



# Friday Flier

Regd. Charity 1070991

28th January 2011

## STATE FUNDING

As you all know from the letter sent out just before Christmas, we will be submitting a new application for **Free School Funding** this half term. In order to make the best application possible, we need **everyone's help**. If you would like to see the School go forward and grow into a secure, **fee-free** school for our children, you need to **demonstrate** your support, not only for the School as it exists at the moment, but for the School as you would like it to be in the future.

One of the biggest factors governing acceptance of our application is the demonstration of need and support for the School **from the people who will be using it**. I know many of you have signed up to our petition, either online or on paper, but we have not asked for any other demonstration of support – until now, that is. We ask now that you get active in your support for the School by taking on the task of publicising and promoting us and our bid in the wider community.

Information about the Free School bid has been available now since the beginning of September, but I'm aware that there has been very little open discussion with parents, except in the limited environment of respective parents' meetings. I would like to open up the discussion, along with talking about the ways in which we need help, in two **Parents' Meetings on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February, at 9.30am, in the Hall**. Please sign up to the lists on your noticeboards if you can make one of these dates (the meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> will replace the regular parents' meeting in the toddler room). I'm aware that the timing of these meetings is difficult for some working parents, so I would like to offer a third meeting at 8pm on either the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> **if at least six families sign up to come**.

These meetings will, I hope, be the start of an energetic process of development for the School. We are at a point where we can decide what sort of school we want to be in the future and then go for it. The staff and trustees have already put a huge amount of effort into formulating the application and holding a vision for the education we provide, now it's the turn of everyone in the community to have their say in what sort of school and community we have. So, if you want to be part of this process, please **sign up** to come along to one of these meetings.

Love,

Jenny

## Reflexology in School

Ilse Scheuboeck is offering reflexology in the School on Monday mornings, in four slots between 9.30 and 1.15. Sessions cost £20 for 45 minutes, with £10 going to the School. Charlotte had this therapy last Friday and was amazed at how wonderful reflexology was. Ilse learnt to be a reflexologist in New York in 1998. She has taught people to be reflexologists and has extensive experience working on children's feet. Charlotte definitely recommends the therapy and wants to return for regular treatments. To book, contact Ilse on 07593262425.

Incidentally, Ilse is still looking for permanent accommodation for herself and her son, if anyone can help.

## Upcoming events

Saturday 29th January

11am to 3pm

OPEN DAY

Talk to staff, learn about

Steiner Education.

Light refreshments available

WEDNESDAY 2th & 9th FEBRUARY

Parents' meeting about

STATE FUNDING

9.30 in the Hall

EVERY TUESDAY

KNITTING GROUP

With Catherine Finbow

12.30 in the Parent and toddler room

EVERY TUESDAY

RAINBOW CHILDREN

2-3.30pm in the

SCHOOL HALL (See overleaf)

EVERY WEDNESDAY

SOUP CAFE and SHOP

1.30 onwards

EVERY THURSDAY

YOGA with Linda Ananda

In the SCHOOL HALL

12-2pm

First Friday of every month

TAI CHI 1-2pm, followed by

CREAM TEAS

in the playground or Hall

2pm -3pm

## Next

**Trustees meeting**

**Tuesday 8th February**

**11.30 am in the Hall**

28th January 2011

## CANDLEMAS/IMBOLC

Next week marks the half-way point between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. The Celtic festival of Imbolc is celebrated on February 1st, and is dedicated to the goddess Bride, or Brigid. The name Imbolc refers to ewes milk, representing the flow of life-giving forces in the returning Spring. At Imbolc, we warm the soil for the new seeds by making earth candles, digging holes in the ground and filling them with wax and wick, to light at dusk and burn through the night.

In a later age, the Christian Church adopted Bride as Saint Brigid, replacing Imbolc with Candlemas on February 2nd. Candlemas is dedicated to the Mother Mary and features candlelight processions, celebrating the triumph of light over darkness.

Although we still have one foot in winter though and should not forget that we may yet have days of cold and frost to come, this time is really the beginning of Spring. Lambs are born—earlier than other farm animals because sheep can crop the grass at its lowest winter growth—bulbs are poking through the soil and shoots are appearing on the trees. The great tit in our playground is proclaiming his territory as loudly as possible to anyone who'll listen, with his "teacher teacher" call from the top of the house tree, and his cousins the blue tits are busying about the toddler garden looking for a place to build a nest. On sunny days, it's easy to forget that it's still only February and we still have to look forward to the many wonders of Spring.

### Class Tai chi

Joe is having a fantastic time teaching the classes' morning Tai Chi sessions at the moment. Class 2-3 have learnt the whole of one form, to the point that they can now do the whole form without any instruction. Class T1 are also taking to the sessions really well, with everyone joining in with the Chi Kung lessons.

This week, everyone from both classes has learnt eighteen moves of a new Chi Kung form in just two lessons, which would be a major achievement for most adults.

If you'd like a taster of what the children do four mornings a week, don't forget the **Friday Tai chi session** next week on the 4th February, followed by a **cream tea** in case you feel you've over-exercised.

### 400 club and Friends

Become a Friend of Exeter Steiner School. Support our lovely School for as little as £5 per month donation. If you pay tax, you can also increase the donation to the School by agreeing to Gift Aid your donation.

The School also has the **400 Club**, a monthly draw which also raises funds for the School. If you would like to be in with a chance of winning £20 a month, please get a form from the School office.

The Friends and 400 Club are vital fundraisers for the School as they are unrestricted funds, which we can use for materials and equipment we would not otherwise be able to buy.

### Caring for the elderly

The Christian Community at Buckfastleigh is hosting a workshop with **Frances Tagg** and **Jenny and Glynn Lewis** on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January, from 9.50am to 4pm.

The workshop will be looking at the task and fulfilment of old age, and the relationship between old age, childhood and youth. They will be considering the biographical phases and looking at practical aspects of care.

Cost for the day is £35. For more information and to book, contact Derek Lapworth on 01364 644765

### Fundraising

Iona Cameron has started on her fundraising mission now and will be working in School two days a week. She will be directing major fundraising efforts, particularly with regard to grant funding.

We still need as much input from parents as possible, both helping Iona and the fundraising group (Diana, Kate Hubert and Charlotte), and with any ideas you might like to come up with yourselves.

Please remember, every little bit helps.

### Essential food co-operative

The school food co-operative gives everyone the chance to bulk order all sorts of lovely food and consumables at very low prices. Orders go in the **first MONDAY of each month**. If you would like to see the catalogue or place an order, contact Morag (moragfrazier@btinternet.com).

### School shop

OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY, 1.30—2.30

We sell **Stockmar wax crayons, modelling wax, Lyra crayons, sketchbooks, felt, Stockmar paints etc.** These are the materials our children use in class and kindergarten.

Please remember to check the lovely **notice boards** in both buildings and beside the front gate regularly to find out what's happening in and around school.