

# PARENTS NEWS

Dec/Jan 2014/15 No. 193 The First & Foremost Local Monthly Newspaper for Families

1993 - 2014  
22nd Successful Year  
Thank you

**FREE**

[www.rarebreeds.org.uk](http://www.rarebreeds.org.uk)

## What's On in December/January

Published on time, every time since 1993

[www.parents-news.co.uk](http://www.parents-news.co.uk)

[www.fairfield.co.uk](http://www.fairfield.co.uk)

London Wetlands Centre  
[www.wwt.org.uk](http://www.wwt.org.uk)

Three Editions in South-East England

Southwest  
London  
& Surrey

London  
South  
E Surrey  
W Kent

Kent

ISSN 2050-4764

London South  
East Surrey & West Kent

Christmas Out & About

richmond practice  
PRIVATE DOCTORS' SERVICE  
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KINGSWOOD CHRISTMAS TREES  
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  
10% off with tree + stand + lights  
FREE kid's tree with every tree  
DECORATIONS • LIGHTS • POTS • STANDS  
MISLETOE • GIFT SHOP • SANTA'S GROTTTO  
OPEN DAILY FROM SAT 15th NOVEMBER - 5PM-6 PM  
Enjoy a drink by the fire  
Gravelly Bottom Road, Kingswood, Maidstone, ME17 3NU  
T 01622 843760 F 01622 843410 M 07602 269019  
E leaty.miller@btinternet.com  
www.kingswoodchristmastrees.co.uk  
FOR MAP - SEE WEBSITE GC ACCEPTED  
TRADE ENQUIRIES WELCOME

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 personal 01435 862045  
Email: john.mew@virgin.net

Birdworld African penguin

With Christmas fast approaching and penguins very much in the limelight in the wake of the latest seasonal offering from retail giant John Lewis, Birdworld is proud to tell its own happy penguin tale and offer you the chance to meet the stars of the show in time for Christmas.

The story begins with Sid and Nancy, Birdworld's most loved-up African penguin couple, who laid two eggs this year and incubated them faultlessly until it was noticed that one of the embryos had died. To protect the remaining one, surrogate parent Keeper Alice was called in, and the egg was taken to the park's incubation room, where on 8th August staff had the happy event of seeing the baby penguin emerge fit, strong and healthy! This is where keepers Jack and Zoe stepped in as both have worked in South Africa passing on their rearing expertise and are extremely experienced in the care and upbringing of penguins. Their dedication to their new 'baby' was without equal and there really was no other time for the chick than the combination of his foster parent's names - Joey! All this time, Sid and Nancy

remained in Penguin Beach, watching on as other penguins laid eggs and reared chicks, no doubt wondering if their baby had survived - so it was with delight that on 21st October staff moved Joey out of the rearing room and into Penguin Beach where he met Sid and Nancy for the first time! Joey now lives with his true parents but still remembers his foster mum and dad, and pesters them whenever they are

http://birdworld.co.uk/shop/christmas-shopping-page/



Jack and Zoe with little Joey Penguin Beach at the park.

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On-line  
www.parents-news.co.uk  
Advertise in PARENTS NEWS  
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fergus@parents-news.co.uk

December 2014

Visit our Winter Wonderland & meet Santa!  
Selected dates from 29th Nov - 24th Dec 2014  
Meet Santa and his Reindeer  
BIRDWORLD  
BIRD PARK • JENNY WREN FARM • UNDERWATER WORLD  
Book online today at www.birdworld.co.uk

December 2014

Meet Santa with his reindeer – including baby Rudolph - and take a husky sleigh ride  
WWT London Wetland Centre  
Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 December  
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 meet the reindeer, including baby Rudolph.  
Head over to the northern pine forest; Father Christmas will be ready to welcome families in his cosy grotto among the trees.  
You can also meet the family of reindeer, including a six month old baby, and discover more about these delightful animals from the North.  
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?  
If you want to hear icy tales of adventure join our Polar Explorer, Anthony Arctic for some Frantic Antarctic Antics at his Base Camp.  
Show tickets are £2 per child (cash only, just turn up. Adults free); shows at 11am, 12.30pm, 2pm and 3.00pm.  
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 and then relax over Christmas lunch in the Water's Edge Cafe.  
Plus, on Sunday only Fullers Shire Horse dry rides from 12.00-3pm. See these magnificent animals in action and hop aboard for a ride. By enjoying a festive weekend there, you're also contributing towards their vital conservation work in the UK and around the world.

WWT London Wetland Centre  
Meet Santa and his reindeer and take a husky sleigh ride!  
Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 December  
For full details see www.wwt.org.uk/londonsanta  
WWT London Wetland Centre, Barnes SW13 9WT  
t: 0208 409 4400 e: info.london@wwt.org.uk

Christmas Out & About

Sleeping Beauty and the Time Lords returns!  
Join the adventure through time and space in Spotlites' professional interactive play for children: 'Sleeping Beauty & the Time Lords'. The play, written in Spotlites' unique interactive style where children come onstage throughout, tells the story of the beautiful princess, Aurora. Despised by a jealous Cyberwitch, she is plunged into a hundred year cryogenic sleep. A prophecy tells that one day, a Time Lord will appear and wake the Princess but the evil Cyberwitch has other ideas!  
Spotlites specialises in theatre for young people and their interactive shows are a unique experience for children aged 5-12. This production, opening on 7th December at Spotlites @ Kings Theatre, High Street, Chatham, will offer children the chance to defeat the evil Cyberwitch with real sonic screwdrivers and disable Extremators with the Doctor!  
This unique production opens on Sunday 7th December.  
You can book your tickets on 01634 829468 or choose your own seats online at www.spotlites.co.uk  
Prices  
Normal admission prices to WWT London Wetland Centre apply  
• Visit to Santa is £5 per child (cash only) including goody bag  
• Santa tickets cannot be pre-booked; just turn up but please bear in mind the queue can be lengthy  
• In the event of rain the Father Christmas queue will be moved indoors  
• Husky sleigh rides are free with admission (children 8 or younger, with weight restrictions)  
• There is no charge to see the reindeer (11am to 4pm)  
• Anthony Arctic's Frantic Antarctic Antics tickets are £2 per child (cash only, just turn up. Adults free); shows at 11am, 12.30pm, 2pm and 3.00pm.  
For full details and updates please check www.wwt.org.uk/london  
PARENTS NEWS  
On-line  
www.parents-news.co.uk  
Advertise in PARENTS NEWS  
020 8337 6337  
fergus@parents-news.co.uk

SLEEPING BEAUTY AND THE TIME LORDS  
Professional interactive play for 5-12s  
★★★★★  
British Theatre Guide  
★★★★★  
Broadway Baby  
★★★★★  
EdwardsMag  
Interactive theatre for kids who don't just want to sit still and watch!  
Defeat the evil Cyberwitch with real sonic screwdrivers! Disable Extremators with the Doctor! Kids come onstage throughout!  
7th December - 22nd February  
£7.50 (£6.50) £26 family  
Puss in Boots  
Interactive play for 2-6s  
Help Puss storm ogre's hounsy castle! 'Outstanding' FringeReview  
Christmas Holiday Drama Workshops for 5-12s  
FORCE AWAKENS  
MARS  
FRODO BAGGINS  
Spotlites @ Kings Theatre, 338 High Street, Chatham ME4 4NR  
www.spotlites.co.uk 01634 829468

Christmas Gifts

**Linkee gets a smart new facelift in time for Christmas 2014**

- new questions, new look, new celebrity contributors, same shouty-outy game-play - *Linkee*, the cheeky trivia party game which liberated thousands of UK families from a Yuletide-yawnfest last Christmas, is back for 2014's festivities with a more sophisticated look and new sexy features: **All new questions**, 357 brand-spanking new *Linkee* to solve, a third of which have been crowd-sourced from *Linkee* fans during the past year... making it a bang-up-to-date mix of the current, the topical, the tricky and the downright daft.



**Selfie Brush**

The hottest social media tool for your selfies! Wet brush isa the number one selling detangling brush in the US and now it doubles up as a phone case The side of the brush has a handy slot for your iphone Available from [www.sallyexpress.com](http://www.sallyexpress.com)



**Godstone Farm**  
Rare Breeds & Christmas

**MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS**

The elves will be waiting to greet you and guide you through the snowman archway. Timmy, Ningo and their lovely shaggy friends will be eagerly awaiting for you to wander along and say hello.

Post your letter in the Godstone Farm Post Office to let Father Christmas know if you have been naughty or nice!

Finally, step into the Christmas cabin to meet the big most handsome who has a special gift for all the children who have been good this year!

**Only £7.50 and over**

**Pre-book your tickets: 01883 742546**

Children take home a hot day at the farm and a special Christmas dinner. The full details, dates and pricing pack up a holiday the gift shop or see [www.godstonefarm.co.uk](http://www.godstonefarm.co.uk)

Look no further than **ZSL London Zoo** for a wild present this Christmas



With just three months till Christmas, the countdown is in full swing and the *Zoological Society of London (ZSL)* has a selection of tempting treats sure to satisfy any festive wish list.



Grrrr-eat gifts for all the family

Fancy getting up close with one of **ZSL London Zoo's** mischievous monkeys? Or having a sleeper in the heart of **ZSL Whipsnade Zoo's** beautiful **Lookout Lodge**, adopting them their very own tiger, or enabling them to enjoy year-round entry to both Zoos with a special gift membership.

With beautiful hand-painted, animal themed jewellery from designers *And Mary* for the girls, cute animal alphabet mugs for the little ones, trendy t-shirts for the boys and even cushions with awesome animals on them to take home and treasure, the whole family is covered this Christmas.

**ZSL and Bloomsbury's Wild Things** books are on special offer this Christmas; for just £12 the little monster in your family can unwrap titles including *'The Lion who came to Lunch'*, a puppet of the animal featured, and a foam animal mask, to really bring the stories to life.

For the person who has everything, how about making magical memories this Christmas with a *VIP Meet the Animals* encounter, or go one

December 2014



offers launching online and in-store **ZSL** is ready for Santa's helpers to fill their baskets.



[www.zsl.org](http://www.zsl.org)

ADOPT A DARTMOOR PONY

development and progress of the pony you have chosen over the following year.

Ponies George, Charlie, Smartie and Rolo look forward to meeting you and to becoming part of your family! They live at the **Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust Centre**, at Parke, Bovey Tracey in Devon.



These characters have a vital role to play in demonstrating just how good Dartmoor ponies are as family pets and for riding, driving and conservation grazing: they are fundamental to the **DPHT's** innovative education programme for young people who have a range of disabilities and/or challenging behaviour. Some of the incredible achievements they have had with students have happened through their work with these loving, gentle, patient but tough little ponies.

The **DPHT Adoption Scheme** raises money to pay as part of its work to ensure that the traditional type of Dartmoor pony does not disappear. Single-coloured with long manes and tails, Dartmoor ponies still run wild and free on Dartmoor, but their numbers are in serious decline.

If you are interested in adopting a **Dartmoor Heritage Pony** [www.dpht.co.uk](http://www.dpht.co.uk) 01626 833234

December 2014

**Greenall's**

Here a great gift for mums and dads **The Original London Dry Gin** is distilled with eight unique botanicals to give a classic London Dry Gin with rich juniper notes, balanced with mature citrus and spice. **Greenall's** is available at most good supermarkets and wine stores, price £15.49.

**The Greenall's Gift Box** is exclusive to **Tesco** stores. New **Greenall's** Sloe Gin, price £16.00, available at **Sainsbury's** and **Tesco** stores. New **Greenall's** Wild Berry Gin, price £15.50, available at **Morrison's** and **Tesco** stores.

**Christmas cocktail**  
*Wild About You*  
50ml **Greenall's** Wild Berry Gin; 25ml Lemon Juice



**Swimming Lessons**

**Quality classes in small group**  
**\*\* COME AND TRY A CLASS FREE \*\***

Lessons for:  
Adults and Children from 2 yrs  
Non-swimmers -Improvers  
Advanced & SUPER Advanced

**Classes held at:**  
Downsend School Ashted/Leatherhead  
Epsom College

**For more info contact Colin on 01372 739600**

**sitters**

Follow us on: **TRUSTED 1967**

**Reclaim your social life!**

Now you can find professional, experienced babysitters even at short notice. We interview each babysitter in person and check all references thoroughly. All have professional childcare experience with most being Registered Childminders or qualified Nursery Nurses & Nannies.

For your first booking **FREE** of any booking fee visit us at [www.sitters.co.uk](http://www.sitters.co.uk) and quote promo code **PNEW5FREE**.

If you would like to discuss your childcare needs call Sitters on **08447 367 367**.

**Old Barn Stables**

Waffrons Farm, Woodstock Lane South, Chessington, Surrey

**A Friendly, Family Run Riding School**

- ◆ BHS Qualified Instructors
- ◆ All ages & abilities
- ◆ Pony Days
- ◆ Lessons & Hacks
- ◆ Holiday Fun

Woodland Walk

**For directions and info, call 020 8398 0822**

X Touch Gloves

For mums on the go...keep your gloves on and still use your touch screen mobile device ... welcome to the **X Touch Glove**, from extreme weather clothing brand *'Extremities'*.

Whether it's stylish school-run mums, sporty outdoor types, or techy grandparents; the **X Touch Glove** will prove the perfect stocking filler this Christmas.

Originally developed to allow explorers and adventurers to use GPS navigation tools in hostile weather environments, these thermal lightweight stretch fabric gloves have a conductive fleece forefinger and thumb for smartphone or tablet use as well as a silicone print palm for extra grip. They can also be used as a base layer beneath ski gloves.

Price: £25. Sizes XS, S/M, L/XL.



Available online at [www.extremities.co.uk](http://www.extremities.co.uk)

Sew Fab

**Sew Fab: Sewing and Style for Young Fashionistas** by *Lesley Ware* teaches 8-13 year olds all they need to know to sew their very own unique wardrobe, tailored completely to their own style. Be a stylist and fashion designer in one with **Sew Fab**, the ultimate style and sewing workbook for any fashion-obsessed girl. Packed with gorgeous illustrations, step-by-step projects, tips and fun activities, for creating unique clothing and accessories in no time. **Sew Fab** will take you from new sewing recruit to 'Sew Ready' in no time! Reveal your inner Style Tribe, learn how to match colours to your skin tone and tread the fine line between fun and functional by mastering the art of accessorising. Unpick myths around hand stitches and discover the essential items of any sewing basket before launching your own projects!



Christmas Gifts



Rehab London

A gift for dad. This has been created with cutting edge natural science technology by a team of dermatologists, makeup artists and scientists who were asked to develop a brand that could fulfil the needs of the male complexion. They came up with seven products that cater for different specific needs: Daily detox scrub, Argan oil shaving Gel, Calm balm post shaving balm, Morning glory moisturiser, shine free oil control lotion, revive survive anti-fatigue cream, Back to Matte anti shine gel

[www.rehablondon.co.uk](http://www.rehablondon.co.uk)



**COUNTRY RARE BREEDS CENTRE FARM PARK**

So much to do you'll need more than a day

**Book now to see Santa for a truly magical Christmas**

**December 6th, 7th, 13th, 14th, 20th, 21st, 22nd & 23rd**

**Mr Wong returns with his Pantomime adventures!**

Book online at [rarebreeds.org.uk](http://rarebreeds.org.uk) T **01233 861508**



**Daily Lower Morden Garden Centre** 020 8337 7781 Soft Play, under 5's.

**Daily Sutton Ecology Centre** Festival Walk Carshalton 020 8770 5820 Playworld fantasy play area, 2-10yrs.

**Daily South Norwood Recreation Ground** Car Green Road Croydon 020-8760 5707 Fitness Trails for adults & children of all fitness levels to get fit & keep fit. Positioned at each exercise station are signs showing the exercise to be undertaken with the suggested number of number repetitions.

**Ongoing Dupass Hill Outdoor Gym** Each item has clear instruction for its use over 12's.

**Recently re-opened Kidplay Cafe** 282-284 Lower Addiscombe Road Croydon Softplay & café, under 5's.

**Every Mon Seconbe Theatre** Cheam Road Sutton 020 8770 6990 Zumba fitness. **Every Tues** Line Dancing. **Every Wed** Ballroom Dance, under 8's to adults.

**Every Mon Lloyd Park** 020 8726 6000 Health walk circular through Lloyd Park & Shirley on mainly flat terrain, ideal for beginners, 2 miles last approx 1hr, meet 11am **FREE** & same walk on potentially hilly terrain, 3miles ideal for advanced walkers, 2pm, **FREE**. **Every Sat** Park run, **FREE** weekly timed 5k run, need to register first.

**Every Mon Parchmore Community Centre** 53-55

Parchmore Road 020 8726 6000 x88965 Circuit for those new to exercise, returning after illness & the more mature exerciser.

**Every Mon eve Sutton Grammar School** Korfbal for Beginners for school years 3-12 various times & sessions, email for details [info@nomadskorf.com](mailto:info@nomadskorf.com).

**Every Mon term time The Assembly Rooms** West Wickham Kiddi Cardio toddler fitness 2-5yrs, [www.kiddicardio.com](http://www.kiddicardio.com).

**Every Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri morn Bienenheim Children & Family Centre** Bromley 01689 879145 Toddlers activities.

**Every Tues Coudson Library** 020 8726 6900 Bookstart Rhymetime for babies & toddlers, Wiggle & Jiggle, 2-4yrs. **Every Thurs** Storytime, 2 ½yrs. **Every Sat** Storytime, under 7's, **FREE**.

**Every Tues Ashburton Library** 020 8726 6900 Bookstart Rhymetime for babies & toddlers. **Every Thurs** Wiggle & Jiggle for toddlers. **Every Mon** Chatterbooks Sat in sessions, 8-11yrs. **Every Sat** Rock & Rhyme for babies & toddlers. **Every Wed** Social club for older people for a chat & a cup of tea. **Every Thurs** term time only playtime for under 7's, **FREE**.

**Every Tues Purley Library** 020 8726 6900 Bookstart Rhymetime for babies &

toddlers & Wiggle & Jiggle, toddlers over 18mths. **Every Fri** Storytime 2 ½yrs. **Every Sat** Rock & Rhyme for babies & toddlers, **FREE**.

**Every Tues Centrale Shopping Centre** Croydon [www.centrale.co.uk](http://www.centrale.co.uk) In the Early Learning Centre playtime sessions for children, all ages with all kinds of arts & arts from making face masks, cards, painting, colouring or just play, **FREE**, 10-12pm, Tel: 020 8686 7535.

**Every Tues Thornton Heath Library** 020 8726 6900 Bookstart Rhymetime for babies & toddlers, **FREE**.

**Every Tues Careers, training & learning advice sessions**, 2-4.30pm, **FREE** & Computer training courses for beginners to experts.

**Every Tues De Staffords Leisure Centre** Caterham 01883 344355 Family Swim.

**Every Tues Riddlesdown Circular Walk** 020 8726 6000 x64952 Health walk, 2-3miles, meet 11am at 'Good Companions' pub, Hamsey Green, **FREE**.

**Every Wed Charles Cryer Theatre** 39 High Street Carshalton 020-8770 4950 Spiral Youth Theatre for 13+yrs members learn a variety of activities such as drama, dance & singing, musical theatre composition, set design & costume making culminating in two productions per year & **Every Thurs** Minis & Juniors

5-7yrs.

**Every Wed Sanderstead Library** 020 8726 6900 Bookstart rhymetime, babies & toddlers, Wiggle & Jiggle, 18mths+yrs, Storytime 2 ½ +yrs. Fortnightly Rock & Rhyme for pre-school children, **FREE**.

**Every Wed Unitarian Church** 1 The Flyover 020 8726 6000 x88965 Zumba Latin inspired dance music & rhythms, all abilities.

**Every Wed during term time Sydenham Tennis Club** Lawrie Park Road Sydenham 020 8778 4217 Tennis drop in sessions for 8-11yrs.

**Every Wed morn Sutton Arena Leisure Centre** Middleton Road Carshalton 020 8770 4088 Women's Recreation Mornings with a wide range of sport & social activities available for one single fee, 9-12pm. **Daily** Playworld fantasy play area, 2-10yrs.

**Every Wed & Sat Millennium Arena Battersea Park** 020 8871 7542 Drop in tennis sessions, 5-8-9-15yrs.

**Every Thurs Cheam Leisure Centre** Cheam 020 8770 4830 Street Dance lessons for boys & girls 10-15yrs

**Every Thurs Norbury Park and Norwood Grove** 020 8726 6900 A circular walk through Norbury Park & Norwood Grove, 2-3 miles, meet at Norbury Train Station, 1.30pm, **FREE**. 21 Aug

Butterfly Walk, 2 hrs around the park to learn about these insects, 07968 832508.

**Every Thurs Selsdon Baptist Church** Addington Road 020 8726 6000 x88965 Circuits Low intensity for mature exercisers.

**Every Thurs Croydon Sports College** Croydon High School 020 8726 6000 x88965 Circuits Low intensity for mature exercisers.

**Every Thurs South Norwood Leisure Centre** 164 Portland Road 020 8726 6000 x88965 Aquacise sessions.

**Every Thurs in term time Sutton Christian Centre** 020 8642 8117 Special Stars a baby & toddler group for children with disabilities or additional needs, from babies to pre-schoolers, siblings welcome.

**Every Fri Sutton Library** 020 8644 9696 Job Club volunteer led support group for job seeker, all ages, **FREE** no need to book.

**Every Fri Sutton Life Centre** 020 8644 9696 Running & non contact boxing, 12-18yrs, **FREE**.

**Every Fri Bradmore Green Library** Old Coudson 020 8726 6000 x64952 Bookstart Rhymetime for babies & toddlers, Wiggle & Jiggle, 2-4yrs. **Every Mon** Storytime 2 ½yrs & Chatterbooks reading group for 8-11yrs. **Fortnightly** **Every Sat** Rhymetime, **FREE**.

## Calendar

[www.parents-news.co.uk](http://www.parents-news.co.uk)

This information plus much more online



Twitter: @parentsnewsuk

& toddlers. **Every Tues** Wiggle & Jiggle, 2-4yrs. **Alternate Sat** Rock & Rhyme or Storytime, **FREE**.

**Every Fri Shirley Library** 020 8253 1023 Bookstart rhymetime for babies & toddlers, Wiggle & Jiggle for 18mths+. **Every Thurs** Storytime for 2 ½yrs. **Every Sat** Rock & Rhyme for babies & toddlers. **Monthly** story & craft workshops, 5-10yrs.

**Every Fri New Addington**

**Library** 020 8253 1023 Bookstart Rhymetime for babies & toddlers & Wiggle & Jiggle, 18mths+, **Free**.

**Every Fri Norbury Library** 020 8726 6900 Bookstart Rhymetime. **Every Thurs** Wiggle & Jiggle. **Alternate Sat** Rock & Rhyme followed by Storytime. **Last Fri of each month** Chatter Books reading group for 8-12yrs, **FREE**.

**Every Fri Selsdon Library** 020 8726 6900 Bookstart rhymetime for babies & toddlers, Wiggle & Jiggle, 18mths+. **Every Tues** Storytime for pre-school children. **Every Sat** Rock & Rhyme for pre-schoolers. **1<sup>st</sup> Tues** of the month Arty Crafty, 4-8yrs plus parents & siblings. **Every Sat** afternoon teenage reading group. **Last Thurs** of month adult reading group.

**Every Fri Waddon Ponds & Wandale Park** 020 8656 5947 Circular walk through Waddon Ponds & Wandale Park, 2-3 miles, meet outside Lidl, 1-11am, **FREE**.

**Every Fri Thornton Heath Leisure Centre** 89-110 High Street 020 8726 6000 x88965 Aquacise pay as you go sessions.

**Every Fri Pavillion Leisure Centre** Kentish Way Bromley 020 8313 9911 Families & under 11's Roller Disco sessions, 4.30-5.45pm & Families & under

16's Roller Disco sessions with full scale & safety equipment provided, doors open 6.15pm. Tel: 07970 266790.

**Every Sat The Green Dragon** 58-60 High Street Croydon 020 8667 0684 Storytime for families 3-7yrs, drop in 2hr session with stories, puppets, arts activities & songs, **FREE**.

**Every Sat morn Norman Park** Hayes Lane Bromley Kent 020 8460 5291 Soccer School, 4-6,7-9 & 10+yrs.

**Until 24 Dec Haver Castle Kent** 01892 870681 Christmas Magic with relaxed Xmas shopping plus Father Christmas will be visiting. [www.havercastle.co.uk](http://www.havercastle.co.uk).

**Until 24 Dec Fairfield Halls** Fairfield 020 8688 9291 Santa Claus & The Magical Christmas Journey, 2yrs. **5 Dec-4 Jan** Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs, [www.fairfield.co.uk](http://www.fairfield.co.uk).

**Until 31 Dec Bluewater Shopping Centre** 0844 847 1744 The Science Museum opens its first ever pop up store for Christmas with demonstrations of experiments, robots, remote control & gadgets will take place daily.

**Until 24 Dec Tunbridge Wells Ice Rink** Set in the amphitheatre of Calverley Grounds with rink side traditional wooden chalets selling local & seasonal produce, Christmas treats & much more, [www.tunbridgewellschristmas.com](http://www.tunbridgewellschristmas.com).

**2-12 Dec Lullingstone Country Park** Dartford 01322

865995 Themed walk followed by a traditional Christmas lunch. **School hols 20 Dec-4 Jan** Activity Trail follow the clues, answer the questions & complete the trail to receive a prize, trail sheets available from the visitor centre, no need to book. [www.visitkent.co.uk/attractions/lullingstone-country-park](http://www.visitkent.co.uk/attractions/lullingstone-country-park).

**3 Dec Orchard Theatre** Dartford 01322 220000 That'll Be The Day Christmas Show.

**12 Dec-3 Jan** Peter Pan. **20 Dec** the Magic of Christmas. **5-10 Jan** Dreamboats & Miniskirts. **20-24 Jan** Swan Lake the ballet.

**25 Jan** Disney Sing-a-Long-A Frozen. **25 Jan** Sing-a-Long-a Sound of Music. **27-31 Jan** Calamity Jane.

**3-4 Dec Knole Park House & Gardens** Sevenoaks 01732 462100 Christmas workshops. **Wreaths**, **5 Dec** Swags. **7 Dec** Carols in the Great Hall with mulled wine & mince pies. **20-21 Dec** Family storytelling & Christmas crafting, hear Christmas stories with a hot chocolate, then make Christmas crafts to take home, for families.

**Every Thurs, Sat & Sun** Guided walks in the deer park suitable for little legs. [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk).

**6,7,13,14,20,21 Dec Dickens Country Experience** A bus tour accompanied with a costumed actor who will show you where Dickens wrote his novel & took inspiration for his

books, plus Christmas Carols, mulled wine & mince pies, [www.visitingday.org](http://www.visitingday.org).

**6-23 Dec Leeds Castle** 01622 765400 Christmas Market. **26 Dec-4 Jan** The Winter Trail, [www.leeds-castle.com](http://www.leeds-castle.com).

**6,7,13,14 DEC Chartwell** Westerham 01732 868381 Christmas at Chartwell see selected rooms in the home of Winston Churchill decorated for a 1930s Christmas & make festive crafts. **6-7 Dec** Father Christmas with a craft activity & gift from Santa. **20-21 Dec** Christmas talk & concert.

**6-7,13-14,20-21 Dec Shorne 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, all children will receive a present from Santa, under 12's. **03000 417272. School hols 20 Dec-4 Jan** Activity Trail follow the clues, answer the questions & complete to receive a prize, trail sheets available from the visitor centre, no need to book. [www.visitkent.co.uk/attractions/shorne-woods-country-park](http://www.visitkent.co.uk/attractions/shorne-woods-country-park).

**7,13,14,21,23,24,28,Dec,3,11,17,25 Jan Spottles Theatre Productions** Kings Theatre, 338 High Street, Chatham Lording Beauty and the Time Lords interactive play for 5-12s. **20 Dec, 24Jan** Puss in Boots interactive play for 2-6s; **27**

**Dec** Magic Porridge interactive play for 2-6s; **4 Jan, 14 Feb** The Enormous Turnip interactive play for 2-6s; **22,23,24,27, Dec** Drama Workshops 2014 for 5 - 12s Star Wars; Dr Who; Jurassic World; Matilda & Billy Elliot Musicals. 01634 829468 [www.spottles.co.uk/office@spottles.co.uk](http://www.spottles.co.uk/office@spottles.co.uk)

**12,13,19,20 Dec Igham Mote** Sevenoaks 01732 810378 Carols in the courtyard with mulled wine followed by carols. **Daily until 1 Jan** Christmas past & present see rooms in the house decorated for a medieval, Victorian & 1950's Christmas, learn how to make Christmas decorations, craft activities, trail for children plus Father Christmas. [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk).

**13 Dec Hayes Village Hall** Hayes Street Hayes Bromley 07534 447988 Gingham Goose Craft Market selling a wide variety of quality crafts.

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**

**What's On in London & Out and About**  
Page 10 & 11

LONDON'S BEST VALUE PANTOMIME!

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# Education

## Penguin Children's Christmas Gift Guide 2014

### Pre-School & Picture Books 6 Years

*The Spectacular Tale of Peter Rabbit* by **Emma Thompson**, illustrated by Eleanor Taylor Oscar-winning actress and screenwriter Emma Thompson triumphs once more with a tale that makes the everyday simply SPECTACULAR. "It was high summer and a

travelling fun-fair had come to the village...Peter Rabbit and Benjamin were forbidden to attend..."£12.99 Hardback *Peter Rabbit's Christmas Collection* by **Beatrix Potter** A festive treasure-trove of original Beatrix Potter stories, letters and illustrations, brought together in one Christmas collection.

This treasury is perfect for all fans of Beatrix Potter and Peter Rabbit, young and old, and including little-known material, cards, letters and stories.

RRP £14.99 Hardback *Snow Day* by **Richard Curtis**, illustrated by Rebecca Cobb A heart-warming winter tale

from writer and director Richard Curtis, and Rebecca Cobb, the powerhouse behind *The Empty Stocking*.

A snowy day, a deserted school and the teacher you least want to see. Welcome to Snow Day, the most magical day of the year... RRP £10.99 Hardback

## December 2014 Top tips to boost young children's Christmas excitement

It's getting close to Christmas so postbags across the country are stuffed full of hopeful letters to Santa. **Mark O'Donnell**, the new headmaster of *St Martin's Ampleforth*, the prep school at *Ampleforth College*, has over 200 excited children eagerly awaiting a fun-filled festive season and has provided some tips on how to manage children's excitement in a way which puts the true meaning back into the holiday season. Mark says: "For parents, channeling young children's Christmas excitement can be both fun and challenging. Finding a balance between the 'giving' and 'receiving' messages are key to a fulfilling festive season."

**1. Outside and Festive** – Playing in the great outdoors is a fantastic way to wear out excited kids. Ampleforth is set in two thousand acres of scenic Yorkshire countryside so whether it's building a snowman, sledging or an old fashioned country ramble, busy days mean children sleep well.

**2. Nativity** – Popular film "Love, Actually" showed there's great diversity in nativity plays and this is true across the country. Helping build excitement for your

child's school nativity is a great way to encourage creativity and confidence and their first experience on stage is memorable for both the parent and child.

**3. Church Service** – Being a Benedictine school, we have lots of traditional church services around the festive season, but also a big focus on working the earth and being part of nature which is reflected in our Gardening Club where the children are able to collect holly and pine cones to make Christmas wreaths.

**4. School-made creations** – Here at *St. Martin's* we have a 20ft Christmas tree with all the decorations made by the children at the school. It's a great way to keep the children entertained and get them involved in some creative Christmas crafting.

**5. Story Time** – Reading an extract from a child's favourite book can be one way to keep a youngster's attention, as can reading a child's version of Luke chapter 2, the nativity story. Also, older children can keep younger children occupied by playing board games or other activities. [www.ampleforth.org.uk](http://www.ampleforth.org.uk)

## December 2014 Learn to Read in 4 Weeks for FREE\*

with *Reading Eggs!* Full of educationally sound, fun and interactive activities, *Reading Eggs* focuses on the most fundamental skill needed in school: **reading**. Children from 3 to 7 years of age, or older children struggling with reading, will enjoy the huge variety of reading lessons, activities and games that make up the *Reading Eggs* programme.

*Reading Eggspress* continues the reading adventure by taking children to a brand new world designed for 7-13 year olds, focusing on comprehension and grammar. *Reading Eggspress* provides a unique learning environment where students' can improve their English language and comprehension skills in a way that is exciting and relevant.

These programmes provide a

comprehensive range of online lessons that teach children aged 3-13 the literacy skills needed for lifetime reading success. The reason why over 90% of parents using *Reading Eggs* and *Reading Eggspress* report a noticeable improvement in their child's reading skills is because the programme makes learning fun.

Sign up for a special 4 WEEK FREE trial\* and see for yourself how your child's reading improves by using *Reading Eggs* and *Reading Eggspress*.

Register your child at [www.readingeggs.co.uk/parentnews](http://www.readingeggs.co.uk/parentnews)

Registration is quick, easy and FREE!

\*Free trial only available to new customers who sign up at the above address. Not applicable for schools.

## Employer action makes TechFuture Girls open to all

Thanks to generous sponsorship from employers, *TechFuture Girls*, will now be available free to all schools.

*TechFuture Girls*, formerly known as *CC4G*, is a well-established resource for after school or lunchtime clubs, aimed at girls aged 10-14. Since its launch in 2005, more than 150,000 girls have benefited from its mix of activities, games and projects, all designed to build girls' skills and confidence in technology. The materials are developed in close collaboration with employers, and teach universally applicable skills like coding, cyber security, data management and video editing, but are themed around girls' interests, like music, sport or fashion. Regularly refreshed to reflect the fast moving world of technology, *TechFuture Girls* is aligned with the latest changes in the computing curriculum, and reflects the introduction of coding to all age groups.

Platinum sponsor *HP* has taken the lead in this initiative, with generous support from Gold sponsors *BT*, *National Grid* and *Oracle*. This considerable backing means that more than 20,000 schools can now access the programme without charge.

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[www.activelearningchildcare.co.uk](http://www.activelearningchildcare.co.uk)

**Learn to Read in 4 Weeks FREE with Reading Eggs!**

The multi-award winning online reading programme for 3-13 year olds.

With hundreds of reading lessons and activities to explore, sign up for our special **4 WEEK TRIAL\*** and see first-hand how your child's reading can improve in just 4 weeks! *Reading Eggs* provides a comprehensive range of online reading lessons and eBooks that teach children aged 3-13 the literacy skills needed for lifetime reading success.

The reason why over 90% of parents using *Reading Eggs* report a noticeable improvement in their child's reading skills is because the programme makes learning phonics and basic reading skills fun.

Sign up for our special **4 WEEK FREE trial\*** and see for yourself how your child's reading improves by using *Reading Eggs*.

**FREE 4 WEEK TRIAL\***  
Register today at  
[www.readingeggs.co.uk/parentnews](http://www.readingeggs.co.uk/parentnews)  
Registration is quick, easy and FREE Offer ends 28th February 2015  
\*Free trial only available for new customers who sign up at the above address. Not applicable to schools

## Day Trips

**New LegoLand** Windsor 01753 621621 Pirates Landing gets a major re-vamp to become New Pirates Shores featuring Castaway Camp a new pirate adventure play area with more than 100 brand new Lego modes & themed features on the Pirate Falls Treasure Quest log flume ride, plus a new themed restaurant plus lots more to offer.

**Until 21 Dec** **Alfriston Clergy House** Polegate 01323 870001 See the house decorated for Christmas throughout the ages, with medieval & Victorian seasonal foliage.

**Until 23 Dec** **Bateman's** Burwash 01435 882302 A Kipling family Christmas see the atmospheric home of Rudyard Kipling decorated for Christmas & try a special children's Christmas trail leading to an elves' workshop. **26 Dec** Boxing Day breakfast & walk. **1 Jan** New Year's Day breakfast & walk.

**Until 31 Dec** **Bluewater Shopping Mall** Dartford

Science Museum Store Pop up with live experiments & demonstrations taking place all day long whilst you get the chance to shop, children can play with all the latest toys, gadgets & goodies.

**Until 4 Jan** **Royal Naval Museum** 02392 73 7562 Biggles & Chums – First World War watercolours & works on paper art exhibition. **FREE. Until 30 Mar** Horrible Science of Submarines exhibition [www.submarine-museum.co.uk](http://www.submarine-museum.co.uk).

**Until 18 Jan** **Royal Pavilion Ice Rink** Brighton Ice Skating.

**6,7,13,14,20-22 Dec** **Bodiam Castle** Robertsbridge 01580 830196 Christmas at the Castle with Christmas traditions old & new with a Father Christmas castle grotto, making mummung masks & wassailing. **6,7,13,14,20-23 Dec** Christmas lunches.

**11 Dec** **Royal Naval Submarine Museum** 023 92 545034 Christmas Carol concert with members of Portsmouth Cathedral Choir,

all profits will go towards the maintenance of HMS Alliance, [www.submarine-museum.co.uk](http://www.submarine-museum.co.uk).

**24 Dec** **Explosion Museum of Naval Firepower** 023 9250 5600 Meet Santa

**20 Dec-4 Jan** **Royal Marines Museum** Portsmouth 023 9281 9381 Get Me Out of Here: Survival in the Arctic test your arctic survival skills in winter themed art activities. **7 Dec** Christmas Gala Concert , tickets **023 9281 9385**.

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## London Calendar

**From 5 Nov** **Tower of London** Tower Hill London 0844 482 7799 Twilight Tours

**Every weekend** **London Transport Museum** 39 Wallington Street Covent Garden London 020 7379 6344 The 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.

**Ongoing** **Royal Mews Buckingham Palace** 020 7766 7302 Family groups may explore a range of self directed activities from the art trolley, 5-11yrs. **Every weekend** **Ongoing Science Museum Imax Theatre** 0870 870 4688 Mysteries of the Unseen World, daily screenings, 8+yrs.

**Ongoing** **Royal Academy of Arts** 020 7300 8000 [www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk) New policy all children under 12yrs of age will have **FREE** entry to all exhibitions.

**Every Sun** **National Gallery** 020 7747 2885 Family workshops for families bringing paintings alive & listening to a themed story on the magic carpet, plus **FREE** family trail, [www.nationalgallery.org.uk](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk).

**Every Sun** **Hildreth Street Market** Balham SW12 Street Market with fresh food traders sourced from all over London.

**Every 2nd Sat of month** **National Geographic Store** 83-97 Regent Street 020 7025 6960 Animal Man comes face to face with slithering snakes, slimy insects & smelly skunks. Meet a wide variety of animals to include owls, lizards, tortoises, armadillos, meerkats & lots more, hands on activities are led by AnimalMan Nick Spellman for all ages.

**Every Sat** **Venue Street Market, Chiswick 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 Sat** **Blue Elephant Theatre** Camberwell 020 7701 0100 Young People's Theatre workshops, various age groups 7-18yrs. **FREE** to join.

**Every Sat 2-4pm & after school on Tue & Thurs** **South London Gallery** 65 Peckham Road 020 7703 6120 The Shop of Possibilities for children & families living on five neighbouring estates, Pelican, Southampton Way, Elmington, Wyndham & Comber, & Sceaux Gardens are invited to play at after school & weekend workshops in this recently renovated former retail outlet on the Sceaux Gardens housing estate.

**Every weekend** **Rich Mix** Bethnal Green 020 7613 7498 Kids' Cine Time family films.

**Every weekend** **Temple Station** 020 7222 1234 Harry Potter Locations Tour, 2 ½ hrs.

**Every weekend** **Greenwich ClocktowerMarket** Greenwich High Road Quirky weekend market has 50 stalls specialising in vintage, retro & antiques with **FREE** entry, [www.clocktowermarket.co.uk](http://www.clocktowermarket.co.uk) **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** Children's Multimedia Guide fun & interactive a sensory experience for all the family to enjoy, 5+yrs. **Daily** Family Resources provides questions & activities which encourage children & families to explore art works, **FREE. Daily** Family Trails, under 5's, **FREE.**

**Until 23 Dec** **Peter Harrison Planetarium** 020 8858 4422 Christmas Stars theme show, 5+yrs. **Throughout Dec** Dark Universe show, 5+yrs. **27-31 Dec** Sky tonight Live, 5+yrs. **Every Tues in Dec & Jan** Space Safari under 7's, **Every Thurs in Dec & Jan** Solar System, Galaxy, Universe show, 5+yrs. **Every Mon, Wed & Fri in Dec & Jan** Meet the Neighbours interactive show, 5+yrs, [www.mmg.co.uk](http://www.mmg.co.uk).

**Until 24 Dec** **Canary Wharf Christmas Market** Buzzing with stalls offering seasonal food & drink plus original handcrafts & unique gifts. Choose from personalised Christmas decorations, hot chestnuts, handmade soap, wooden toys, mulled wine & lots more, [www.canarywharf.com](http://www.canarywharf.com).

**Until 24 Dec** **Jubilee Park Canary Wharf** Santa's Grotto plus children's festive activities. Children are invited to make their own sweet treats using icing sugar sprinkles & sweeties at the Cookie & Cupcake Decorating workshop plus lots more, **FREE. www.canarywharf.com**.

**Until 31 Dec** **HMS Belfast** Tooley Street London 020 7940 6320 020 7403 0719(f) D-Day Family Trail bringing visitors through the ship while pointing out interesting facts that relate to D-Day. 10-11 Jan Cracking Codes decipher secret messages, family activity, intercept messages, map hazards on the sea chart & make up your own secret code, all ages. **FREE** with entrance fee. **Ongoing** HMS Belfast Private Tours with exclusive behind the barrier access, discover some of the quirky sailors' stories of living & working on board including the time a reindeer joined the crew! **Ongoing** Gun Turret Experience [www.ivm.org.uk](http://www.ivm.org.uk)

**Until 4 Jan** **Science Museum** Exhibition Rd London 0870 870 4868 3D Printing the future exhibition for all ages. **FREE. Daily** Interactive experience: Flyzone Studio a new experience that transports visitors using the latest in green screen technology. Children, adults & families are able to come along & dress up as pilots or astronauts & then take away photographs of themselves flying through the air or exploring Space, all ages. **Every weekend** Icy Cool Adventure families, under 7's, **FREE. Every Weekend** Speed of Wembley Park at the London

Designer Outlet, plus Xmas Market, traditional rides plus every skater will receive a **FREE** hot chocolate, [www.iceskatingatwembleypark.co.uk](http://www.iceskatingatwembleypark.co.uk) **Until 4 Jan** **Royal Air Force Museum** Grahame Park Way Hendon London 020 8205 2266 Biggles & Chums- First World War watercolours & works on paper exhibition. **Ongoing** Airfix exhibition with some of Airfix's most popular models from the 50,60s & 70's.

**Until 4 Jan** **Hackney Empire** 117 Wilton Street London 020 8985 2424 Mother Goose, [www.hackneyempire.co.uk](http://www.hackneyempire.co.uk)

**Until 4 Jan** **Imperial War Museum** Lambeth Road 020 7416 5439 Horrible Histories exhibition families can make their way through the exhibition, encountering themes such as Ruthless Resistance, Cracking Codes, Great Gadgets, Savage Sabotage & Clever Camouflage plus how to make invisible ink, crack codes & use fake feet. **Until 4 Jan** A Family in Wartime exhibition, **FREE** entrance. **Until 4 Jan** Secret War exhibition, **FREE** entrance. **4,11,18,25 Jan** Object handling session, families can explore objects from the collections & how they connect with iconic objects on display, families all ages. **FREE. 4,11,18,25 Jan** Creative Response, get creative, make a drawing, take a photograph, write a postcard & share your ideas with the museum, families, all ages. **FREE. 24-25 Jan** Holocaust Memorial Day discussion & replica object handling session a useful starting point for families who wish to learn about the Holocaust, 11+yrs. **Every Sun** Object Conservations family object handling sessions & Creative Response make a creative response to themes held within the new atrium & Terraced Galleries. **Ongoing** A Family in Wartime exhibition explores the lives of William & Alice Allpress & their ten children & what life in London was like during the war. A Family in Wartime is brought to life through interactive exhibits, photographs, recorded interviews with the family, archive film footage & more. **FREE. Until 8 Mar** Truth & Memory: British Art of the first World War art exhibition. [www.ivm.org.uk](http://www.ivm.org.uk)

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**Every Weekend** A Cockroach Tour of the museum visitors take on the form of cockroaches dressing up in realistic costumes, **FREE. Every Weekend** explore hundreds of real natural history specimens, discover evidence along the way using microscopes, the computer database & other scientific instruments, science educators are there to help you with your investigations. **FREE. Ongoing** Engineer Your Future exhibition, 11+yrs, **FREE. www.scienceuseum.org.uk**

**Until 4 Jan** **Natural History Museum** Cromwell Road London 020 7942 5000 Ice Rink with beginners & advanced skaters alike who can enjoy the 1,000 sq metre rink, this year there will be an interactive Christmas chalet bringing to life the Lindt Bear & other chocolate favourites, plus complimentary tuffles to sample. [www.nhm.ac.uk/whats-on](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/whats-on) **Until 4 Jan** **Natural History Museum** Cromwell Road London 020 7942 5000 Ice Rink with beginners & advanced skaters alike who can enjoy the 1,000 sq metre rink, this year there will be an interactive Christmas chalet bringing to life the Lindt Bear & other chocolate favourites, plus complimentary tuffles to sample. [www.nhm.ac.uk/whats-on](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/whats-on)

**Until 28 Feb** **Canary Wharf Ice Rink** Canada Square Park 0870 4000 601 This year the rink will be bigger & better than ever before suitable for families, [www.canarywharf.com](http://www.canarywharf.com) **2-5,8-12 Dec** **Chelsea Physic Garden** London 020 7552 5646 Festive shopping days. **29,16 Dec & 13,20,27 Jan** **Queen's House** Greenwich 020 8858 4422 Play Tuesdays, under 5's. **6,13,20,27 Dec & 10,11,7,24 & 31 Jan** Discover Saturdays meet a character from the past & take part in an exciting performance that will bring maritime history to life, 6+yrs. **FREE. 7,14,21,28 Dec & 11,18,25 Jan** Discover Sundays explore your personal connections to the sea, all ages. **FREE. School hols 22,23,27-30 Dec & 2 Jan** The lighthouse keeper hear stories & make a parcel to take with you, all ages. **FREE. 22,23,27-30 Dec & 2 Jan** Bath-toy buoys be inspired by the colourful buoys that helped sailors navigate around the sea safely & create a bath toy to take home, all ages. **FREE. www.mmg.co.uk/cutysark**

**2-31 Dec** **Hackney's Victoria Park** Tower Hamlets Winterville celebrating East London's cultural collectives & family events, theatre, music & food. Kid's Quarter travelling arts circus House of Fairy Tales Santa's Grotto. Robin Hood pantomime, horse drawn carriages, ice rink, roller disco, & fairground rides a big wheel & lots more. There will also be world street food & Christmas markets, indoor pup & food courts. [www.winterville.co.uk](http://www.winterville.co.uk)

**Until 11 Jan** **Greenwich**

**Every weekend** **Greenwich ClocktowerMarket** Greenwich High Road Quirky weekend market has 50 stalls specialising in vintage, retro & antiques with **FREE** entry, [www.clocktowermarket.co.uk](http://www.clocktowermarket.co.uk) **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** Children's Multimedia Guide fun & interactive a sensory experience for all the family to enjoy, 5+yrs. **Daily** Family Resources provides questions & activities which encourage children & families to explore art works, **FREE. Daily** Family Trails, under 5's, **FREE.**

**Until 23 Dec** **Peter Harrison Planetarium** 020 8858 4422 Christmas Stars theme show, 5+yrs. **Throughout Dec** Dark Universe show, 5+yrs. **27-31 Dec** Sky tonight Live, 5+yrs. **Every Tues in Dec & Jan** Space Safari under 7's, **Every Thurs in Dec & Jan** Solar System, Galaxy, Universe show, 5+yrs. **Every Mon, Wed & Fri in Dec & Jan** Meet the Neighbours interactive show, 5+yrs, [www.mmg.co.uk](http://www.mmg.co.uk).

**Until 24 Dec** **Canary Wharf Christmas Market** Buzzing with stalls offering seasonal food & drink plus original handcrafts & unique gifts. Choose from personalised Christmas decorations, hot chestnuts, handmade soap, wooden toys, mulled wine & lots more, [www.canarywharf.com](http://www.canarywharf.com).

**Until 24 Dec** **Jubilee Park Canary Wharf** Santa's Grotto plus children's festive activities. Children are invited to make their own sweet treats using icing sugar sprinkles & sweeties at the Cookie & Cupcake Decorating workshop plus lots more, **FREE. www.canarywharf.com**.

**Until 31 Dec** **HMS Belfast** Tooley Street London 020 7940 6320 020 7403 0719(f) D-Day Family Trail bringing visitors through the ship while pointing out interesting facts that relate to D-Day. 10-11 Jan Cracking Codes decipher secret messages, family activity, intercept messages, map hazards on the sea chart & make up your own secret code, all ages. **FREE** with entrance fee. **Ongoing** HMS Belfast Private Tours with exclusive behind the barrier access, discover some of the quirky sailors' stories of living & working on board including the time a reindeer joined the crew! **Ongoing** Gun Turret Experience [www.ivm.org.uk](http://www.ivm.org.uk)

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**Until 4 Jan** **Science Museum** Exhibition Rd London 0870 870 4868 3D Printing the future exhibition for all ages. **FREE. Daily** Interactive experience: Flyzone Studio a new experience that transports visitors using the latest in green screen technology. Children, adults & families are able to come along & dress up as pilots or astronauts & then take away photographs of themselves flying through the air or exploring Space, all ages. **Every weekend** Icy Cool Adventure families, under 7's, **FREE. Every Weekend** Speed of Wembley Park at the London

Designer Outlet, plus Xmas Market, traditional rides plus every skater will receive a **FREE** hot chocolate, [www.iceskatingatwembleypark.co.uk](http://www.iceskatingatwembleypark.co.uk) **Until 4 Jan** **Royal Air Force Museum** Grahame Park Way Hendon London 020 8205 2266 Biggles & Chums- First World War watercolours & works on paper exhibition. **Ongoing** Airfix exhibition with some of Airfix's most popular models from the 50,60s & 70's.

**Until 4 Jan** **Hackney Empire** 117 Wilton Street London 020 8985 2424 Mother Goose, [www.hackneyempire.co.uk](http://www.hackneyempire.co.uk)

**Until 4 Jan** **Imperial War Museum** Lambeth Road 020 7416 5439 Horrible Histories exhibition families can make their way through the exhibition, encountering themes such as Ruthless Resistance, Cracking Codes, Great Gadgets, Savage Sabotage & Clever Camouflage plus how to make invisible ink, crack codes & use fake feet. **Until 4 Jan** A Family in Wartime exhibition, **FREE** entrance. **Until 4 Jan** Secret War exhibition, **FREE** entrance. **4,11,18,25 Jan** Object handling session, families can explore objects from the collections & how they connect with iconic objects on display, families all ages. **FREE. 4,11,18,25 Jan** Creative Response, get creative, make a drawing, take a photograph, write a postcard & share your ideas with the museum, families, all ages. **FREE. 24-25 Jan** Holocaust Memorial Day discussion & replica object handling session a useful starting point for families who wish to learn about the Holocaust, 11+yrs. **Every Sun** Object Conservations family object handling sessions & Creative Response make a creative response to themes held within the new atrium & Terraced Galleries. **Ongoing** A Family in Wartime exhibition explores the lives of William & Alice Allpress & their ten children & what life in London was like during the war. A Family in Wartime is brought to life through interactive exhibits, photographs, recorded interviews with the family, archive film footage & more. **FREE. Until 8 Mar** Truth & Memory: British Art of the first World War art exhibition. [www.ivm.org.uk](http://www.ivm.org.uk)

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## London Calendar

[www.parents-news.co.uk](http://www.parents-news.co.uk)  
This infomation plus much more online



Twitter: @parentsnewsuk

**Theatre** Crooms Hill London 020 8858 7755 Jack & the Beanstalk pantomime, [www.greenwichtheatre.org.uk](http://www.greenwichtheatre.org.uk)

**Until 17 Jan** **Royal Opera House** Covent Garden London 020 7304 4000 The Wind in the Willows brought to life through song, music, dance & puppetry for all the family, 5+yrs, [www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/whats-on](http://www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/whats-on)

**Until 28 Feb** **Canary Wharf Ice Rink** Canada Square Park 0870 4000 601 This year the rink will be bigger & better than ever before suitable for families, [www.canarywharf.com](http://www.canarywharf.com) **2-5,8-12 Dec** **Chelsea Physic Garden** London 020 7552 5646 Festive shopping days. **29,16 Dec & 13,20,27 Jan** **Queen's House** Greenwich 020 8858 4422 Play Tuesdays, under 5's. **6,13,20,27 Dec & 10,11,7,24 & 31 Jan** Discover Saturdays meet a character from the past & take part in an exciting performance that will bring maritime history to life, 6+yrs. **FREE. 7,14,21,28 Dec & 11,18,25 Jan** Discover Sundays explore your personal connections to the sea, all ages. **FREE. School hols 22,23,27-30 Dec & 2 Jan** The lighthouse keeper hear stories & make a parcel to take with you, all ages. **FREE. 22,23,27-30 Dec & 2 Jan** Bath-toy buoys be inspired by the colourful buoys that helped sailors navigate around the sea safely & create a bath toy to take home, all ages. **FREE. www.mmg.co.uk/cutysark**

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**soft-comfort**  
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Chrome VI-free lining

For more than 30 years, Primigi shoes have been the preferred children's footwear of Italian mums. From their first steps to school, Primigi accompanies kids throughout their growth with attractive, innovative and reliable shoes. The experience of a large group, modern technologies, the careful selection of high-quality materials and Italian style come together to create specific products that satisfy all childhood needs. Thanks to its extremely vast range, Primigi offers the right product for every situation, including GORE-TEX® shoes, Primigi Sport shoes (for the most extreme sport, growing up!), and Primigi Girls shoes for the fashion-conscious Tween.