

# Newsletter

Term 1 - 2023





# KCU Newsletter 2023

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Keep an eye out for competitions that could earn your children Learning Credits. There are lots of marvellous prizes to be won

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- BBC 500 Words (Closes at 8pm on 10th November)

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# Kent Children's University Update

Find out what is going on and what is coming up!

## A Message from the Manager of Kent Children's University

It is hard to believe that we have come to the end of Term 1 already. We know how incredibly busy schools and families are at this time so hope this newsletter offers some light relief for you.

We are working hard to grow our offer for children, schools, families and organisations and the new-style newsletter is part of that change. We were aware that some people were not receiving the old newsletters so hope that this is more accessible. [Should you wish to read this newsletter online, please click here.](#) We have also included .png images of the newsletter should you wish to share any content on Social Media. If you do that, don't forget to tag us in.

If you have any suggestions for future content or would like to supply material to be included, do email [kcu@theeducationpeople.org](mailto:kcu@theeducationpeople.org)

Our Term 2 newsletter will arrive with you the week beginning the 20th November and there will be lots of seasonal activities included, which can be used in the home or school.

Wishing you all a happy, warm October half-term.

**Emma Jenkins**

Manager of Kent Children's University  
The Education People

## What is Kent Children's University?

[Kent Children's University™ \(KCU\)](#) is part of an international charity that provides 5- to 14-year-olds with access to exciting and innovative CU Learning Activities and experiences outside the normal school day. They reward children's participation in voluntary learning activities that will develop their skills and raise aspirations for the future.

The Children's University (CU) is able to recognise and reward children for all the additional learning they participate in voluntarily outside normal school hours. Once registered through a school or direct through the local CU, children can earn Learning Credits in a variety of ways including participating in activities held at "[Learning Destinations](#)." Children are provided with a Passport to Learning for them to collect Credits as evidence of their learning.

Once children achieve a fixed number of Learning Credits, they will have the opportunity to have their successes celebrated at a very special Graduation Ceremony at either Canterbury Christ Church University, The University of Greenwich (Medway Campus) or The University of Kent.

Children's University graduation ceremonies are held at real 'grown-up' universities. Children wear real caps and gowns as they step onstage to receive their awards and certificates. It is a great evening out for the children, their families, friends, and teachers.

These are inspirational and memorable events that send a powerful message of encouragement to children and parents: if you enjoy doing something, and persevere at it, you can achieve great things!

Learning outside school plays a vital role in helping children's development as young learners, confident individuals, and responsible citizens - as well as being vital to their wider well-being. Children's University works hard to bring together a network of high-quality learning providers in the local area and nationally, and to engage and support children to take part.

Regardless of how far a child progresses through awards, Children's University recognises and celebrates the individual journey they took to get there: the commitment and perseverance they showed, their willingness to try new things, and the new skills and interests they built along the way.

These videos highlight how Children's University works:

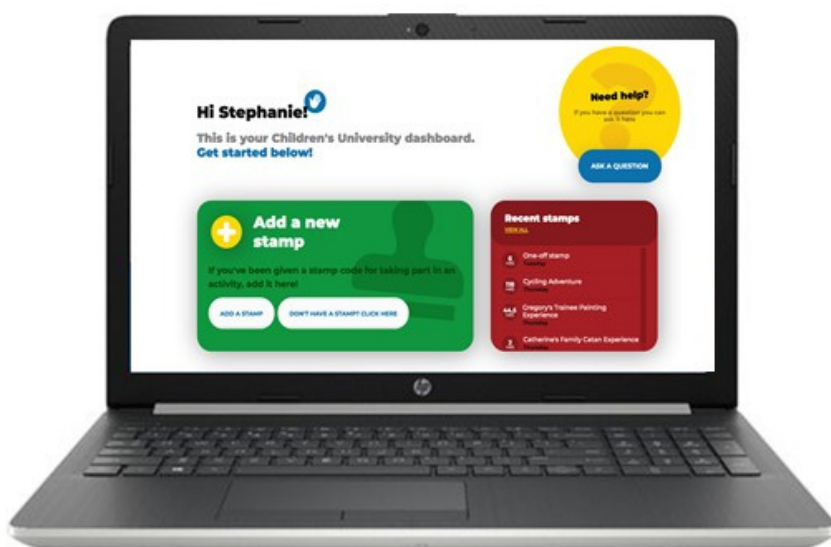
- [An introduction to Children's University](#)
- [KCU promotional video](#)

For more frequent updates about the film and all things KCU, please Like us on [Facebook](#)  
You do not need to have a Facebook account to view this Page.

## Children's University Online (CUO)

What is Children's University Online? Children's University Online is our new digital platform that is a fun, safe, and secure online space for participants to record what they are doing. Children will be able to use this alongside their Passport to Learning, collecting Learning Credits in their passports that can then be posted online where they will unlock additional information about their activities.

When children take part in a Children's University activity, they make a note of it in their Passport to Learning. Then they log-in to Children's University Online to claim their digital Learning Credits. By adding their Learning Credits to Children's University Online children will unlock further information, showing them the interests and skills, they are developing through participation. All children will have their very own dashboard which will help them see how they are progressing towards the next award level; reflect on the skills they are building and help them find new activities. There are also online-only exclusive badges that can be collected between graduations.



[If you have existing Family Membership but no access to CU Online, we are encouraging you to register here.](#)

Please note, you will need your child's Passport to Learning to add some information from inside. This form should take no more than 5 minutes to complete and is handled in-line with our [Privacy Notice](#). We sit within Outdoor Learning in the Full Privacy Statement.

## Missing Learning Credits

There will be times when a Learning Destination does not issue the code you need for the Passport to Learning or you leave the Passport at home, not realising a site is a CU Destination. This is not a problem. There are two ways to earn Learning Credits missed out on:

- 1) Email evidence of the experience to [kcu@theeducationpeople.org](mailto:kcu@theeducationpeople.org).
  - Evidence could be photographs or a receipt.
- 2) Log into your [CU Online account](#) and log the activity there
  - A pop-up video should appear when your child logs in so they can learn how to do this.

## Certificates and Graduations

Keep an eye on future editions of this newsletter and Social Media channels for information about upcoming Graduations.

If you work in a school and would like certificates before a future Graduation do let us know that your CU Online accounts are up-to-date and we will print and post certificates to you so you can present them in an assembly next term. This will not stop your children receiving invitations to future Graduations as we will simply present them with their highest award at that point.

If you have Family Membership and would like to receive certificates before the next Graduation, do ensure your child's CU Online account is up-to-date as that is where we will look to see which certificates we need to print and post. You can email us to let us know you would like the certificates sent to you. Please ensure you give us a correct postal address, as this might have changed since you joined KCU.

## Learner of the Term

It is very hard to pick just one Learner of the Term as we have the privilege of meeting and seeing the CU work of so many children but this term we have chosen **Sophie Friday**.

Sophie has been a KCU member for many years now and has earned in excess of 1100 hours of CU learning. She is not stopping here! Sophie has visited all Wheels of Time sites, completes every single KCU Challenge activity for all seasons as well as visit many Learning Destinations. A highlight for KCU's Emma is to receive an email from Sophie's Mum, Laura, with a PowerPoint containing the evidence of each Challenge activity she has completed.

Sophie inspired us to name our 1000+ certificates as Sophie Friday Awards, to encourage other learners to continue beyond the standard Children's University milestones.

Well done, Sophie! You are an inspiration to us all.

If you would like suggest any KCU Learners that you would like recognised please email [kcu@theeducationpeople.org](mailto:kcu@theeducationpeople.org)





# Learning Destinations

Learning Destinations are places that provide activities that have been Validated by Children's University locally or nationally

Children's University works closely with all kinds of learning providers and activity leaders to offer children the widest variety of opportunities. In order to offer a consistent quality of activities we undertake a quality assurance process to validate these opportunities to confirm they meet certain standards.

## New KCU Learning Destinations

Over the coming months we are working on Validating a large number of providers and activities. This term we have Validated the following Providers. Click on the hyperlink to find out more:

- [The Cookery Cabin](#)
- [Kent Life \(an addition to their existing offer\)](#)
- [Medway library LEGO club](#)
- [ootiboo - search ootiboo to find the variety of activities](#)
- [Quiz Trails - search Quiz Trails and look for the Kent/Medway locations](#)
- [University of Greenwich Heritage Days at the Chatham Campus](#)



## Request for Parents/Carers to Suggest Possible Destinations

children's  
UNIVERSITY

WHERE DO YOU LIKE TAKING YOUR CHILDREN TO IN...

**KENT & MEDWAY?**

We will use your suggestions to potentially recruit new Learning Destinations!

[www.theeducationpeople.org/kent-childrens-university](http://www.theeducationpeople.org/kent-childrens-university)

We know that there are lots of fabulous sites and organisations in Kent and Medway that we know nothing about! We are hoping you can help us with that.

You can post your recommendations via this Microsoft [Form](#). We can't guarantee that an organisation will choose to join Children's University but we will attempt to make contact with any suggestions you make.

You could also help us to help you by printing notes and handing them to organisations or providers you would like to see become a Learning Destination. You can find these notes [here](#).

## Learning Destination Registration

If you are a provider of activities for children and/or young people, you can become a Learning Destination/Partner. You would need to Validate your provision with Children's University but it is free to do so.

This Validation does not require the completion of an excessive amount of paperwork. It simply involves learning providers completing an online form and putting time aside to talk to your local Children's University Manager about what is on offer for children. This ensures that our organisations are aligned in our commitment to children.

If you are a learning provider and want to Validate your activities for children, simply complete quick eligibility check and then submit information about your activities. [You can find the eligibility check here.](#)



# Spotlight on... Quiz Trails

**Quiz Trails is a new Learning Partner for KCU so we thought we would let their Liz tell you all about their Trails and offer for CU families**

“At Quiz Trails we’re delighted to have received the status as an ‘Approved Activity’ for the Kent Children’s University! We’ve passed the Children University’s Quality Assurance process and have been accepted.

Each Quiz Trail your child completes earns them 2.5 hours credit for their Learning Passport!

**PLUS as a new activity we are offering 20% OFF all orders to all KCU members. Simply quote KCU20 at the last page of the checkout and your bill will be automatically reduced.**

There is also free p&p on orders over £10 too.

## What are Quiz Trails?

Quiz Trails are a super fun way for everyone to learn local history. A fun and affordable activity that will entertain all ages:

- Clues for both adults and juniors.
- Educational too - the National Curriculum directs that children should be taught their local history.
- Only one copy needed for a small group - they’re made for sharing.
- ALL trails are accessible for wheelchair users and pushchair pushers.

## What do people say about Quiz Trails?

Laura completed the Tenterden Quiz Trail and told us “We had a brilliant time completing the trail today. My daughter really took ownership of it and loved solving the clues. Can’t wait to tackle the next challenge!”

Jack told us “Despite spending 4 years at university in Canterbury I saw parts I’d never seen, as always with these trails!”

## Who are Quiz Trails created by?

We are a family of Kent mum and two (now grown up) daughters. We’ve always enjoyed visiting new places over the years as a family and have had lovely day trips visiting towns that were new to us. We’d arrive, walk around the middle popular bit, have a picnic, have an ice cream and go home all having had a lovely day out.

However, we went home not knowing very much about the place we’d just visited – who were the people of the past? – what were the town stories? – what went on there?

We created our Quiz Trails to bring together everything you’d want from a visit ... or to explore your hometown in a fresh new way with fresh eyes. An interesting route to see the best parts including some hidden alleyways and paths you might never have discovered – pointing out highlights of things you might have missed – plus a take-home souvenir to read more about the history of the town at your leisure.

The quiz is fun for adults – we added questions for children as well to engage them fully in local history too. We’ve kept all our Quiz Trails to a reasonable distance ... because we all still want that special visiting time to enjoy a picnic and maybe an ice cream!

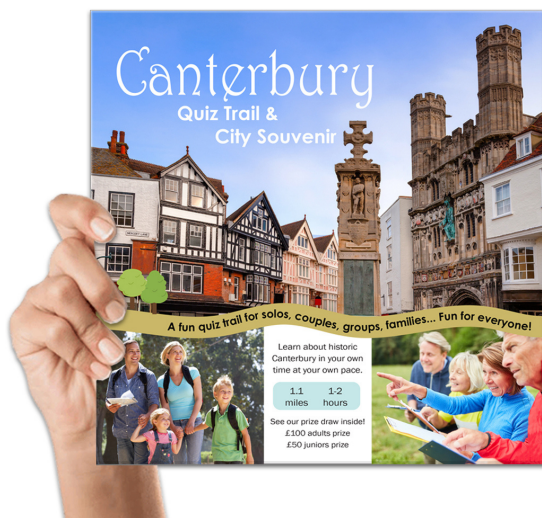
## Quiz Trail is a Community Interest Company

A CIC is a special government approved limited company – registered with HMRC - which exists to benefit the community rather than private shareholders. This means when you buy from Quiz Trail, you are contributing towards a social enterprise. We have plans for lots more community projects going forward!

## Let the adventure begin with a Quiz Trail!

Grab your Quiz Trail, your thinking cap, and get ready for a fun and memorable trip out in the fresh air! A fun and affordable activity that will entertain all.

Visit [www.quiztrail.co.uk](http://www.quiztrail.co.uk) and you'll see all the Quiz Trails we have available ... there are lots more coming soon too!"



Explore the glorious Garden of England with fun Quiz Trails!



If you are a Learning Destination or Partner and would like us to shine the spotlight on you in a future KCU newsletter, please email content and images to be used to [kcu@theeducationpeople.org](mailto:kcu@theeducationpeople.org) Do add any weblinks and/or contact details to this email.





# At-Home Activities

Children's University offers a wide range of free and low cost activities which can be completed at any time in the home

You can find a wide range of activities for children, young people and families to participate in at home via the [Kent Children's University](#) and [National Children's University Trust](#) websites. The activities cover a variety of themes and subjects, as well as skills, and are the perfect way to engage children in learning when at home.

Each term we will share new activities for children and families to enjoy together. Please note that some activities are only available for a fixed period of time but the majority are available all-year round.

## KCU Challenge Update

Each season KCU produces an at-home Challenge for children and families. It contains 24 activities covering a variety of seasonal topics. You can find out more via the [KCU Challenges](#) section of our website.

Thank you to all families for sharing your children's Summer #KCUChallenge evidence with us. If you are yet to do so, please email evidence to [kcu@theeducationpeople.org](mailto:kcu@theeducationpeople.org) to receive the Learning Credit Stamp Codes.

You will receive links to the Winter #KCUChallenge in our Term 2 Newsletter and via our KCU Facebook Page.

## National Children's University October Half-Term Challenge

The CU Trust has released its October Half-Term Challenge. [You can download the Challenge here](#). In order to receive the Learning Credits for the completed activities, you will need to email evidence to [contactus@childrensuniversity.co.uk](mailto:contactus@childrensuniversity.co.uk)

### Children's University Half Term Challenge!

**Get researching!**  
Halloween is nearly here! Every year lots of people carve pumpkins to mark the holiday, but do you know why? Research and write about the origins of pumpkin carving and then design your own pumpkin.

**Get skillful!**  
You may know that at Children's University skills are really important! Our Friends and validated learning partner What's your strength?@ have fantastic resources which will help build your skills! Complete two of their activities.  
<https://tinyurl.com/mrycerub>

**Get curious!**  
October is Black History Month. Join children's television presenter Nigel Clarke as he celebrates the lives of six extraordinary people and their contribution to British history. Then, write ten things you have learnt from the videos.  
<https://tinyurl.com/mrxr3vzf>

**Things to do this half term!**  
Each activity is worth 1 credit. To get a stamp code for Children's University Online email [contactus@childrensuniversity.co.uk](mailto:contactus@childrensuniversity.co.uk) with evidence - this could be a photograph, video, a work sheet, or writing about what you did! All activities require adult supervision. The supervising adult is expected to manage all activity risk.

**Get crafty!**  
There's no need to buy new decorations when you can recycle and transform plastic bottles, cardboard boxes and whatever you have around your house, into spooky Halloween decorations - let your imagination run wild!

**Get active!**  
As the Autumn nights draw in, it's tempting to stay snuggled up on the sofa! To help keep you active go on a nature walk and make an autumnal collage of a landscape using different coloured leaves and natural materials found outside.

childrensuniversity.co.uk

## Pawprint Family Badges

Pawprint Family is a Learning Partner for Children's University. This means that their Badge packs have been Validated by Children's University so children can earn Learning Credits every time they complete a challenge. There are thousands of free, or paid-for activities to choose from. [You can find all the packs here.](#) As well as the Validated Badges packs, Pawprint Family also offers trails and tales for families to access at home.

It really is easy to get started. Simply choose your Badge pack (which you can purchase or download for free) and complete the activities. Most activities need no additional equipment other than standard household items, such as a pencil or paper. Once the pack has been completed, parents/carers can email Pawprint Family for the Learning Credit code for your child's Passport to Learning.



## Blue Peter Book Club and Blue Peter Badges

Blue Peter has teamed up with The Reading Agency and BBC Arts to bring viewers a monthly Book Club jam-packed with fantastic stories. Each month, presenters will showcase a new book and be joined by young readers to talk about the incredible stories, new worlds and fascinating characters they discover.

Blue Peter have unveiled a brand new Blue Peter Book Badge, designed by one of the UK's best-known illustrators, Sir Quentin Blake, and will be awarding their book badge to children aged 5-15 who send in their thoughts on a book, draw a character or scene and share which other books and writers they love.

For full details of the book club and how to get your badge, take a look at the [Blue Peter website.](#)

Don't forget... Blue Peter is Validated with Children's University. [That means Learning Credits can be issued to children for each Blue Peter Badge they are awarded.](#) Simply email a photograph of the letter from Blue Peter to [kcu@theeducationpeople.org](mailto:kcu@theeducationpeople.org) to receive the Learning Credit code.



## STEM with Mr N

STEM with Mr N has recently been Validated by Children's University.

Mr N is an award-winning teacher producing interesting and educational STEM content on YouTube. This means that for every online session your child participates in, they can receive Learning Credits from Mr N.

You can find Mr N's STEM sessions [here.](#)





# Events and Opportunities

Many of our Learning Destinations and Partners provide and offer additional events and opportunities, where children can earn Credits

As well as activities at home or out and about at one of the Learning Destinations around the country, many providers offer additional opportunities for children to earn Children's University Learning Credits. Here is a small sample of upcoming events.

## Go Sketch Art Club on Zoom

[Go Sketch](#) is a Learning Partner for Children's University and they offer magnificent free art workshops via Zoom to children across the country. You can click on each of the graphics below to book free places. Don't forget to email Go Sketch to claim the Learning Credit code after the session.

**Free LIVE Art Workshops**  
25th-26th Oct Age 5-adult!  
Weds Halloween Cartoons  
Thurs Creative Drawing  
Click Here to Register

## Outdoor Fun with Kent Country Parks

[Kent Country Park sites](#) are Learning Destinations so children can earn Learning Credits for participating in activities on their sites. You can keep up-to-date with all the available opportunities [here](#). If you are unable to receive a Learning Credit code on site, do email evidence from the completed activity, such as photographs or a copy of the booking confirmation, to [kcu@theeducationpeople.org](mailto:kcu@theeducationpeople.org) and we will issue the code you need.

**HALLOWEEN EVENTS AT THE KENT COUNTRY PARKS**

## Eerie-on-Sea Monster Museum Tour with Wheels of Time

Three [Wheels of Time](#) museums are taking part in the Eerie-on-Sea Monster Museum Tour from [Kids in Museums](#) & [Walker Books](#). Visit [Ashford Museum](#), [The Seaside Museum](#), [Herne Bay](#) or [Woodchurch Village Life Museum](#) this October half term to search for strange creatures and spooky spectres.

You could win a bundle of all five Eerie-on-Sea books! It is also the perfect time to collect a Wheels of Time badge from any of the three sites and Learning Credits from Ashford Museum and The Seaside Museum.





# Competitions

Keep an eye out for competitions that could earn your children Learning Credits. There are lots of marvellous prizes to be won

Many of our Learning Partners offer competitions to all children, young people and their families. They are usually open to all, not just Children's University members but should your child have a Passport to Learning, it is worth checking whether the entry is eligible for a code. Here are two current competitions which do offer Learning Credits. Don't forget to check the closing date for each competition as these will vary.

## ootiBOO! 2023 (Closing date: midnight on 31st October 2023)

ootiBOO! is a fun spooky annual project for all ages, in collaboration with partners Farshore, The Works and HarperCollins.

ootiBOO wants children and adults to show them what your best Halloween-inspired Beast would look like! If you don't fancy designing your own Beast, why not have a go at a spooktacular pumpkin design instead? There are lots of prizes to be won for children and adults so why not create something at the same time as your children.

You can find out more, upload your entries and download colouring templates for younger children [here](#). To earn the 2 Learning Credits for this activity, let ootiBOO! know that you are a member of Children's University or email the entry to [kcu@theeducationpeople.org](mailto:kcu@theeducationpeople.org)



## BBC 500 Words (Closing date: 8pm on 10th November 2023)

[500 Words](#), the UK's most successful children's writing competition has now opened for submissions and will run till Friday 10th November. Since the competition was first launched in 2011 by Chris Evans on the Radio 2 Breakfast Show, it has received over one million stories from children throughout the UK.

This year, the two age categories will be 5-7 year-olds and 8-11 year-olds.

Children of all abilities are encouraged to use their creativity and imagination to write a story they would love to read without the pressure of having to worry about spelling, punctuation and grammar.

You can share your story with [kcu@theeducationpeople.org](mailto:kcu@theeducationpeople.org) to receive 3 Learning Credits.





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