

PARENTS NEWS

November 2013 No.185 The First & Foremost Local Monthly Newspaper for Families

1993 - 2013
21st Successful Year
Thank you

FREE

What's On November Planning for Christmas Pantomimes, Shows and Shopping



www.marlowetheatre.com

The Amazing Bubble Man

www.reallyusefultheatres.co.uk/theatres/london-palladium



Make-a-Wish

www.intu.co.uk/bromley



www.fairfield.co.uk

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Three Editions in South-East England



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PARENTS NEWS believes that society's best asset is its young people! We shall accept no advertising in the opinion of the Publisher, is considered demeaning to children. We intend to encourage environmental, health, and non-violent issues, but not to preach or claim to always be right. Different opinions published are the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of **PARENTS NEWS**. We hope mums and dads enjoy the articles, be interested by Calendar (finding it useful), and use the advertisers. Any endorsement by **PARENTS NEWS** is explicitly stated.

Christmas Out & About

Sutton Theatres....

Polka Dot Pantomimes return with their fantastic production of **Beauty and the Beast**. Join Beauty on her adventure as she agrees to stay in the Beast's Castle in order to save her Father, and find out how Beauty and her Beast find true love as he becomes her very own Prince Charming.
Wed 18 – Tues 24 December
 Tickets £14.50 standard, £12.50 children
 Schools rate £9.50 with a schools offer of 1 free ticket per every 10 booked (selected performances only).
 Family Ticket: £50 for a family ticket of 4 (2 adults 2 children) Groups of 20+ £12.50
Polka Dot Pantomimes will be bringing two wonderful productions to the **Charles Crier Studio Theatre** for our younger audience members
Friday 6 – Tues 24 December
The Snow Angel will be

arriving in Carshalton in a magical adventure for 0-5 year olds. With songs they can join in with, music and actions they know and a tale of wonderment we will wait and see if it really will snow at Christmas time
 Tickets are £8.50 standard and £6.50 for children.
 For slightly older children age 5-8 you can see what really happens **When Santa Got Stuck Up The Chimney**. This delightful production, based on the famous song, is a wonderful adventure story when we see if the children get Santa out of their Chimney.
Sat 7 – Tues 24 December.
 Tickets £11 standard, £9.50 for children with a schools rate £9 with 1 free school ticket for every 10 booked (selected performances only).
 www.suttontheatres.co.uk
 Box Office
 020 8770 6990



SECOMBE THEATRE

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

18 – 24 December

CHARLES CRIER STUDIO THEATRE

Santa Got Stuck Up The Chimney

7 – 24 December

RAT PACK

13/14 DECEMBER

THE TINGLE CREEK CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

6 – 24 December

Box Office 020 8770 6990
 online @ www.suttontheatres.co.uk

GET ready for some fee-fi-fo-fun at The Marlowe Theatre this Christmas!

This year's pantomime at the Canterbury venue is **Jack And The Beanstalk**, starring Mister Maker (Phil Gallagher), from *CBeebies*, and Samantha Womack, best known as Ronnie Mitchell from *EastEnders*.

Phil plays Billy, while Samantha is Fairy Sugarnap. They are joined by two **Marlowe** favourites making a welcome return: Ben Roddy as Dame Trot, and Lloyd Hollett as Dr Fleshereep.

The show features everything you love about **Marlowe Theatre** pantomimes: family comedy, audience participation, song and dance numbers, stunning sets and breathtaking special effects

November 2013 Dick Whittington

This winter **Blue Genie Entertainment** are planning a Christmas spectacular at the **Hazlett Theatre**, with the lavish professional pantomime **'DICK WHITTINGTON'**.
6th Dec – 5th January 2014.
 The show features a host of top quality professional performers including 'Top CBBC Presenter' Carrie Burrell playing Alice Fitzwarren, heart-throb and runner up to Lee Mead in the hit show *'Any Dream will do'* Keith Jack as Dick Whittington and back by popular demand and one of last years hilarious ugly sisters local funny man Jimmy Busters lles.
01622 758611
 www.maldstonepanto.co.uk

Director **Rob Forknall** said: "It's going to be great fun for all the family. **'Dick Whittington'** is the most traditional pantomime of them all it has something for everyone...".
Blue Genie Entertainment are spending tens of thousands of pounds to ensure **'Dick Whittington'** will be a spectacular family production, bringing together a top cast, amazing costumes, fantastic dance routines, plenty of popular songs.



November 2013 Tingle Creek Christmas Festival

Saturday 7th December

The Tingle Creek Christmas Festival is a festive jump racing tradition, attracting the sport's leading horses and jockeys to **Sandown Park**.
The Saturday, Tingle Creek Chase Day, is the pinnacle of their jump season, featuring the *Grade 1 Tingle Creek Chase*, which is named after one of the most famous horses of the 1970's.

The charismatic **Tingle Creek** loved **Sandown Park**, winning numerous times there and in total he won 23 races over a stellar career. The sight of him taking a fence at full-stretch was really something to behold as he was a spectacular jumper, often trailblazing from the front. The race now named in his honour has been won by numerous champions over the years including the legendary **Kauto Star**, **Desert Orchid** and **Moscow Flyer** and last year's star **Sprinter Sacre**.

As well as the feature races of the day, the *Grade 1 Tingle Creek Chase* and the *Henry VIII Novices Steeple Chase*, there is plenty of entertainment to keep everyone amused. Join in the fun and enjoy the off course pantomime which this year is **Cinderella**. Four shows will take place during the day in the **Esher Hall** and it's free

of charge for race-goers to watch!

There will also be a **William Hill Winter Festival Preview Panel** with key racing personalities providing their insights into the *King George VI Steeple Chase*; the feature race taking place at **Kempton Boxing Day**.

Children's entertainment will be plentiful on the Saturday with complimentary Carousel rides; the opportunity to meet Father Christmas where all young visitors will be given a gift, and festive carol singing after racing with the *New London Singers*. Don't forget children under 18 enjoy free entry (accompanied by an adult).

Traditional Victorian carriages will greet visitors to **Sandown Park** from the train station to transport them up to the racecourse to join in the festive fun and be welcomed by the cast of **Cinderella** and be serenaded on arrival with Christmas carols.

Accompanied children under 18 go free so be sure to put the date in the family diary and book in advance for great adult ticket savings!
0844 579 3012
 www.sandown.co.uk

PETER PAN

STEVE McFADDEN AS CAPTAIN HOOK
Ascroft Theatre, Fairfield Halls, Croydon

Fri 6th Dec to Sun 5th Jan
 Take the second star to the right and straight on till morning! It's off to Neverland for this year's Christmas spectacular **PETER PAN**. Croydon's favourite Dame, the hilarious **QUINN PATRICK**, returns as Mrs. Smee along with **KELLY CHINERY** and **NATHANIEL MORRISON**, who will be remembered for their acclaimed performances as the genies in **Aladdin** (2011), as **Big Chief** and **Maxi Ha Ha**. **DAVID RIBI** plays the title role of Peter Pan with **ELIZABETH CARTER** as Wendy.

Follow Peter Pan, and the Darling children, Wendy, John and Michael, on their exciting adventure as they meet The Lost Boys and battle with the villainous Captain Hook and his motley crew. Packed with swashbuckling fun, great music and dancing, stunning sets, fantastic flying, not forgetting audience participation and a hungry crocodile, **PETER PAN** promises a magical treat for all the family.

Tickets are on sale from the date in the family diary and book in advance for great adult ticket savings!
020 8688 9291
 or online at
 www.fairfield.co.uk

Christmas Out & About



BOX OFFICE
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COMING SOON TO CROYDON

Paul Braddy & Family Wood for Production Performances in association with Fairfield Halls present

STEVE McFADDEN
 QUINN PATRICK NATHANIEL MORRISON

Peter Pan

6th DEC 2013 - 5th JAN 2014

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ZÖE SALMON & HAL CRUTTENDEN
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ATG TICKETS 0844 871 7645
 www.atgtickets.com/woking

*FEES APPLY

NEW VICTORIA THEATRE, WOKING

Cinderella comes alive in Woking **Fri 6 Dec Sun 5 Jan**.

BAFTA award-winning **Justin Fletcher** will be starring as the lovable Buttons. The presenter and actor known for his impressive range of characters in programmes such as *Something Special*, *Giggglebiz* and *Justin's House* is adored by children and parents alike and is sure to bring fun and laughter for the whole family!

Zöe Salmon joins as the beautiful **Cinderella**. The former lawyer is best known presenting children's BBC television show *Blue Peter* and has starred on the hit ITV *Dancing on Ice* - proving she's no stranger to glitzy costumes similar to sparkly numbers in Panto!

As Prince Charming's aide **Dandini** is one of the top comedians in the UK today, **Hal Cruttenden**, Hal has appeared on *Live at the Apollo*, *Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow*, *The Royal Variety Performance* and *Lei's Dance for Comic Relief* so will have no problem providing the laughs!

The Ambassadors, Woking
 : 01483 545940
 www.atgtickets.com/woking

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 Contact Fergus 020 8337 6337
 fergus@parents-news.co.uk

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Christmas Gifts for Children

Designer Boys Clothes

Good quality clothing with the garments having been designed by some of the best designers and made with the finest fabrics available. **Lucas Frank** are utterly obsessive about details so you'll find a mark of quality along every seam and in every stitch. The quality of the fabric is undeniable and both mums and boys will appreciate the softness for delicate young skin.

Polo shirts created from super soft 100% cotton are all named after famous lighthouses. Just like their namesakes they are brim full of brilliantly British inspiration and made to last. Practical tees, are bursting with British boaty style. Perfect for lovely long days by the sea. Super soft squirrel point hoodies are a cosy classic. With contrast hood linings, complimentary embroidered detailing and double stitched seams Available in a range of



colour combinations designed to compliment our collection they're a durable stylish staple for every season. Rugby tops created from super soft 100%

cotton and made to last **LUCAS FRANK**. Boyish, British Boys clothing for ages 18 months to 10 Years www.lucasfrank.com

Roboz Set to Invade Christmas Stockings This Year

There is no denying that kids love to collect things and this year they're set to go robot crazy with the latest collectible crew from the cosmos. **ROBOZ** are a series of collectible character figures and priced at just RRP £2.49 each they make the perfect stocking filler. From the worldly leader *Sparky* to the techno genius *Foo Fung* and the evil *Botz*, each of these durable, hard wearing characters has a unique back story and comes with a collector card showcasing vital statistics including ROBOZ skills, Top Speed and IQ.



www.roboz.co.uk

Fabulous Stocking Fillers Under £10 from Tyrrell Katz

Tyrrell Katz are known for their gorgeous collection of functional yet fun children's products. If you're looking for the perfect stocking filler this year then check out their range which is available to buy online www.tyrrellkatz.co.uk.

Funky Pencil Case and with ten designs including Knights, Princess, Pirates, Ballet, Farmyard and the new Secret Garden design. Made from durable ripstop fabric with a colourful contrast coloured lining, the pencil cases are printed on both sides and retail for £5.95.

Children Notebook. Available in three designs, Horse Riding, Princess and London, each book contains 60 sheets of

paper. For added cuteness each note book features a stand up magnetic character that closes flat to help keep the book closed, these retail for £5.95.

Tyrrell Katz's fully lined Wash Bags are the perfect travel accessory. Whether it's a sleep over with friends, or a summer holiday your child will feel really grown up with their own wash bag. Wash bags retail for £8.95 and are available in five designs, the new Secret Garden, London, Princess, Ballet and Horse Riding.

Tyrrell Katz Drinking Bottle to take to school. The drinking bottles are BPA free with a leak proof child friendly lid. You can even pop them in the freezer, ideal for really hot

days when your child might be taking a packed lunch to school. There are nine funky designs to choose from including Working Wheels, Farmyard, Pirates, Ballet, Princess and the new Secret Garden, and cost £9.95.

Do you struggle to find boxes of the right size to put your child's packed lunch in? **Tyrrell Katz**'s Snack Boxes retail for £7.95 for a set of three. Each set features a small, medium and large box, which can be stored inside each other when not in use. The boxes are BPA Free, dishwasher, microwave and freezer safe and they are the perfect size for transporting sandwiches, healthy snacks and treats.



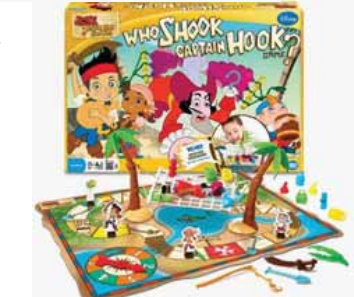
Disney- licensed kids' games unveiled by **Edevisium**

Jake and the Never Land Pirates, Disney Princess and Doc McStuffins titles to launch in time for Christmas 2013.

Disney Princess - Dazzling Princess Game Age 4+ Players 2-4 RRP £19.99

Celebrate your favourite **Disney Princesses** as you get ready for the ball in this fantasy filled dress-up game! Draw a card and guess the Princess, then use the special jewel card reader to reveal the answer. With every correct guess, add sparkling gems to your bracelet, ring and tiara!

Jake and the Never Land Pirates - Who Shook Hook? Game Age 4+ Players 2-4 RRP £19.99 Captain Hook is snoozing in his hammock, surrounded by all the treasure he's nabbed from Jake and the Pirate crew. Use the sword, fishing pole, tweezers or shovel to pluck a piece of treasure! But steady as she goes - you need to grab the loot without sending Hook tumbling



into the water. Collect the most treasure to win!

Doc McStuffins - Sharing is Caring Dominoes Game Age 3+ Players 2+ RRP £14.99 "A sharing is caring" twist on the classic game of dominoes! Connect colourful pictures of Lambie, Stuffy, Hallie and more with Colourful, jumbo domino tiles. Pull dominoes from Doc's bag or ask other players to share with you when you need a little help!

240g of chocolate. **Montezuma's** Brighton, Chichester, Winchester, Kingston and Spitalfields www.montezumas.co.uk, *John Lewis, Debenhams & moonpig.com*



Disney

until Christmas' as they are so delicious even the strongest of will powers is likely to crumble and eat before the 25th so make sure you buy a good stock! No Christmas would be complete without a chocolate advent calendar bursting with an impressive

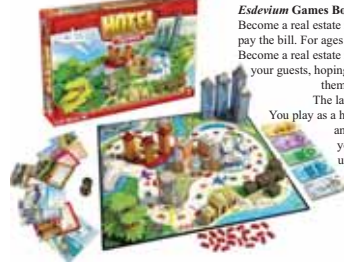
240g of chocolate. **Montezuma's** Brighton, Chichester, Winchester, Kingston and Spitalfields www.montezumas.co.uk, *John Lewis, Debenhams & moonpig.com*

November 2013

Hotel Tycoon Board Game

Edevisium Games Board Game - Asmodee Editions. Become a real estate magnate and make everyone else pay the bill. For ages 8+

Become a real estate magnate, build hotels and welcome your guests, hoping they stay long enough to bankrupt themselves when its time to pay the bill. The last player left is declared the winner. You play as a hotel tycoon buying luxurious hotels and resorts around the world. As such you have deal with planning permits, upgrading and developing your hotel to become therichest player. Game comes with beautifully designed 3D hotel elements and features **Amazon** at the moment with an RRP of £24.99.



Montezuma's the British chocolate

Montezuma's the British chocolate makers are very proud to reveal their 2013 Christmas range. Beautifully designed pale blue packaging with reindeers & Christmas themed motifs, a fabulous range consists of an impressive twenty two products. Starting with stocking fillers all the way up to an exquisite hamper Bite size chocolate snowmen, snowballs, these chocolate balls come in dark chocolate filled with chilli and lime truffle centre and milk chocolate bursting with peanut butter heavenliness, beware though these chocolate treats should come with a warning, "not likely to last

November 2013

intu Bromley's ground-breaking Christmas decorations

intu Bromley is believed to be the first shopping centre in the UK to integrate a charity's logo throughout its Christmas display and in the press raise funds for **Make-A-Wish**, which grants magical wishes to children and young people fighting life-threatening conditions.

Maria Cooper, intu Bromley Marketing Manager, says: "We are so excited to give Bromley we will be revealing in full this November. They will even be able to donate money to **Make-A-Wish** through an interactive 'wish pool', a fun experience that we are confident will raise funds for a fantastic charity." "The Christmas decorations will be revealed in their full

glory in November, when we will also be offering shoppers the chance of winning a family trip to *Lapland!*"

Many months in the making, the stunning Christmas display features more than 49,000 LED bulbs, 3,000 baubles and 1,900 jewels. All processes and energy used to create the display have been offset so the carbon footprint of the whole project is zero.

To find out more about **intu Bromley's** Christmas plans, www.intu.co.uk/bromley like www.facebook.com/intubromley and follow [@intubromley](https://twitter.com/intubromley) on Twitter



Out & About

Every Wed Heaven at **Nuffield 19 High Street** www.heavennuffield.com. Smiley Faces music group for babies & toddlers **Every Sat during term time** **The River & Rowing Museum** Mills Meadows Henley on Thames 01491 415600 Artways Art Club, 5 week sessions, 11-15yrs. **Every Wed during term time** Taylor Tug's under 5's Club. **24 Nov Standen** East Grinstead 01342 323029 Stir up Sunday make your own Christmas pudding with demonstrations. **Every weekend until 23 Dec** See the house decorated for a family Christmas 1920's style. **29 Nov Glydebourne** Lewes East Sussex 01273 815000 Hansel & Gretel with family friendly introduction at 5.15pm. **30 Nov L'elisir d'amore** a family performance plus family friendly activities throughout the day **FREE** to ticket holders. **29 Nov-1 Dec Portsmouth Historic Dockyard** 02392 728060 A True Victorian Christmas, visitors will be magically transported into a bygone era of Dickensian style snow streets, with seasonal carols, Father Christmas and lots of stalls fun for all **Daily from 30 Nov Bateman's** Burwash 01435 882302 An Edwardian

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Out & About

Thrilling Bubble-tastic Festive Season London Palladium

Lunchbox Theatrical Productions Thrilling Bubbletastic Festive Season at London's iconic **Palladium Theatre** **Louis Pearl The Amazing Bubbleman** 12 Dec 2013 - 4 Jan 2014

Louis Pearl The Amazing Bubbleman has been astounding audiences around the world for decades now with the art, magic, science and fun of bubbles. This Christmas, he brings a snow storm of bubbles to London's most famous theatre - in a fittingly spectacular conclusion to his 2012/2013 *World Tour* - as he performs in the West End at the **London Palladium**.

He has performed to more than one million people, including royalty and celebrities, in hundreds of cities across the USA, as well as in Switzerland, France, Japan, Dubai, Australia and New Zealand. He is a favourite at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, where he has enjoyed six years of sell-out success and was this year voted "Pick of the Fringe".

As well as exploring the dynamics of bubbles, his wondrous 75 minute show combines breath-taking art, a diversity of music, non-stop comedy, ingenious sets and lighting, plenty of audience participation and enough

spellbinding bubble tricks to keep every child and adult mesmerised. With infectious enthusiasm, **The Amazing Bubble Man** explains the fascinating dynamics of bubbles, bringing science to life and into the realm of fun. From square bubbles, layers of bubbles inside bubbles, fog-filled bubbles, trampoline bubbles, UFO bubbles and even people inside bubbles, **The Amazing Bubble Man** guarantees shrieks of laughter and gasps of amazement from all ages.

Louis Pearl says of his show, "The kid in everybody gets excited. The audience connects with what's happening onstage at a pre-verbal place. There's so much joy."

Louis Pearl has teamed with leading international entertainment producer **James Cundall of Lunchbox Theatrical Productions**, and one of the UK's top artistic directors, **Tony Mercer** of the award-winning **Imperial Ice Stars**, to create this brand new show, specially staged and choreographed for a 2012/13 worldwide tour.

www.lunchbox-productions.com/portfolio/louis-pearl-the-amazing-bubble-man/

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THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS TREAT!

Daily Larkfield Leisure Centre Aylesford 01622 713225 Soft play zone with 3 stores of interactive play equipment for under 10's with wavy waterfall slide, crawl tubes, ball pool & ball cannons. **NEW** Kickstart a brand new all inclusive membership with unlimited access which offers a wide range of activities for under 10's with swimming, soft play, junior dance and target wall sessions, selected holiday programme activities, Saturday Fun Club plus pre-school bounce & adventure time sessions for 0-5yrs. **NEW** Larger Fitness Studio to offer a wider range of classes including Zumba, Pilates, Body pump & circuits.

Daily Fishbourne Roman Palace Chichester 01243 78929 Guided tours, plus cafe & picnic area.

Daily Wingham Wildlife Park Canterbury 01227 720836 Meet the animals including their hands on animal encounters plus children's play area.

Daily Dradstone Park and Woodland Holy Hill Bleas 01227 765168 Meet the friendly animals, follow the trail around the enchanted woodland & discover the sleeping dragon & other magical creatures or have fun in the adventure play area, a fun day out for all the family.

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New Tourbridge Swimming Pool Lower Castle Field 01732 367449 Kickstart a brand new all inclusive membership with unlimited access which offers a wide range of activities for under 10's. **Every Tues & Thurs term time only** parent & child sessions.

Onging Run off your Feet FREE running sessions across Kent, women & men of all ages & abilities are putting on their trainers & jogging the streets & parks of Kent all part of a county wide campaign to get people running to feel fitter, healthier & happier. In Kent leaders have been trained to set up local running groups & they are keen to welcome new runners. Get your first running session **FREE** at your local group when you mention Parents News. All groups are led by qualified, enthusiastic friendly leaders. To find your local group visit www.kentrunning.com/groups. **Tel: 07730 879696.**

Onging Run off your Feet 07730 879696 Running Group, first session **FREE** at your local group when mentioning Parents News.

Onging Lydd Library Part of a library touring exhibition by Vir-Art a Maidstone group of artists, to appeal to book lovers young & old & includes work inspired by the children's book 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'.

Onging Papey Farm www.papeyfarm.info With friendly farm animals plus goats, donkeys, Kune Kune pigs, chickens, ducks rabbits, guinea pigs plus woodland trails suitable for all ages. Woodland walks **FREE** but donations welcome.

2nd Sat of the month Tonbridge Farmers Market Sovereign Way 07876 65855 Held in Sovereign Way with normally 70 stalls.

4th Sat of the month West Malling Farmers Market High Street 07775 758116 Wide variety of local produce, 9.30-1.30pm.

Every Sun Edenbridge Leisure Centre Stangrove Park 01732 865665 Under 16's & families roller disco. **Every Mon** Strood Library 01634

355890 Toddler Shake & Boogie activity session that offers rhymes, songs & movement for pre-school children with friends. **Every Tues** Teatine Storytime after school, 3-5yrs, term time only. **Every Fri** Handeop club with friendly staff on hand to help you with all your homework questions, 3.30-5pm.

Every Mon St Peter's Church Hall Broadstairs 01843 602452 Sprats Parent & Toddler group, termtime only.

Every Mon St Matthew's Church Hall Rochester 01634 843666 www.hartwoodendays.org.uk Baby Sensory classes for babies up to 16months, activities to include balls, balls, bubbles, jiggly shows & more. **Tel: 07813 62552.**

Every Mon Walderslade Hook Meadow Library Chatham 01634 861531 Baby bounce & rhyme time, 18mths & under. **FREE.** **Every Wed** Storytime fun sessions for pre-school children that include stories & rhymes.

Every Mon Gillingham Library 01634 337340 Storytime fun sessions for pre-school children with stories & rhymes. **FREE.** **Every Fri** Baby bounce & rhyme time, **FREE.**

Every Mon St Andrews Church Hall Broadstairs 01843 863480 Little Ted's Parent & Toddler group, term time only. **Onging on Moss** Cuxton Library Rochester Baby massage courses for babies 8wks & not yet crawling. **FREE**, to book **Tel: 01634 711911**.

1st & 3rd Thurs of the month Children's activities, Health visitor drop in clinic, meet your local health visitor plus a toy library will also be available after the session, 9.30-11am. **Tel: 01634 336209.**

Every Mon-Wed The Angel Centre Tonbridge 01732 359966 Kickstart members Pre-school bounce, **Every Sat** mon fun club 5-10yrs, **Every Wed & Fri** dance mat & target wall fitness.

Every Mon & Fri Rochester Library Eastgate 01634 337411 Baby bounce & rhyme time with finger & nursery rhymes, 18mths & under. **FREE.** **Every Sat** Pop in & Play sessions for parents & children, 10.30-11am. **FREE.** **4th Fri** of month Advice & support - Health & lifestyle advice, drop-in, no need to book.

Every Tues Queens Road Baptist Church Victoria Gardens 01843 602792 Raintdrops, parent & toddler group,

termtime. **Every Thurs** 1st Parenting meet with other 1+ time parents. **Every Fri** during term time Friday Club.

Every Tues Grovesnor Park 07990 97313 Buggy Workout, exercise for mother & baby, power walking around the park utilising the benches & steps available, 10.30-11.30am.

Every Tues Chatham Library 01634 Wharf Dock Road 01634 337799 Storytime for pre-schoolers. **FREE.**

Every Thurs until 31 Nov Toddler shake & boogie fun packed activity session. **Every Tues** How Library Rochester 01634 256600 Storytime fun sessions for pre-schoolers with stories & rhymes. **FREE.**

Every Tues Fairview Community Centre Swanley 01634 376270 Parents & toddlers club term time only 10-11.30am. **Every Thurs** Baby bounce & rhyme time, parents & carers can enjoy knee bouncing, finger rhymes & nursery rhymes. 18mths & under, term time only. **01634 337340.**

Every Tues Walderslade Village Library Chatham 01634 686467 Toddler shake & boogie activity session that offers rhymes, songs & movement for pre-schoolers. Musical instruments, scarves & parachutes are often included. **Every Fri** Storytime fun sessions for pre-school children that include stories & rhymes.

Every Tues Hundred of Hoo Swimming Club Rochester 01634 401989 Beaver Swimming Club.

Every Tues Southborough Library 01892 520806 Storytime, 2.15-2.45pm. **FREE.**

Every Tues Hempstead Library 01634 361544 Baby bounce & rhyme time for parents & carers, 18mths & under. **Every Fri** Storytime fun interactive sessions for pre-schoolers. **FREE.** **1st & 3rd Sat** of month Medway Health Walks chance to improve fitness levels, all ages.

Every Wed Dunorlan Park 07990 973313 Buggy Workout, exercise for mother & baby, power walking around the park utilising the benches & steps available, 10.30-11.30am.

Every Wed St Saviours Centre Canterbury Road, Folkestone 01303 244610 Fabulous Fare Market with locally sourced fresh fruit & veg, meat, fish & dairy, preserves & jams & lots more. Also on offer recipe tasting, take away meals, tips & ready salads, natural home & body products, book/magazine exchange, plants, flowers & lots more. **Midweek & weekends** Kingwood Leisure Centre Canterbury 01227 709184 Teatine sessions available in the pool.

Every Thurs Strood Library 01634 718341 Baby bounce & rhyme time, 18 mths, Horwax club with friendly & knowledgeable staff on hand. **FREE.** **Every Tues** Teatine Storytime, afterschool, 3-5yrs. **2nd Tues of month** Advice & support - Health & lifestyle advice, drop-in, no need to book.

Every Thurs White Oak Leisure Centre Swanley 01227 662188 Under 16's Roller Disco.

Every Thurs Thosmas Aveling School & Community Library Rochester 01634 338728 Teatine Storytime after school storytime for 3-8yrs.

Every Thurs Lynton Library Chatham 01634 469223 Storytime fun sessions that include stories & rhyme. **Every Sat** Pop in & Play for parents & children, 10-12pm.

Every Thurs Pembury Library 01892 82278 Storytime, 2.30-3pm, term time only. **FREE.**

Every Thurs during term time Margate Baptist Church 4 Cecil Sq 01843 290689 Little Fishes Toddler group for parents & carers to meet & socialise with food, games & fun, 10-11.30am.

Every Fri Grain Library Rochester 01634 338727 Homework club with friendly & knowledgeable staff on hand to help. **Every Fri** Hempstead Library Gillingham 01634 361544 Homework club with friendly staff on hand to help with all your homework questions.

Every Fri Lordswood Library Chatham 01634 862096 Teatine Storytime after school storytelling, 3-5yrs & Toddler shake & boogie.

Every Fri Wigmore Library 01634 255576 Toddler shake & boogie activity rhymes, songs & movement for pre-schoolers. Musical instruments, scarves & parachutes are often included.

Last Fri of each month Bedgebury National Pleasure & Forest Ground 01580 878920 Beginners Health

Calendar

Walk, lasting approx 30mins-1hr & will be between 4-6km. **Every Fri** mon Moderate Health Walks, 1-1 1/2 hrs between 4 & 6km. **Every Fri** mon Green Gym session, volunteers can spend a satisfying session working in the National Trust helping to improve the world's best conifer collection. **FREE.**

Tel: 01424 446395. Daily Go Apo take to the trees & experience a course of rope & bridges, tarzan swings & zip slides up to 35 feet above the forest floor, 10-yrs, minimum height 1.4m.

Every Sat Medway Little Theatre Rochester 07939 921041 Youth Workshop for 12-18yrs & children's company, 7-12yrs.

Every Sat Dickens House 01843 871133 Broadstairs History Walk, 2pm.

Every Sat Mara Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre Faversham 01795 554542 Guided Town walks, 90 minute guided stroll through Faversham.

Every weekend Broadstairs Harbour 07847 473615 Market.

Every weekend throughout Nov & Dec Sissinghurst Castle Garden Cranbrook 01580 717000 Craft your own Christmas, family craft events from weaving making to gingerbread decorating.

7-8 Nov Charwell Westerham 01732 866381 Conservation Open Days. **14 Nov** Jewellery design workshops. **18 Nov-23 Feb** Gift of Power exhibition. **29 Nov** Floral workshop. **29 Nov-1 Dec** Christmas market for festive shopping.

8 Nov Grosvenor Farmers Market 01622 821067

9 Nov Meopham Village Hall 07935 700417 Country Market with a range of local produce & drinks plus craft stalls, **FREE** entry.

9 Nov War Memorial Pierremont Broadstairs 01843 865718 Annual Service of Remembrance.

9,16 Nov Biddenden Vineyards Ashford 01580 29126 Guided tour of the vineyard walk & learn the history of the vineyard, with a look in the winery, followed by the chance to taste their award winning wines, cider & juices in the vineyard shop. **FREE.** (Open start arrive at 9.45am in for a **FREE** cup of coffee. **15 Nov-24 Dec** Christmas shop opening selling a wide variety of specially selected local & specialty food & drink. **19,26,23 Nov** Dover Castle & The Secret Wartime Tunnels 01304 211067 Secret Wartime Tunnel Ghost Tour, 6-8pm suitable for adults. **23-24 Nov** & **1 Dec** The Great Tower at Christmas with a weekend of festive celebrations with music, dance & storytelling, suitable for families.

10 Nov Kings Hall Beacon Hill Home Bay 01843 823307 Home Bay Toy & Model Railways Collectors Fair something for everyone plus light refreshments on offer.

12 Nov The Marlowe Theatre Canterbury 01227 862254 A hit sized introduction to Hansel & Gretel presented by an operatic expert. **FREE**

PARENTS NEWS

On-line www.parents-news.co.uk

Advertising works in **PARENTS NEWS**

020 8337 6337

fergus@parents-news.co.uk

Windmill Street 07775 736116 Offering a variety of local produce to include bread, meat, fruit, fudge & much more.

8,22 Nov Beane Art Museum & Library Canterbury 01227 378160 Food Good Fridays Health Walk/Move to improve health walkers carries for various levels of fitness and both experienced and new walkers are very welcome. The walk last for 1hr will begin promptly at the Beane High Street entrance at 9.45am. **Tel: 01798 590 212**

9 Nov Quebe House Westerham 01732 868381 Living History With map and market. **9,10,16,17,23,24 Nov** & **1 Dec** Fire & Candles, experience the house by candlelight & warm up by the roaring fires. **16 Nov** Mothers & daughters. **16 Nov** Wolfe's Infantry. **Every Sun** Mrs Wolfe's 18th century recipes including potato pudding & lemon drops

9 Nov Meopham Village Hall 07935 700417 Country Market with a range of local produce & drinks plus craft stalls, **FREE** entry.

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24 Nov West Malling High Street 07775 736116 Farmers Market a wide variety of local produce, 9.30-1.30pm.

26 Nov Crampton Tower Museum 01843 871133 Busy Bs Sewing Club Victorian & other period clothing. **Every Wed** Sealextric Digital Racing Club.

28 Nov The Home of Charles Darwin Down House, Downe, Kent. 01689 859119 Twilight Tours, need to book.

29 Nov Folkestone Christmas ArtMart 01303 247458 Offering a fine, interesting & inexpensive range of art, crafts & artisan foods in the pedestrian precinct of Sandgate Road.

30 Nov Pilgrims Hospice Canterbury 01227 812621 Christmas Fair with stalls, hot & cold refreshments, live music & children's activities, 12-3pm, **FREE** entry however charge for Santa's Grotto. www.pilgrims.org.uk

30 Nov Faversham Market Place Faversham 01795 531192 Switching on Christmas Lights.

30 Nov The Cube Tontine Street Folkestone 0845 606506 Festive Art Market with lots of hand made crafts on offer plus Find Your Inner Calm before the beginning of every month. Farmers Market in the car park local produce

17 Nov Western Heights Dover 01304 241806 Grand Show Open Day. **FREE.**

17 Nov Aylesford Priory Aylesford 07876 65855 Farmers Market 9.30

23-24 Nov White Cliffs Visitor Centre 01304 202756 Make your own Christmas pudding with their very own cook, all ingredients are provided, need to book.

23 Nov Orford Memorial Hill High Street Orford 07935 700417 Craft & Gift Fair with over 35 stalls selling a wide range of local crafts.

23-24 Nov St George's School Westwood Road Broadstairs 07803 229235 Model Railway exhibition

23-24 Nov The Friars Aylesford 01622 719722 A two day event with festive entertainment Santa, Live music, craft & gift stalls, refreshments & much more

post office, sample Christmas cooking, join in the Home Guard training, take some wartime school lessons plus there will also be 'Make do and mend' demonstrations, suitable 3-15yrs.

1 Dec New Ash Green Village Hall 07935 700417 Indoor Market over 30 stalls to browse, 10-2pm, **FREE** entry.

1 Dec Sharnes Woods Country Park Gravesend 01474 823800 Santa's Grotto self led trail around the woods & solve the clues to find Santa, & then meet him in his woodland grotto, under 12's.

1 Dec Pierremont Park 07925 185052 Christmas Fair & Light Switch on with other Christmas in his Grotto, plus Christmas music from local choirs.

2 Dec Lullingstone Country Park Dartford 01322 865995 Christmas Walk and Lunch.

What's On London Calendar

Go to Page 10

Interactive play for 5-12s

SPACE THE PIRATES

The adventure begins 15 Feb

www.pilotlites.co.uk 01634 829468

Blowing the Whistle on GDC Scam.

Orthodontists and the General Dental Council are operating an illegal scam to withhold information from the public about new methods which can avoid almost all extractions and even major jaw surgery. This is being done partly to protect traditional methods and partly to preserve the high incomes of orthodontists and surgeons. Research suggests that this British development is being ignored in the UK while spreading rapidly abroad. As a result hundreds of children and young adults have extractions and jaw surgery, unaware they may be unnecessary.

Some Orthodontists mislead patients, saying that extractions can be avoided although the traditional methods they use leave too little room, risking severe damage to the face. It is wise to explore the internet yourself, many sites make great claims and show beautiful faces but very few show good results before and after treatment. Even the media is scared of disclosing this scandal.

There is another way.

Take a second opinion now. Nine years old may be too late.

ORTHOTROPICS

The alternative to orthodontics with extractions and surgery.

When experts disagree, where do you go for answers? www.Orthotropics.com

Ask an appropriate professional to refer you for a free assessment.

Research shows Orthotropics can get much better results than "Train Tracks".

Professor John Mew, Tunbridge Wells 01892 526406 and The London School of Facial Orthotropics, Purley. 020-8660-3695.

Hazlett Arts Centre and Blue Glaze Entertainment Present

Keith Jack Any Dream Will Do (Dick Whittington)

Carrie Burnell CBeebies (Alice Fitzwarren)

Kent's number one Dame **Jimmy Burton** lies back by popular demand (Sarah the Cook)

Jack and the Beanstalk

6th Dec 2013 - 5th Jan 2014

Join us for this magical pantomime adventure!

Hazlett Theatre Maidstone

Box Office 01622 758611 or Book Online: www.maidstonepanto.co.uk

SAMANTHA WOMACK (EastEnders)

PHIL GALLAGHER (Cbeebies' Mistle Maker)

Jack and the Beanstalk

THE MARLOWE THEATRE

A giant of a pantomime!

FRI 29 NOV - SUN 12 JAN

marlowetheatre.com 01227 787787

"What a perfect pantomime should be" HEART FM

Christmas Gifts for Children & Adults

Elsie & Fleur

New online boutique **Elsie & Fleur** has a whole host of Christmas gift ideas for children whether they've been naughty or nice this year.

www.elsieandfleur.co.uk has a unique selection of products for youngsters that have been created with love by artisan crafters and makers based in the Westcountry. **Elsie & Fleur** was born out of a desire for people to be able to buy items that are often unique but don't carry a hefty price tag. All the products are being sold to support micro businesses, run by kitchen table entrepreneurs and mumpreneurs, the economic lifeblood of Great Britain. Its aim is to offer people the chance to buy unusual, handmade, yet affordable, items from the comfort of their own homes. The company has a price ceiling on products of no more than £40 per item. The crafty website also offers a gift-wrap service using Christmas wrapping paper featuring designs by Westcountry illustrator, Angie Spurgeon.



Tree Fu Tom: Magical Storybook
Take a journey through Treetopolis and meet all of Tom's friends in Tree Fu Go! Discover just how much magic and mischief can be caused by one little pebble, in Twigs and the Wishing Pebble. A padded cover, and magical Tree Fu stickers, it's the perfect gift for little Tree Fu heroes everywhere! R.R.P £6.99

As seen on TV

Two exciting stories, plus Tree Fu stickers!

The Geemar CL4700 to the rescue!

Elsie & Fleur will dress your gifts using British designed and made ribbons too.

All products listed below are available from www.elsieandfleur.co.uk

The last day for guaranteed Christmas delivery is Thursday, December 19, 2013.

Hessian ladybird purse (also available in a sheep design) H8cm. £10

Evie oilcloth lunch bag H22cm x W25.5cm x D9cm (handle drop 27cm). £18

Pink long sleeve girls t-shirt with appliqué rabbit (also available in other designs including those for boys) Ages 1 - 6 years. £18

Activity bag for boys (includes a drawing pad and eight crayons, also available in another design for girls) H21.5cm x W17.5cm x D2.5cm (handle length 20.5cm). £9

Imagine the whole family getting together on Christmas Day and after lunch wanting to all sit down together and watch TV. Trouble is, granddad is hard of hearing and wants the TV turned up loud enough for him to be able to hear it. This is annoying for everyone else who finds the TV too loud and a what should be a happy family time might turn into arguments. These are stylish, hi-Tech wireless headphones especially designed for the hard of hearing - the wearer can listen to the TV at a comfortable volume (even adjust each ear separately for volume and tone) but everyone else in the room can have the TV on at "normal" levels. RRP £129 from Amazon.com.

No.3 London Dry Gin

No.3 is owned by **Berry Brothers & Rudd**, Britain's oldest wine and spirit merchants (established in 1698) and the Wine & Spirit Merchants by Appointment to both *HM The Queen* and *The Prince of Wales*. It was created with the aid of the holder of the only PhD in gin flavour - and has been crafted to be the 'taste as gin should' and to be the perfect gin for a G&T or Martini. With an ABV of 46%, it has a heavy 'punch' of juniper and just five other botanicals present (the flavourings which all gins contain) - which is in stark contrast to many other gins which can have ten or more. £35.00/70cl. Waitrose, Sainsbury's.



The Glenrothes 'Select Reserve' Malt Whisky

Amongst malt whisky distillers, **The Glenrothes** stands out - from the shape of its bottle (with a hand-written signature from the master distiller), a longer-than-usual distillation process, its dedication to bottling not by age, but by 'vintage'. This 'vintage' approach, means **The Glenrothes** master distiller will only bottle whisky when

it has sufficiently matured and reached the peak of its perfection - just like a fine wine. This is in contrast to the vast majority of whiskies which are always bottled at set times - at 8 years, 15 years, 20 years, etc.

The Glenrothes Select Reserve malt whisky is a

marriage of mature vintage Glenrothes from different years. It's one of the distillery's most affordable whisky yet also typifies the distillery's character of ripe fruits, citrus, vanilla and hints of spice. 43%ABV, £38.00/70cl. Waitrose, Sainsbury's, Asda.

WE WISH YOU A KNOT-FREE CHRISTMAS...

If lugging Christmas shopping around, wrapping kids presents and lifting the turkey in and out of the oven becomes a pain in the neck, you're not alone and you may discover you welcome a quick *Nodging* under the mistletoe this Christmas...

A recent survey by **Back Nodger** reveals that a staggering 97% of people in the UK have knots in their shoulders, necks and backs... And what better time to relax than this Christmas in front of a relaxing log fire? (ok,

we know no-one really has the time to stoke a log-fire these days) **Back Nodger** is a wonderfully addictive, simple invention that lets you apply deep pressure into your own knots to massage and relax them. Sounds great right? It is... And it couldn't be easier to use. It just hooks over your shoulder and around your back to get to all those stubborn, pesky places that you know you could do with your own hands. Designed with experts who know a thing or two about releasing knots, **Back Nodger** has been tried and tested (and loved) by professionals in some of London's leading clinics.



Back Nodger is available to buy from www.Boots.com for £29.99. For more info, see www.backnodger.com

A gift for him that's a cut above the rest - Fiskars

If you're struggling for Christmas gift ideas for the men in your life, **Fiskars** may be able to help with their new **Cuts+More Scissors** - quite possibly the world's most versatile scissors! They feature multiple tools in one,

and turn into a handy knife and there's even a bottle opener. If granddad loves his gardening and dad his DIY or if Uncle Bill just likes to have the latest gadgets on the market, then add **Cuts+More** to your shopping list. At £18.99 a pair they're a snip! **Fiskars** high quality blades are renowned the world over and as well as multi-purpose scissors, **Cuts+More** feature a wire

and twine cutter, rope notch, awl tip and bottle opener. They separate and the titanium-coated blade can also be used as a knife. They are dishwasher safe and include an innovative cover with a built-in tape cutter for opening boxes and a ceramic scissors sharpener to keep the blades performing at their best. From B&Q and independent home and garden stores

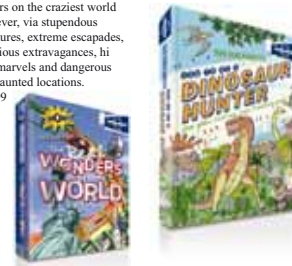


November 2013

The perfect gifts for curious kids

The Real Wonders of the World and **How to be a Dinosaur Hunter** are two brand new titles in *Lonely Planet's Not for Parents* children's series. Perfect Christmas gifts for kids aged 8-12 who are curious about the world both past and present; the books take a fun and fact packed look at modern wonders and prehistoric giants.

The Real Wonders of the World introduces kids to the world's quirkiest and most interesting sights, including the biggest sweet shops, scariest theme park rides, cool film locations and spy HQs. **The Real Wonders of the World** combines colourful illustrations, insightful images and fascinating facts to take readers on the craziest tour ever, via stupendous structures, extreme escapades, luxurious extravaganzas, hi tech marvels and dangerous and haunted locations. £14.99



How to be a Dinosaur Hunter...

is the ultimate manual for young explorers who want to know all about chasing dinosaurs. The book shows readers how to search for dinosaur remains with details of the tools they need, the best places to discover fossils and how to identify findings.

How to be a Dinosaur Hunter travels to fossil rich corners of the globe such as Britain's Isle of Wight, China's Liaoning Province and Australia's fossil triangle. **How to be a Dinosaur Hunter** is crammed with essential facts and fun trivia about some of the biggest, scariest and weirdest creatures that ever roamed our planet. £12.99

Can you achieve anything you want?

Can you? Well, perhaps not; after all, the ability to win the high jump is increased if you have the right body morphology, excellent surgeons tend to have brilliant brains and manual dexterity, and the best teachers have an incredible love of their subject and a determination to inspire those around them to share that passion. So, the Foundations to the excellence that has to be there are talent, but the greater proportion of the output must be the result of commitment, hard work and dedication. Many schools create opportunities for pupils to try new things; they may have fabulous teachers to inspire the pupils' learning, great resources to support the pupils' progress and, hopefully, the environment and values that create an ethos of courage and 'having a go'. In such an environment pupils will have a wide diet of co-curricular activities alongside their academic work. These activities will bring transferable skills into the classroom and the pupils' progress will be



rapid, on all fronts. In such an environment, every pupil can choose their own route, every subject has equal status and every pupil's individual dreams are encouraged. This allows the pupils to be free in their choices and strong in their decision making. **At Bromley High** two very bright girls (each with 4 A* grades at A level) took a brave decision last autumn; they turned down excellent University offers in Mathematics (at Durham) and Chemistry (at Oxford) to follow their hearts and to study Music. In an excellent school the choice to study Music (or indeed any subject) is embraced and supported; the pupil making that choice is made to feel that all subjects are as important as each other, regardless of the perception by observers, if they are the right subject for the individual to choose.

www.bromleyhigh.gdst.net/admissions@brogdst.net
020 8781 7000



Education

Dobbie

A game for 6+ that can be played by anyone, regardless of age and interests is **Dobbie**. A visual perception card game for 2-8 players aged 6 and up in which players race to find the one matching image between one card and another. **Dobbie's** circular cards feature an assortment of colourful images of everyday items including insects, flowers, symbols, and smiley faces.

Every card is unique and has only one picture in common with any other card in the deck. **Dobbie** has 5 mini-games: all of them reliant on speedy observation, creating excitement for children and adults alike and keeping every player involved. **Amazon** RRP £12.99

Scholarship Opportunities at St Lawrence College

Just received your child's 11+ results? If you have a current Year 6 child, whether they have passed the 11+ or not, have you considered looking at **St Lawrence College** for the next stage of his or her education?

St Lawrence College is proud of its high academic standards and this year is celebrating higher A Level grades at A*-B* than both local, selective, grammar schools. These results are fostered by a close sense of community and supportive atmosphere which puts great emphasis upon the needs of each individual pupil. •Your Year 6 child is welcome to sit the school's forthcoming scholarship tests for entry into Year 7 in September 2014. •The scholarship tests take place on **Thursday 21 November**. •Depending upon the results, up to 50% off the fees could be awarded. •Scholarships are offered for Academic, All-Rounder, Sports and Music disciplines. Contact **Alison Hall, Registrar**, 01843 572931 for an informal discussion about the scholarship process. www.sluk.com

for more information, go to www.oxbridgeuk.com

11+ Mock Tests

Prepare for the 11+ entrance exams for State Grammar & Independent Schools!

- ★ Designed to prepare you under real exam conditions to help eliminate the fear of formal tests and build up your confidence!
- ★ Dates **9th November 2013**
- ★ Time 12:30 pm ~ 3:30 pm
- ★ Subjects English & Maths (£25), Verbal & Non-Verbal Reasoning (£25) All Subjects (£45)

Try Our Winning Courses!

- ★ Yr 1-3 - Maths and English
- ★ 11+ Preparatory Course for Yr 4 - VR+NVR, Maths, Essay Writing
- ★ 11+ Intensive Course for Yr 5 - English, Maths, VR, NVR
- ★ Course for Yr 6 - Essay Writing and Reading Comprehension, Maths
- ★ Course for Yr 7 - English, Maths, Science, Essay Writing
- ★ KS3 & GCSE - Eng(Language & literature), Maths, Total Science, French
- ★ A-Level - Eng, Science, Maths (Core maths, Statistics)

Primary enquiry
020 8949 2131
email info@oxbridgeuk.com

Sutton Branch & Secondary enquiry
020 8949 8838
email admin@oxbridgeuk.com

Oxbridge Centre is launching a new branch in Sutton!
Oxbridge Centre Sutton
Scill, 3 Robin Hood Lane, Sutton Surrey SM1 2SW sutton@oxbridgeuk.com

Co-educational, day & boarding school for ages 3-18 years



SENIOR SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SEPT 2014 ENTRY
16+ EXAMINATION FOR 6TH FORM: TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER
11+ EXAMINATION FOR YEAR 7: THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER
13+ EXAMINATION FOR YEAR 9: FRIDAY 17 JANUARY

ACADEMIC, MUSIC, SPORTS & ALL-ROUNDER
SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



St Lawrence COLLEGE

For further information and an application form, please contact:

Alison Hall, Registrar
T: 01843 572931
E: ah@sluk.com

www.sluk.com
Ramsgate, Kent CT11 7AE

London Calendar

Until 10 Nov Royal National Theatre South Bank 020 7452 3234 The National Trail part treasure hunt, part history tour

Until 20 Nov London's Discover Children's Story Centre Stratford 020 8536 5555 Journey to Space interactive exhibition for families.

Until end of Nov Imperial War Museum 020 7416 5439 **Until end of Nov** Horrible Histories, Secrets & Spies family exhibition offering a range of spy themed FREE activities for **Half Term**.

Until 5 Jan Natural History Museum Ice Rink 020 7942 5000

Until 9 Feb Museum of Childhood Bethnal Green 020 8982 5200 Afro Supa Hero exhibition, FREE.

Until 16 Feb Canary Wharf Ice Rink 0870 4000 601

3 Dec-5 Jan Artsdepot 5 Nether Street London 020 8369 5454 The Fairy Who Came To Tea family show, 3+ yrs.

4 Nov-27 Feb Broadgate Ice Rink Exchange Square 020 7505 4068

5-10,12-17 Nov The Chelsea Theatre 020 7349 7811 The Cheeca A WW2 Ghost Story 14+ yrs.

6 Nov London of London 150 London Wall London 020 7001 9844 Mini Moles babies group session for babies 6mths to walking and their carers, hands on & play based activities, FREE need to book. **6-27 Nov Little Moles** toddlers group hand on & creative session for toddlers up to 5yrs, FREE need to book in advance.

10-17 Nov Museum explore the galleries through fun, hands on activities, fun for all the family, FREE. **13 Nov Little Moles** toddlers group Gallery visit, FREE need to book. **17 Nov Get stuffed** make yourself into a historical doll in this digital workshop, 5+ yrs. **20 Nov Little Moles** toddlers group,

9 Nov Natural History Museum Cromwell Road London 020 7942 5000 **Animal Vision** featuring live animals for families, FREE. **10,23,30 Nov Hands on Nature:** Ocean Life handle real specimens, make your own 3D starfish & take part in rock star challenges, featuring amazing starfish costumes, drop in family activity for all ages, FREE. **10,23,30 Nov Hands-on Nature:** Dinosaurs discover more about dinosaurs by handling real fossils & inspecting a variety of prehistoric specimens, drop in family 5-12yrs, FREE. **16 Nov Gallery** characters, FREE. **Until 23 Nov Wallace 100:** Wallace Discovery Trail, families can become intrepid explorers & follow the Wallace Discovery trail around the museum to see some of Wallace's most important specimens, there are also live, interactive Nature Live talks with House & Garden.

9 Nov South Chingford Congregational Church Winter Fayre with all day breakfast served, FREE entrance.

9 Nov Byron Park Harrow 0741 222 4446 Harrow & Brent fireworks display & family event from 3.30pm, first fireworks display from 6.30pm & 2nd from 7.30pm, tickets www.harrowfireworks.co.uk.

6 Nov Lord Mayor's Show & Procession The City London 020 7246 8346 With samba dancing to military marching bands the show offers a host of entertainment as it winds its way through the heart of London, after the procession a fireworks display over the River Thames, for the best view between Waterloo & Blackfriars bridge, either on Victoria Embankment or on the South Bank. FREE.

9 Nov All Saints Church Hall Bereta Road Eltham NSPPC Craft Fair with a wide variety of stalls plus homemade cakes, raffle, books, bric-a-brac light lunches in aid of NSPPC, 10-2pm, entrance FREE.

natural history themed activities, all ages. **11 Nov The Bird Table** using real specimens, activities will encourage you to look closely, make comparisons, discuss ideas & develop your knowledge & understanding of Antarctic's penguins.

9 Nov Horniman Museum London Forest Hill 020 8699 1872 Art Makers have fun with different art techniques to create something fabulous to take home families **11-13 Nov Royal Albert Hall** 020 7589 8212 The school group Percussion School from The Chatham & Clarendon School has been selected to perform at a series of national showcase concerts. They will join 3000 young people from all backgrounds who have demonstrated exceptional talent during Music for Youth's annual festival programme, www.mfy.org.uk/schoolsprom. **16 Nov Disney Fantasia** live in concert.

11-14 Nov The Pleasance Theatre Carpenter's Mews North Road London 020 7609 1800 Shakespeare Schools Festival.

13,24,27 Nov Tower of London 0844 482 7799 Tower Twilight Tours, 12+ yrs. **Daily** Fit for a King exhibition learn about the personalities, power & physical size of England's kings, from the Tudors, & the notorious Henry VIII to today's royal family.

14 Nov-5 Jan Somerset House Strand 020 7845 4600 Ice skating.

15 Nov Mortimer Wheeler House 46 Eagle Wharf Road London N1 020 7001 9844 Mori the Mouse under 5's with songs & stories.

15,16 Nov The Royal Observatory Greenwich 020 8858 4422 An Evening with the Stars, 7+ yrs. **Throughout Nov** Undiscovered Worlds planetarium show, 5+ yrs. **Throughout Nov** Captured Starlight Kids' Cine Time family films.

22 Nov-5 Jan Hyde Park Winter Wonderland 020 7298 2100

27 Nov-5 Dec Jewish Festival of Hanukkah The Festival of Lights Celebrated each year by the lighting of a giant menorah in Trafalgar Square & an additional light is lit every evening.

27 Nov-5 Jan London Eye 0870 5000600 Eyeskate open air skating

29 Nov-1 Dec Rich Mix Bethnal Green 020 7613 7498 Gameshow Pantomime, Robin Hood musical event whole family. **Every weekend** Kids' Cine Time family films.

30 Nov Chelsea Academy Lots Road Chelsea 020 8392 9222 Tales from the Shed shows, interactive performances for young children, 0-7yrs, tickets FREE under 6 months.

30 Nov The Regent Hall 275 Oxford Street London 020 7629 5424 Christmas Fayre with profits going to support work of the Salvation Army's Development section, 11-4pm, entrance FREE.

1 Dec Dalton Square 07515 709916 Christmas Market with a live stage featuring music, comedy & performances by local school choirs, 11-7pm, FREE event.

Tumble down the rabbit hole into a magical Wonderland this winter

Join the Mad Hatter and the Queen of Hearts in a magical Wonderland this winter, as *Polka's* traditional show for the season shines a new light on one of the most loved stories of all time. Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* comes alive for a new generation at *Polka Theatre* 22 Nov 2013 - 15 Feb 2014. This is a *Wonderland* with a difference. Dusting off the Victorian setting *Polka Theatre* take a fresh look at the story to bring Lewis Carroll's vivid dream world to life, bursting with original songs and music, stunning contemporary set and costume designs and plenty of imagination and humour for children aged 6+ and their families. Top of the list of children's favourites since 1865, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* is a timeless tale about growing up. Audiences meet a very modern Alice, played by **Ebony Feare**; a curious, intelligent and fearless character who is finding out who in the world she is. Exploring her attic on a cold winter's day, Alice's sister wants her to be quiet, her Mum wants her to stop eating sweets and no one wants to play. But as the White Rabbit appears, Alice's attic is magically transformed into a world of beautiful, strange and fantastical worlds. Writer **Simon Reade** remains true to the original, with a gloriously funny and lively script full of mad, oddball characters and curiously strange occurrences! Leave behind the cold winter afternoons, tumble headfirst down the rabbit hole and enter a world where Alice learns to find her own voice and be courageous. There will be magic, heart, poppiness, slapstick and end of course a song to sing on the way home. Director **Rosamunde Hutt** said of the show: "It's a great thrill to be creating a brand new production of this extraordinary book! Whether we are six or sixty the story weaves a fascinating spell. Come and join us as we travel through *Wonderland* with *Alice* and let's hope we get home safe and sound by teatime!"

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland plays at **Polka Theatre** 22 Nov 2013 - 15 Feb 2014 for ages 6+. Tickets are £16 (concessions £11) and can be booked online *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* is sponsored by **Morrison's Solicitors**. 020 8543 4888 www.polkatheatre.com

Polka Theatre
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- The Guardian

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Music by Martin Ward

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6+ years

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November 2013

Christmas

A giant, snowy-topped Christmas tree poster just for the kids to decorate

#handsoffmyglassornaments!

Let the kids loose on this snowy Christmas tree poster so they can decorate their own tree exactly the way they want! We had a great time decorating our poster with glitter pens, fuzzy felt shapes, sticky stars and the poster to make it feel extra

special. This could be *Harry's Very Own Tree* for example, or *The DIY Christmas Tree of the Williams Family* maybe - anything you like! You can leave it blank, giving plenty of room to design your own star or angel for the top.



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The photographic tree print doesn't drop any needles, turn brown or take up any floor space! Style tip: Mini glue dots are a bit of a god send for this fun project! Cut out ornament and star shapes from the offcuts of your Christmas wrapping paper to add a collage feel.

Classified £1 per word inc vat min 10 words. Box - £40.00 inc vat +£5 for colour. Cheque payable to **PARENTS NEWS**, 10 The Manor Drive, Worcester Park, Surrey, KT14 7LG. Tel: 020 8337 6337. Deadline see P2. For a receipt send SAE.

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Bromley

Santa's coming to town

9 November – 24 December

Nothing says Christmas like a trip to Santa's Grotto and seeing the kids' faces light up. As long as they've made it onto the nice list, of course.

This year, the elves have gone all out to create something amazing! Come and see for yourself, in the central atrium at intu Bromley. You could even win a trip to see Santa himself in Lapland! See in centre or visit intu.co.uk/bromley for more information.
That's Christmas wrapped up.

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