Autumn 2 Newsletter



Headteacher's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we bid farewell to the Autumn term, I am delighted to share a round-up of our collective achievements and exciting news within our school community.

Our school has been a hub of energy and enthusiasm this term, with numerous whole-school events that have brought us together as a vibrant community. These have included engaging extracurricular activities in Forest School, visits within the community with our Youth Workers, a joyful visit to Worthing's Pantomime, and visits to local colleges/further education provisions for our older students. Not to mention inspiring whole school events such as Remembrance Day and Anti-Bullying Week! The way our school community has come together to make Christmas magical for our students is no understatement; from a delicious Christmas lunch, to decoration and gift making to raise money for the student council's carefully chosen charities.

Educate U's first ever Christmas fayre was incredible. There was such a buzz around the school and the children all coped brilliantly with what was a busy and energetic space. Our school has been such a hive of activity for gift making in the previous few weeks and to see it all come together yesterday was so wonderful. I have to pay tribute to the dedication and participation of all our amazing children and young people, our Christmas Committee who organised all of the events and stalls, all staff for running the stalls, and to you, parents/carers for attending - You have truly made these events memorable. The pride shown by our children and young people showing their families around the Christmas fayre was tangible.

This term, we have welcomed a valuable addition to our school community, Mr. Shaun Jarvis, who has joined us as our School Improvement Partner. Shaun is a former HMI and school leader with extensive

educational leadership, including in alternative provision and specialist settings. Mr. Jarvis will play a pivotal role in supporting our school's continuous improvement journey. We look forward to benefiting from his insights and expertise as we strive for outstanding in all aspects of our educational provision.

Our recent Individual Education Plan (IEP) day was a huge success, and I want to express my sincere gratitude to all the parents/carers who took the time to attend. Your active participation and collaboration in your child's educational journey makes a significant difference. The insights shared during IEP day provide a foundation for personalised support, and ensure that we tailor our educational approach to meet the unique needs of each of our children and young people.

It has been a remarkable term, and I am grateful for the dedication and partnership of our school community. As we approach the festive season, I want to thank you for your ongoing support, and I look forward to the exciting developments and accomplishments that the upcoming terms will undoubtedly bring. We look forward to seeing your children back in school on **Tuesday 9th January 2024.** Please do note there is an INSET day on the Monday.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sarah Paoletti

Headteacher



Staffing changes



New Staff

Carl Downs – Teaching Assistant in Richard's Class

We are thrilled to welcome Carl to our school community. Since joining in November, Carl has been hugely positive for his class and has already forged good working relationships with our children and young people. Carl has a background in supporting young people with SEN and trauma, and as such he has become a very appreciated addition to our school.

Martha Reeves - Teacher

Martha joins us in January and is very experienced teacher, including with children with special educational needs, and has already met some children in the classroom. We have waited since July to have Martha join us and are really looking forward to having her join our team!

Sarah Marshall - Teaching Assistant in Martha's Class

Sarah Marshall also joins us in January and will be in Martha's class from 10/01/24. Sarah has a teaching background, but has spent many years as a Teaching Assistant and Learning Support Assistant in various SEN settings. Sarah has toured the school a few times and loves the ethos of our setting.

Saying Good bye

Vicky Harwood-Smith has been a trusted member of our team, contributing her expertise and dedication to Nicola's classroom as a teaching assistant. We appreciate the hard work and commitment she has shown during her time with us. After thoughtful consideration, Vicky has made the decision to resign for personal reasons that require her immediate attention. Whilst we will all miss her, we respect her decision and wish her well for the future.

Christmas time at EducateU



Christmas Fayre

Wow, what an incredible half term! From the smell of ginger biscuits wafting through the halls, to the buzzing sound of activity among classes - students have been creating some amazing gifts to sell at our first ever Christmas fair. The event went very smoothly, and I think it’s fair to say that everyone had a great time.

Every child and young person should be super proud of themselves for the effort and enthusiasm they have shown to create our special day. From making cakes, selling raffle tickets, making cards, beautiful Christmas wreaths, candles, baubles and lots more. A huge thank you to Ella B, and Kevin M, for their support and drive in helping us get some amazing raffle prizes for us all to enjoy as well.

We raised an incredible **£523.15** for the following charities which were chosen by our Student Council team.

- *Cancer Research*
- *Ferring Country Centre*
- *Chestnut Tree House*

And we raised an additional **£232.00** in our Staff raffle which will be donated to *'Help for Heroes'* charity.

Christmas dinner

Not forgetting another massive thank-you to Karen H, Nicola B and Sarah H, for once again cooking up a sensational Christmas dinner for our students! The hall was decorated beautifully festive, and the staff/children and young people were dressed for the occasion in their best Christmas jumpers (and suits)! This event has always been a great success, and has become a firm tradition here at Educate U. It is always so lovely to see the majority of students eating together, and celebrating as a school community.





Black History Month

We are delighted to share with you the efforts and achievements of our students during this year's Black History Month, focusing on the theme 'Saluting Our Sisters.'

Throughout the month, our students engaged in research exploring the remarkable contributions of Black women in history. From ground-breaking achievements in science and the arts, to activism and social change, the children looked into multiple stories of inspiring women who have left memorable marks on our world.

Their collection of research and work were regularly added to our school events display board. The students not only showcased their creativity, but also demonstrated an understanding and appreciation for the important role Black women have played in influencing our shared history.

Well Done!



Well-Being and Mental Health Reward



We are now in the final stages of achieving our award. A big thank you to everyone that completed our stakeholder questionnaire; these are now being compared to the original ones from last year. These comparisons will then be fed-back to our assessor in the new year.

Over the last year we have introduced lots of changes to support the well-being and mental health across our school community; this included us looking at channels of communication, with the introduction of our Parent and Carers Connection, as well as the new student council - which will increase student voice around the school. This award is just the beginning of the journey with our ongoing Well-being Strategy being implemented and regularly reviewed, to fit the needs of a changing community.

Student Council

Our newly elected Student Council have been busy at work, and have now met together 3 times this term. Staff are extremely proud of the pro-active approach the student council have taken since being in post. It has given the team great pleasure to hear the discussions around how they would like to improve the school, and also their ability to listen and take on others views. Within the 3 meetings they have had, they have already started to implement some changes across the whole school.

During their meetings this term they have spoken to their peers about charities they feel they would like to support with money raised from our Christmas Fayre. As a group they voted, and we were all pleased with their choices.

Their last meeting included a member of SLT where they were able to discuss the progress they had made, talk about issues that have been arising and changes they would like to discuss during further meetings.

We look forward to seeing the positive impact our student council brings to Educate U.

Fire and Rescue Service Visit

We are thrilled to share the tremendous success of our recent visit from the Fire and Rescue Service, which proved to be an enriching and powerful experience for both children and staff.

The children were immersed in an engaging experience, providing them with a unique opportunity to explore and interact with the dedicated staff, fire engines, and essential equipment used by the Fire and Rescue Team. The visit exceeded expectations, leaving a lasting impression on everyone involved. The visit aimed to achieve several key objectives, and we are delighted to report that each one was not only met but surpassed our expectations because all the children did so well.



Earwig

Although it has been a little delayed due to the compatibility with our Bromcom, school access data system, we haven't forgotten the launch of our Early Access Program for our new monitoring and assessment system, Earwig - See previous newsletter for info.

The pilot run will begin on the 13/12/23 – 15/12/23 and continue to 08/01/24 – 12/01/24. After this period, we will have an Earwig Review meeting which will lead to Earwig Parent access being launched to all.

If any parent has any question or feedback in regards to Earwig, please email the following email address **Earwig@educateu.co.uk** Your insights and suggestions will help us create a tool, that we hope will truly meet the needs of all our parents/carers and children.

Fire Drill & Lockdown

On Friday 3rd November we ran Fire Drills for all of our pupils. Secondary pupils went first because Primary were at PE. Primary went when they had returned to school. We do not set off the alarms during a drill as this could dysregulate the children – however they are aware that in the event of a real fire there would be an Alarm. Prior to the event the Admin team had visited the classes with new pupils who had never done a drill before, to explain what happens and why we do it.

On the day, the Admin team went to each class with their 'Fire – Please leave the building' signs and evacuated everyone out and down to the corner of the road near the Connaught Theater. Both Secondary and Primary performed marvelously – both were out within 3 minutes, register taken and back indoors within 5 minutes…. We were immensely proud of them all.



Stay & Play



It was so lovely to launch our new holiday club during the Summer break, ''Stay and Play'' keeping all the families in touch over the holidays. We had great fun at each session, with plenty of games and activities, the children were entertained throughout. There were plenty of highlights, such as the water activities and apple bobbing, and it was wonderful to see everyone involved having so much fun! Due to it's success we are offering the next Stay and Play session for early January. Please see details below.

“Christmas Crash Party”

Date: Thursday 4th January

Time: 12:00 – 15:00

- **Fun and Games**
  - **Musical chairs**
  - **Pin the carrot on the snowman**
  - **Ping pong cup**
  - **Musical statues**
- **Craft**
  - **Winter themed kits**
- **Snowball competition – whatever the weather!**

We usually ask for a £5 donation, but this will be a free event for our children and their families. You will still need to book a place however, so that we can ensure adequate staffing levels. To book, please use the following link: Stay and Play - Educate U

Please email vicky@educateu.co.uk for further details if you have any questions.

New Website Update



We're thrilled to share some fantastic news that we believe will enhance your experience within our school community. In response to your valuable feedback, we're launching a brand-new website by (hopefully) February half term!

Thank you, Parents and Carers, for the thoughtful and insightful feedback we received from many of you. Your input has been instrumental in shaping the features of our new website. We understand the importance of effective communication and transparency, and we've taken your suggestions to create a platform that caters to providing information to match what you, as parents and carers want but also to better promote all that our school does and the provision we provide to our children and young people.

What to Expect:

- *Curriculum and Class coverage:*

The new website will provide an in-depth look into our curriculum, giving you a closer understanding of the educational journey your child is undertaking. We believe that an informed parent is a supportive parent, and this section will empower you to actively engage in your child's academic development.

- *Support for Special Educational Needs (SEN):*

Recognising the unique needs of every child, we've dedicated a section to support parents of children with SEN. This will include signposting to resources, information, and services, ensuring that our school remains an inclusive and supportive environment for all.

- *Meet Our Team:*

The new website will feature a section introducing you to our dedicated staff, complete with information and photos. We want you to feel connected and familiar with our talented team that shape your child's educational experience.

- *GCSE/Functional Skills Offerings:*

For parents with older students, the website will serve as a comprehensive guide to our GCSE and Functional Skills offerings.

We are genuinely excited about this upcoming launch, and we can't wait to share the new website with you. Your continued support means the world to us, and we look forward to this next chapter of improved communication and connectivity. There will also be a dedicated exams section.

Sarah Paoletti - Headteacher.

2024-2025 School Calendar

September 2024						
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October 2024						
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November 2024						
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February 2025						
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March 2025						
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April 2025						
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May 2025						
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June 2025						
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July 2025						
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August 2025						
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- INSET Days
- Open Days
- School Holidays
- Bank Holidays
- Start of Term
- End of Term
- IEP Days
- Transition Thursdays

Educate U Term Dates:

Autumn Term: 2nd September 2024 - 13th December 2024

Spring Term: 6th January 2025 - 4th March 2025

Summer Term: 21st April 2025 - 18th July 2025



£16.50
PER PARTICIPANT
NO CHARGE FOR ACCOMPANYING GUEST

SEND FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS EVENT

CLIP 'N CLIMB | **TEN PIN BOWLING** | **SOFT PLAY**

FRIDAY 22ND DECEMBER

5:00 - 7:30 PM

WE ARE HOLDING AN EXCLUSIVE OPEN ACTIVITY EVENT FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND DISABILITIES.

FAMILIES AND SIBLINGS WELCOME TO JOIN.
CAFÉ OPEN FOR HOT AND COLD FOOD, SNACKS, DRINKS, HOT CHOCOLATE AND MORE!

SCAN THE CODE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

PLEASE VISIT WWW.OUT-OF-BOUNDS.CO.UK FOR MORE INFORMATION. TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY.