Autumn 1 Newsletter



Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are thrilled to share some of the wonderful activities and achievements that have taken place this term. It's been a busy yet rewarding time for both pupils and staff. Even as I type the school is a hive of activity and laughter as children take part in a Halloween event created by one of our fabulous KS3 pupils. This means that children have opportunities to socialise with other children outside their class groups and join in wider whole school events if they would like to.

Two of our classes embarked on an exhilarating PGL trip this month, where they experienced a range of outdoor activities designed to build teamwork and resilience. The pupils returned with stories of adventure and newfound friendships. Thank you to all the staff who helped organise and supervise this successful outing and to our families for supporting their children to attend and access at whatever level their child was comfortable with.

Our school's commitment to sustainability was highlighted during our recent whole school event of 'Recycling Day'. Pupils engaged in various activities aimed at promoting environmental awareness, such as creating art from recycled materials and participating in workshops on reducing waste. It was inspiring to see the creativity and enthusiasm from everyone involved.

October marked Black History Month, and our school embraced this important celebration with a variety of educational and cultural activities. Pupils participated in lessons and projects that explored Black history, heritage, and culture, enriching their understanding and appreciation of diversity.

Several classes have visited local food banks as part of our community outreach programme. This experience not only provided valuable life lessons in empathy and service but also allowed pupils to contribute positively to our community. We are proud of their efforts and dedication to making a difference.

Our students across multiple year groups have been preparing for their Functional Skills exams, with mock exams providing an opportunity to practise and refine their skills. We are confident that their hard work and the support of our dedicated teaching staff will lead to successful outcomes in the upcoming assessments.

As always, we are grateful for the continued support of our staff, parents, and community. Your involvement and encouragement are invaluable to our school's success. Let's keep up the fantastic work and look forward to more achievements in the coming months!

Warm regards,

Sarah Paoletti

Headteacher

Staffing

Fond Farewell

We bid a fond farewell to Niamh Barlow who leaves us in mid November. Niamh has been with us only a short time but has made a huge impression on both staff and pupils. Niamh leaves us to move out of area and we wish her all the very best in new endeavours.

Residential Trip - PGL

I think it's safe to say that everyone enjoyed our recent PGL trip to Windmill Hill. We took 8 students in total, who were accompanied by 6 members of staff. We would like to thank staff for giving up their time to support the trip. Our students got to enjoy 4 activities: archery, raft building, problem-solving and trampolining. Each activity brought its own challenge, and we were thrilled by how our students responded to them. They were a delight to be with and demonstrated mature and responsible behaviour throughout the two days. We left with many fond memories and look forward to our next residential trip.

We will have a trip to Lodge Hill offered on May 15th-16th for secondary students who have not attended this residential trip.







Lola ♡

It was with such a heavy heart that we had to say our goodbyes to Lola, our beautiful pug who died this month. For those who had the pleasure of knowing Lola, you will remember her gentle nature, fondness for anything food related and her ability to bring smiles to everyone's faces. Whether she was helping a pupil through a tough day or simply being a comforting presence in the classroom, Lola touched the lives of many and will be greatly missed. Children have honoured Lola in ways that are individual for them and have been supported so incredibly by both the staff team in school, and by you at home, and I want to pay my thanks to you personally. Thank you to the many families who also supported Lola's owner Kerry with their kind words, emails and cards; the impact was profound and very much appreciated. Let us remember Lola's legacy of affection and kindness, and strive to carry those values forward in our community.

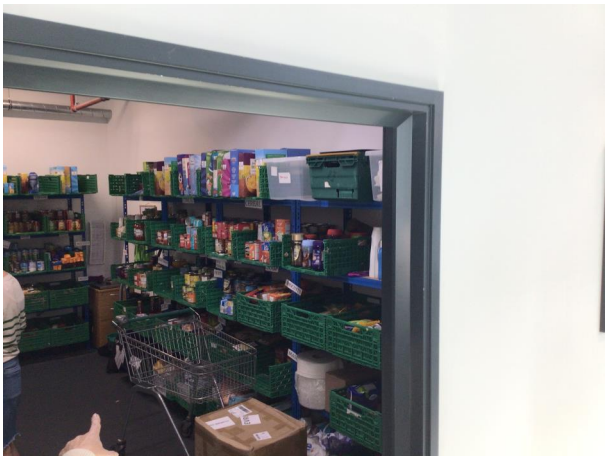




Food Bank Donation

The students in class 7 have spent the last couple of weeks learning about the importance of food banks and how they can support those in need, coming up with great ideas. As well as collecting a large amount of food from staff members we were lucky enough to have a tour around one of Worthing's food banks.









Halloween Party

On Friday 25th October, one KS3 student displayed great initiative to host a Halloween event in our school hall. She was inspired from a previous successful student-led event last summer term. She has displayed focus and resilience to organise this from the ground up with her TA. Starting with producing the poster, then giving it in to SLT to approve; to designing a floor plan for the tables, what to provide for her guests on them, organising recipes for the party food, finishing with some baking ready for the day. The children and staff all had a fantastic time with games, face painting and delicious food. Everyone looked great in their costumes!





SENDCO News



The academic year is off to a busy start, and we are in the midst of our annual review meetings. It has been a pleasure to meet with many of our new parents and to see how well our new students are settling into life at Educate U.

In addition, I have had discussions with several parents regarding updates to Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs). County has informed us that, moving forward, these updates will need to be incorporated into the Annual Review process. Only substantial new information, such as a new diagnosis, will prompt a revision of the EHCP. Unfortunately, due to a significant backlog at SENAT for new assessments and placement transfers, any updates may take longer than usual to progress to the draft stage.

We are also pleased to share that we are embarking on the comprehensive process of achieving the Inclusion Award for the school. This recognition will reflect the exceptional

work we do to meet the diverse and individualised needs of all our students. It will also highlight the collaborative efforts between the school and Therapy House to provide holistic support that addresses both the emotional and academic development of each student and the importance of that partnership.

- Georgina

News from School Council



The student council team couldn't wait to have the meetings return after the summer holidays, we had a really positive first meet back and the children brought so many amazing ideas that they would like to do within this academic year.

On Wednesday 16th October the student council team got invited by Futures college to cut the ribbon for the grand opening. Not only was this such a privilege to be asked by them it was also such a positive experience for the children and their faces showed great pride and happiness. We are so proud of how the children represent the school out within the community.

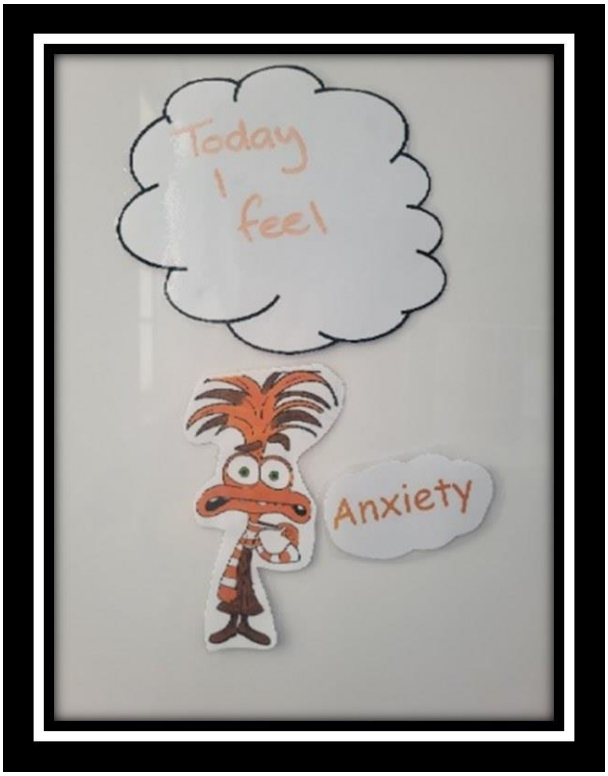
Therapy House



It has been a busy start to term here at therapy house as we re connect with our students and welcome those who have just started their journey with us.

Offering our students a calm space to process their transitions and new beginnings is like providing a stable pathway as they embark on their journey. This not only helps them

navigate school life but also builds a stronger resilience to the changes they may encounter as they walk through adolescence.





We have also been utilising the characters from Disney's inside Out 2 to help facilitate our students gaining an understanding and accepting their felt emotions. By recognising and naming their feelings, whether it's Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear, or Disgust, they learn that all emotions have a place in their experiences.

Through the therapeutic relationship, we guide students to not only recognise their emotions but to accept them with compassion. Just as the characters in *Inside Out* learn to work together, students develop the tools to embrace their emotional experiences, allowing them to face life's challenges with greater self-awareness and acceptance.

Futures, Careers & Guidance



As part of our ongoing commitment to preparing students for their futures, we are excited to share some upcoming opportunities. Plans are underway for trips to visit higher education and further education establishments, allowing students to explore their next steps in both academic and vocational pathways. Additionally, preparations are well in hand for our Careers Day in February, which will be an excellent opportunity for students to engage with professionals and providers. We are planning further school-based visits from working professionals in the local area, as well as talks from The Armed Forces and other front-line services. We are also reaching out to parents and carers who may wish to volunteer. Whether you'd like to share your career journey with our students or offer work experience opportunities, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Mike at mike@educateu.co.uk if you're interested in getting involved. Thank you for your continued support in helping our students plan for their futures.

Vaccinations

On Thursday 3rd October the Sussex Immunisations team came to school to offer the Flu vaccine (nasal spray) to the children. We had a good uptake of consents for the vaccine and whilst we had a couple of wobbles due to nerves everyone that had consent and was present on the day had their immunisations. If anyone missed the day and would like their child to have the vaccine, this can be arranged direct with the Immunisation Team. Please let us know if you need their details re-sent.

Forest School













What a fantastic start to the academic year we have had in the forest. This half-term our focus has been 'The Elements', chosen with the aim of facilitating the exploration and engagement of activities based around earth, water, air and fire.

Furthermore, the groups have participated in team building exercises such as Positive Plates, played games including Capture the Bottle and Manhunt, and demonstrated their amazing crafting, cooking, tool work and problem-solving abilities.

The addition of the rope swings, and mud kitchen have been big hits, and the lovely Vicki has offered yoga and reflexology sessions in-line with the individual needs of our pupils.

We are looking forward to celebrating Halloween with various fun-filled activities to finish what has been an awesome seven weeks. Thank you to all the students, staff and parents/careers, who have contributed in various ways to ensure the sessions have been a success.

Liverpool Gardens

We're excited to let you know that Liverpool Gardens, just off Chapel Road in Worthing and a quick 2-minute stroll from our school, will soon be an extra space for all sorts of educational provision. This new space will give us a bigger exam space, so all our pupils can sit comfortably during those testing times. Plus, Liverpool Gardens will have dedicated spaces

for Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) and Occupational Therapy (OT) sessions, making sure our students get the bespoke support they deserve. It'll also be the new hub for our Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO), helping us to better coordinate and support our special educational needs programme. We're really excited about what this new space will mean for our school community and the positive impact it will have on our students' learning journeys. We hope to be able to use the space by early January.

Educate U Futures – Post 16 Alternative Provision

This month, Educate U's directors Hayley Tucker and Susan Evans hosted the official open day for Educate U Futures, our Post 16 Alternative Provision, and we're thrilled to share that the event was a resounding success! With not just one but two official openings, the day was filled with excitement. Our Student Council had the honour of the first ribbon-cutting, followed by Worthing's very own town crier, Bob Smytherman, who lent his voice (and his bell) to the occasion.

The open day was attended by representatives from West Sussex and Brighton and Hove councils, alongside local industry leaders. Most importantly, it was a joy to welcome families and young people eager to explore what Educate U Futures offers as an alternative to larger colleges. Our provision is specially designed for young people with SEN who may find the transition to larger colleges challenging and are at risk of losing the close-knit support they thrive on. We are proud to offer a nurturing environment that continues to support our students as they navigate this crucial stage in their education journey. If you think a young person you know aged 16-18 would like to visit, please do make contact with Ruth, Assistant Manager at Futures ruth@educateufutures.co.uk

Fire Drill

On Tuesday 8th October we conducted a whole school Fire Drill using the sounded alarms. In readiness for the drill we gradually introduced the children to the recorded sounds of the alarms over the preceding week.

Prior to the drill our amazing radio legend in the office Sarah Mac (and many of the children) did a countdown so that the drill did not come as a surprise to any of the children and to make it less foreboding. We took advice from East Sussex Fire & Rescue on how to support children with autism and/or noise sensitivities.

The whole school was evacuated, assembled down by the post office, registers taken and everyone back indoors within 5 minutes, which was a marvellous achievement.

Parent and Carer Voice Survey

We always strive to be better. The end is never the goal, because the goal has no end. We want to celebrate what we do well, and make adjustments where improvements can be made and we need your honest feedback to do that. I will be asking for this each half term:

https://forms.office.com/e/jJP9MwA4f2

Local Events this half term

Friday 25th October – 5pm - Bognor Regis Golf Club – Free Entry – Fireworks 6.30pm

Saturday 26th October – Littlehampton Bonfire – Fairground opens 2pm, Torchlight procession 7.30pm – Bonfire lit at 9pm.

Sunday 27th October – 9.30-1.30pm Findon Valley Halloween Market – Limetree Surgery Carpark

Friday 1st November – 6pm - Worthing RFC Fireworks Display – Worthing Rugby Club – tickets on sale club office or bar.

Tuesday 5th November – 7pm - Worthing Pier Fireworks – Free entry

Friday 8th November – 7pm - Shoreham Harbour Club Fireworks

Free Children's Workshops/Activities

Pets at Home - My Pet Pals - Autumn Event

Join us this October for some free Halloween family fun on our My Pet Pals workshops where you'll learn all about our pets and their diets. We'll also have some fun Halloween activities to entertain the whole family.

https://community.petsathome.com/events/child-workshop/my-pet-pals autumn/

McDonald's Autumn of FREE Fun Football Session's

https://mcdonaldsfunfootball.co.uk/funfootball

Dobbie's Garden Centre

Brighton, Warren Road Event - Little Seedlings October Holiday Club: Fairy Tales Vs Fairy Gardens

https://www.dobbies.com/little-seedlings-workshops

Worthing Leisure Centre

Junior parkrun - every week on a Sunday at 9:00am A free, fun, and friendly weekly 2k event for juniors (4 to 14 year olds).

https://www.parkrun.org.uk/worthingleisurecentre-juniors/

Littlehampton Museum

FREE family activities & events all year round. Create your own little brick monster to display in the Butterworth Gallery! Half Term (24th October - 2nd November)

https://www.littlehamptonmuseum.co.uk/activities

Littlehampton Wave

Free 'spooktacular' parties this Halloween! Venue: Littlehampton Wave Sea Road, Littlehampton BN16 2NA – upstairs studio Date: Thursday 31 October 2024 Tiny terrors disco for 0-4 years - 1.30pm and 3pm Spooky kids disco for 5-8 years - 3.30pm and 5pm To book – please call 01903 725451 or visit reception

Arun Leisure Centre

Felpham Way, Bognor Regis, PO22 8ED – Bramber Studio Date: Friday 1 November 2024 Tiny terrors disco for 0-4 years 1.30pm and 3pm Spooky kids disco for 5-8 years 3.30pm and 5pm To book – please call 01243 826612 or visit reception

October Half Term Activities – West Sussex Libraries

Come and have fun at a library near you in October Half Term! Many libraries across West Sussex will be sharing fiendishly fun tales and a creepy craft activity in our Spooky (Not Scary!) Stories events. In addition, we are fortunate to have colleagues from West Sussex Waste Prevention running Kids Reuse workshops in several locations. Chichester Library are even offering some one-off Dance, Drama and Singing workshops, thanks to Perform!

You will also find a number of SEND-friendly events with the Disability Register Team this half term, including Coding with Minecraft workshops at Worthing Library, an exciting train

activity with the TrainMaster at Crawley Library, and a SEND-friendly Construction Club at Shoreham-by-Sea Library.

https://arena.westsussex.gov.uk/-/october-half-term-2024-activities

Worthing Scarecrow Trail

Join in for the 7th annual spooktacular scarecrow trail! Collect your map from I love Candy Shop and find them all in business windows for your chance to win a prize sweet hamper!

https://raring2go.co.uk/event/worthing-scarecrow-trail/

Hunt the Pumpkin

Join Hunt the Pumpkin event and help raise funds for Shoreham lifeboat station. Ten pumpkins will be hidden inside the lifeboat station, each with a letter on it. You will need to find all 10 pumpkins to make up a two-word RNLI related name. Correct entries will be entered into a draw, with three lucky winners each receiving an Amazon voucher. The hunt runs from Monday 28 October to Sunday 3 November 10am-2pm daily. Children aged 14 and under can take part. Entry £2.50 each.

Free Farm Days Out

Surrey Docks Farm in South-East London. Open every day from 10am to 4pm. Booking is required for groups.

Deen City Farm near Wimbledon, South-West London. Open Tuesday to Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays from 10am to 4.30pm. Booking is recommended, and essential during school holidays.

Vauxhall City Farm in Vauxhall, South London. Open Tuesday to Sunday from 10.30am to 4pm. booking required for groups of eight or more.

Bath City Farm near Bath. Open Tuesday to Saturday from 9am to 4pm and Sunday from 9.30am to 4pm. No need to book.

FREE - Light Party

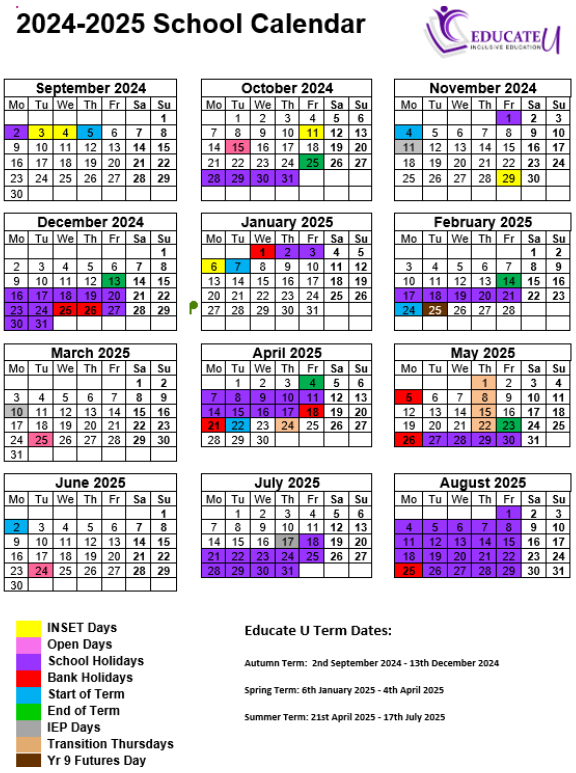
St Mary's Church, Broadwater, Worthing Thursday, 31 October 2024 - 4:00pm - 5:30pm Pumpkin carving, bouncy castle, games, superhero fancy dress. This event is free with hot dogs and drinks to buy.

October half term

Free or cheap things to do with the kids this half term.



2024-25 School Calendar



Dates for the Diary:

October 28th - November 1st - Half term

November 11th - IEP Day

November 29th - INSET Day

December 13th - End of Term