Autumn 1 Newsletter



Welcome to our new look half-termly newsletter

The end of the first half term is here and what an incredible start to this academic year we've had. The children all settled so well after summer and have had an action packed half term. Thank you so much to our parents and carers for supporting the school and your child's education.

From now on all newsletters will be completed on Microsoft Sway. Please do let the office know if there are issues in viewing any content. Here will share with you news from the previous half term and upcoming events to diarise.

Staffing Changes

We are saying a sad farewell to one of our Teaching Assistants Tom Cuthbertson, who has been with us for some time now as he moves to a new city. We all wish Tom the best of luck on his new adventure!

As one era ends so another begins; we welcome our newest Teaching Assistant Sam Godden, who will be joining Nicola's class after the October half term.

Paige Roberts is on a temporary break from Richard’s classroom on medical grounds and has been replaced by Hannah Larby, our ELSA/TA for the duration.

Wendy Jones will not be returning and Mike Goble is the permanent class teacher for this class. We are still in the process of recruiting a further two Teaching Assistants.



1 - Sam Godden

Forest School



This school year has kicked off with an exhilarating adventure at our Forest School site. It's been a joy to witness our students engaging in a wide range of activities that not only spark their creativity, but also teach valuable life skills. Here's a glimpse of the incredible experiences they've had:

1. Leaf Bashing: Our students have been creatively using leaves to make beautiful imprints on paper, connecting with nature in an artistic way.

2. Whittling: Learning to use tools safely, they've embraced the art of whittling, carving intricate designs, and refining their dexterity.

3. Decorating Wood Slices: Students have transformed simple wood slices into unique works of art, adding a touch of personal flair to each piece.

4. Nature Mobiles: With the beauty of the forest as their inspiration, students have crafted delightful mobiles, a testament to their resourcefulness.

5. Fire Lighting: The essential skill of fire lighting has been taught, fostering self-reliance and responsibility.

6. Campfire Cooking: What's a forest adventure without delicious campfire-cooked meals? Our students have mastered the art of preparing food outdoors.

7. Tic-Tac-Toe Games: Creativity knows no bounds; they've also designed their very own Tic-Tac-Toe games for hours of forest fun.

8. Tree Clay Faces: The forest has become an art gallery with students creating whimsical clay faces on trees, showcasing their talent and love for nature.



2 - Baking Potatoes!

The Forest School site continues to be a sanctuary for our students, promoting a sense of calm, wellbeing, and self-discovery. It's here that they not only learn about the environment but also about

themselves and each other. The values of communication, collaboration, and pure enjoyment are instilled in every session.

We want to commend our students for their enthusiasm and dedication in embracing these forest adventures. The success of our Forest School is a testament to their spirit, as well as the hard work of our dedicated staff.

As we move forward into the school year, we eagerly anticipate more exciting experiences and opportunities for personal growth in our forest haven.

Congratulations to all involved, and here's to more exploration, learning, and laughter in the great outdoors!

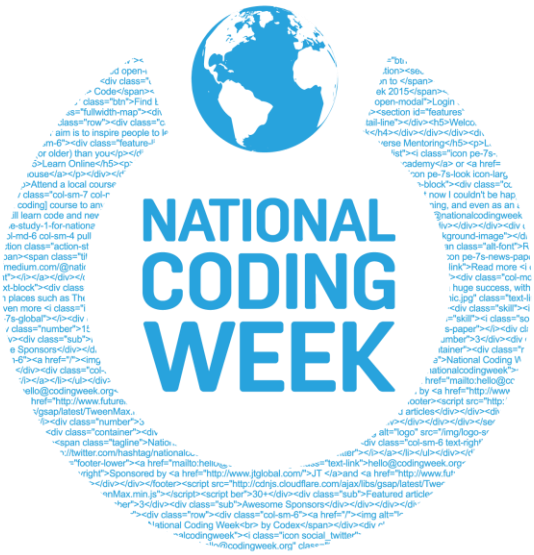


New Curriculum

The way in which we structure our curriculum is changing. In our last OFSTED inspection, insufficient key content and sequential learning were identified as areas that as a school we needed to work on with some subjects. Working with a robust School Improvement Plan (SIP) to improve provision for education that your children are receiving at school, the staff team have been working hard to build a progressive, sequential formal and semi-formal curriculum across all key stages. All qualified teachers in the school are now subject leaders with ownership for up to two curriculum areas.

The curriculum redesign has been completed in a way that planning is multi-sensory and holistic, but sequential in skills and knowledge. We are looking forward to embedding the new curriculum beginning after half term. The aim for the next half term is to share this with you as parents and carers on the updated website (which is in progress) so that you can click on your child's class page to see what your child's class is learning about in that half term.

National Coding Week



National Coding Week ran in school from 18th September to 23rd September – The theme this year was Artificial Intelligence!

National Coding Week is an annual event that aims to help adults and children with learning digital skills and knowledge.

In school, our children learned a variety of skills in different classes from coding with Scratch, creating their own video games to using AI to code games for themselves and the week was a great success.

Introducing Earwig Academic

We are thrilled to announce that we have been working towards the launch of our Early Access Program for our Earwig monitoring and assessment system which initially we will start by using a pilot group for a week (pilot group to be contacted officially after half term).

As parents, we understand how important it is to stay connected and involved in your child's educational journey. With our Earwig system, you will have the opportunity to view what your child achieves on a

daily basis and celebrate with them. Our system provides a comprehensive timeline of your child's work, complete with photos, giving you a real-time glimpse into their learning experiences.

Please see the below video for a better understanding.

https://vimeo.com/269616365

Policy changes

Anti-Bullying policy

Firstly, thank you to the parents and carers who completed the survey I sent out when I asked "What would you like to see included as part of an anti-bullying policy and why?" The main themes that came from that feedback are below in the word cloud.



We have updated our anti-bullying policy to take into account the feedback from parents and carers, and to reflect a trauma informed approach to dealing with bullying when it occurs. The updated policy can be is due to be uploaded onto our website once the website has been updated. After half term, we will be looking at the behaviour policy so that as a school we can continue to support and foster positive behaviours and reduce low level disruptions further.

Student Council



We are extremely excited to announce that **we now have a student council**. After receiving lots of fantastic applications over the past few weeks we have now elected our first ever student council.

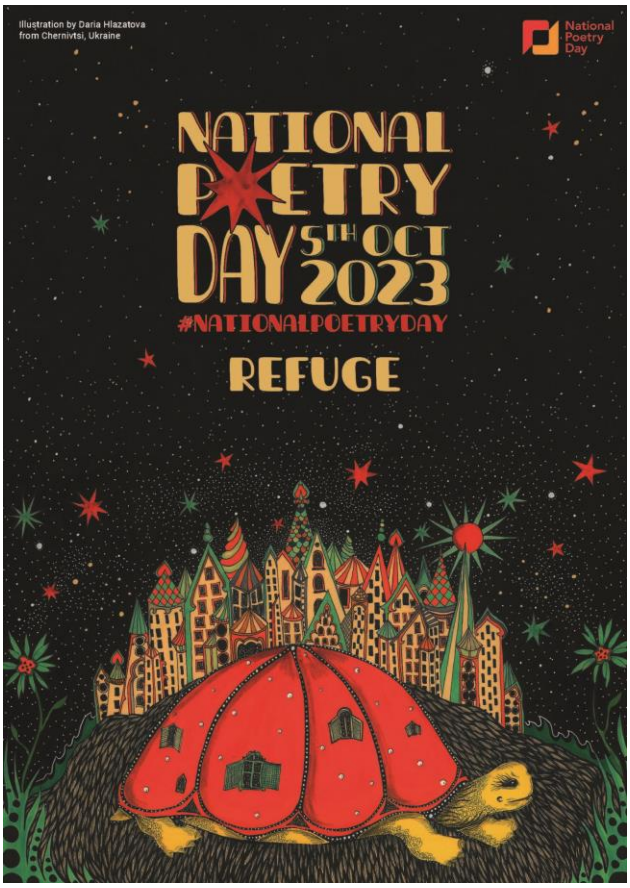
We can't wait to explore the exciting ideas our student council have bought to our attention. We feel it is a huge value to be able to have a student council that truly represents the student voice and we can't wait to work with our student council to ensure the student voice is key in driving our school forward.

Black History Month & National Poetry Day!



Black History Month is an annual celebration running throughout October, that champions and commemorates the contribution of African and Caribbean communities, to culture and society. This years theme is ''Saluting our sisters'' which highlights the achievements and contributions of black women, throughout history. It shines a light on the women who have courageously battled oppression and advocated for change, but have regularly had their work ignored or forgotten.

At Educate U we strive in being inclusive, and to celebrate diversity. Black History Month allows our children and young people to be given the opportunity to get involved in the celebration and awareness of these courageous women.



National Poetry Day Is is the annual mass celebration on the first Thursday of October, that encourages everyone to make, experience and share poetry with family and friends. This year, National Poetry Day was celebrated on Thursday 5th October 2023 and the theme was ''Refuge''.

We felt this was an important event for the children at Educate U to get involved in, and of course learn about the theme behind it! By engaging classes with poetry, it gives them their own refuge to express themselves, and to think about the world around them in a different and creative way.

Halloween and costumes



Some of our children have asked the senior leadership team directly to request that they are allowed to come into school in Halloween costumes on 31st October 2023. If your child would like to come in wearing a Halloween costume, then we will allow this but the following **must** be adhered to:

- No masks allowed as this might scare some children.
- No props which might be seen as a weapon or used as one e.g. No axes, swords, guns, knives, grim reaper scythe etc.
- Please ensure that the outfit is child appropriate.
- If your child has PE or swimming on that day (Richard's class, Nicola's Class and Mike's class) then please ensure that a change of clothes to change into is packed for your child.

Coming up!

Stay and Play session: On 26/10/23

There is a one day only Stay and Play session. If your child would like to attend please book in on this link: Stay and Play Sessions are £5 for the family.

Website: We are very much hoping to be live with our websites updated look by the next half term newsletter. This will give you a greater insight into your child's learning over that next half term. This will include any important information, policies and school news will be more accessible to you as parents and carers. Watch this space!

Christmas: Our Christmas elves are already hard at work and have started preparations for our Christmas fayre this year. Save the date for now, full details will be emailed out to parents and carers in November.

Dates for your diary



Whole school events Calendar

September	October	November	December	January	February
National Coding Week (WC 18/09/23)	Black History World (WC 01/10/23) National Poetry day: Refuge (05/10/23)	Remem-Brance Day (10/11/23) Anti-Bullying Week: Make a noise about bullying (WC 13/11/23) Road Safety Week (WC 20/11/23)	Advent (01/12/23) Christmas Jumper Day with Christmas Fair (13/12/23)	World religion day (21/01/24) LGBTQ+ history month (WC 29/01/24)	Children's mental health week (WC 05/02/24) Safer internet Day (WC 06/02/24)
March	**April**	**May**	**June**	**July**	
World Book Day (07/03/24) Science Week: Time (WC 08/03/24) Easter Egg hunt (18/03/24 & 20/03/24)	Autism Awareness Week (WC 22/04/24)	Gypsy, Roma and Traveller history month (WC 20/05/24)	World environment day (05/06/24) Make Music Day (21/06/24)	International Day of friendship (12/07/24)	

Have a wonderful half term and we look forward to seeing you and your child on the 30th October 2023.

Kindest regards,

Sarah Paoletti, Headteacher.