



TERM REPORT - AUTUMN 2024

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Sunday community days this coming year, 10am-3pm.

Sunday 5th January 2025 - decorating and cleaning

Sunday 27th April 2025 (20th is Easter Sunday) - gardening and decorating

Advent fair 2024!

Thank you for all your help and support in raising £7196.29 for the School Community Fund!

(And items are still available to purchase from the school shop!)

We hope you enjoyed the day as much as we did! Despite the weather, we had amazing number of visitors, the food, drink and activities were fab and the buzz and feel was fantastic!

Thank you so much for all you did to make the day a huge success!

If you have any feedback please email me at adventfair@waldorfcambridge.uk

Already some improvements for next year:

- Classes staying on an activity/area for 2 years to refine and improve how it works, and also pass on to the next group.
- More decoration/greenery/music in the candle dipping (beeswax was a hit!)
- More people needed for pizzas!
- More clarity on the sign up sheet where and when.
- We have bought a marquee so we can cover the patio and have more space for stalls!
- More decorations/greenery around school.



Advent

The gift of light we thankfully take
But not shall it be alone for our sake
The more we give light
The one to the other
It shines and it spreads, and it glows still further
Until every spark by friends set aflame
Until every heart with joy to proclaim
In the depths of our souls a shining sun glows.



Christmas gifts

Our school shop has a lovely range of items and gifts available. Our aim is to have high quality gifts available all year round for you to buy and give!

We have...

Floris books, pictures and postcards from Wynstones press, craft items including handmade wooden boats (perfect for lego people), spinning tops...and other stocking fillers.

A limited number of beautiful handmade painting boards £20 each.

And a limited number of Oak Tree 2025-2026 calendars available £20 each.

See the display in reception and ask Clare or Tina for more information!



Guess the weight of the Christmas cake.

The cake was made by Oak Tree, who also ran the stall!
Congratulations to Ben for getting closest!



The Advent Spiral in Kindergarten- an image for life

Every year in kindergarten at this time of year, as well as through the whole school, an important preparation is being carried out by the teachers and staff. A beautiful, living spiral is created from greenery. Everything about it inspires the senses from the way it looks, to the way it smells.

This year in Kindergarten the teachers created the spiral in the Kindergarten room itself. A warm and familiar place for the Kindergarten children to be part of a special moment in the Waldorf year. This year too, parents were invited to join and what a heart-warming experience that was.

To witness, as I have through the years, children taking those special steps onto the spiral, to watch through the darkness as the light that each contributes, grow and become brighter, is a wonderful image to hold as the darkness creeps in. By the end of this special time, the spiral is bright with light, lit up with all the children's candles. This offers the children a powerful picture of light in the darkness, of one's candle contributing to each others light in the dark world, of the coming of light from each of us. It offers a reminder of the reliable turning of the sun from hidden and sleeping to strength and light each year at the Winter Solstice. Waiting quietly in the darkness for the return of the light, contributing a little bit from each person to make the world bright, are important lessons to learn for life.

Few words and powerful pictures offer the best kind of learning.

Irena Baruch



VAT update

We will be sending out the estimates or invoices for the Spring term shortly. A couple of things will look different. As you know, government legislation requires us to apply VAT at 20% to school fees and afternoon clubs from January 1st 2025.

We really appreciate that for some families this will be a difficult time financially and emotionally, but we hope we can support those who need help. We are also having to plan for the removal of business rates relief in April, so passing on less than 20% was just not financially possible to ensure stability for the school.

VAT registration

We have applied to be VAT registered, but HMRC have yet to process our application which means we do not have a VAT number and therefore cannot issue invoices including VAT.

Therefore, your invoice will be titled 'estimate' and will be the FULL amount for the Spring term (i.e school fee including VAT where appropriate). We are not allowed to separate out the VAT on the estimate or show anywhere that VAT is being applied until we have a VAT number. I'm sorry I know this seems strange, but there are very strict rules about VAT and applying VAT to invoices.

School community fund

The 'School Community fund' is now open for applications and will shut on Thursday January 2nd for Spring term applications. It will open again towards Easter for the summer term. The purpose of this fund is to support families who are struggling with short term situations, like the mid-year addition of VAT.

If you can donate to this fund, please let finance@waldorfcambridge.uk know asap.

KG fees

To add to the complexity, VAT is applicable to children of compulsory school age. The Department of Education's definition of compulsory school age is the term after a child turns five, therefore we will be applying VAT to children's fees the term after they turn five. Please be prepared for a change in cost during the year depending on when your child's birthday is.

We really appreciate that this mid-year increase in costs is very difficult and has also made the management of it very difficult for Teresa and our finances. We are sorry for this and are working hard to do everything can to make things supportive and smooth, and get through this together.

Staggering monthly payments is still available as with previous terms, please set these up with Teresa as normal.

Please get in touch if you would like to discuss things further or have any questions.

Best wishes

Tina

Admissions report

Since the start of September, we had 13 children join Waldorf Cambridge (5 in the Early Years, 5 in Lower and 3 in Middle School), and had 4 children leave (2 in Kindergarten and 2 in Lower School). This brings us to currently 100 pupils (28 in the Early Years, 47 Lower School, 17 Middle School, 8 Upper School).

We have a steady stream of enquiries coming in (73 Enquiries) of which 13 families attended a tour so far.

To promote our school, we had two open mornings, which were advertised on social media, Eventbrite and locally with posters and flyers. One of these introductory mornings was specifically for our Early Years settings, as we would like to increase our numbers especially in the kindergartens. Furthermore, we have been present with a stall at our own Advent Fair and the Fulbourn Winter Fair (1st of December, the Mill Road Fair on 7th of December sadly was cancelled due to severe weather conditions). We promote our school with flyers and information booklets, but also sold goods made by our pupils, staff and parents to fundraise for our school community (especially to support families who struggle with the increase in costs due to the VAT coming in in January). Singing at these events as well as hosting our Advent concert in the local church to open it up to the local community were other ways to make people aware of our existence.

A survey about our outreach has shown that social media and internet research are currently generating the highest interest, followed by word of mouth. So please keep sharing about our school verbally with your friends and family and help us advertise by liking us and forwarding our posts on Facebook and other social media channels. If we all pull together, we can bring in more pupils into our school, which will help to secure our school in the future!

Katharina Woodhouse

Well done!

To Daniel and Emilio who were runners up in the Cambridge inspired jewellery design competition run by Harriet Kelsall.



A huge thank you to Mabel, Gaby, Katie and Dan for supporting us with our very own St Martin!

Martinmas



School fundraising update 2025

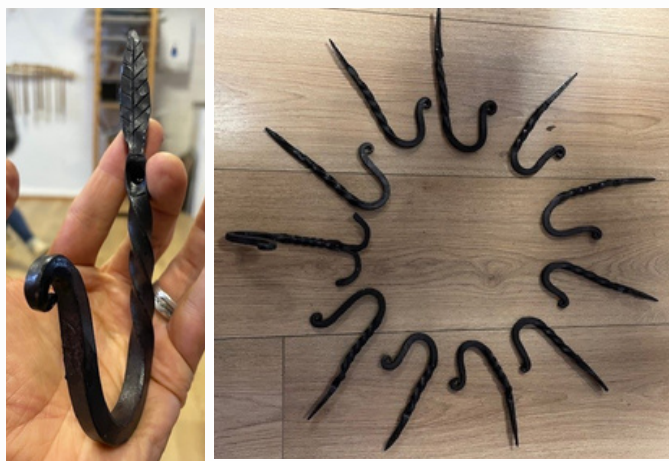
Sales and items

- Apple juice - 179 bottles to sell at £4 each
- 2025 calendar painted and designed by Oak Tree - now available!
- Beeswax candles - £7 per pair
- Christmas cards designed by pupils
- Advent fair (more later in the report)
- Stalls at Fulbourn and Mill Road fairs
- Collaboration with Floris Books and Wynstones Press to offer more gift options on the stalls and through the school shop
- School shop continues to include more items

Barley's fundraising for our school!



Blacksmithing workshop with Bernard



Tesco Stronger Starts fundraising

Voting will commence in store from Mid-January 2025 until end the of March 2025!

The project with the highest number of votes across your region will receive £1,500 (or the amount that was requested up to this value), the second placed project £1,000 (or the amount that was requested up to this value), and the third placed project £500.

Please see below a list of stores taking part in the voting on your project.

2065 Barhill Extra CB23 8EL
2216 Petty Cury Cambridge Express Express CB2 3NE
2225 Campkin Road Cambs Express Express CB4 2NF
2228 Cambridge Newmarket Road Superstore CB5 8LD
2229 Cherry Hinton Express Express CB1 9HU
2555 Fulbourn Cherry hinton Superstore CB1 9BF
2705 Histon Cambs Express Express CB24 9JD
2889 Milton Superstore CB24 6AY
4784 Orchard Park Express Express CB4 2AD
4844 Cambridge Christs Lane Express Express CB1 1NP
5463 Chesterton Cambs Express Express CB4 1NX
5489 Hills Road Cambridge Express Express CB2 1NW
5875 Cambridge Clifton Road Express Express CB1 7DY
6117 Cambridge East Road Express Express CB1 1BG
6389 Great Shelford Express Express CB22 5EY

To check the location of any of the above stores, please go to the Tesco website here: <http://www.tesco.com/store-locator/uk>

To vote, you will need to make a purchase within store of any value. You will receive one token per transaction and it's not necessary to purchase a carrier bag in order to receive a token.

Once voting has concluded in store, votes will be collated during the month of April 2025 and you will be notified of the outcome of the vote early May 2025.

Tesco Stronger Starts fundraising con't

Additional information

Please note the below advice in terms of do's and don'ts before and during the voting period:

Do:

- Cast your vote as soon as you receive your token for a project in the current voting round
- Only submit Stronger Starts tokens to cast your vote
- Maximise promotion of your project during the voting period by making best use of press and social media guidance
- Encourage the local community and your supporters to get involved with Stronger Starts voting

Don't:

- Tamper with the voting unit (otherwise your project may be void from the vote)
- Influence customers casting their vote at the voting unit
- Take more than one token from the self-serve checkouts
- Encourage supporters to hoard then submit multiple tokens in the voting unit
- Promote your project in store without permission from the Store Manager
- Collect Stronger Starts tokens from stores that are not within your region to vote for your project
- starting spending your grant, as this is done as your own risk, items cannot be purchased until you have recieved your offer letter

New Occupational Therapist contact

We are delighted to offer a new collaboration with Hanna Robinson for OT in school. For further information, contact Hanna at hannaerobson@gmail.com



Hanna Robson is a specialist Occupational Therapist with over 25 years of experience. She has worked extensively in community settings and special needs schools with children for the NHS. Six years ago, she transitioned to independent practice. Her expertise focuses on motor coordination difficulties (DCD), Autism, and ADHD. Hanna is also a dedicated mother of four children, one of whom has additional needs.

Concerns and complaints Autumn 2024

Category	Type of concern
Early Concern	Quality of teaching Pupil behaviour
Early Concern	Pupil behaviour

Concerns & Complaints refresher

Why do we log concerns? Formal complaints have a requirement for logging, reporting and investigating according to our Concerns and Complaints Policy.

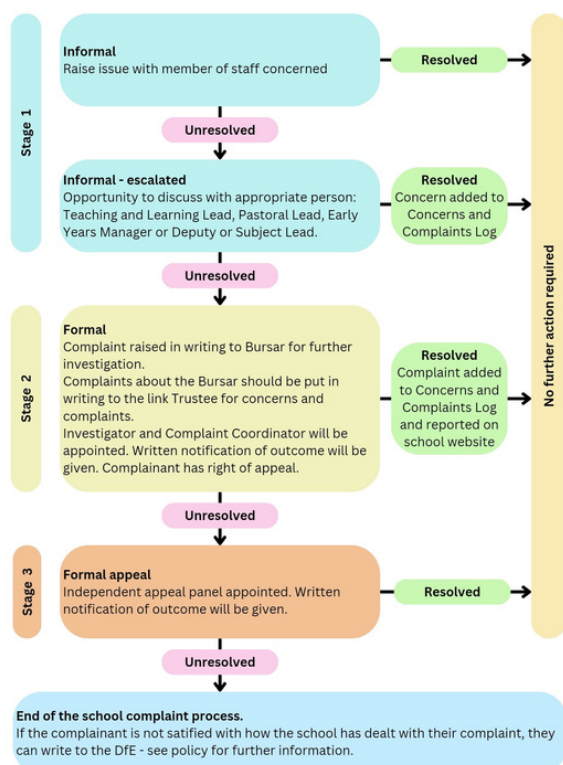
Concerns are not required to be logged in this way, but they provide a method of tracking areas of the school that need further attention or monitoring. Logging concerns over the year allows us to see patterns and areas, and then be proactive about actions rather than waiting until things escalate.

Below is a flow chart showing our concerns and complaints process.

Thank you for continuing to flag concerns to us so we can proactively approach these issues.

Tina Hobday

Concerns and complaint procedure flowchart



Health and safety

Some of you may be familiar with school health and safety, or other business/public settings. We are aiming to have a more proactive approach to health and safety in our school, and an effective way of finding issues before they become a health and safety incident is by closely monitoring 'near misses'.

We find, record them, and then regularly review them to see whether any proactive actions are needed. The best way of describing a near miss, is that when they happen, a person watching would think "Oh sugarplums, that was close!" Though maybe some other choice word instead of festive sugarplums!

Sugarplums aside, the car park has provided a number of near miss moments since we started back this year. Cars and pedestrians, bikes and pedestrians and all involving children.

We cannot sit by and wait for something more serious before acting, which is why we are insisting that pedestrians now use the gate onto the pavement and that bikes and cars use the car park gate at pick up and drop off.

Like all changes to habit, we need reminding, so Joanne has kindly donned a fluorescent jacket to provide gentle reminders to everyone in and around the car park.

We do appreciate that this may add a few minutes to your walk back to your car, but we hope you understand that this will help keep children safe and avoid a more serious incident in the future.

Thank you for your understanding and support.
Tina

Pickups

Please inform class teachers directly, as well as reception if you plan to pick up your child outside the normal pick-up time. This enables the class teacher to plan for the pick up and also prepare the child so they aren't surprised which can cause discomfort and upset at having to leave during an activity or lesson.

Our teachers spend a lot of time planning and delivering our amazing curriculum, please keep pickups outside of normal hours to a minimum. Thank you for your help with this.

The Shepherd's play

Sometime in the 16th or early 17th century, a group of German farmers from an area around Lake Constance migrated to the little island of Oberufer on the Danube, near Pressburg, close to the frontiers of Austria and Hungary. They took with them a cycle of religious plays, which were handed down by oral tradition through the generations.

For centuries, peasants preserved these plays – both the text itself and the tradition of acting – in their unaltered and original form. It was Karl Julius Schroer, a professor who studied German folklore of the region, who discovered these plays in Oberufer. Dr. Schroer was a teacher and friend of Rudolf Steiner, the founder of Waldorf education. During the 1850's and 60's Schroer lived in Pressburg and learned that these plays were performed by the "Haid Bauern" who had immigrated to Oberufer centuries before. He saw the plays several times and was very enthusiastic about them; transcribing the dialogue from the farmers who were the performers. It was Schroer's intention to preserve this spiritual inheritance from ancient times. The Oberufer plays are now performed each year in many languages in Waldorf schools all over the world.

The roots of the Oberufer plays were lost in medieval times, but they have evolved to incorporate a unique mix of broad peasant humour and deep reverence in their celebration of the birth of Jesus. The shepherds' play sets a beautiful mood for the Christmas festival.

The Oberufer Shepherds' Play (our Christmas gift to the children) will be performed for the School in the school hall on Friday December 13th at 1:45pm. Followed by mulled wine (or spiced apple juice) and mince pies to round off the term!

This year we are able to open up the play to parents and friends, but there will be limited spaces!

Please register with Clare if you would like to attend reception@waldorfcambridge.uk.

Best wishes

Performers (it is kept a secret which staff are in the play!)

Thank you to Iris and Alice!

A huge thank you to Iris and Alice who did a very thorough litter pick of the school carpark and ditch! Thank you for looking after our school site!

They found 4 bags of rubbish, a sign and a rubber duck!



Beautiful Advent concert



How to get in contact

Please contact your child's class teacher about curriculum, progress and behaviour. If you need additional support please contact -

Our SENDCo Anita regarding SEND and additional support
anita.hempenius@waldorfcambridge.uk

Questions about Teaching and Learning (curriculum, staffing, timetable) contact Tina
teachingandlearning@waldorfcambridge.uk

Questions about behaviour and pastoral care contact Charlotte
pastoral@waldorfcambridge.uk

Safeguarding concerns contact
safeguarding@waldorfcambridge.uk

Questions about fees and payments should be directed to Teresa at
finance@waldorfcambridge.uk

If you have any concerns about finance please contact Tina in confidence at
bursar@waldorfcambridge.uk

For information about admissions please contact Katharina at
admissions@waldorfcambridge.uk

Thank you!

We hope that you have enjoyed and found this term report useful.

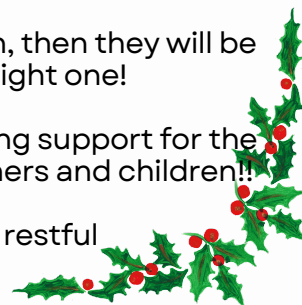
We continue to strive for improved communication and transparency in all school matters. If you have any feedback regarding the Term Report, or any other school communication, please contact Clare at reception@waldorfcambridge.uk

If you have a concern but are not sure where to direct your questions or concerns to, please contact Clare in reception, come to drop in, or use the contacts listed in this report.

If it is not the right person, then they will be able to direct you to the right one!

Thank you for your ongoing support for the school community, teachers and children!!

Wishing you a happy and restful winter break!



Community notices

Parent-led Community Support Group
Meet for a coffee and a chat...

Every Wednesday after drop off 8:30-9:30am

Venue: The Edge Cafe, Fulbourn Hospital site (5 mins drive from school, free parking)

Parents who are staff or trustees should attend in their capacity as parents, not school representatives, as this is a community group NOT an official school group.

It's a chance to listen, learn and share with like-minded parents!

Dear Waldorf Community,

My name is Angelika Kowol, and I am a 17-year-old Waldorf student from Austria. I will be in the UK from 25th January 2025 to 17th February 2025 to complete an internship at the Waldorf Kindergarten in Cambridge.

I am an open, and communicative person with a strong interest in culture, history, art, and exploring foreign countries. During my stay, I am looking for a welcoming host family, ideally close to the school, who could provide accommodation.

If you are able to host me or know someone who might be interested, I would greatly appreciate your support. Please feel free to contact me at ange.k@gmx.at or +43 670 60432020.

Thank you very much for considering my request!

Warm regards,
Angelika Kowol

Karla Henning, Summer Au-Pair 2025:

"Hello, my name is Karla Hennig, I am 17 years old and attend a Waldorf school in Lübeck.

Next summer from 30.06.2025 I have to do a social internship. My idea is to spend this time as an au-pair in England. I would like to live in a Waldorf family and take care of the little children and improve my English.

I have two younger brothers, a younger sister and an older sister. My hobbies are cooking and baking and I love spending time with my friends. If you are interested, I would love to hear from you!

karla.hennig@gmx.net

Many greetings,
Karla Hennig"

Karin Landenberger (Granny Au-Pair):

"Granny Au-pair

I'm 66 years old and I'm searching a family where I can live and have the chance to improve my English.

I want to help you with your children, in the household, also by cooking and gardening.

I'm very healthy and durable and am familiar with the Rudolf Steiner pedagogy. I would be able to travel to England from 09/2025 until 11/2025.

I would be glad if you contact me:

karin.landenberger@t-online.de

Karin Landenberger
Fliegerstr. 64
67657 Kaiserslautern"

Drum and guitar lessons now available on Fridays in school for Class 2 upwards.

Please contact Jaris if you are interested

jarisyiu@gmail.com