

10 July 2020

End of Year Thank You and update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank You

As we come to the end of an extraordinary year at Cardiff Steiner School we want to thank you for your incredible support and encouragement as a community this year.

We have been blown away by the participation and good will of parents; the resilience, positive attitude and engagement of the children and young people; and the dedication and commitment of our brilliant faculty and staff. Together we have been able to continue our rich curriculum journey, provide academic, social and emotional support, and a keep alive a sense of community during this unique time.

We recognise and honour each and every individual and collective act that has contributed towards this - from our move to on-line learning, supporting pupils at home, joining us for 'Tea at 4.00', sending us your insightful feedback, to preparing the premises and facilities for blended-learning and everything in between - we are eternally grateful. Thank you all.

End of Term/Year

It is a different end of year for us today, without the usual end of year Assembly and the opportunity to stand in each other's company and say goodbye. We have in it's stead put together a final end of year **Online Assembly** for all to watch, either in the 'Whole School' Google Classroom or on Vimeo [password to follow by text]. We hope you enjoy it and, if you can take a moment, please do tell us, in a comment on Google Classroom, what your favourite item was.



You can also visit the 'Whole School' Google Classroom, to see an **Exhibition of the wonderful Stitch Stories** that have been completed and sent in so far by the Cardiff Steiner School Community - a foretaste of the physical exhibition we will hold next term when it is safe to do so. Thank you to all of you who have made contributions so far. If you have not made one yet and would like to do so, is not too late, please keep working on Stitch Stories over the summer ready to be included in the exhibition next term. You can read more about the [Stitch Story Project here](#) and go to the 'Whole

School' Google Classroom to see the Exhibition (see [advice for how to log on](#) here).

Image is *My Farm - Wet felted and Stitch Story* by Hannah - Class 10

Also do take the time to look at the **end of year exhibition of Handwork and Art, made by all the Classes** over the past year, also in the 'Whole School' Google Classroom.

Our **Beyond the Classroom** online learning platform will remain live and accessible throughout the summer, for pupils to complete and post work if they wish to.

End of Year Reports

Our End of Year Reports for all Class pupils and Kindergarten children aged 5 and over will be delivered to you online this year via **BigSIS**, our new school database system. You will receive an email invitation over the next 10 days asking you to sign-up and log in to the new **BigSIS Parent Portal** where you will be able to access your child's report as a PDF. If you would like us to also send you a printed copy please just email Nicola in the School Office on parents@cardiffsteiner.org.uk and we'll be very happy to do so.

We're looking forward to the possibilities that the BigSIS Parent Portal will bring next year in improving our communications and moving fully to 3 x a year School reports as has been a-long-time planned. More information on this coming soon.

September Return

Finally we'd like to update you on the latest Welsh Government announcement for schools in Wales. Yesterday Welsh Education Minister, Kirsty Williams, announced that all state schools in Wales would be able to open in September for ALL pupils where schools can accommodate them. Pupils will need only limited social distancing with pupils in their class or 'contact group', while adults will have to socially distance with each other. Updated operational guidance for September will be published by Welsh Government next week. Other key points from the announcement are:

- **Schools will return to full capacity**, with only limited social distancing within contact groups.
- At full operations, a contact group should consist of around 30 children. Some direct or indirect mixing between children in different contact groups will also be unavoidable, such as on transport, receiving specialist teaching or due to staffing constraints.
- Social distancing for adults should remain in line with regulations and guidance.
- Schools will be required to minimise the risk of transmission by taking other mitigating measures using the hierarchy of risk controls.
- Every school should continue to be "Covid Protected" - having carried out risk assessments and mitigated them with a combination of controls such as hand and surface hygiene, one-way systems and so forth.
- If early warning information shows a local incident or outbreak then nearby schools should implement appropriate restriction measures.
- Each school will be provided with a supply of home testing kits.

Our School Management Team and College will be working throughout the summer on comprehensive planning for this, with a view to as full as reopening as is safely possible. Our usual **end of Year Parent Survey** will also be asking for parents' feedback to inform this, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Wishing all our pupils, families and staff a wonderful summer.



Anna Podesta, Miranda Knight, Brigid Bowen
for College, the School Management Team and Trustees