

23rd January 2019

PARENTS WEEKLY BULLETIN



Dear Parent/Carer,

The new term is now well underway, staff got off to a flying start participating in a week long training programme that included

- Behaviour management training and planning
- Positive handling (Team Teach) for all Kindergarten and class 1 staff
- Maths No Problem!- mathematics teacher training
- Differentiation- how to ensure all children are challenged appropriately in all lessons
- First Aid

We also reviewed our processes and procedures for reporting incidents to ensure that they are dealt with in an efficient and timely manner.

All of the staff are working incredibly hard, to ensure that we address some of the key findings in the Ofsted report. Thank you for the positive messages that have flooded in, this has made a big difference to staff morale.

Mathematics:

Maths is an area for whole academy improvement, a whole academy Maths programme is now in place (Maths No Problem!). All children, from class 1 children will be participating in **daily mathematics**. This approach to maths is in-keeping with the Steiner Waldorf approach to learning and is age appropriate. We will be sharing more information in the coming weeks, along with how you can support your child at home.

Kindergarten Mathematics:

Children who are in the second year of Kindergarten are beginning the transition to class 1. An important aspect of this work is the introduction of a maths based activity three times a week. Please rest assured that the approach is fully in line with the kindergarten ethos and the children are really enjoying the activities.

Spanish class 1- class 5:

Maru left the academy at Christmas, therefore, for the rest of the academic year class teachers will be using the Spanish time to support the wider curriculum. This is a temporary measure.

School Improvement Support and the AMC

The AMC had their first meeting last week, we are in the process of creating a post Ofsted Action plan, a parent version will be shared with you next week.

Colleagues from Cabot Learning Federation are supporting the academy, they come with a wealth of expertise and will be making a bid for additional funding to support staff training. This money can also buy in expertise from elsewhere if they are unable to provide it, for example Steiner Waldorf advice.

NEW CONTACTS

Parent questions to Joss and/or leadership team - questions@steineracademybristol.org.uk

Complaints - complaints@steineracademybristol.org.uk

We have been receiving lots of questions and feedback from parents about a variety of things and we would like to streamline the process as emails are arriving into a number of different inboxes at the moment - many arriving into principal@, some into info@ and others into a number of different individual inboxes. We don't want to miss any important communications. We have therefore set up an email address dedicated to you and your questions, particularly for the bigger issues that are facing the school and your children. We will then endeavour to answer these questions as quickly as we can and where we can identify common themes amongst your emails, we will then put together "frequently asked questions" sheets to address these topics and send these out to everyone. If you have questions for Joss or the leadership team, could you please send your emails to questions@steineracademybristol.org.uk rather than to principal@.

For general day-to-day queries, please continue to use info@steineracademybristol.org.uk which is monitored by the Reception staff. This is also the email address for general enquiries from people outside of our school community.

If it is more than a question and it is a complaint, then you can direct your email to complaints@steineracademybristol.org.uk. If there is a problem you need to raise with us as a matter of importance or urgency, you can use this email address. We will then look to see whether we can arrange a meeting to provide a solution, but should you still be unhappy, this will also be the email address for you to use when you wish to lodge a formal complaint. This will then this will be dealt with in accordance with our complaints policy and procedure, a copy of which is available on our website.

Hopefully the introduction of these new email addresses will help us to manage the influx of questions and queries coming in. Thank you for your patience whilst we manage all your emails, we are working through them as quickly as we can and hopefully this will streamline the process to help us to manage this better.

PUNCTUALITY

It is really important that school starts on time in a smooth manner. This can be achieved by arriving on time - by 8.30am at the correct gate. When students arrive late, they are missing out on their learning and it is very disruptive for students already in class.

This is a Safeguarding issue. Therefore, as of Monday, we expect all parents to be off site no later than 8.45am.

If you know that your child takes a little while to settle, please ensure that you arrive at 8.30 am on the dot. Many thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

ATTENDANCE REPORT

This term, as always we expect full attendance as children should be fit, well and rested following an additional week off school. We really value attendance, not only for the educational benefits but also the social and emotional impact good attendance has on the children.

Attendance last week - 95.2% 
Attendance overall this year 93.7% 

Please check your child's attendance on Arbor and carefully consider that a day off will have on your child's education.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

January/February	
Wednesday 23rd January	Class 8/9 Parents Evening, 5.30 – 6.30pm Class 4 Parents Evening, 7 – 8.30pm
Thursday 25th January	Class 3 Parents Evening, 4 – 5.30pm Class 6b Parents Evening, 5.30 – 7.00pm
Tuesday 28th January	Class Reps Meeting, 9 – 10am Class 5 Parents Evening, 6 – 7.30pm
Wednesday 30th January	Class 7 Parents Evening, 6.30 – 8.00pm
Thursday 31st January	Class Reps Meeting, 6 – 7pm
Friday 1st February	Candlemas Celebration

VOLUNTARY PARENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

At the start of the academic year, parents were given the opportunity to make voluntary contributions to support the continuation of Kindergarten snacks and birthday cakes, extended milk provision for Kindergarten; and class-specific contributions to educational resources. Unfortunately, the level of contributions have fallen short of the cost of providing the enhanced student experience. For this reason, I am making a final appeal for additional parental voluntary contributions. If the level of contributions does not increase, then the school will need to stop providing these enhanced experiences due to budgetary pressures.

A Kindergarten snack (and contributions to birthday cakes) typically costs 40p per day; milk around 15p. The Government fund a piece of fruit/vegetables for children aged 4 and 5. The Government also funds milk for under 5's. Until now, Steiner Academy Bristol has subsidised the provision for all Kindergarten children. We cannot continue to do this from now on.

Similarly, the level of contributions for enhanced arts, crafts and other educational resources has dropped off. Specific contributions already made will be ring-fenced for your children's' class. However, expenditure on educational resources will now need to be scaled back to the level of budget and additional funding available.

A reminder of how to access the payment portal on Arbor will be issued later this week. If you would like to make voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school, it would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks
Melissa Hardwell
School Business Manager

UPDATE ON THE SCHOOL MEALS SERVICE

I am very pleased to advise you that there has been a significant increase in the quality and consistency of the school meals service. Our new chef - Abi - and the team are doing a great job at providing tasty food. We are seeing a significant uplift in the number of pupils choosing to take school lunches.

However, I am aware there have been a number of issues with the service, which I am trying to rectify. Due to the increase in demand, the service has been slow. Long queues have formed, which eats into the students' lunch break. Furthermore, as the meals prove to be increasingly popular, the Chef has been reducing portion sizes to ensure all students get to enjoy the meal. Since Monday, I have instructed Abi to increase portion sizes and to speed up the meal service.

From next week, we will re-arrange the days in which the meals are provided, to give Abi and team the opportunity to prepare meals in a more efficient manner. An updated menu will be posted shortly.

I have also received some feedback that some of the food is too spicy for our Kindergarten children. With that in mind, the Chef has been asked to reduce the spice levels for our younger children.

Please be assured that I read and try to respond to every piece of feedback on school services. If you wish to offer any feedback at any time, please contact me at melissa.hardwell@steineracademybristol.org.uk

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 6th FEBRUARY 6.30 - 8pm



A formalised parent group that supports the day to day life of school is becoming increasingly important. Join us!

SAMOSAS
On sale between 3
and 3.30pm every
Thursday, £1 each.

**CRAFT &
GARDENING
GROUPS
COMING SOON**

LIBRARY

Please volunteer to help, contact Tara at
volunteer@steineracademybristol.org.uk

THANK YOU

TRAFFIC NEWS

We are writing to provide you with information regarding the ongoing highway works at Broom Hill / Blackberry Hill

Two-way signals will now be in use 24/7 until the end of February 2019 to protect the workforce in the road. In order to minimise congestion, the signals are under manual control during the peak periods.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused, and ask people to use alternative routes.

Regards, Transport Programme Team, Bristol City Council



Kindy News

Please ensure children are dressed appropriately for the cold weather, the children go outside everyday whatever the weather.

Please ensure they have layers, gloves, hat and warm socks (wellies aren't always the warmest).

The weather is due to be colder over the coming days/weeks, please support us by sending in your children dressed for such weather conditions.

Walk volunteers; please sign up for either a Monday or Wednesday morning. The sign up sheet is located in the foyer in KG.

Please support us to be able to take the children to explore our beautiful surroundings.



Parents Evenings

3.45 - 5.00pm

Tuesday 5th Feb
Hazel, Chestnut,
Cherry

Thursday 7th Feb
Olive & Oak



Please can you send in large empty egg cartons to Class 1A to use for their Maths work.

Thank you,

Kat