



www.bottonvillageschool.co.uk
thecourier@bottonvillageschool.co.uk

10 March 2008

Holy Week

Holy Week, from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, is a time of upheaval and reversal.

Jesus enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey, fulfilling the old prophecy, and is welcomed by the delighted citizens with palm fronds and joyful hosannas.

But the salvation that Jesus offers is not the throwing-off of the Roman yoke that many had imagined. The Jewish Messiah was looking beyond a parochial national future and transforming into the Christ for all mankind. Jesus' presence in Jerusalem is like an earthquake, both spiritually and politically, and cannot go unaddressed. From the zenith of this triumphal entry, through his 'betrayal' in the Garden of Gethsemane, to the nadir of his crucifixion on Golgotha, in the space of five days Jesus' life is turned on its head, but this is merely the scene-setting for the most profound karmic event in history. The whole world turns on a single decision. According to Everett's multiple universe theory, each 'decision' or different possibility spawns a new universe. The events of Holy Week changed the world forever, allowing a new order to crystallise out of the ether. The apparent low point of Jesus' death can be seen as merely another part of his journey downwards into matter, to penetrate it so fully with Spirit that it remains forever changed – creating a new possibility in human karma. This is the time for us to reflect on the changes he brought about, and how we can allow the Cosmic Christ to shine through in our own lives.

Simon Grimshaw

The Man of Iron by the Brothers Grimm

This last term, for the first time, the school has been preparing a fairy tale in eurythmy. Gabriella and Marie-Reine have worked with their classes separately and together, to bring this about. Gabriella has written some music for it, which will be played partly by the children, partly by Kitty on

the piano. Some of the parents are helping with sewing the costumes, thank you. It has been a very positive experience of working together at different levels, between classes, between the teachers. To give it the best surrounding in which to be seen and heard, we decided to present it in the Joan of Arc Hall. We are very grateful that Timothy Edwards will be speaking the story. The performance will be Wednesday 19 March at 2pm, with the dress rehearsal on Tuesday 18th at 9.30am. Many thanks to the children - they have worked very hard! This will be the school end of term festival.

Marie-Reine & Gabriella

Desperate need

Has anybody got a sewing machine to lend to Class 7/8 for their sewing projects? We will take very good care of them. They would be needed until the end of next term.

Please contact Anthea or bring to teachers' room.

Thank you.

Illness and absence from school.

The rhythm of daily, weekly and seasonal cycles is important to the wellbeing of the child. School subjects are taught in such a way, so that experiences missed are not easily made up at another time.

In case of absence through illness the class teacher or Kindergarten teacher must have a note explaining this on the child's return to school, after having already given a verbal explanation. This is a statutory requirement. If no letter is received then an unauthorised absence will have to be considered.

If a child is likely to be absent for more than a day or two it would be much appreciated if you would let the class teacher know, as this is helpful in planning lessons. You can either send a note with a sibling or phone a message through to the teachers' room or the office. Please also inform the lunch place of any absences in good time.

We request that a note is sent to the class teacher prior to medical or dental appointments, which are not able to be scheduled during the holidays or weekends.

Keeping your child away from school for reasons other than illness nearly always undermines the educational and social process of his/her schooling. In principle we do not support the absence of children during term time.

The school has a number of holidays well spaced out throughout the year. These, in addition to half days and weekends, should provide all families with adequate opportunity to arrange their appointments, holidays or other outings outside of school time.

If your child is going to be absent for any reason other than medical, then the class teacher needs to be informed and a letter sent to the College explaining the reasons for the absence. The College will then decide if the absence will be authorised and marked in the register accordingly.

If your child is not well enough to participate in any particular lesson or activity then please send a note to the class teacher so that suitable arrangements can be made.

Early Years Campaign

You may have noticed concern in the media about government proposals for the Early Years Foundation Stage, which are due to come into force in September. These include more formal requirements for numeracy and literacy for the under fives, which, as things stand, will apply to all Waldorf kindergartens. From September the only way of avoiding these requirements will be for individual parents at individual schools to request exemption for their own particular children.

In the Waldorf movement we regard the new requirements as highly undesirable, not appropriate for children at this stage of their development. At

present the teachers are working through the Steiner Schools Fellowship, which is making representations through well-established channels. As parents (or friends) there are three things you can do to try to persuade the authorities to change their mind:

Sign the 'Open Eye' petition at <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/Open Eye/>

Write to your MP, possibly using the attached letter as a model,

Support the Wynstones kindergarten campaign team, a parents' initiative (see www.savesteinerschools.org for information.)

The Wynstones team would like to have two parents acting as contacts for each kindergarten in the country. They can be contacted by emailing team_at_savesteinerschools.org. If you are considering offering to be a contact, perhaps, to avoid confusion, you could let Barbro know.

Michael and Barbro for the Teachers

Concerns/Complaints Procedure

Please find attached the revised procedure, which should be added to your Parents' Handbook, replacing the existing Appendix G. We have revised the procedure mainly because Ofsted pointed out ways in which it did not meet the regulations. This was particularly regarding the need to have a panel including a person independent of the school's management and to keep written records at all stages. We also are aware that, using the procedure, we were not distinguishing clearly enough between concerns and complaints, on the one hand, and general comment on issues, on the other; also that the procedure did not include a clear description of stages and time limits.

We hope that the revised procedure overcomes these problems and that it is clear and straightforward to work with. Please read it carefully as it explains what you should do if you have a concern, how the school should deal with the expression of a concern and what will happen if you write to the College of Teachers to express a concern.

Michael for the College of Teachers

Required for September 2008

Waldorf Teacher for Class One At Botton school

Also part-time teaching of Games, Bothmer Gym,
Woodwork (*which, to some extent, could be
combined with teaching Class One*)

Closing date for applications: 14 April 2008

CALENDAR

The Man of Iron: Fairytale in eurythmy by the
whole school: 19th of March 2pm Joan of Arc Hall
Dress Rehearsal 18th March 9.30

Blitz Clean: 12.4 08 class 5/6 Carolyn Jarvis

Coordinators' Meeting

Botton Farm: Monday 21 April 2008

Craft Group: Thursdays 8.45 Botton Farm

Eurythmy Classes: Thursdays 8.45 School Hall

Easter Holidays: 20th March- 13th April

Anthroposophical group: Apr.25th, May 9th, June
6th.

Eskdale Trust Council: Tuesdays at 20.00:
15 April, 20 May, 17 June.

Parents' Meetings

Tuesdays at 20.00:

11 Mar Class 3/4 18 Mar Class 7/8

22 Apr Class 1/2 29 Apr Class 5/6

13 May Class 7/8

Next Copy date: 17 April 2008

Please send handwritten articles to Marie-Reine
Adams or to the school, and you can also email
articles from the website or from the address at the
top of the courier.

Lee and Marie-Reine