



The St Michael Steiner School

# Newsletter

*December 2020*



The St Michael Steiner School, Park Road, Hanworth Park, London TW13 6PN

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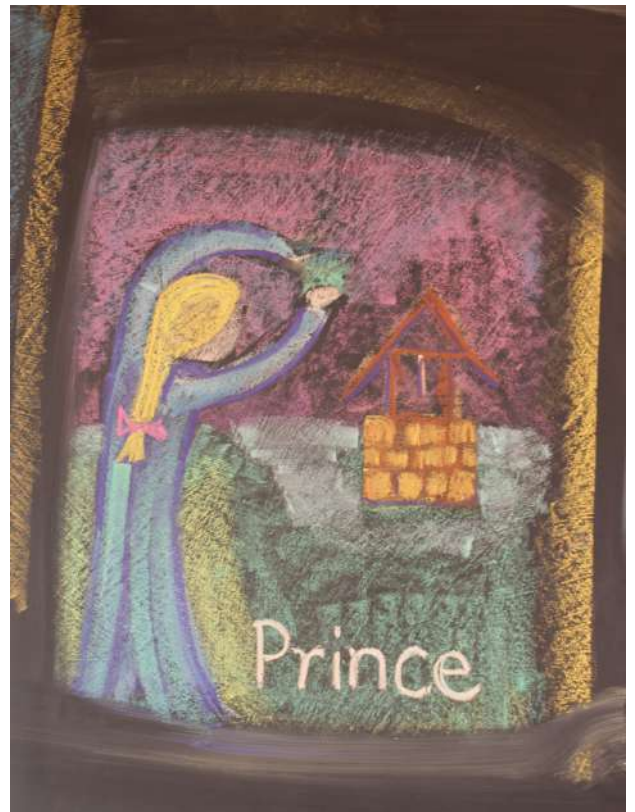


In school this week...



Class Eight Chemistry: making soap

New letters in Class One...





Class Seven have been learning the craft of the blacksmith with Bernard Graves







## \*\*\* NEW \*\*\* Parent and Baby group online!



Silvia Lauzzana and Leigha Hipkin will be leading a FREE online series of P&B groups to support parents with babies up to walking age. Starting on Wednesday 13th of January 2021, 10.00-10.45 a.m. on zoom, and thereafter every Wednesday at the same time. We talk about the joys, challenges and developments in the week, share observations of your babies' play skills and motor development, and may bring lullabies, songs and nursery rhymes. The group is inspired by both Rudolf Steiner's insights into child development and Emmi Pikler's pedagogy on infants' play and motor development, and the care of babies.

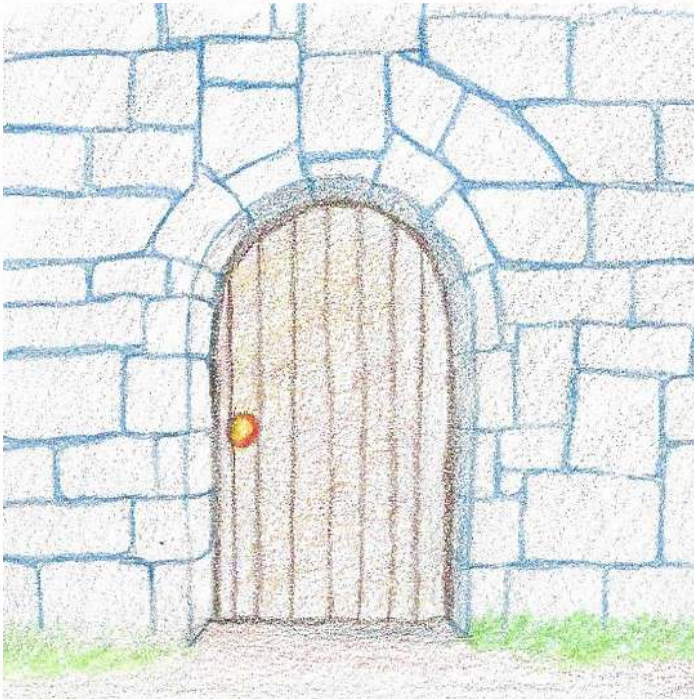
Please feel free to pass the news about the group to whoever you think may benefit from it.

If you are interested, or have any questions about the group, please email Silvia at [silvialauzzana@stmichaelsteiner.com](mailto:silvialauzzana@stmichaelsteiner.com).



Have you seen the school's...

# Advent Calendar...?



Every day this season, behind each door, you'll find a treat from one of the classes in the school.

(You can find the calendar on the school's website)



Day 3:  
Prehistoric Art  
by Class Ten



Day 12:  
High School  
Bothmer  
Gymnastics

Day 6:  
Class One's recitation  
of 'The Fairies'  
by William Allingham





# Advent time in Kindergarten

We started the Advent time with an Advent Spiral...



The children helped to wash and polish apples, ready to be cored out and they placed a candle in each apple. Golden crowns were made with representations of the cosmos: the star, the sun, the moon and the earth. The room was beautifully decorated with greenery into a spiral and when the room and mood were set the children came in small groups into the darkened candlelit room. Each child received one of the candles set in a red apple and walked (some with a gentle guiding hand) the spiral journey towards the center pillar candle of light.

*“Winter is dark, yet each tiny spark,  
Lights up the way to Christmas Day.  
Shine little light and show us the way,  
To the bright light of Christmas Day.”*

There has been lots of talk amongst the children in kindergarten about Christmas this year, especially since St. Nicholas visited! In a letter to the children, St Nicholas mentioned all the good deeds the children have been up to and children received gifts and a honey cake from him.

The children have been busy with their Christmas crafts and looking forward towards Christmas and the holidays ahead with excitement.



We wish you all a lovely Christmas holidays,

*Love from kindergarten*





## Drama in Classes 9 & 10

Over the last four weeks of term, Classes 9 and 10 have been working on short plays adapted from three short stories: 'A Toy Princess' by Mary De Morgan, 'Many Moons' by James Thurber, and 'The Long Nosed Princess' by Priscilla Hallowell. Through the turbulence of cold weather, illness, limited space, and uncertain audiences, they have pressed onward exploring these tales through storytelling, acting and sock puppetry. Although we are unable to invite our wider school community to see these plays in person, the students plan to perform for some of the younger classes, and we have set the cameras rolling so we can share our work with all.

Stella Ottewill











### CLASS 11 PATTERN CUTTING AND DRESSMAKING

This term, six students from Class 11 chose to do two intensive blocks of pattern cutting and dressmaking. They designed and constructed patterns from their own measurements, made calico tiles to test them, made alternations, redrew the patterns and then cut and finished their final garments in the second block. Here is some of their work.











**Class 8** has just completed a Main Lesson block about **Africa**. The students became familiar with the landscape of the continent, which is full of contrasts, its natural resources and some aspects of its culture and history. They also read "Things Fall Apart" by Chinua Achebe and were visited by Marianne Adjei, a British - Ghanaian teacher, who gave a truly beautiful description of the naming ceremony of a newborn baby in Ghana, as well as of other elements of the country's culture.

Ms. Karakonstanti





# West Africa

West Africa comprises all the different climates of the continent.

If you were to set out on a journey from north to south across west Africa, you would pass from the desert to the Sahel, the savanna and finally reach the tropical landscape of the south-east.

To the north are the countries of Mauritania, Mali and Niger where you can find oil, phosphates and uranium. To the south-east is Sierra Leone where there is an abundance of diamonds under the ground. These diamonds were named blood diamonds because there was a time when they were traded for weapons to fight in the war. Just below that is Liberia where rubber trees grow.

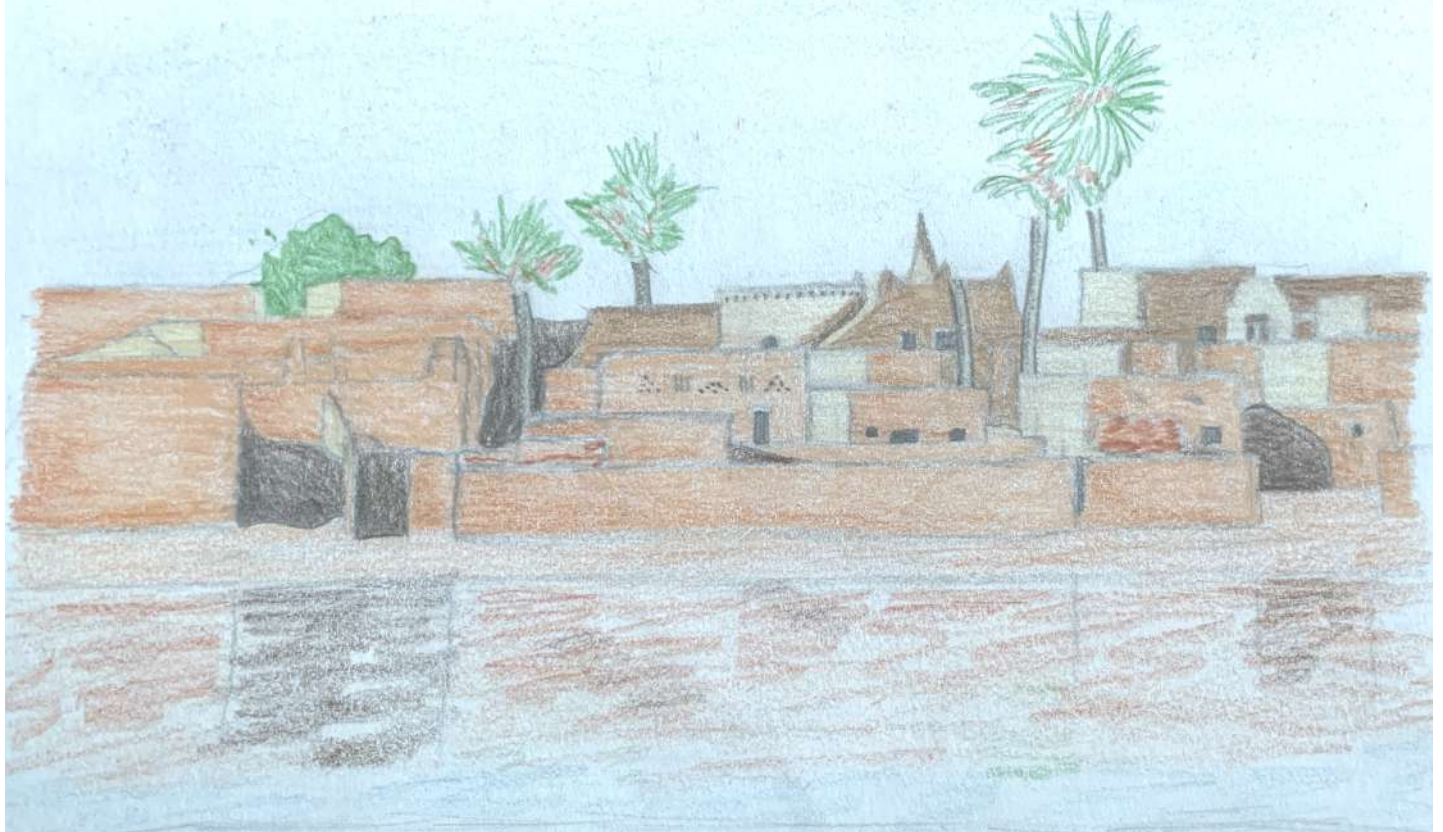
To produce rubber they take the sap of the trees and add chemicals to harden it (now they have found a way to produce it without using the sap.) Along the Ivory coast there are cocoa, pineapple and banana trees that the people eat and sell. Palm trees also grow there providing palm oil.

In Nigeria you can find palm wine (an alcohol which ferments within two hours of being exposed to oxygen), yams (a vegetable similar to a potato), cassava (a rooty vegetable), millet, rice and the kolo nut which you can chew

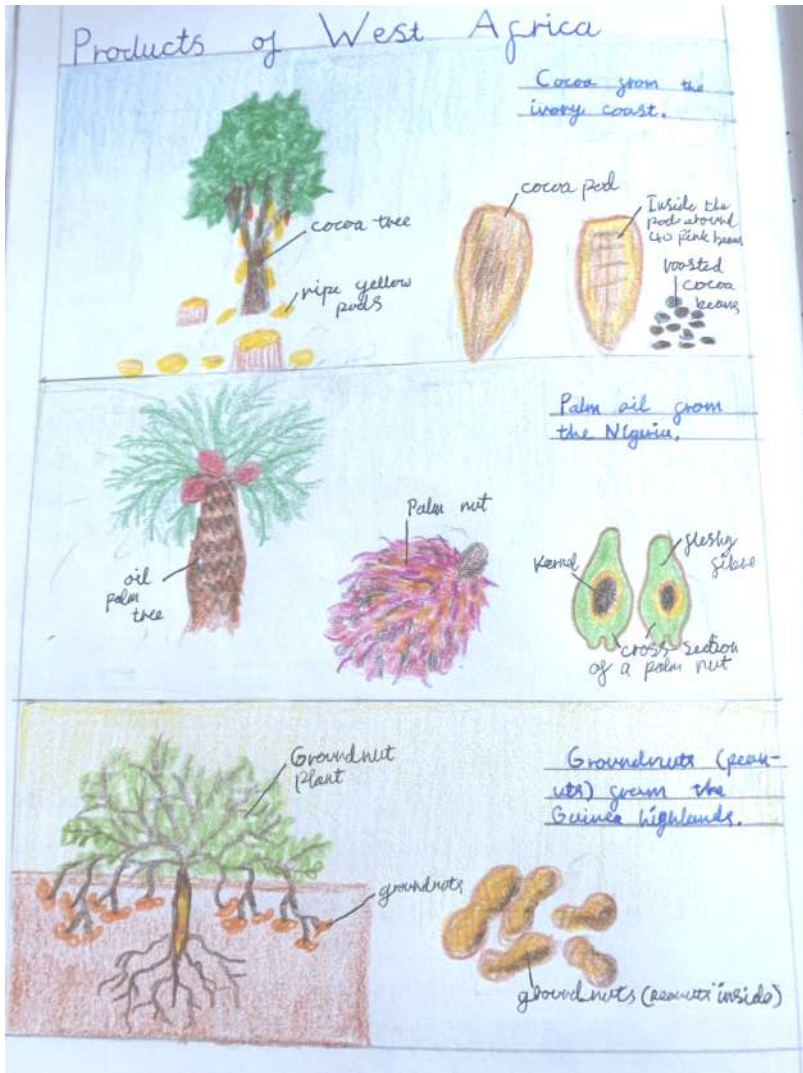
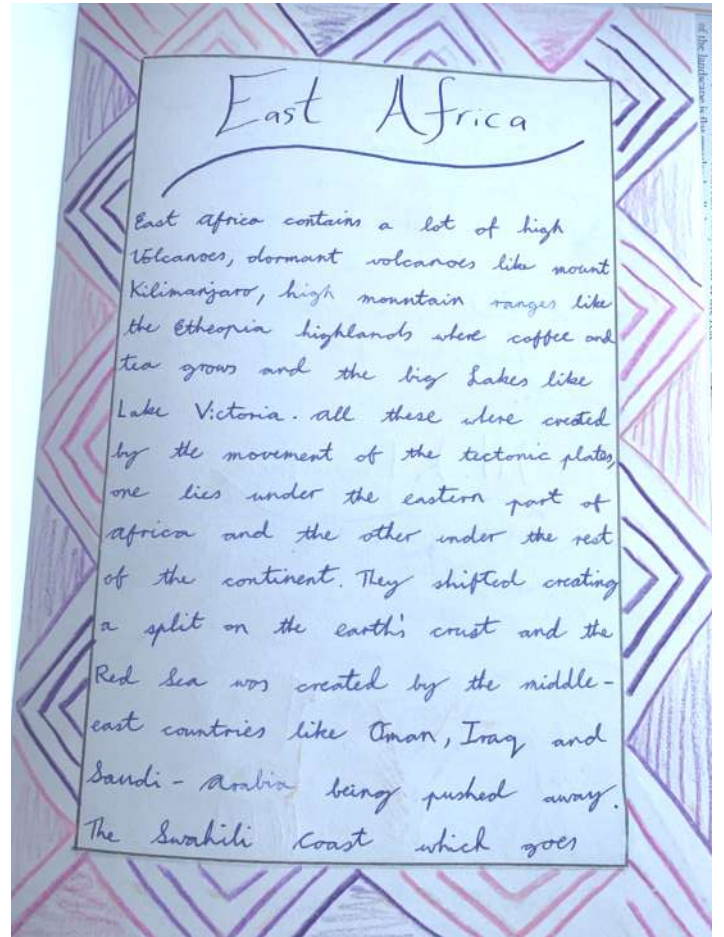
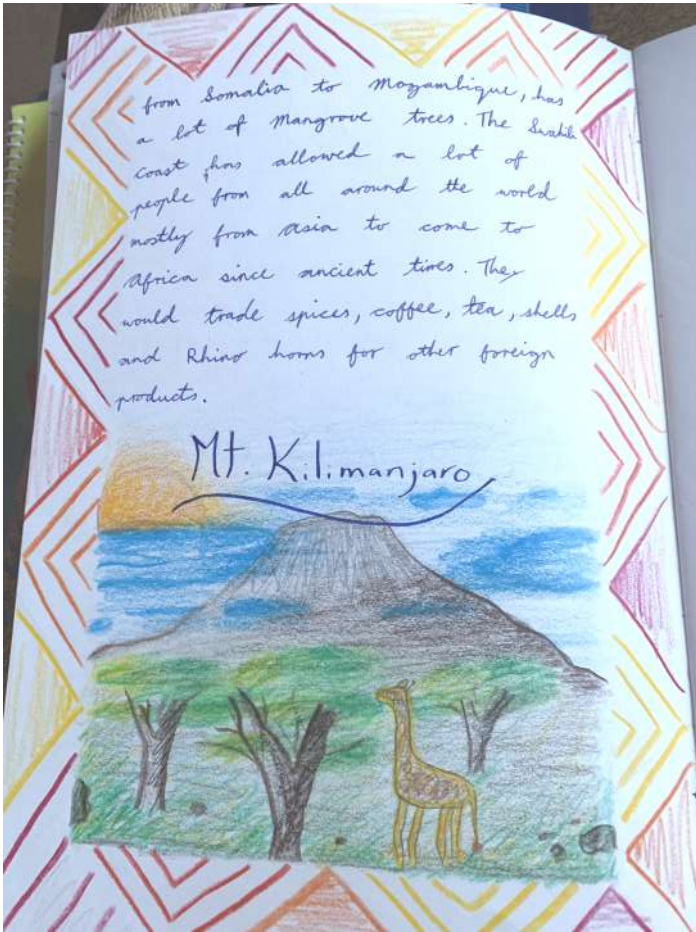
to give you energy.

The Empire of Mali began in 1240, around the same time as the crusades in Europe. It was a lot larger than the country is now and it was a very rich Empire. The Emperor had lots of indulgences, he sat in a big balcony and had entertainers and other luxuries. They also had 10,000 Arab horses which were very important to them. A very important city was the city of Timbuktu which is on the bend of the river Niger in Mali. It was a trading point for merchants from the north and south and it was the centre of learning for West Africa. The Arabs were very strict and forced everyone to learn Koran.

Another big Empire was the Empire of Ghana. Like Mali, Ghana also had lots of gold, there was so much gold it was in danger of losing its value so they tried to use salt whenever they could to prevent that. Ghana had 200,000 warriors in the field and 40,000 with bows and arrows as well.









## "Before I was Born"

Poems from Class Seven's recent main lesson block 'Life and Love'

I am a star  
Floating among the wonders of the cosmos. I know all. I see the happenings of the  
planet you all call Earth. I see them passing by like leaves in the wind.  
One event catches my eye.  
The meeting of two people in a shabby town of coalminers. They are of interest to me.  
I think to myself, I would like to be their first child. The time has come for me to  
descend again to the ground and fulfil another destiny.  
I can't afford to miss this chance.  
We are flocking to the Earth like vultures to a carcass.  
I must go, I must take my leave.  
I send the smallest part of myself down to Earth, but it is sufficient for me to be able to  
grow the body of a human. That part of me flies from the heavens and is born of the  
love of two people.  
They are stars like me in the form of humans.  
But I am still more star than human.  
And I remember nothing of it.

Lila Harrison-Evans

From the very beginning - one miniscule droplet,  
To the scrunch of a being I have become,  
I'm constantly swallowed into an inky bed,  
Like an everlasting wave of darkness and love.  
Never too hot, too cold or too rough,  
I hover in a peaceful silence of blood.  
Throughout the weeks of soft light and mulled voices,  
A warmth has infected my flesh and my senses.  
For one last time, I can feel, I lay in my tissue  
Of cosy protection and perfect conditions,  
I know it is time, for my new life to begin,  
New love, new home, new ambitions.

Matilda Tanner





The constant thudding of my mother's heartbeat  
Like a clock counting down the days,  
The seconds until I will be born  
As a child of light and hope unto the earth  
Down here in this haven of everlasting peace  
Miracles happen unseen by the eyes of men, and unheard.

Down here I will grow untouched  
Until I will be given my own clock  
Counting down the days, the seconds  
Before I will return to that place  
That place I already long for  
That place no one can go uninvited  
That place where everybody starts  
And everybody ends

Zoe Moore





**Class Eleven students' reflections on their Eurythmy project:**

"Even though we move differently, we are still connected and teamwork is important."

"The reason this production fills me with immense satisfaction is because unlike an essay or a presentation based on past discovery and facts, our piece bared no basis apart from the music and us; we were the inventors and forgers of this new and unparalleled product..."

"I believe that the most significant lesson we have learnt was working as a group and to be able to intuitively connect with one another."

"I feel like I produce something more satisfactory when I don't overthink things too much and instead tap into my inner inspiration, express it through my sounds/instruments. This is like with eurythmy when we see more true forms by listening to the music, our inspiration."

"Eurythmy almost acts as a vehicle of understanding and overcoming the different challenges evident in life."

"To me 'the storm' was the most satisfying part. We went through different stages; the unknown, the confusion and frustration, the thinking we know, the despair, and finally the knowing- it was like a whole life in 10 seconds. This block has been one of the most rewarding and satisfying experiences I have experienced."

*The students' performance, which they choreographed, is available to watch behind the first door on the school's advent calendar.*



Dear School Families,

Thank you to all of you who felt inspired to knit or crochet.

We are grateful for all your creations, even just 1 square would be lovely

Please start to pass on your finished squares via your class teachers, or directly to Ms Karakonstanti class 8, so that we can begin to design the blanket or hopefully blankets!

We would still be grateful if any of you are able to donate wool to this project.

Love to all of you

Lisa

lisaclewing@gmail.com

## Looking for a baby-sitter?



My name is Rose. I'm a 17 year old student currently attending The St Michael Steiner School and I have been in Steiner education since kindergarden. I love children, and I am dependable and responsible when it comes to work. I am currently looking for babysitting jobs for Friday evenings and the weekend. Rates are negotiable, I am happy to look after children of any age, and can travel within reach of the Richmond area.

Contacts - you can text me at

+44 07432 582 320

or send me an email at

rose.dowse@outlook.com

## 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 for your preferred charity.

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



## ADVENT STRINGS FOR SALE

A small gift to unwrap each day of Advent beginning on Sunday 29th November and ending on Christmas Eve. Many of the gifts are handmade and they reflect the treasures of the mineral, plant and animal kingdoms and culminate in the wonder of the Nativity.

If you would like to order a string at £25 each including postage please email [elizaconway\\_8@hotmail.com](mailto:elizaconway_8@hotmail.com)

Very best wishes

Eliza Conway



**NURTURING A YOUNG FAMILY  
IN CHALLENGING TIMES – A WALDORF  
APPROACH**



**SIX, FORTNIGHTLY SESSIONS ONLINE COVERING  
IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF:**

**CHILD DEVELOPMENT, PLAY & RHYTHM,  
SEASONAL FESTIVALS, CREATIVE DISCIPLINE,  
STORYTELLING, MEALTIMES, THE 4 TEMPERAMENTS,  
CARE OF THE SENSES.**

**DATES: January 16, 30 February 13, 27 March  
13, 27**

**TIME: SATURDAY MORNINGS 10am - 12.30pm**

**TOTAL COST - £150**

**Optional Extras:**

**DOUBLE CD- (over 100 Seasonal Songs)-£15**

**LYRIC BOOKLETS-£4**

**CONTACT [joydeberker63@gmail.com](mailto:joydeberker63@gmail.com)  
01225 891730/ 07766326282 (UK International  
code+44)**

**CLOSING DATE- JANUARY 13th, 2021**



## Courses with **Tessabella Lovemore** Cert.Ed. Cert.Couns. M.Ed. Ph.D.

*When I discovered that the capacity to love could be developed, I found that the people I practiced my love on began to change in ways that I could not have imagined. They did not change in the way that I had previously wanted them to change; but they blossomed into feeling free to be more themselves (which, I found I loved even more). Each person that I practiced this active loving on changed me too. I felt as if the act of loving gave me deep understanding, and I expanded into someone more able to love.*

### **COURSES RUNNING DECEMBER 2020 TO JULY 2021**

#### **GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS – RELATE WITH ACTIVE PRACTICAL LOVE**

This course introduces my work on improving relationships. The first three lessons of Active Practical Love will genuinely improve your capacity to enjoy your relationships with family and friends.

#### **HOW TO LOVE – RELATE WITH ACTIVE PRACTICAL LOVE FOR BETTER RELATIONSHIPS**

This course will change your feeling and understanding about the people around you; so much so that even resentment, disgust and hate can be transformed into an all-powerful feeling of love.

#### **LEARNING TO LOVE- A COURSE ABOUT HOW CHILDREN LEARN *for parents, and professionals***

Learning to Love is a really helpful course for parents and professionals. As a social scientist, education consultant and counsellor in private practice for 20 years, Tessabella Lovemore developed practical courses for parents and professionals recognising the development of learning, morality and love in children.

[www.tessabellalovemore.com](http://www.tessabellalovemore.com)



## Spring term 2021

### January

Monday	11	first day of term ( <i>5 weeks</i> )
Monday	25	parents' evenings for classes 2, 3 and 4
Thursday	28	Class 9 parents' evening
Saturday	30	Open day (TBC)

### February

Monday	1	Class 1 parents' evening
Thursday	4	Class 5 parents' evening
Wednesday	10	Class 6 parents' evening
Friday	12	INSET day (no school)

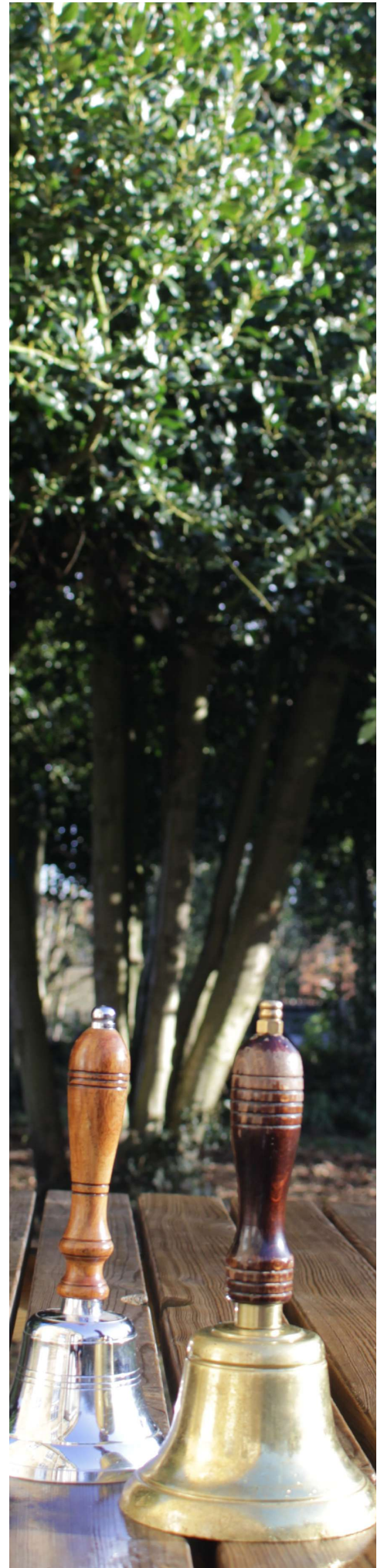
*Half-term break: Monday 15 – Friday 19*

Monday	22	back to school ( <i>5 weeks</i> )
Thursday	25	Class 10 parents' evening

### March

Monday	1	Class 7 and 8 parents' evenings
Saturday	6	AGM
Saturday	13	Open day (TBC)
Friday	26	last day of term

*Easter break*





There should pour into our hearts, into our souls, the feeling that wisdom is a great thing — that love is still greater; that might is a great thing — that love is yet greater. May it be possible for the days and the hours of the year to pass in such a way that we need not be ashamed of them in the light of the feeling that we would pour into our souls on Christmas night!

*Thoughts on Christmas Eve*, Rudolf Steiner, 1912

