



Friday Flier

Regd. Charity 1070991

9th July 2010

Welcome to the last Flier of this term. Next week is the last week of the school year and I just hope this beautiful weather keeps up after the children finish school! Don't forget the **End of term Celebration** next Friday. Kindergarten and class will be running as normal, so you can drop your children off and then stay if you can to help put the school to bed for the summer. At 1pm, we'll all gather for a picnic, so please bring food to share and stay around as there will be a few things to celebrate (other than seven weeks of holiday).

Love, Jenny

To Sue Bell

As I hope everyone knows by now, our lovely parent and toddler group leader, Sue, is retiring at the end of this term. Sue has been at the school for more than eight years and we're going to miss her very much. Please join us next week to say a proper farewell or *au revoir*, as I really hope Sue won't be a stranger in the future.

As a leaving gift, Theresa and Helen Glover have organised for Sue to go to the Goetheanum for a week in August—something she has dreamt of for many years. Theresa has also taken on the monumental task of putting into words how much Sue has given to the school.....

She greets me with a smile and gives me a hug, asks how I'm doing. I look forward to this part of my day. She has always been there to talk to, a shoulder to cry on or share a cup of coffee.

Sue has been there from day one for me. Her knowledge of Steiner philosophy, child development and life is plentiful. I am grateful for the past eight years, having worked with Sue in nursery in the beginning and having her as a colleague within the school.

I really never thought of myself as teacher material, but then Sue and Catherine said "you can do it!". They showed me that I should believe in myself. So here I am. I thank you Sue for all that you have given to me and to our school. Love, Theresa

Contact arrangements for the holidays

The school closes next Friday 16th July, but there will be various things going on throughout the holidays, such as **class work days** (your individual class parent co-ordinators will be in touch) to get the school ready for September. We will continue to process admissions for September as well.

School office— The school office will be open on the following dates in July— Tuesday 20th and Thursday 22nd, Wednesday and Thursday 28th/29th. It will then be closed completely until the week commencing Monday 23rd August. From Tuesday 31st August, the office will be open every day until the start of term. The **best way to contact** the school is via email on exetersteinerschool@phoncoop.coop.

Contacting staff—please be mindful that the staff are on holiday as well and already do a considerable amount of volunteer time during holidays, so consider whether your enquiry can be made via the office on the dates above, or can even wait until the start of term.

DIARY DATES

Friday 16th July

END OF TERM CELEBRATION AND WORK DAY

All welcome—please bring willing hands and food to share

*Kindergarten and class will be running

Saturday 31st July

COFFEE MORNING

St. Stephen's Church, High Street

10am to 12noon

Wednesday 1st September

BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC

11am to 3pm in School

All welcome

Please bring food to share

Thursday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd September

10-4pm

WHOLE SCHOOL WORK DAYS

Light lunch provided

Monday 6th September

Autumn term begins

for all classes and groups

Coffee morning 31st July

Sarah Jordan has arranged a coffee morning at St. Stephen's in the second week of the school holidays. We would like help please, both on the day and beforehand, making cakes and biscuits to sell. Have a chat to Sarah or Jenny if you think you can help. These little events are fun and with enough people are not very hard work, so please help out if you can.

NEXT FRIDAY FLIER WILL BE OUT 25th AUGUST

GRATITUDES

The whole school community has pulled together this year to create the lovely place we have and to make it run smoothly. Very many people have put in a lot of effort, but some people deserve a special mention for their huge support. Here they are, in no particular order:-

Simon Gay and Suraji Tenti—most of you won't have seen Simon, he volunteers on a Thursday and was completely not phased by the task of sorting out our accounts for the last two years. Simon and Suraji between them have brought the school into the 21st century of financial management.

Oliver Daly—for all his hard work making the school look beautiful, building and fixing things (and for all the work he's going to be doing in the summer.!)

Diana Moore—for all the work she's put in to the management group and the cookbook.

Helen Wilkins, who stepped into the office to help out at a moment's notice.

Julie O'Day for stepping in everywhere at a moment's notice whenever she's been needed, and for being a brilliant gardening teacher.

Adam Smale—our soon-to-be class T1 teacher, who's already firmly part of the school, not to mention stepping into Dimitra's shoes at a day's notice when the Icelandic volcano kept her in Greece.

The Trustees—**Helen W., Kathryn Rew, John Hammond, Kneace Daly, Iain Jamieson and Simon Daly**—who carry the legal responsibilities of the school, which at times have been very heavy.

The Elders—**Maggie Skeet, Malcolm Joyce and Helen W.**, who have been working very hard all year to support the teachers.

And last but not in anyway least, all the teachers—**Theresa Trapp, Esther Watson, Julie O'Day, Dimitra Liakou, Laura Gemmell, Sue Bell, Helen King**—who carry the school in everything they do, and without whom none of this would be possible.

THANK YOU ALL and if I've missed anyone, sorry, consider yourself thanked anyway.

Money matters

Whilst the word **budget** is a thing of horror to many people in the current climate, I find that I am suddenly overcome with delight that I can say that I've spent the last few weeks planning just that for the next school year. Thanks to a huge amount of work from **Dimitra, Suraji, Simon Gay, John Shaw and Simon Daly**, the school not only has a complete and detailed set of accounts, but also has a proper, realistic budget set for the coming year.

I understand that most of you won't be as excited as I am by this, but anyone who's been with us more than eighteen months will understand how far we've come since the days of lurching from one financial crisis to the next urgent fundraising appeal. The school is looking great for the new school year in September, with five full toddler groups, a thriving kindergarten and more class children than we've ever had before.

The final piece of the jigsaw to take our lovely school through the next couple of years is up to **parents**. Although our school is better set for the future than it's ever been, our income still does not quite cover our outgoings. This is where parents come in – with a little bit of effort at **fundraising**, we can balance our finances and even have a little cash to spare for the things that we'd like to do rather than just what we have to do.

I asked a couple of Fliers ago for suggestions for fundraising, but in the deafening silence that followed, we've come up with some ideas of our own. So in September, each class and kindergarten will be given its own fundraising tasks, raising funds for their respective group, which parents will be asked to arrange. For the class groups, the children will also be involved as it's very important for the older children to know that they are contributing to their own community. We're still open to more ideas, so please put your thinking caps on over the summer and come back in the autumn with some ideas to brighten up the budgets.

Love, Jenny

PRESERVERS!

Gill's having a preserving day in school on Thursday this week. **Please bring in any jars etc** If you would like to get involved, catch Gill in school or on 07855117702.

Piano

The school now has a "new" piano. You open the lid and there are two beautiful butterflies! It is a gift from John Hammond and Melanie Small. The previous owner was Lisa Hebbard, who is a member of Exeter LETS and Exeter Community Agriculture. Lisa used to teach music at Maynards School. The piano, which is overstrung, was made by Albert H. Piper at a workshop in Leytonstone in east London. He called it the "windover" model, and it was probably made in the 1920s. In those days, a piano cost about the same as a house.

Our piano tuner, John Tipping, has done a thorough job on it, principally replacing all the bridge tapes and now, apart from some tinkering with the sustaining pedal, it is going well. John's wife, who teaches piano, was educated at a Steiner School. John H.