



# News Bulletin

## 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021

| Diary Dates          |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Parent Consultations | Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> November<br>Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> November |
| School Photos        | Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> November                                       |

Welcome back everyone! After a two week break, I hope that you are all rested and ready for the half term ahead. This is of course, the run up to the festive season and one of my favourite times of the year. Being able to share in this special time with the children is always a privilege, I very much look forward to entering in to the true spirit of Christmas with them all. There is a great deal else taking place this half term also, which I am pleased to be able to update you on.

### Staffing Update

Following the news that Brechtje will no longer remain as Class 4 teacher, I can share that Brechtje has been in to school to say goodbye to all of the children and staff. Even though Brechtje will not be in school with us, she remains a member of the BSS team. Between now and April, Gardening Leave has been arranged with myself and the Trustees, allowing Brechtje the time to focus on her commitments as a new parent and to make plans for new ventures in the coming year.

### SENDCO Appointment

I would like to welcome Lorraine Swords to Bristol Steiner School. Lorraine, who is a very experienced practitioner, has taken up post as school SENDCO. Lorraine has already become frequented with the children and staff and looks forward to meeting everyone and getting to know the community over the coming half term. We wish Lorraine the very best of luck.

### School Events

We are ever hopeful that school events can run through the year. We have already managed a return to some of these and I know how much this has been appreciated by parents and the wider community. However, as previously communicated, this will not include the Advent Fair, at least not an indoor affair. There had been much discussion over the half term and a desire to revisit an opportunity to hold a small-scale event rather than cancelling altogether. This I am happy to do and with the support of key staff members look forward to agreeing on what is be possible. This will be an outdoor event that involves Christmas activities.

We will also continue as planned with an Advent Week with the children, with the hope that this will include a musical performance that in some way parents will be able to attend. This we would have to approach with great care, as the latest advice from the Local Authority has highlighted. Cooperation with the school's COVID secure systems will be crucial. Importantly, staff capacity must remain a priority if we are to avoid school closure and a return to remote learning.

All measures you will be familiar with and I would encourage everyone to adhere to. These require all parents, carers and visitors to:

- **Wear a mask when in the building and moving through and into communal areas;**
- **Sanitise hands when entering the building and after putting on and removing masks.**

They also require parents/carers to:

- **Keep masks on when attending any school event;**
- Complete a lateral flow test before attending any school event;
- Self-isolate if COVID symptoms develop; to administer a lateral flow test and if positive, seek a PCR test to confirm.

It would have been wonderful not to have had to contend with measures such as these, late in to the Autumn again. Whilst they are not mandatory at present, I would respectfully ask that you support the school and the staff's efforts to keep the school environment free from COVID this term, so that we can all fully enjoy Christmas with our families.

### Craft Group

We will be starting a Craft Group for the Bristol Steiner School parents, it is a chance for all parents to come together to learn new skills, to share ideas and to make different types of crafts which can be sold to raise funds for the school.

The group will be held on a **Wednesday and Thursday**. On Wednesday the group will run after morning drop off in the Parent and Child room & on Thursday it will run in Emma's Kindergarten classroom from 1:30-3:15. The first session will be on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November. It is free to join the group, but we ask for a small donation to go towards materials and refreshments (tea and coffee etc.)

### Attendance

As Head Teacher, it is my duty to ensure that all children on roll attend school all year round. The pandemic has certainly affected everyone's efforts to maintain this. In recognition of these most challenging of circumstance, for the period extending April 2020- April 2021, exemptions were in place. This was a very welcome and unprecedented response from government, which has since been removed. Now, as before -and in line with the school's Attendance Policy- it is expected that children's attendance remains at or above 96%. Of course this isn't always possible and the school, be that class teachers or a member of SMT, will work with families to discuss any factors that may be impacting on attendance, so that solutions can be found that are agreeable.

### Parent and Child

I am so happy to be able to open our doors to the Parent and Child Group, welcoming families with younger children back into our school. I have been busy over the half term getting the room and garden ready.

I wanted to send out a request for donations as just a few extra things would make the space even more enjoyable for our new little friends and wanted to reach out to you all first. The request is mainly for the garden: wooden push along trolleys and small spades and buckets for the sandpit.

If you feel that you are able to donate one or other of these, that they are in a good condition and in keeping with the aesthetics of a Waldorf environment, please get in touch with me via [parentandchild@bristolsteinerschool.org](mailto:parentandchild@bristolsteinerschool.org).

Warm Wishes  
Becky

### School Photos

Tempest will be visiting school on 25<sup>th</sup> November to take individual and family group photos. All parents wishing to order photographs will be asked to do so online, as before. So that orders can be processed, all parents will need to agree to contact details being made available to Tempest. These will not be shared with anyone else and will be deleted, once purchases have been completed.

As was the case in the Summer term, Kindergarten children are invited to participate. Parental permission is requested and should be done so in advance via [reception@bristolsteinerschool.org](mailto:reception@bristolsteinerschool.org). If your child does not usually attend school on this day, parents are welcome to make arrangements to accompany their child/ children in to school, so that photographs can be taken. The children will be expected to return home once finished.

## Begin Well

An exciting opportunity has arisen to be able to host free antenatal classes to the local and wider community. BSS is hoping to work in partnership with health professionals who have been working hard to establish antenatal care to couples in the city. This crucial support network has somewhat diminished over the course of the last ten years, due to cuts in services; impacted to a greater extent since the onset of the pandemic. Begin Well, a charity leading the way in this field, is offering to support us in becoming the first school hub in the city to provide this care. BSS is looking for someone with an interest in antenatal care, who is willing and able to commit to this new venture, planned for after the New Year. Full free training will be provided, which will be delivered by Karen Egitto, who runs the charity in partnership with a paediatrician at St Michael's Hospital. It is anticipated that this will take place in January, with a view to the first 5-week course beginning after Easter. As this course will be free to all attendees, anyone wishing to be involved would do so knowing that it will be on a voluntary basis. Expressions of interest must be received by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, via [reception@bristolsteinerschool.org](mailto:reception@bristolsteinerschool.org)

Wishing you all much health and happiness as the nights draw in and winter creeps closer.

Nicola Forder

Headteacher

Bristol Steiner School