respond to this pandemic, we have to stay within what is effectively the law.

In thinking about returning classes, it's not just a matter of finding someone to look after a group of children. If we have children on site, we have to operate as a school, with all the educational, safeguarding and health and safety regulations that implies. None of these have been relaxed because of the pandemic. We are required to abide by the usual regulations for schools, as well as the many additional requirements with regard to cleaning and distancing that have to be taken into account because of the virus. We receive daily updates from the DfE, so this advice can change at any time.

We are advised by the DfE not to proceed with opening unless we have the following staff available to work in school: "a head or deputy" (for us this means a College member); at least one person with paediatric first aid training; at least one person with up to date Designated Safeguarding Lead training; a special educational needs coordinator, or an alternative staff member who could take on this role; a caretaker and/or cleaning staff; a trained fire officer; at least one office staff member. In addition, we are advised not to let different groups of children mix, which means each group of not more than 15 children has to be supervised by different staff, and staff/pupil ratios adhered to.

We have managed to cover all of these requirements while taking into account the needs and wishes of parents and staff enough that we can open the school for 3 days a week for

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most of the children we are allowed to bring back, i.e. Class 5 and Kindergarten at the moment, as well as key workers' children.

Ideally, of course, we would love to bring all of them back full time and will do so as soon as we can.

We have furloughed as many staff members as we can in order to support the school's financial viability while many parents find themselves with no income and therefore unable to pay their fees at all this term. Furloughed staff may not do any work for the school, which includes providing work for children either via Zoom or by email. Staff who are not furloughed are still teaching or working for the school in some way that is essential.

Some members of staff have vulnerable people at home. Others don't have cars and would have to travel to school on public transport. Although some are happy to do this, we cannot require anyone to do so against their better judgment.

In the meantime, some parents have told us they would like more Zoom lessons, while others feel their children are online too much, or only have one computer available and need it for their own work, or find themselves having to supervise two or three children's Zoom sessions every day, and are overwhelmed. It has been very difficult to find the right balance.

We are doing all we can to support individual families through financial difficulties, offering care for key workers' children and responding to those who approach us with other difficulties.

We will continue to review the situation daily, and will open more classes/hours once we are in a position to do so.

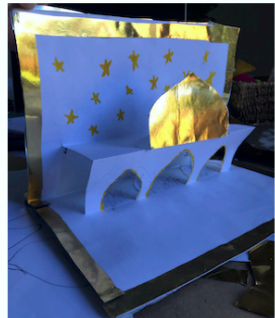
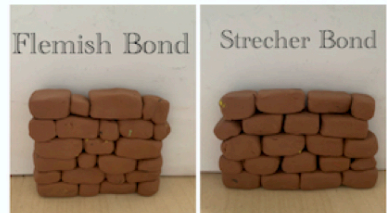
Thank you for your continued patience and support. It is much appreciated.

Amanda Bell
For the College





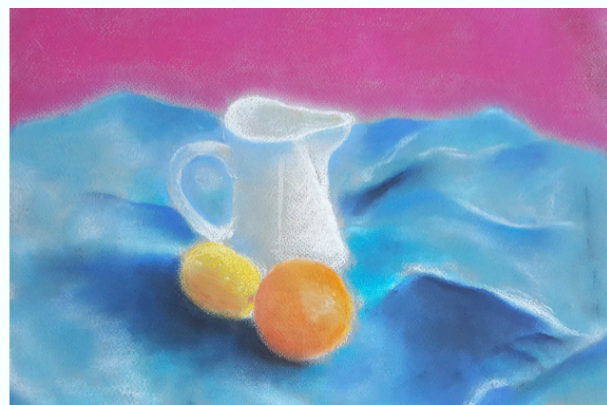
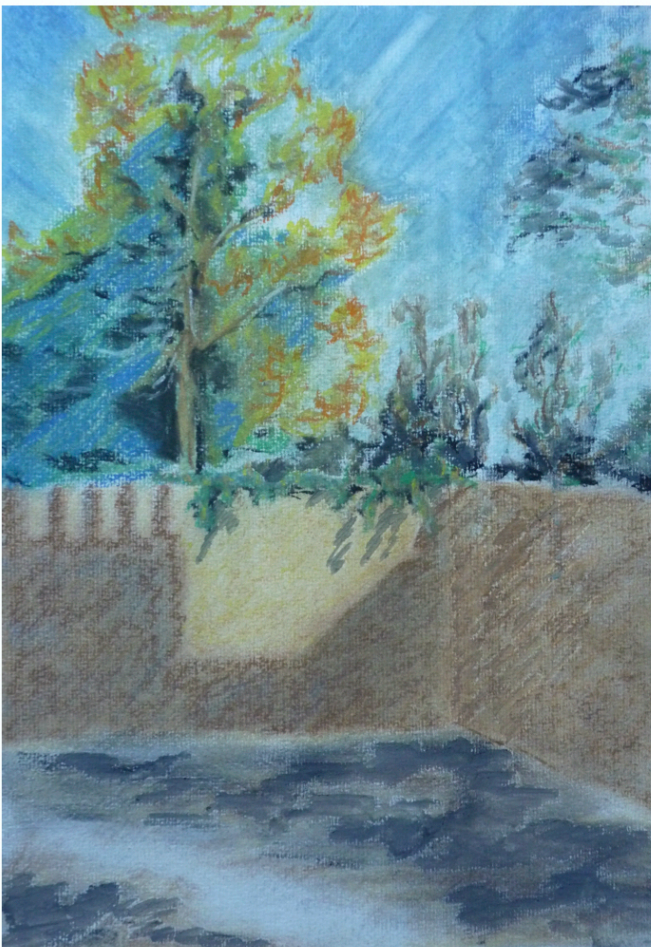
Class 3 Homes and Shelters





Class 10 Art portfolios

Class 10 students have submitted their mixed media Art portfolios for assessment today. Here is some of their work, completed over the year.





Dear All,

One of the benefits of lockdown is that, with no limit on space, we can invite you all to our:

Class 12 Project Presentations

Friday 19th June 2020

6pm

Via Zoom

Project Topics

Caspian Azarmi - A history of blue
Charlotte Beugelink - Designing clothing collections
Cameron Curry - Horror story writing
Yves Ingledeu - Building a hydrogen generator
Constance Kelly - The Modern Goddess: a study of the feminine
Leila Osman - Designing and interpreting tarot cards

Housekeeping notices:

- The presentations will be live streamed via Zoom.
- You will be able to enter the session using the link above from 5.55pm.
- The Zoom link has been emailed to all of you. Please do not share it with anyone outside the school community.
- We ask that you keep your mic muted during the presentations.
- There will be an opportunity for questions via the Chat function.
- We will be recording the session, so if you do not wish to appear you may keep your camera off. HOWEVER, if you don't mind, we would be grateful to have as many friendly faces visible as possible.
- Estimated running time: 2h30m

If you have any questions, please contact me directly:

stellaottewill@stmichaelsteiner.com

Warm regards,

Stella Ottewill

On behalf of Class 12

Morning Movement Sessions with Kevin Davidson

I'm offering morning movement classes weekdays 9 - 9:15am to support families. I'm trained as a Waldorf games and Bothmer Movement teacher and have been working for 10 years at Greenwich Steiner School. The sessions are somewhere between a Class 1 games lesson and a rhythmical time. I'm getting lots of families joining in together as a way to start the day with lightness and movement.

Warm wishes,

Kevin

Family Time

Morning Movement with a playful spirit

9-9:15am weekdays with Kevin

Details:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6293571756>

Meeting ID: 629 357 1756

See previous episodes at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TC7Bw21UpHg>



Dear Parents,

I am offering the following therapeutic eurythmy sessions which are based on exercises Dr. Steiner gave 100 years ago, as the world faced the ravages of WW1 and the spread of Spanish Flu.

You are all welcome to join at any time as the exercises are slow and easy to penetrate at any stage.

No eurythmy experience necessary just the will and desire to do it.

The earlier you can start the better, as you then benefit from the growing forces, which you perceive over time and repetition of the sequence.

Do invite friends and family to join as this is particularly relevant for our times.

Tuesdays at 4.30 pm: A new sequence of exercises for strengthening the "I" and growing resilience, building the Immune system, and overcoming fear and nervousness. From 2nd June to 7th July

Thursdays at 4.30 pm: A sequence of exercises for strengthening the "I" and resilience, building the Immune system, and protecting against viral infections. From 14th May to 18th June.
email: mhunter1life@aol.com And I shall send you the links every week.

I look forward to seeing you there.

With warmth,
Michèle