

For regular news from the school, visit the News section on our website or like us on Facebook by following the link on our website homepage or this link: <https://www.facebook.com/ElmfieldRudolfSteinerSchool>



Please email any entries to loose-ends@elmfield.com. The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the school or its staff. The school cannot be held responsible for the quality of products or services offered in this newsletter. We reserve the right to edit content. The editor's decision is final.

Upcoming Events

Tues 16 Jan	7.30	Stream of Sound - Eurythmy Room
Tues 23 Jan	7.30	Stream of Sound - Eurythmy Room
Wed 24 Jan	9am - 3.30	"Operating Theatre Live" Science event for Upper School
	7.00	Class 4 Parents' Evening
Mon 29 Jan	7.30	Class 2 Parents' Evening
	7 - 8.30	Class 10 Parents' Evening part 1
Tues 30 Jan	7 - 8.30	Class 10 Parents' Evening part 2
Wed 31 Jan	1.00	<i>Deadline for copy for next Loose Ends</i>
Fri 2 Feb	Afternoon	Next issue of Loose Ends
Sat 3 Feb	10 - 4.00	Stream of Sound Singing Day for Children - Hall
Mon 5 Feb	7.30	Class 1 Parents' Evening
Tues 6 Feb	7.30	Class 3 Parents' Evening
Thurs 8 Feb	7.30	Class 6 Parents' Evening
Fri 9 Feb	7.30	Middle and Upper School Concert (<i>don't miss this chance to see the pupils perform</i>)
Mon 12 Feb	7.00	AGM of Elmfield Association - Eurythmy Room
Tues 13 Feb	7.25	Open Evening
Wed 14 Feb	7.00	Variety Evening - <i>hosted by Class 9</i> - Hall
Fri 16 Feb		School closes for half term
Mon 26 Feb		Teacher Training Day - school closed
Tues 27 Feb		School reopens
Sat 3 March	10 - 4.00	Stream of Sound Singing Day for Adults - Hall

Elmfield News and Information

A brief roundup of some recent goings on...

- Early Years and classes 1 to 4 and their families enjoyed the Advent Spiral
- Advent assemblies began each day for the last few weeks of term
- St Nicholas visited, much to the joy of the pupils, dispensing his words of wisdom and gifts
- We had a very lovely Christmas Festival
- The Teacher's Play, ably assisted by some of the Upper School pupils, was enjoyed by the whole school
- Class 3 beautifully performed their Nativity Play
- Class 11 went to the Portrait and National Galleries in London as part of their GCSE Art studies
- The Gallimaufry was enjoyed by all who attended
- The Stream of Sound Christmas concert was the perfect way to end the year

A big thank you to everyone who donated items for the food bank at the end of last term. Your generosity will have made a real difference over the festive period.

Eurythmy Teacher – Vacancy

We are looking for a committed and inspiring Eurythmy Teacher for Classes 5 to 8 and Upper School Eurythmy blocks/modules. Ideally you should have a Eurythmy qualification, together with either a state teaching qualification, Waldorf Diploma or experience of teaching Eurythmy in a Waldorf School. You should also have excellent classroom management skills and be able to create and maintain a positive and healthy climate for learning, as well as an age appropriate coherent curriculum.

Full details and a description of the role are on the school website at <http://elmfield.com/the-school/vacancies/job-vacancies/>. Closing date Friday, 26th January 2018.

Afternoon Care Assistant – Vacancy

We are looking for an excellent assistant to work alongside our Afternoon Care Co-ordinator in our Afternoon Care provision. Working parents use this service on a pre-booked and ad-hoc basis for their children. To apply, you should have a sound background in working with young children. This post would suit someone who is confident in encouraging, nurturing and supervising children at play, intervening where necessary to maintain good behaviour and a safe environment. You'll need energy and enthusiasm, and a firm but caring approach. A commitment to and understanding of Waldorf education is desirable. The hours are 12.30pm-3.15pm, Monday – Friday, term time only.

Full details and a description of the role are on the school website at <http://elmfield.com/the-school/vacancies/job-vacancies/>. Closing date Friday, 26th January 2018.

School Doctor/School Health Professional - Vacancy

We are looking for someone with genuine enthusiasm for Steiner-Waldorf education, and ideally some experience of working in a Waldorf school as a school doctor/school health professional. The successful applicant will work with the school to provide a holistic point of view informed by anthroposophical medical and developmental insights, to offer anthroposophic treatment and to make referrals for therapeutic interventions with the aim of enhancing our understanding of the development of the children and their well-being. They will communicate as necessary with other agencies such as CAMHS or the NHS in cooperation with the school. This is a great opportunity to help shape the lives of the young people in our school.

Full details and a description of the role are on the school website at <http://elmfield.com/the-school/vacancies/job-vacancies/>. Closing date Friday, 26th January 2018.

Elmfield Gift Shop: We are busy re-stocking our shelves with all of our ranges of organic and natural toiletries. Special Offer: Dr Hauschka Rose Day Cream (30ml) - selling at 25% off RRP - now £22.85. Tins of 18 Super Ferby pencils are now available at the special price of £24.30. Just in: Winter edition of New View magazine (£6.00). The Shop Team

Parents' Library. Open throughout the term on Wednesdays (8.45am - 9.45am) Now located in the Elmfield Gift Shop. We are currently adding some core titles to our shelves. Including Upstart: The case for raising the school starting age and providing what the under- sevens really need by Sue Palmer (author of Toxic Childhood). The Library Team

Buildings update

This is a copy of the letter we sent out in December

Dear Parents,

Earlier this year we wrote to you about the dismantling of the Estates Hut and Goethean Science Room to clear space for the building of two new classrooms. Class sizes at Elmfield are growing, particularly in the younger years, and at the time it was felt that new classrooms were needed to accommodate the larger Classes 1 and 2.

However, with building costs rising, we decided to look at alternatives. We found a way to reallocate some

of our current rooms, notably moving Class 2 to Blue Cedar and Class 5 to Parkhill (near the Office), and have been trialling this since September. This arrangement has worked even better than we hoped, allowing us to continue to provide an excellent teaching environment for all our pupils.

The other thing to note is that we have now reached a point where essential maintenance work on our roofs has to take priority. As you know, our buildings are not as young as they once were and, like any school, wear and tear takes place. This work is not as glamorous as building new classrooms but, in reality, it is far more important. As with any business, we only have a certain amount of money that we can allocate to any building projects, and maintaining the viability of our current buildings has to take precedence over any new builds.

So, with the new classroom arrangements working well and the need for repairs becoming pressing, we have made the decision to put the new build on hold for the foreseeable future. Instead we will focus on the maintenance and repair of our current buildings to ensure their long-term use going forward. We are working on ideas for the area that was cleared and hope to announce these soon. One potential idea is turning them into an extended playground area for the children to enjoy.

One of the strengths of Elmfield is our community, so if you have any roofing or building skills that you may be able to offer before we commit to the final costs, we would be grateful to hear from you.

If you have any questions about this please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Best regards,

Lesley Taberer
Bursar

Diana Ball
Education Lead

Elaine Sheppard
Chair of College of Teachers

PTFA

“Happy New Year” from the PTFA.

Please scroll down/turn to the next page for community events, services, etc.

Wider Community

EVENTS

The Parent's Eurythmy group will commence again on Wednesday 31 January, from 8-9pm. Beginners are welcome. This will be a 6 week block with 3 sessions before and 3 after half term. The theme this time is colour in movement and the cost will be £42 for the 6 weeks. Please contact Jennifer if you would like any more information 07568 595839 or willmott.jennifer@gmail.com.

Come Play With Me - **A Steiner inspired family group** held on Wednesday mornings from 9.30 - 11.30. Children up to school age are most welcome with their parent or carer. We play, bake a snack and enjoy songs and rhymes together. If you would like to join us in the community room at the Christian Community, 22 Baylie Street, please contact Janet Klaar, 01384 352177 or by email janetklaar@yahoo.co.uk
We look forward to welcoming new members to our group.

Soul's Choice Workshop - 20th January at Elysia Therapeutic Centre, Stourbridge
An introduction to anthroposophy through the Soul. Understanding how our thoughts, feelings and actions interweave and inform our choices in life. This allows us to identify our resources, find places where we can get stuck with decision making and security issues, and explore ways of moving forward towards freedom. We explore our soul-life using simple exercises and every-day observations to develop greater skill and confidence in taking our unique spiritual resources out into the world.
Cost £45. For more information or to book please contact Melanie Taylor on 07810 048 739 or email melanie@elysiahealth.org

ENSWaP Conference 2018 - "Digital Reality in the Waldorf School"

13-15 April 2018 - Bologna, Italy

Digital technology has become part of our everyday life. Some people embrace it without any questions, others demonise it – but for most of us it is an exciting challenge. At our conference we aim to look further than the question of whether to use smartphones at school. We would like to explore such issues as:
How can we find the right balance for our children? What is age-appropriate digital education? How to remain human and humane in this digital world? How to prevent game or social media addiction? What is SDD? What will the future look like? Together we, parents, teachers, experts, pupils, can find some answers which help us in our daily lives.

The registration fee is €150 which includes the full programme and all food and beverages offered throughout the conference.

The final programme and other information will be posted to the conference page (<http://enswap.org/conferences/2018-bologna/>) where you'll also find contact details to enquire about registering.

Ashtanga Yoga at Elmfield Monday 8.00pm - 9.30pm Beginners' Course (10 weeks) - an introduction to Ashtanga Yoga (8 January - 26 March) and Thursday 8.00pm - 9.30pm Improvers' Course (10 weeks) - for people who have a working knowledge of Ashtanga Yoga (11 January - 22 March). Mind calm - body vibrant. James Critchlow 01384 394702 / 07967211748 www.yogabirmingham.co.uk

Yoga Classes at Elmfield. Tuesdays 7pm – Hatha; Thursday 8pm – Yin; Sunday 9.30am – Hatha. All classes are held in the movement Room, Upper School. £8 drop in or £70 for 10.

Also morning classes at Churchill Village Hall, DY10 3LU - Tuesdays 9.30am Yin; Fridays 9.30am Hatha. To book or for more info please contact Emma Cartwright on: 07973376267 www.yogasouls.co.uk; Namaste@yogasouls.co.uk

HEALTH

Sacred Lotus Centre - Organic Indian head massage and reflexology with NHR organic oils. Reiki, Reiki with crystals and Reiki Drum. Women's cancer support service.

January Dates: 13.01.18 Drumming Circle; 23.01.18 Reiki Share; 30.01.18 Reiki Level 1: Self Healing
Call 07952 477545 Visit www.sacredlotuscentre.com

Anthroposophic Medical Care available at the Elysia Therapeutic Centre: For pains or stiffness in limbs or spine. Not sure what's going on or nothing seems to help? Dr Rainer Klocke, Consultant Rheumatologist, is available for integrative-medical consultations. To find out more, please call the Centre on 01384 392072.

Are you suffering, for example, from **back problems, muscular tension, insomnia, stress, anxiety?** Physiotherapy (holistic approach); Rhythmical Massage Therapy: 1-1 Modified Pilates are offered as separate therapies or as an integrated approach at the Elysia Therapeutic Centre.
For info www.annavanzelder.com For appointments please phone Anna: 0778 9852 378

Celebrating 100 years of Mistletoe Therapy for Cancer Care

A one day conference with guest speaker Dr. Michael Evans - Saturday 27th January 2018, 10.30 am to 6.00 pm; Elysia Therapeutic Centre, Stourbridge
Day includes: A talk and discussion around Mistletoe and Cancer, Goethean Observation of Mistletoe and Eurythmy: Exercises for Cancer. Cost: £30 (includes lunch & refreshments)
To book your place please contact Cathie Green – 01584 881197 / 07974 390 197 or email: cathiegreen@outlook.com

New Oasis Pathway - Sacred Activism 2018

Alternate Saturdays 9.30am – 12.30pm from 3rd February until 14 April
Oasis is a support group open to anyone looking for new perspectives on life in the face of challenging life circumstances. We work with personal narrative, art and story as a way of describing our inner and outer life experience with a view to stepping into a future rich with new possibility. The new Fourth Pathway, can be taken as a stand-alone course offering a new approach to answering life questions in a dynamic yet soul filled way, with the purpose of living life from a sense of sacred activism.
To find out more or to join: Contact Melanie Taylor on 07810 048 739 or email melanie@elysiahealth.org

Naturopathic Nutritional Therapy - Are you struggling with not feeling as well as you could be? Perhaps you lack energy or just want to make some improvements to your diet and could do with some help. Maybe you need some ideas to help you and your family reach optimal health and just don't know where to start. I am passionate about helping people feel better and achieve their goals through food (nature's medicine), natural supplements and herbs and lifestyle advice. I provide support for all conditions/ issues.
If you would like to book a consultation or arrange a free 10-minute initial chat then please e-mail me: info@nutritionforvitality-laraseago.com or call me on: 07887 943037. I look forward to working with you on your improved wellness. Lara Seago

SERVICES

NEWBORN BABY PHOTOSHOOT - I am training as a newborn baby photographer and I need your help please. My professional photographic partner and I need someone who has had a baby in the last couple of weeks or is due to give birth in the next 3 to 5 weeks to please help us. We will do a full blown newborn baby photo shoot for you - FREE OF CHARGE. You will get 5 high quality JPEG images from us, as a huge big THANK YOU!
First come first served as we can only do one. Please call BRIDGIT on 07726953033

Gary (Elmfield parent) offering **professional gardening services and handyman help**. Specialist in garden permaculture, incredible edibles (eat your flowers/perennials/bushes etc), fast efficient general maintenance both in the garden and in the house. Excellent references available on request. Gary 07584 088176. ecoponix@gmail.com

Thoroughly Helping Hands is very excited to announce that we have recently expanded our team of thoroughly lovely helpful people, which means we now have capacity to help more people, particularly in the Stourbridge area in the afternoons, evenings and weekends.
If we can help you in any way that's moral and legal then do please get in touch with Georgie on 07792775751 for a chat. www.thoroughlyhelpinghands.com

PRIVATE TUITION - Mathematics, Physics and French

Dear Parents, do you feel your daughter or son might benefit from some after-school support in Maths, Physics or French? I taught all three subjects as an upper and middle school teacher at St. Michael Steiner School in London for the last three years before coming to Stourbridge last September to train as a Eurythmist.

I have a Waldorf Teacher Training Diploma and an MSc in Physics. I speak fluent English, French and Italian (my mother tongue) as well as some Spanish. I am passionate about my subjects as well as Waldorf Education and I will be happy to support both middle and upper school pupils.

Please contact me via email at elisa.laera@gmail.com or on my mobile at 079 43 87 02 06. Elisa Laera

Spanish and Portuguese lessons. My name is Marie, I was born in Portugal but grew up and attended school and University in Argentina. I lived in Portugal for the last 20 years. If you would like to learn or improve your Spanish or Portuguese, please contact me on weekdays after 2pm, or weekends anytime, on this number 07918767197. Thankyou

My name is Maria Fernandez, if you have an interest in **macrobiotics** please contact me: 07983 783399 or mmfernandezjurado@gmail.com (Spanish lessons/conversation also available).

A young eurythmist is looking for **cleaning work**. Please contact Kirsi Ronkko. Email: kimaelro@hotmail.com; mobile: 07546 639064.

Pet carer or sitter available. My name is Daniela and I am looking for jobs in Stourbridge area. My number is 07804426576. Regards, Daniela

Babysitting services: My name is Marie, I am 55 years old, Argentinean/ Portuguese, doing my 3rd year training as Steiner kindergarten teacher and doing my work placement (as a volunteer) at Elmfield Steiner School. I am a mum of two grown up children and have been a childminder and nanny for many years. I have some experience with children with special care needs as well. Availability: weekdays after 2,00pm and nights, anytime at weekends and holidays. £8/hour. Mobile 07918767197. Thankyou.

Babysitter/Dogwalker Available. My name is Fran, and I am a responsible, mature girl in Class 11, interested in babysitting or dog walking jobs in the Stourbridge area. Please contact my mother Diana on 01384 371348 for more details.

Babysitting Services Available! Previous experience as an Ofsted Registered Childminder and a Mummy! Available weekday and weekend evenings. Contact Jenny on 07929 457355.

ACCOMMODATION

LARGE DOUBLE ROOM available to rent in Norton, close to Mary Stevens Park, from beginning of February. Sharing with a friendly, young women, who's looking for someone similar to contribute towards a positive living environment. Contact Thalia at 07759210868

OPPORTUNITIES

Income opportunity: Looking for a suitable person to fulfil a weekly school run to and from Worcester (WR5 2AA) to Elmfield school. Arrival at Elmfield 8.45am, collection 3.15pm. Paying £100 per week. Contact: 07391543604

Last but not least...

"Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right."

Oprah Winfrey