

PARENTS NEWS

December 2013 No.186 The First & Foremost Local Monthly Newspaper for Families

1993 - 2013
21st Successful Year
Thank you

FREE

What's On December/January Christmas & New Year Events Pantomimes and Shows

www.rural-life.org.uk

www.thehopfarm.co.uk

www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/london

St Lawrence College
www.slacuk.com

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www.parents-news.co.uk

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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.

Diaries are from MUM's Office

The kitten heel shoe with toe cap is another must have, you can wear this wonderful kitten heel any time, any place, great for day in casual clothing and equally great for evening. You may have to change your outfit but not your shoes! Black mock croc embossed leather Black leather toe cap and heel Kid leather lining and sock heel

LONDON'S FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS SHOW

Sadler's Wells presents
 The Birmingham Repertory Theatre production of

The Snowman

The live stage show
 based on Raymond Briggs' The Snowman
 Music and lyrics by Howard Blake



"Sheer theatrical magic. Go see The Snowman and melt!"
 The Times

Featuring "Walking in the Air"

FAMILY TICKET ONLY £95
 4 tickets, must include at least 1 child
 Transaction fee applies. Max £250

Peacock Theatre
 SADLER'S WELLS IN THE WEST END
 0844 412 4322
 27 Nov - 5 Jan

Christmas Gifts

Vancliff Dean

Anne Dean and Marion Falchi met by chance some three years ago. Anne grew up in and ran the family shoe factory learning all about design and manufacturing and Marion was head of sales and marketing for a leading New York accessory designer.

They quickly identified a huge gap in the market for outstanding, great quality products not just aimed at the young! They want amazing bags in interesting materials and colours and marvellous footwear that they can run around in all day! They love their shoes, but 4 inch heels - no way! They put their heads together & **Vancliff Dean** was born. Just fabulous, unusual, comfortable and great fun!

Kitten Court Shoe in Black Mock Croc Embossed Leather

The kitten heel shoe with toe cap is another must have, you can wear this wonderful kitten heel any time, any place, great for day in casual clothing and equally great for evening. You may have to change your outfit but not your shoes! Black mock croc embossed leather Black leather toe cap and heel Kid leather lining and sock heel

Clutch Bag in Black Large Mock Croc Leather

The clutches come in so many different colours and finishes they are just great! The perfect clutch for evenings out or use inside one of our large totes. This versatile bag works well with casual or evening clothes, you will find it hard to decide which colour to buy.....start your collection today!

Riding Boot in Black Large Mock Croc Leather

The most practical bag in our collection, this cross body bag is the perfect size. Cross the body for day and make it a shoulder bag for the evening, big enough for all the essentials. Looks great with casual or tailored clothing.....you choose! Grey and Black Giraffe Print Calf Hair (Main Body) Black Leather (Gusset) Red Patent Piping and Accents Gold Coloured Metal Hardware Large Zip to close bag Internal zip up pocket Dust Bag Included £175.00

This boot is their version of the riding boot with three quarter inside zip. This is all about the finish, the overly large mock

measures approximately 6cm/ 2.5" Leather sole Slip on Generous fit European sizing £160.00 GBP

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December 2013

Today I'm Me

Colour Me Pink Clutch

This is a quirky design that will get you noticed! A great gift for mums this Christmas. Pink on white leather look 'PU' in 2D design. Silver hardware, magnetic closer and decorative enamel button. Detachable wrist strap and adjustable shoulder strap. The pink symbolises warmth, love, grace, trust, romance and beauty. Sweet and loving you are a gentle, innocent, person but that doesn't stop you from having a tendency to flirt and play around. £115 Free P&P

www.todayimme.com/product/colour-me-pink-clutch/



Mini Bags for scooters



Meet the **Polar Explorer** at his Base Camp to hear tales of his icy adventures and make your own explorer's equipment from recycled materials. You can also join in our fun **Winter Wetland Show** to discover more about the science behind our coldest season. Under ice and mounds of snow, even in the coldest

ageing, rosacea and other skin disorders. The products start from £12.99 up to £29.99 and are available online at www.skinrepairuk.com

Poplico.com £17.99
 This **Braun Classic** ladies watches is lovely to wear, it is easy read and comfortable. It manages to be both everyday and sophisticated, measuring only 33mm diameter x 8mm thick matt stainless steel case. Available in two colours (black & white) with a mesh strap. It has a quartz 3 hand movement and has a 50m water resistance with a scratch resistant mineral glass and comes with a 2 year warranty. £90.00
 •Stainless steel case
 •Quartz 3 hand movement
 •50m water resistance
 •Mesh stainless steel strap
www.braun-clocks.com/watch/BN0031

28 DECEMBER

6 - 24 December

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

December 2013

Santa and his huskies are back

WWT London Wetland Centre Saturday 8 & Sunday 9 Dec

NEW! **Polar Explorer** and his tales of adventure
 NEW! **Wetland Winter Show**
 NEW! **Cranberry Fest**
 Get into the festive mood at **WWT London Wetland Centre's** wonderful winter weekend! Children will be thrilled to hop aboard for a husky sleigh ride, visit Santa in his magical grotto and enjoy a unique Wetlands Winter Show.

Take a sleigh ride with the huggable huskies; they're lovely to look at but also working animals, so younger children can experience the excitement of a husky sleigh ride. Or perhaps you'd like a family photo taken with one of these cuddly dogs as a special seasonal souvenir? Then head over to the northern pine forest; Father Christmas will be ready to welcome families in his cosy grotto among the trees.

Meet the **Polar Explorer** at his Base Camp to hear tales of his icy adventures and make your own explorer's equipment from recycled materials. You can also join in our fun **Winter Wetland Show** to discover more about the science behind our coldest season. Under ice and mounds of snow, even in the coldest

winters there's life in the wetlands. Buried in mud or freezing solid, animals are surviving in amazing ways. Take part in exciting experiments in this show for the whole family to explore the science of winter. What do cranes – the elegant wetland bird - and cranberries have in common? Find out at **Cranberry Fest**. Make cranberry Christmas decorations (extra charge), follow the cranberry trail and enjoy treats in the restaurants.

Here at Britain's favourite nature reserve you can enjoy the Christmas celebrations among beautiful surroundings. Take a stroll among the lakes, meadows and ponds of this wonderful winter oasis. By enjoying a festive weekend there you're also contributing towards their vital conservation work in the UK and around the world.

Normal admission prices to **WWT London Wetland Centre** apply
 • In the event of rain the Father Christmas queue will be moved indoors. The **Wetland Winter Show**, **Polar Explorer** and **Father Christmas** are all indoors.
 • Husky sleigh rides are free with admission (children 8 or younger, with weight restrictions)

Proudly sponsored by


WWT London Wetland Centre

Come and enjoy WWT this winter and take part in Cranberry Fest



Kindly brought to you by Ocean Spray, Cranberry Fest is your chance to discover more about the link between our favourite wetland fruit, the cranberry, and a well-loved wetland bird, the crane. Make cranberry crafts, follow the cranberry trail and taste delicious treats in our restaurant. And on December 7 and 8 visit Santa in his magical grotto, enjoy a husky sleigh ride and hear adventurous tales from our Polar explorer.

How berry exciting!

Find the full list of festive events at www.wwt.org.uk/london
 WWT London Wetland Centre, Queen Elizabeth's Walk, Barnes, London, SW13 9WT. t 020 8409 4400 e info.london@wwt.org.uk

Christmas Out & About

Know an aspiring Bassist, Drummer, Guitarist or Singer?

Does someone in your family love rock music and want both expert tuition and to play in a band every week?
British School of Rock combines 45 minutes serious tuition - with no more than four musicians per teacher - and 15 minutes of rocking with a band each week.

The brainchild of **Stagecoach** co-founder and drummer

Christmas Wonderland Weekends

The **Rural Life Centre's** Christmas wonderland weekends are filling up fast - make sure the children in your life don't miss out. CHRISTMAS will be all present and correct when the **Rural Life Centre** unwraps its ever-popular and eagerly anticipated Santa Specials. And there, showing the boys and girls what a gift of a good time it is will be Father Christmas, the man who makes young dreams come true, and who has the power to work wonders with wish-lists. Taking place at the Tilford-based museum of country life on the weekends of **Saturday and Sunday, December 7- 8, and Saturday and Sunday, December 14-15**, the **Santa Specials** have grown in quality and popularity to the point where advance booking has become essential.

David Sprigg, *British School of Rock* opened its first two schools in September, at *St Peter's Catholic School* in Guildford, and *Tiffin Girls' School* in Kingston. "I was delighted that just six weeks after launch we had waiting lists for drummers and guitarists" says David "and we are expanding in January. There is nothing to beat the buzz of playing in a band each week;

combining that with quality tuition and tiny class numbers means that our students progress quickly - and enjoy every minute of the class". **British School of Rock** welcomes students aged 8 to 18, with separate classes for beginners to advanced. Visit www.britishschoolofrock.co.uk 01483 905220 or text ROCK to 66777.

It's a magical world where even a cold winter's day is full of warmth, and where believing matters more than anything. Santa Special tickets, at £11 for children and £7 for adults, are available on 01252 795571 by using a booking form at www.rural-life.org.uk or in person at the museum. Visitors are allocated a time slot to reduce the queuing, but once a booking has been made, it cannot be cancelled or changed. A mince pie and a drink are included in the price, and visitors can also enjoy lunches and snacks at the on-site cafe. The museum itself will be closed during these festive weekends. The **Rural Life Centre** is midway between Frensham and Tilford on the Reeds Road, three miles south of Farnham.

BRITISH SCHOOL OF ROCK
 Tel 01483 905220 or Text ROCK to 66777

Everyone gets expert tuition
 Everyone plays in a real Rock Band
 Every week



JUST FOUR MUSICIANS TO EACH TUTOR
 45 MINUTES TUITION, 15 MINUTES PLAYING LIVE

Bass, Drums, Guitar, Vocals
 Classes for beginners to advanced. Ages 8 to 18
www.britishschoolofrock.co.uk 01483 905220

Christmas Gifts

About YouView

YouView is a subscription-free television service which seamlessly combines live and catch-up television. The service offers over 70 free to air channels and radio stations via a TV aerial and also connects to any broadband service to bring catch-up and on demand programmes directly to your TV.

How to get YouView
A *YouView* box is available free as part of a broadband subscription from **BT** or **TalkTalk** (activation / installation fees may apply)

It is also available to buy from all major retailers and many independent electrical stores including *John Lewis*, *Currys*, *Argos*, *Amazon*, *Richer Sounds* and *Euronics*. RRP £249

How to set up YouView
To set up a *YouView* set-top box you need to connect it to your TV via a HDMI cable or SCART lead, to your TV aerial and to your broadband router via an Ethernet cable

A minimum broadband speed of 3Mb/s and an unlimited data allowance is recommended.

When ordering from **BT** or **TalkTalk**, broadband speed is checked and the data allowance for on demand programmes is unlimited

Watch Live
Offering over 70 free-to-air channels and radio stations available via your TV aerial

YouView presents viewers with a wide selection of live television and radio. Additionally, the service has pause, rewind, fast-forward and record functionality for live TV giving you more flexibility when enjoying your favourite TV programmes

YouView offers the option to record one show while watching another, gives reminders to let you know a programme is about to start and has up to 300 hours (500GB) of storage space for your programme recordings in *MyView*

YouView has free HD channels from BBC One HD, BBC Two HD, ITV1 HD (STV HD in Scotland) and Channel 4 HD (all available to watch and record in HD)

Watch On Demand
YouView offers seven day catch-up and on demand television via a seven day backwards EPG

Catch-up and on demand content can also be found via players from *BBC iPlayer*, *ITV Player*, *4oD* and *Demand 5*.

YouView offers access to NOW TV powered by *Sky* showing the latest movies for those with a NOW TV subscription

www.bt.com/youview
www.talktalk.co.uk/youview

My Blue Nose Friends Tatty Teddy's Heart House



4+ (RRP £39.99) www.tattyteddytoys.com

Horrible Histories® Battle Arena



6+ (RRP £39.99) www.horriblehistories.com

December 2013

Makeup brushes are approved by Peta.org.

The organisation for the protection of the welfare of animals *Peta*, approve of these make-up brushes as they are 100% synthetic. Professional Makeup artists - love them!
<http://beautystore4u.co.uk/brushes/brush-sets/nanshy-luxury-makeup-brush-set-with-elegant-bag-13-brushes-for-£29.95>



Performance wear you can live in

BAM is the leading name in the world of bamboo clothing offering eco-friendly and ethically made bamboo performance wear that you can live in. It's ultra soft, comfortable and versatile.

Bamboo clothing is moisture wicking, temperature controlled, anti-bacterial, anti-static and UV protective. All these combine to produce a stunningly soft and ubiquitous garment.



BAM is all about innovation, adventure, quirkiness and spirit. It is the 'next to the skin' clothing of choice for outdoor enthusiasts, sports lovers, expeditioners, and others who just love its unique feeling.

BAM was the first brand in Europe to start offering bamboo clothing, back in 2006. Constantly innovating,

BAM leads the way in the comfort, quality and performance of bamboo clothing. For every received order the company plants a tree in the name of the purchaser. For information: www.bambooclothing.co.uk

December 2013

Out and about

Daily Bateman's Burwash 01435 882302

An Edwardian Christmas enjoy the sights, sounds & scents of a candlelit Edwardian Christmas. **Daily Christmas** garden trail, Father Christmas has gone missing, follow the trail around the garden looking for the clues & collect a surprise when you have finished the trail & don't miss the elves workshop in the garden.

Daily Alfriston Clergy House Polegate 01323 870001 See Christmas through the ages in the seasonally decorated house.

Every Wed Heaven at Nutfield www.heaven-nutfield.com. Smiley Faces music group for babies & toddlers for up to 2yrs & 2-4yrs, there is also a playground for under 5's, a café & a crèche.

Every Sat during term time **The River & Rowing Museum** Millis, 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.

From 30 Nov Spinnaker Tower Portsmouth 02392 857520 Families will be challenged to explore the tower & follow the reindeer trail for a chance to win a prize.

7,8,14,15,21 & 22 Dec Standen East Grinstead 01342 332029

Father Christmas is at his woodland workshop, toast a marshmallow on the fire & enjoy some warming hot chocolate & see what gift he has for you in his sack. **Every weekend until 22 Dec** Christmas at Standen explore the gardens illuminated with thousands of lights creating a magic wonderland & see the house decorated for the family Christmas 1920's style.

7,15 Dec Sheffield Park Garden Nr Haywards Heath East Sussex 0825 790231

Edible decorations create your own edible gingerbread tree decoration to take home with you, activity for families. **14 Dec-5 Jan** Festive trail food themed quiz, stroll around the garden & look out for boards that will provide the answers to questions about festive foods from around the world. **26,31 Dec** Guided walk.

8 Dec Birling Gap & Seven Sisters Eastbourne 01323 423197 Christmas craft fair join in the fun with a Santa's grotto, plus face painting, mulled wine & mince pies.

14 Dec Brighton Centre Kings Road Brighton 01273 202881 *The War of the Worlds* www.thewaroftheworlds.com/tickets

Choose from 10 X more of the latest blockbuster movies than *Neffix* and *Lovefilm Instant*

- Over 10,000 movies and TV shows available to rent or buy without subscription
- Buy cards in over 2,000 *Tesco* stores

Movie and TV fans will be able to give and receive the perfect stocking filler this Christmas as streaming service *blinkbox* launches a new range of gift cards offering a flexible way to gift credit to rent and buy from a selection of thousands of the latest movies and TV shows from as little as 99p. Available to buy in over 2,000



Christmas Gifts

Give the gift of great entertainment this Christmas with blinkbox movie and TV gift cards

Tesco stores, the £5, £10 and £20 *blinkbox* Movie and TV cards mean that giving family, friends or even yourself the yuletide gift of entertainment has never been easier. Whether it's watching on a PC or brand new Christmas tablet or games console, *The Movie* and TV cards will allow recipients to enjoy a fantastic selection of the latest and greatest entertainment without the hassle of a subscription. From acclaimed TV series such as *Games of Thrones* and *Breaking Bad* to epic movies like *The Wolverine* and *Man of Steel*, the pocket-size gift cards mean viewers only pay for

great entertainment they want to watch. Activating a card couldn't be easier. Visit www.blinkbox.com/redeem and follow instructions.

Once redeemed, you can enjoy a world of entertainment across a range of devices, including PC, tablet, games console and Smart TV. www.blinkbox.com/redeem

Swimming Lessons



Quality classes in small group
** COME AND TRY A CLASS FREE **
Lessons for:
• Adults and Children from 2 yrs
• Non-swimmers - Improvers
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Classes held at:
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For more info contact Colin on 01372 739600

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www.dancetime.uk.com beryl@tecrez.net



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FIRST WEEK ALL TICKETS £17



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Joe's Tea Co...

..... an independent organic tea company based in London, has just unveiled Joe's collection of Christmas gifts, including the Christmas *Chai Rooibos* tea, which was hugely successful last Christmas. The tea itself includes chai blended with organic and caffeine free rooibos and other festive flavours which is the perfect stocking filler this Christmas for all the family. All of Joe's Tea blends are available in store and online. www.joesteacompany.com



Galt Baby Walker



Suitable from 12 months, £39.99 www.galttoys.com

SURREY'S BIGGEST & BEST FAMILY PANTO



*FEES APPLY

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.

Orthodontics usually requires the extraction of 4 to 8 sound teeth although this is frequently denied.

Easily treated by natural methods. No extractions. No "Train Tracks". No retainers.

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.

When experts disagree, where do you go for answers?
www.Orthotropics.com
Ask an appropriate professional to refer you for a free assessment



FAMILY FRIENDLY SHOW TIMES AND FANTASTIC DISCOUNTS!

LONDON PALLADIUM
12 DEC - 4 JAN 2014
0844 874 0667 • seetickets.com
Booking fees may apply

THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS TREAT!

2nd Sun of the month Tonbridge Farmers Market Sovereign Way 07876 68583 Held in Sovereign Way with normally 70 stalls.

3rd Sun of the month Aylesford Priory 07876 68583 Farmers Market with more than 30 stalls.

4th Sun of the month 2nd Malling Farmers Market High Street 07775 736116 Wide variety of local produce, 9.30-1.30pm.

Every Mon & Fri Rochester Library Eastgate 01634 337411

Baby bounce & rhyme time with finger & nursery rhymes, UNDER 18mths **FREE**. **Every Sat** Pop in & Play sessions parents & children, 10.30-11am, **FREE**. **4th Fri of month** Advice & support - Health & lifestyle advice, drop in **Every Tues** Queens Road Baptist Church Victoria Gardens 01843 602792 Raindrops, parent & toddler group, term time. **Every Thurs** 1st Parenting meet **Every 1st** time parents Friday Club.

Every Tues Grosvenor Park 07990 973313 Buggy Workout, exercise for mother & baby, power in & Play sessions parents & children, 10.30-11am, **FREE**. **1st & 3rd Sat** of month Medway Health Walks chance to improve fitness levels, all ages.

Every Wed Dunolton Park 07990 973313 Buggy Workout, exercise for mother & baby, power walking around the park utilising the benches & steps available.

Every Tues Wigmore Library 01634 235576 Toddler shake & boogie activity session.

Every Tues Oak Library Rochester 01634 256040 Storytime fun sessions for preschool children with stories & rhymes, **FREE**.

Every Tues Rainham Library Rainham 01634 337799 **Every Tues** Storytime fun sessions for pre-school children that include stories & rhymes. **Every Thurs** Baby bounce & rhyme time, 18mths or under, **FREE**.

Every Tues Fairview Community Primary School 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 Walderdale 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 Ho Swimming Pool Rochester 01634 401989 Beaver Swimming Club.

Every Tues Southborough Library 01892 529808 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 Dunolton 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 **FREE** fish & veg, meat, fish & dairy, preserves & jams & lots more. Also on offer recipe tasting, take away meals, tapas & ready salads, natural home & body products, book/magazine exchange, plants, flowers & lots more.

Midweek & weekends Kingsmead Leisure Centre Canterbury 01227 769818 Funtime sessions available in the pool.

Every Thurs Strood Library 01634 718161 Baby bounce & rhyme time, 18 mths. Homework club with friendly & knowledgeable staff on hand, **FREE**. **Every Tues** Teatime Storytime, after school, 3-3yrs, 2nd Tues of month Advice & support - Health & lifestyle advice, drop in, no need to book.

Every Thurs White Oak Leisure Centre Swanley 01322 662188 Under 16's Roller Disco.

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

Every Thurs Luton Library Chatham 01634 406923 Storytime fun sessions that include stories & rhyme. **Every Sat** Pop in & Play for parents & children, 10-12pm.

Every Thurs Pembury Library 01892 822278 Storytimes, 2.30-3pm, term time only, **FREE**.

Every Thurs during term time Margate Baptist Church 4 Cecil Sq 01843 290869 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, **FREE**. **Every Sat** Craft Club for under 8's, **FREE**.

Every Fri Hempstead Library Gillingham 01634 361544 Homework club with friendly staff on hand to help with all your homework questions.

Every Fri Lordswold Library Chatham 01634 862096 Teatime Storytime after school storytelling, 3-8yrs & Toddler shake & boogie.

Every Fri Wigmore Library 01634 235576 Toddler shake & boogie activity session that offers rhymes, songs & movement for pre-schoolers. Musical instruments, scarves & parachutes are often included.

Every Sat Medway Little Theatre Rochester 07939 921041 Youth company meals, tapas & ready salads, natural home & body products, book/magazine exchange, plants, flowers & lots more.

2pm, Midweek & weekends Kingsmead Leisure Centre Canterbury 01227 769818 Funtime sessions available in the pool.

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Every Thurs White Oak Leisure Centre Swanley 01322 662188 Under 16's Roller Disco.

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

Every Thurs Luton Library Chatham 01634 406923 Storytime fun sessions that include stories & rhyme. **Every Sat** Pop in & Play for parents & children, 10-12pm.

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Buy a first grade Christmas Tree direct from the grower, cut, rooted or potted - probably the best value trees and largest choice in Kent, including non-drop varieties, and wreaths freshly made on site **£1 off a tree with this advert**

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Dick Whittington

6th Dec 2013 - 5th Jan 2014

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www.micro-sport.co.uk

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7 Dec Stag Theatre Sevenoaks 01732 450175 Craft & Gift Fair with a wide range of local crafts.

7-8 Dec Chartwell Westerham 01732 868381 Festive family weekend with trail, activities & Santa in the Marquee, 26 Dec 3 Jan Families can try out the Gift of Power trail around the garden which leads to the exhibition. **Until 23 Feb** Gift of Power exhibition.

7,8,14,15 Dec Shorne Woods Country Park Gravesend 01474 828300 Santa's Grotto self led trail around the woods & solve the clues to find Santa in his woodland grotto, all children will receive a present. **12-19 Dec 5-9 Jan** School hols activity trail, follow the clues, answer the questions & complete the trail to receive a prize.

7,8,14,15,21 & 22 Dec Quebec House Westerham 01732 868381 Preparing for Christmas with hanging decorations & baking. **Every Sun** Mrs Wolfe's recipes recreate some of Mrs Wolfe's 18th century recipes including potato pudding & lemon drops. **7,8,14,15,21,22 Dec Bodiam Castle** Robertsbridge 01580 830196 Visit Father Christmas in his Grotto & other festive fun. **28-30 Dec** Wander in the grounds & meet a costumed interpreter inside the castle walls & learn about medieval life.

7,8,21,22,28,29 Dec Dover Castle & The Secret Wartime Tunnels 01304 211067 The Great Tower at Christmas a weekend of festive celebrations with music, dance & storytelling suitable for families.

7,14,21 Dec Knole Park House & Gardens Sevenoaks 01732 462100 Christmas decorations workshops for children under 5's using natural objects from the park, all materials supplied. **8,15 Dec** Knole Singers carol concerts.

8 Dec Tatsfield Art & Craft Fair Tatsfield Village Hall 07935 700417 Craft & Gift Fair with over 35 stalls with a wide range of local crafts. **8 Dec Chartwell** Westerham 01732 868381 Festive family weekend with trail, activities & Santa in the Marquee, 26 Dec 3 Jan Families can try out the Gift of Power trail around the garden which leads to the exhibition. **Until 23 Feb** Gift of Power exhibition.

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13 Dec The Sports Centre Malling School Beach Road East Malling 07930 335917 Christmas Arts & Craft show with proceeds in aid of Craft Ormond Street Hospital & The Heart of Kent Hospice. **13-15,20,21 Dec Crampton Tower Museum** 01843 871133 Santa Claus in his grotto. **Every Wed** Scalextric Digital Racing Club. **14 Dec The Vestry Hall Cranbrook** Kent 01732 506104 Kitch & Stitch Vintage & Maker's Christmas Fair. **14,18 Dec Smallhythe Place** Tenterden 01580 762334 Conservation Christmas see the house decorated with festive cheer & how the house team prepare the property for winter.

15 Dec Museum of Kent Life Sandling 01622 763956 Farm Nativity with their very own friendly farmyard animals, children are encouraged to dress up & be part of the nativity, 3-4.5yrs. **15,17,19,21-24 Dec 26,28-29,31 Dec, 5,12,18 Jan** Spotlites Kings Theatre 338 High Street Chatham 01634 829468 Oz & The Space Pirates interactive theatre for 5-12yrs. **23 Dec** Christmas drama workshop Spiderman & Ben 10 save Christmas, 5-12yrs. **24 Dec** Christmas drama workshop, Harry Potter Christmas, 5-12yrs. **27 Dec** Christmas drama workshop Star Wars - Yoda Jedi School, 5-12yrs. **30 Dec** Christmas drama workshop, The Hob

Christmas Gifts

ANIMAL SHAPED SLEDS

On the lookout for affordable Christmas gift ideas? Then here is a perfect presents. For active children seeking an adventure in the snow, the *Sled Buddies* from *Croover* will keep them entertained for hours.

PENGUIN & POLAR BEAR SLED BUDDIES
Dreaming of a white Christmas? Perfect for children aged 8 and above (and big kids too), these cute and seriously cool *Sled Buddies* will provide hours of fun in the white stuff this Christmas.

Brand new for this winter, these *Sled Buddies* also boast a whole raft of features:

- **Lightweight:** Using a unique lightweight foam construction, the *Sled Buddies* weigh just 500g and are 90cm long meaning even little ones can carry them uphill time and time again.

Advertising works in PARENTS NEWS
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- **Ride Fast and Straight:** The patented *Arctic Groove Technology (AGT)* Grooved base allows quicker in water displacement for greater stability speed and turning control.

- **Soft & Durable:** The soft, yet durable foam core offers a more comfortable insulated ride.

- **Sturdy Handles:** These aid steering, stability and ease of carrying.

- **3D Penguins & Polar Bears:** Fun 3D animal graphics adorn the sled, while the bright yellow (AGT) bottom also provides high visibility.

The *Penguin and Polar Bear Croover Sled Buddies* are available from selected retailers,

including *Craigdon Mountain Sports*
www.craigdonmountainsports.com

01467 629394
from £24.99 each (SRP).



MATEL REVEALS TOP GAMES FOR FAMILIES & KIDS THIS CHRISTMAS

To maintain those happy faces this Christmas and provide endless fun and laughter, mums, dads and grandparents are on the hunt for the hottest, must-have games to bring the family together on the most festive day of the year! Mattel offers a wide selection of games from energetic, electronic word games, to animal-themed kid's games that are sure to keep everyone on their toes whilst providing lots of quality family bonding time!

Scrabble Original

The classic battle of wits and words where every word counts, has a cool new look but still the same game! If you're a whizz at word-games then *Scrabble* is for you. Using just seven letter tiles at a time, it's up to you to play the highest-scoring interlocking words you can – crossword fashion – on the *Scrabble* board.

For 2-4 players
Ages: 10+
RRP: £19.99



Scrabble Twists & Turns

Scrabble Twists & Turns is a fast, easy and more accessible word game that eliminates the board, gets rid of the points and rounds out the tile edges for new options and innovative fun. Colour-coded "Gotcha" tiles add twists and skip turns to make game play livelier. The first to get rid of all of their tiles wins!

Ages: 8+
RRP: £14.99



Scrabble Banter

The classic battle of wits and words where every word counts now takes on a different challenge. This electronic party game is a blast with quick fire mental challenges that will liven up any gathering!

For 2-4 players
RRP: £24.99



December 2013

The Rainforest Alliance's Gift Guide for a Greener Christmas

By giving a gift with the *Rainforest Alliance Certified™* seal and the *Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)* seal you will be helping to protect the environment and wildlife, and promote sustainable livelihoods of farmers, farm workers and their families around the world, including access to potable water, proper housing, health care and education.

For the green fingered
Whether it's dad hiding out in the garden shed or mum pruning her azaleas, a set of *FSC* certified garden tools will make the perfect gift for any gardener. From a hand-weeding fork to a lawn rake, tools made with wooden handles sourced from *FSC* certified wood have come from forests that have met rigorous standards and promote responsible harvesting that uses methods that keep ecosystems in tact so that they can continue to filter water, stabilise soil, absorb carbon dioxide and provide shelter and roosts for animals.

For the foodie
Make up an eco-friendly, yet indulgent Christmas hamper

brimming with tea, coffee, chocolate and fruit that all display the little green frog seal of the *Rainforest Alliance*. Products can be found in all major supermarkets and are your assurance that they are contributing to the wellbeing of communities and fostering the long-term health of the planet. Wooden kitchen and chef's utensils carrying the *FSC* symbol are also ideal gifts for the food-lover.

For the book worm
Make sure the book you choose to give is printed on *FSC* certified paper. By using environmentally sensitive logging techniques, monitoring nesting areas and fruit-bearing trees and adhering to laws that safeguard endangered species, *FSC*-certified forestry enterprises do a better job of protecting great apes and other mammals.

For the musician
Surprise them with the ultimate gift that rocks, a guitar made with *FSC* certified wood. Did you know that in Guatemala's Petén region, deforestation rates were 20 times lower on *FSC*-certified concessions than in adjacent protected reserves?

For the adventurer
Whether they dream of trekking across the Andes, white water rafting down the Sarapiquí or whale watching

Visit the Frog page.
www.rainforest-alliance.org



For babies first christmas gifts

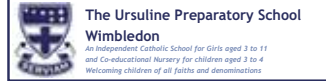
Large Nutbrown Hare Plush (RRP £12.99)

December 2013

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OPEN DAY
Saturday 25th January - 10.00am to 12 noon

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Do you have an academically able child currently in Year 2, 3, 4 or 5? If so, he or she would be very welcome to sit for an entrance exam at *St Lawrence College Junior School* on Saturday 1 February 2014. Junior School scholarships worth up to 40% off the fees are available for September 2014 entry.

With small class sizes, teachers really get to know each individual child and are thus able to tailor lessons to each child's needs. The *Junior School* also prepares pupils thoroughly for the *11+ Kent Test*. As well as opening the door to grammar school, success in the *Kent Test* guarantees a further scholarship of at least 25% to the *Senior School* at *St Lawrence College*.

With its exceptional facilities and outstanding pastoral care, find out more about how *St Lawrence College* can make a difference for your child. For more information, contact **Lindsey Harris**, Junior School Registrar, on

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For further information and an application form, please contact:
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T: 01843 572912
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- 2 Year 4 : English with VR, NVR, Maths, Essay Writing
- 3 Year 5 ~ 6 : Independent & Grammar school preparation

• Secondary (Year 7 ~ Year 13)

- 1 Year 7 ~ 9 (KS3) : English, Maths, Science, French
- 2 Year 10 ~ 11 (GCSE) : Math, French, Eng(Language & literature) Total Science
- 3 Year 12 ~13 (A-level) : Core & Further Maths

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email: info@oxbridgeuk.com

Secondary Centre
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New Malden, Surrey KT3 6QQ
email: admin@oxbridgeuk.com

Sutton Branch
Scill, 3 Robin Hood Lane, Sutton SM1 2SW
email: sutton@oxbridgeuk.com



Primary enquiry: 020 8949 2131 / Secondary & Sutton enquiry: 020 8949 8838

London Calendar

Daily Science Museum Exhibition Rd 0870 870 4868 Take control in 360 degrees flight simulators or fly with the Red Arrows in their sensational 3D motion effects theatre. **Every weekend** Key Cool Adventure families, under 7s. **FREE.** **Every Weekend** Spaced Out families, 5+ys. **FREE.** **Every Weekend** A Cockroach Tour of the museum visitors take on the form of museum crochets dressing up in realistic costumes. **FREE.** **Every weekend** explore hundreds of real natural history specimens. **FREE.** **Daily** The **Queen's Gallery Buckingham Palace** 020 7766 7301 Activity bags for families. Using the bags find out which animals the adventurers shared the Antarctic with and what early explorers went to protect themselves from the cold. **Ongoing** **Royal Air Force Museum** Grayshe Palace Way Hendon 020 8205 2266 Airfix exhibition with some of Airfix's most popular models from the 50,60s & 70's. **Ongoing** **Royal Wms Buckingham Palace** 020 7766 7302 Family groups may explore a range of self directed activities from the art trolley, 5-11yrs. **Ongoing** **Royal Academy of Arts** 020 7300 8800 www.royalacademy.org.uk New policy all children under 12yrs of age will have **FREE** entry to all exhibitions. **Ongoing** **National Maritime Museum** Greenwich 020 8312 6565 Nelson, Navy, Nation a new permanent gallery. **Ongoing** **Churchill War Rooms** Clive Steps King Charles Street 020 7930 6961 Undercover. Life in Churchill's bunker. **Throughout Dec** **Westfield Shopping Centre** 020 7580 0707 Santa & his Elves in their grotto, the whole family can enjoy the all digital, 5D personalised Christmas animated story that tells the tale of Elbow the Elf & how he saves Christmas with the help of all the children in the grotto. Each child's name & picture will feature in Pixar quality film as the 5D experience bursts into life with the added dimensions of wind, lights & magical elf dust. 35p to the charity Save The Children. **Every Sun** **Hildreth Street Market** Fresh food traders sourced from all over London. **Every Mon & Thurs** **Holy Trinity Church Brook Green** 07710 023743 Singing & Songwriting sessions for 6-11 & 11-14yrs. **Every 2nd Sat of month** **National Geographic Store** 83-97 Regent Street 020 7025 6960 Annual Man Nick Spellman for all ages. **Every Sat** **Venn Street Market, Clapham Common** 020 7622 8259 Offering fine foods & fresh produce plus a variety of handmade crafts will be available throughout Dec with gifts & cards for all the family as well as Christmas trees & floral decorations. Christmas trees will be available. **Every weekend** **Tate Modern** Bankside 020 7887 8008 Open Studio play & create with ideas & materials from artworks in the collection displays for all ages. **Daily** Family resources with paper based activities for families all ages. **FREE.** **Daily** Children's Multimedia Guide keeps children entertained & animates art works through music, video clips & entertaining games, 5+ys. **Daily** Under 5's Zone a new play space for families. **FREE.** **Every weekend** Star Sessions with name change making & clue matching, 5+ys. **FREE.**

Every weekend **Temple Station** 020 7122 1234 Harry Potter Locations Tour, 2 1/2 hrs. **Every weekend** **Greenwich Clocktower Market** Quirky weekend market has 50 stalls specialising in vintage, retro & antiques with a few contemporary craft stalls. **FREE** entry. www.clocktowermarket.com **Every weekend** **Tate Britain** Millbank London 020 7887 8888 Liminal invites visitors into a physical, material & social experience of sculpture through touch, interaction & collaboration, all ages. **FREE.** **Every weekend** Art Trolley sessions encourages children to imagine & create collages & lots more. **FREE.** **Every weekend** **Oxford Academy of Arts** 0644 482 7799 A Game of Crowns Christmas at Kensington Palace. **Until 19 Feb** **Barbican Arts Centre** Silk Street 0405 120 7550 Pop Art Design exhibition. **Until 12 Jan** **Phoenix Theatre** Charing Cross Road 020 7492 55, **FREE.** **Every weekend** **Peter Harrison Planetarium** 020 8858 4422 We Are Aliens planetarium show, 5+ys, Sky, Tonight Live, 5+ys, Meet the Neighbours, 5+ys, Solar System, Galaxy, Universe, 5+ys, Space Safari with live music & rhyme, under 7's. **Every weekend & school hols** **London Transport Museum** Museum Greenwich 020 7739 6344 Family Station choose some **FREE** activities to do as you explore the museum, families all ages. **Ongoing** Family Station All Year Round activities for families, 3-12yrs. **Until 5 Dec** **Wish Festival of Hanukkah** The Festival of Light's Celebrated each year by the lighting of a giant menorah in Trafalgar Square & an additional light is lit every evening. **Until 21 Dec** **London Zoo** Regent's Park 020 7722 3333 Fun activities throughout the day in Animal Adventure the new children's zoo. **Until 5th, 11th, 24th** **Dec** Children can meet Santa plus festive activities to include gingerbread decorating, meet the Zoo's reindeer, daily keeper talk & find out why Santa's reindeer must all be girls, lend a hand at the daily Keeper's Little Help! Helpers sessions where children can prepare treats & presents for the Zoo's animals plus storytelling with Mother Christmas, under 10's. **Daily** Rainforest Life Exhibit, experience the sights sounds, smells of the rainforest & come face to face with amazing rainforest species including monkeys, sloth, armadillo, tamandua plus there's a special Night Life area, where you'll discover bats, rats & other creatures that dwell in the dark. **Until 22 Dec** **Museum of Covent Garden** 020 7739 6344 020 8983 5200 Sensory storytelling inspired by well loved animal tales. **Until 5th, 11th, 22 Dec** **Art Smart's**, workshop with paper based arts & crafts, all ages & abilities. **FREE.** **Until 16 Feb** **Afro Soul Studio** play & create with ideas & materials from artworks in the collection displays for all ages. **Daily** Family resources with paper based activities for families all ages. **FREE.** **Daily** Children's Multimedia Guide keeps children entertained & animates art works through music, video clips & entertaining games, 5+ys. **Daily** Under 5's Zone a new play space for families. **FREE.** **Every weekend** Star Sessions with name change making & clue matching, 5+ys. **FREE.**

5 Dec **Geffrey Museum** Kingsland Rd 020 7739 8982 An Edwardian Christmas sing along to live festive music or bring children to a decoration making workshop. **FREE** entry. **7 Dec** **Festive** gifts galore workshop for 11-16yrs, create spicy & aromatic festive soaps & herb bags to give as gifts for Christmas, all activities are **FREE** for children & families. **7 Dec** Christmas Carols drop in sessions for all ages. **7 Dec** Squaking & Sparkwinking Decorations workshop, create a sugar mouse or beautiful bird Edwardian inspired Christmas decoration. **FREE** **5 Dec** **All Hallows** by the Tower Byward Street 020 7481 2928 Christmas Carol Service in aid of the Sick Children's Trust & will include a show of celebrity speakers. **5 Dec** **Trafalgar Square** Annual tree lighting ceremony. **9-21 Dec** Carol singing around the world famous Christmas tree with various

pearls, using their new knowledge, they can create their own jewellery designs in the digital studio, 5+ys. **FREE** drop in. **28 Dec** **Jan** Pop up performance, a series of performances will take place in the Raphael gallery telling the story of a fictional merchant sailor of Quay and his many adventures, suitable families. **FREE. 18 Jan** Create! Costume design workshop, 13-15yrs. **Daily** Back Packs families can pick up an activity bag pack filled with jigsaws, stories & games to explore the collection, 4-11yrs. Activity Card hands on art fun for children to create a Samur! helmet, a silver goblet or an elephant mask to take home. **FREE**, drop in to Agent Animal bag a sensory activity bag that has been developed for under 10's, a soft play area for babies plus arts & crafts, interactive costumes, books, interesting toys & lots more. **7-8 Dec** **Hornamin Museum** London Road Forest Hill 020 8699 1872 Hornamin Christmas Fair festive event for all the family with festive including mulled wine & a visit to Santa's Grotto. **FREE** entry. **Every Tues** until 17 **Dec** & every Fri until 13 **Dec** **Boys Bees**, sessions with stories, songs & simple arts & crafts, families, under 5's. **FREE.** **Every Sat** until 14 **Dec** Hands on Family workshops, families, 3+ys. **FREE.** **Every Sat** until 14 **Dec** Art Makers have fun with different art techniques to create something fabulous to take home, families 3+ys. **Every Sun** Discovery for All, 3+ys. **FREE.** **Every Sun** until 15 **Dec** A World of Stories storytelling sessions, families 3+ys. **FREE.** **Every Sat** until 21 **Dec** **Homiman Farmers' Market**, **FREE** entry. **Until 1 Mar** 14, The Art of Harmony, exhibition showcases Western classical musical instruments on loan from the V & A. **14-21 Dec** **Covent Garden Piazza** Live Reindeer petting providing the chance to hand feed Santa's helpers, 12-4pm. **7 Dec** **5 Jan** **Stratford Circus Theatre Square**, Stratford 0847 87 2622 Mr & Mrs Moon interactive show for 2-5yrs. **11 Dec** **5 Jan** **We're Going on a Bear Hunt** suitable for anyone who would benefit from a more relaxed atmosphere, audience members will be **FREE** to make noise & come & go if they need to.

6 Dec **British Museum** Great Russell Street 020 7323 8000 Camden Youth Concert Band. **FREE.** **8 Dec** **Greeks** Alive animation workshop, over 7's. **Until 14 Dec** **Passport** to the Afterlife drawing workshop. **FREE.** **Until 16 Feb** **Canary Wharf Ice Rink** 0870 4000 601 Ice skating under the soaring buildings of Canada Square. **Until 27 Feb** **Broadgate Ice Rink** Exchange Square 020 7505 4068 Winter sports & ice skating. **27-9-15-17-23-27-30 Dec** **Theatre Company** Chase Side Southgate 020 8292 9222 The Night Before Christmas family show 5+ys. **4-7, 10-14, 15-21-23 Dec** Christmas Tales with songs, puppeteering & festive fun, up to 7yrs, babies under 6months. **FREE.** **4 Dec** **St John of Jerusalem Church** Lauriston Road Hackney Christmas family concert Meet the Trumpets a family fanfare, children **FREE.** www.bachtaboy.com **4,6,7,9-14,16-21,23-24,26-28,31 Dec** **2-5-7-11 Jan** **Theatre Royal Stratford East** Every Raffles Sq 020 8534 0310 Dick Whittington **4-12 Jan** **Excel Exhibition Centre** 0870 7300112 London Boat Show thousands of boats, brands, products & suppliers under one roof. **4-21 Dec** **The Pleasance Theatre** Argenter's Mews North Road 020 7609 1800 Hey Presto 3+ys. **10 Dec** **5 Jan** **Peter Pan** Goes Wrong 7+ys.

7-8 Dec **National Army Museum** 020 7730 0717 www.national-army-museum.com Christmas is Cancelled festive family event, a twist on Christmas Past, with games, carol singing as celebrants work to keep Christmas festive against the New Model Army who is determined to stop it. **FREE.** **Every Sat** afternoon A Soldier's Life workshop learn about the life of a soldier. **FREE.** **Daily** Victorian Soldier Action Zone with quizzes, games & hands on activities to help your learn about life as a Victorian soldier. **FREE.** **Daily** The World's Army, Empire, Commonwealth & Dominion Soldiers 1914-45 Action Zone family interactive zone. **FREE.** **Daily** Kids Zone, interactive learning & play space for under 10's, a soft play area for babies plus arts & crafts, interactive costumes, books, interesting toys & lots more. **7-8 Dec** **Hornamin Museum** London Road Forest Hill 020 8699 1872 Hornamin Christmas Fair festive event for all the family with festive including mulled wine & a visit to Santa's Grotto. **FREE** entry. **Every Tues** until 17 **Dec** & every Fri until 13 **Dec** **Boys Bees**, sessions with stories, songs & simple arts & crafts, families, under 5's. **FREE.** **Every Sat** until 14 **Dec** Hands on Family workshops, families, 3+ys. **FREE.** **Every Sat** until 14 **Dec** Art Makers have fun with different art techniques to create something fabulous to take home, families 3+ys. **Every Sun** Discovery for All, 3+ys. **FREE.** **Every Sun** until 15 **Dec** A World of Stories storytelling sessions, families 3+ys. **FREE.** **Every Sat** until 21 **Dec** **Homiman Farmers' Market**, **FREE** entry. **Until 1 Mar** 14, The Art of Harmony, exhibition showcases Western classical musical instruments on loan from the V & A. **14-21 Dec** **Covent Garden Piazza** Live Reindeer petting providing the chance to hand feed Santa's helpers, 12-4pm. **7 Dec** **5 Jan** **Stratford Circus Theatre Square**, Stratford 0847 87 2622 Mr & Mrs Moon interactive show for 2-5yrs. **11 Dec** **5 Jan** **We're Going on a Bear Hunt** suitable for anyone who would benefit from a more relaxed atmosphere, audience members will be **FREE** to make noise & come & go if they need to.

9 Dec **Rich Mix** Bethnal Green 020 7613 7498 Wiggly Jigglers 0-2yrs. **11 Dec** **Musical Rumpus**, Mudlark Dances. **15 Dec** **Numbi Family Workshop** creative live photography workshops, 13+ys. **Every weekend** Kids' Cine Time family films. **16 Dec** **Old Spitalfields Market** Bushfield Street 0787 254 8450 5k Santa Dash starting off from Old Spitalfields Market around the 5k circular route then back to the finishing line for a celebratory Christmas drink & nibbles. **16-29 Dec** **The Albany** Douglas Way Deppford 020 8692 4446 One Snowy Night, full of songs to sing along to, furry friends to meet & blankets to be tucked up in. **10 Dec** **11 Jan** **Bloomsbury Theatre** Gordon Street 020 7388 8822. Snow Play for families. **15-22 Dec** **Comedy Club 4 Kids** presents The Santa Claus Science Experiment. Father Christmas has stopped believing in himself, can his elves, some scientists & comedians change his mind? **11 Dec** **16 Feb** **Duchess Theatre** Catherine Street 0844 4124659 The Wind of the Willows with dance, song, music & puppetry. www.roh.org.uk Tel: 020 7304 4000. **12 Dec** **Christmas Lights - Oxford Street** Switch on lights, 6pm-10pm. **13 Dec** **02 Arena** London 0844 856 0022 The War of the Worlds www.theworldofwar.com. **14 Dec** **London Palladium** 020 7494 5020 The Amazing Bubbleman bubble art, magic, science & fun. **15 Dec** **02 Arena** London 0844 856 0022 The War of the Worlds www.theworldofwar.com. **14 Dec** **Benjamin Franklin House** 36 Craven Street 020 7839 2008 Children's Christmas Party with crafts & treats, deck the halls with a Christmas wreath to make & take home, 5-11yrs. **14 Dec** **The Founding** Museum 40 Brunswick Square 020 7841 3600 Christmas Crackers family workshop. **14 Dec** **Cadogan Hall** 5 Sloane Terrace 020 7621 2800 Crash Bang Wallop, Christmas Special with music by Tchaikovsky, Vivaldi among others plus a visit from Father Christmas. There will be plenty of opportunities to try an instrument & met the musicians in the foyer before the show as well as festive arts & crafts, 3-6yrs. **16,17,19,20 Dec** & **6 Jan** **Song Academy** Fulham & Hammersmith 07710 023743 Christmas Workshop for 7-12yrs.

20 Dec **Festive Carol Singing** The public is invited to join in the fun & sing along with famous faces from top West End shows at this unique event organised by the Society of London Theatre, which will take place outside the Leicester Square TKTS booth in the heart of London's Theatreland, 4-5pm. **FREE.** Seasonal refreshments will also be on offer. **20 Dec** **All Saints Church** West Dulwich Back to Baby, Christmas family Concert Meet the Trumpets entrance **FREE** for children. www.bachtaboy.com. **20-23,27-31 Dec** **Imperial War Museum** 020 7416 5439 A Wartime Christmas exhibition find out what London was like for children during the 2nd World War in this fun & interactive craft activity, families all ages. **FREE.** **Until 14 Jan** **Horrible Histories**, Spies presents The Santa Claus Science Experiment. Father Christmas has stopped believing in himself, can his elves, some scientists & comedians change his mind? **11 Dec** **16 Feb** **Duchess Theatre** Catherine Street 0844 4124659 The Wind of the Willows with dance, song, music & puppetry. www.roh.org.uk Tel: 020 7304 4000. **12 Dec** **Christmas Lights - Oxford Street** Switch on lights, 6pm-10pm. **13 Dec** **02 Arena** London 0844 856 0022 The War of the Worlds www.theworldofwar.com. **14 Dec** **Benjamin Franklin House** 36 Craven Street 020 7839 2008 Children's Christmas Party with crafts & treats, deck the halls with a Christmas wreath to make & take home, 5-11yrs. **14 Dec** **The Founding** Museum 40 Brunswick Square 020 7841 3600 Christmas Crackers family workshop. **14 Dec** **Cadogan Hall** 5 Sloane Terrace 020 7621 2800 Crash Bang Wallop, Christmas Special with music by Tchaikovsky, Vivaldi among others plus a visit from Father Christmas. There will be plenty of opportunities to try an instrument & met the musicians in the foyer before the show as well as festive arts & crafts, 3-6yrs. **16,17,19,20 Dec** & **6 Jan** **Song Academy** Fulham & Hammersmith 07710 023743 Christmas Workshop for 7-12yrs.

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dinosaurs by handling real fossils & inspecting a variety of prehistoric specimens & more, drop in family activity families, 5-12yrs. **FREE.** **Until 15 Jan** The 950 square metre ice rink can be found on the museum's east lawn a setting made even more magical by the fairground carousel & 76,000 twinkling fairy lights. **Daily** Family Earth Lab explore the wonder of fossils, rocks & minerals, families, 6+ys. **FREE.** **Explorer** backpacks, families under 7's. **Dippy Floor** puzzle under 7's. **Dippy Floor** Bookasaurus, families under 5's. **Jurassic Ark** family activity pack includes deck breaking activities. **Daily** Learning Activities encourage visitors of all ages to discover more about the natural world. **FREE.** **Daily** Focus points handling tools explore real specimens with the help of volunteers, using different natural history themed activities, all ages. **FREE.** **Every Sat** The Bird Table using real specimens, activities will encourage you to look closely, make comparisons, discuss ideas & develop your knowledge & understanding of Antarctica's penguins. **FREE.** **Daily** Who Do You Think You Really Are? narrated by Sir David Attenborough. **FREE.** **Daily** Investigate Centre explore hundreds of real natural history specimens, 7+urs. **FREE.** **20 Jan** **14 Feb** **The RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch** Schoolchildren will be counting the birds in their school grounds as part of the Big Schools' Birdwatch, the survey encourages schoolchildren of all ages & their teachers to discover which birds they share their school grounds with & learn about their behaviour. There is also a Little Schools' Birdwatch for under 5's & the Really Big Schools' Birdwatch for 11-14yrs. For more information visit www.rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch. **25 Jan** **London's Discover Children's Story Centre** Stratford 020 8536 5555 Beauty & the Beast meet the bestselling illustrator of The Tiana Club, Sarah Gibb. **Please call before you go please mention PARENTS NEWS** Find us on  

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from all at PARENTS NEWS

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