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NEXT ISSUE: SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
Booking deadline: 30 July
Feature: Education



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Editor's Welcome

Amazingly, the school year is coming to an end, and the summer holidays are almost here!

This is one of my favourite issues of the year, because there is so much going on locally to talk about. We have a bumper What's On section, full of local events, both short- and long-term, along with local summer camps for all tastes and a selection of places to go swimming nearby – something for everyone!



Our longer article in the Education section discusses relationships education in primary schools: a good read for those wishing to know more about the depth that this important subject covers.

Many parents these days are choosing to only have one child, regardless of the size of the family in which they grew up. We look at single-child families in an article on page 9, from the perspective of a mother in a 'one and done' family.

I hope Summer 2025 is a great one for you!

Lesley

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Hospital Radio Basingstoke is raising funds for refurbishment

By Anne Murrill, Fundraising Officer



The Award-winning Hospital Radio Basingstoke (HRB) has been entertaining patients for over 50 years. Now it is available beyond the hospital walls - on DAB, Smart Speakers, or online at hrbasingstoke.co.uk.

Broadcasting 24/7, HRB plays your favourite music and is supported by 35 passionate volunteers who present shows, visit patients, and manage vital fundraising efforts.

Currently, HRB is working towards a much-needed equipment refurbishment, requiring a total of £41,000. So far, £34,000 has been raised, leaving £7000 left to raise. This has been done mainly through sponsorship and advertising and with grants and donations, including Lottery funding.

The flagship fundraising initiative, 'HRB on Show', includes monthly collections at the hospital entrance and quarterly collections at local supermarkets. The hospital also participates in fetes and other community events.

The deadline for refurbishment completion is July/August 2025, hopefully in time for the open day in September. Support HRB by donating or joining the team.

Visit hrbasingstoke.co.uk, email: contact@hrbasingstoke.co.uk, or call 01256 313521.

Step into summer in Fleet: FREE family fun and more!

This summer, Fleet is the place to be for free family fun and unforgettable experiences. With a different activity happening every week during the school holidays, LoveFleet invites you to make the most of your summer close to home.



From creative kids' events to exploring Fleet's lush green spaces at The Views and Calthorpe Park, there's no shortage of ways to relax and recharge. Enjoy scenic walks along Fleet Pond or the Basingstoke Canal, then treat yourself to lunch or coffee at one of the town's fantastic eateries.

Discover Fleet's vibrant independent shops, brimming with unique finds, and don't miss the buzzing evening scene with great places to eat, drink, and unwind.

Don't forget to scan and shop local! With Fleet's Loyalty Scheme, every purchase at participating businesses gives you the chance to win £500 in vouchers. Summer in Fleet starts here!

Find out more at <https://lovefleet.co.uk/summer-in-fleet>



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Great holiday camps with Youth Options

Youth Options have been providing Ofsted-registered wraparound childcare for families in Andover for over 30 years.

The main base is located on Mead Hedges Footpaths in Andover. Youth Options provides holiday club childcare which is open to all children. Additionally, they offer term-time after school club pick-up and provision from Andover CofE, Bawksbury, Clatford, Mark Way and Vigo.

The team is proud to have recently received a 'Met' OFSTED rating at the after school club that runs from Pilgrims Cross School, provided to their students on the school's grounds.

Highly trained and dedicated staff work to empower young people by providing opportunities that support their personal development, wellbeing and future aspirations through a variety of activities including arts and crafts, baking and sports and are also taken on some great days out during the holidays.

For more information, please email Paige Richards at scottcentre@youthoptions.org.uk



Summer Reading Challenge Explore the Story Garden

From 5 July to 13 September, the Summer Reading Challenge invites children across the UK to explore the 'Story Garden.' This year's theme celebrates the outdoors, encouraging reading while inspiring creativity and imagination.

The Challenge, designed to promote literacy and a lifelong love of books, keeps young minds engaged over the summer. Children can join by borrowing books from their local library, logging their progress, unlocking activities and earning rewards like stickers and certificates.

Organised by **The Reading Agency** alongside libraries, this free initiative makes reading fun for all ages and abilities. With plenty of adventures to discover, it's a perfect way to enrich the school break. Visit your local library to sign up and see your child grow their love for books in the Story Garden.

www.readingagency.org.uk



FREE West End theatre tickets for kids

Kids Week returns this summer, allowing children ages 17 and under to enjoy over fifty West End shows for free when accompanied by a full-paying adult. Running from 21 July to 31 August, this initiative offers families a unique chance to experience live theatre together.

The lineup includes a variety of popular productions such as *Hamilton*, *Harry Potter* and *The Cursed Child*, *The Lion King*, *Matilda The Musical*, *Wicked* and many more. Alongside the performances, Kids Week features additional activities like post-show Q&A sessions, dance workshops and musical theatre classes tailored to enhance the experience.

An added bonus is that there are no booking fees, making it even more accessible for families to take part. Purchase tickets and find a full list of participating shows and activities at the link below.

Visit www.officallondontheatre.com/kids-week for more details.

Local theatres

If you love theatre but don't fancy a trip to London, we have some great local theatres that offer family shows:

Alton Assembly Rooms
Anvil Arts, Basingstoke
Corn Exchange Newbury
Holybourne Theatre
Phoenix Arts Centre, Bordon
Proteus Theatre, Basingstoke
The Harlington, Fleet
The Lights, Andover

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Families



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Relationships education in primary schools

By Erin Miller

Since September 2020, under the Children and Social Work Act 2017, it has been a statutory requirement to teach relationships education in all primary schools, including maintained schools, academies, free schools and faith schools. Unlike sex education, parents cannot withdraw their child from relationship education in primary schools.

Before 2020, much of what is covered under relationships education would have fallen under the PSHE (Personal, Social, Economic and Health Development) curriculum or been delivered in assemblies. Now schools need to be able to evidence their planning and teaching in the following areas:

Families and people who care for me. Children learn that families come in many forms, including those with same-sex parents or guardians and that all should offer love, care and security. They are taught to recognise the value of supportive relationships with trusted adults who make them feel safe and appreciated.

Caring friendships. This area focuses on kindness, honesty, loyalty and respect. Children learn how to form and sustain healthy friendships, manage conflicts calmly and identify when a friendship is causing unhappiness or harm. It encourages open communication and empathy towards others.

Respectful relationships. Pupils learn to treat others with kindness and respect, valuing everyone equally. They are taught the importance of consent, active listening and responding thoughtfully. The curriculum also emphasises resolving conflict calmly, recognising and addressing bullying and confidently



standing up for themselves and others in a respectful and inclusive manner.

Online relationships. Children learn how to stay safe and respectful in online spaces, recognising that people may act differently on the internet. They are taught to protect their personal information, report any concerning content or contact and understand that online friendships deserve the same caution and respect as those in real life.

Being safe. This area helps children learn to recognise both safe and unsafe situations. It covers personal boundaries and body privacy, encouraging children to seek help if they feel uncomfortable. They learn about trusted adults and how to ask for support with confidence.

These important topics should be embedded within a school's values and daily practice. Not all protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010 are explicitly mentioned in the statutory guidance for Relationships Education and it may be helpful to explore how your school addresses these areas.

Erin Miller is a teacher with a keen interest in how research can be used in the classroom to improve learning.

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Step Into Dance at Karen Blackburn Dance Academy

Looking for something active, creative, and confidence-building? **Karen Blackburn Dance Academy** in Hook offers inspiring dance classes for all ages—from little ones finding their feet to adults trying something new.

With expert teachers, a welcoming atmosphere, and a wide range of styles including Ballet, Tap, Modern, Acro, Street, Musical Theatre and more, there's truly something for everyone. Whether your child is starting out or you're looking to rediscover the joy of movement, Karen Blackburn Dance Academy is the place to feel supported and inspired.

Classes are welcoming, flexible, and tailored to support both beginners and those ready to push further through exams, competitions, or performances.

Ready to try a class? Come and experience what makes Karen Blackburn Dance Academy special! Now enrolling for September 2025.

Find out more at karenblackburndanceacademy.com



Double finalist honour for Newbury Teacher

Horris Hill School in Newbury is delighted to announce its Director of STEAM, Mrs Carina Bone, has been named a finalist in not one, but two major national teaching awards.

A passionate educator and champion of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) learning, Mrs Bone is a finalist in this year's **Pearson National Teaching Awards** (Teacher of the Year) and the **Tes Schools Awards** (Subject Lead of the Year – Secondary), placing her among the most exceptional educators in the UK. This remarkable recognition reflects Mrs Bone's outstanding commitment to science education and her lasting impact on pupils across all year groups. From nurturing curiosity in the nursery to assisting in scholarship examinations at the top of the school, Mrs Bone's passion and dedication has made science come alive for Horris Hill pupils.

Carina commented, "I am truly honoured and humbled to be recognised as a finalist in both Awards. It is a privilege to be part of the Horris Hill community, where the passion for learning and discovery is felt in every classroom."

www.horrishill.com



Children unite to tackle climate change

Nearly 250,000 children from schools across the UK and beyond have come together for **JUST ONE Tree Day**, an annual event that combines climate education with direct action. The day raises funds for global reforestation while delivering free climate change resources to classrooms, empowering the next generation to be part of the solution.

Organized by the non-profit JUST ONE Tree, the campaign supports tree planting in deforested areas around the world — with just £1 planting one tree. The initiative is a partner in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and it's making real change by regenerating land and ocean ecosystems, restoring biodiversity, and helping local communities thrive.

Schools can now register to take part in the next JUST ONE Tree Day on **Friday 17 October 2025**. Join the 700 schools already making a real difference to ecosystems and communities around the world—one school forest at a time.

To learn more or get involved visit www.justonetree.life/schools-sustainability



Park View supporting the school community

The **Park View Swap Shop** was established to provide families with access to essential school items that may otherwise be difficult to afford or that children may have quickly outgrown. As a school, Park View is very aware of the financial pressures many families face and is committed to offering meaningful support to the school community.

The Swap Shop currently offers a wide range of items, including school uniforms, PE kits, books, school shoes, coats, and even World Book Day costumes. All items are available free of charge, and donations are warmly welcome.

Park View is proud to have received a generous grant from the Basingstoke SOUP fund, which enabled the school to launch the project. They are also deeply grateful for continued support through additional funding, allowing the school to purchase some of the most in-demand items for the shop.

Families who have used the Swap Shop have described it as an incredibly valuable resource, helping to ease financial burdens while also fostering a stronger sense of community and belonging.

www.parkviewprimary.hants.sch.uk

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A guide to baby play

By Emily Kearns

During their first year, babies grow and develop in ways you might never have thought possible. By filling their lives with beneficial games and activities, you can help them learn about the world they live in, having fun along the way. Here are some enjoyable and practical ways to introduce development play with your infant in their first year.

1-4 weeks

Dance together

Dancing with your newborn will help to strengthen their emotional development while promoting a deeper bond with you. Add soothing music and they will relax into your arms while you sway and rock them around the room: think dreamy folk or maybe some ballads. If your go-to involves punchier music, consider Rockabye Baby's collection of rock, pop and hip-hop songs converted to sweet, soothing, tinkling lullabies for babies and children. Holding your baby close will make them feel safe and protected in their new environment and will also encourage the release of oxytocin, the love hormone.

1-3 months

Sounds around the house

Give your baby a sound tour of your house, allowing them to take in everyday noises as you explain them. Turn on taps, the shower and the hairdryer and see how they respond. Press the buttons on the microwave to make a beep, close cupboards and doors gently, turn keys in locks, knock at the door and ring the doorbell. Making the connection between people and sounds is an early lesson for your baby in cause and effect and it will help to further their cognitive development. Try introducing baby to a new sound every day to help them learn more about the world they're living in.

3-6 months

Blow raspberries

Learning how to control their tongue and lips is an important precursor to speech. Blowing raspberries is simple and entertaining - stick out your tongue, tighten your lips around it and blow! Now wait for your baby to respond as they learn to take turns and communicate back and forth. They will likely start off puckering their lips together and blowing to create quite a lot of tiny spit bubbles before eventually sticking out their tongue and copying you.

Tummy raspberries

When your baby is lying on their changing mat and before you dress them, press your lips to their tummy and blow air onto it to make a funny noise. They will likely love both the tickling sensation and the silly noise and this in turn will encourage them to make their own raspberry sounds, a precursor to babbling, which leads to talking.

6-9 months

Picture this

The importance of books and reading to your baby's development can't be overstated and at this stage in their life, they will really benefit from picture books. These are a form of visual art and are your baby's first experience of this creative world. Young babies do not understand words, so they absorb information in visual form and use it to learn about things they don't yet know the names for. Point at the pictures and say what they are to help your baby make the connection between the image and the word. Reading helps your child make strides in their speech and language development. With picture books they are constantly learning about the world and you are in turn feeding their imagination.



9-12 months

Chase the baby

The jury's out on exactly why babies enjoy being chased but they genuinely do! It's been suggested that evolution is involved and that playing chase simulates predator-prey relationships, which helps to build natural survival skills.

Then there's the so-called 'thrill of the chase' and a new sense of autonomy as once your baby can crawl, they have more control over their body and can move from one place to another. Babies also expect you to catch them, which they look forward to because, of course, you are their everything.

This activity will help to strengthen their arm, leg, core and neck muscles, while building their social awareness and sense of trust in you.

Emily Kearns is the author of *The Baby Play Guide: Practical Ways to Introduce Developmental Play with Your Baby in Their First Year* published by Vie (£10.99).

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One and done

By Ann Magalhaes

Single-child families are on the rise in the UK. According to the Office for National Statistics: '... families with one child made up forty four percent (3.6 million) in 2022, while families with two children made up forty one percent (3.4 million) and families with three or more children fifteen percent (1.2 million).'

My daughter was twenty eight weeks premature and, not wanting to chance another ten week hospital stay, my husband and I agreed we were very happy to be 'one and done'.

The stories I read then about being an only child were rather negative and upsetting, using words like 'over-indulged', 'selfish' and 'lonely,' not how I wanted to describe our much-loved child. And it simply didn't match my experience in our happy family of three.

Then, in 2010, an article in *The Sunday Times* headed: 'Life is Sweetest for the Only Child,' revealed new studies showing that only children are more contented than children with siblings. I remember thinking that finally someone was speaking positively about our experience.

Here are my reflections on 'one and done' parenting.

Recognise the upsides

For us, family life has mainly felt uncomplicated and calm. Take travelling; three airline tickets, one hotel room, one small rental car and only one child to keep track of. A quick breeze through Reddit and you see parents of only children sharing a less-stressed life where daily routines are more manageable and financial resources aren't divided.

Research shows that lack of money places more stress on a family than the number of children. That said, with one child, the entire school process is also a 'one and done.' One set of homework and exams, one set of sports/arts fixtures and lessons. It's less complex. That doesn't mean better nor that those with multiples can't sort all that stuff out – because they can and do, beautifully.

Teach how to share and resolve conflict

Without a sibling, the single child directs frustrations towards parents and, later, friends. This gives parents the opportunity to model healthy and positive ways to handle disagreements. If



you see your only child disagreeing with a friend, revisit it with a conversation about what they could have done differently.

Sharing does not come naturally until between the ages of 3 and 5. Show single children how to share by modelling it. Offer to divide and share the last slice of pizza. Take turns choosing which movie to watch. Seeing sharing in action makes it so much easier for children to understand.

Delay gratification

It's so easy to say 'sure' when your only child asks for something. If there were a sibling your child might have to wait or completely forego what they want. So remember that 'No' or 'not yet' can be the right answers sometimes. It's important your child gets used to waiting, along with clear routines, rules and positive discipline when necessary.

Recognise the downsides

Children with siblings share their unique family experience with allies. There may be cousins and there will be friends but, for a single child, there will never be a family peer or ally – and this will be true throughout their lives; when they reach adulthood they will have to care for ageing parents alone, for instance.

With a strong foundation though, there is no reason why only children have any less chance of growing into strong, independent individuals than their friends with siblings.

Ann Magalhaes is founder of The Parent Team (www.theparent.team), parenting educators offering classes and workshops teaching evidence-based parenting skills and offering parents practical, effective support.



Enjoy the Stick Man Trail at Alice Holt Forest

There's a new way to play this summer at Alice Holt Forest! Hop and skip along the Stick Man Trail, get rolling with the new giant marble run or enjoy 6 zones of fun along the Play Trail.

Grab your marble from the Visitor Centre before you head out. Wobble through the new balance beams play structure and bounce up high with the new Go Ape Nets Adventure. Test out your throwing skills with Disc Golf and enjoy the free games on the lawn.

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The A-Z of swimming benefits

Athleticism – swimming is a dynamic, action-based and highly athletic sport. Once a child develops such athleticism, it can be transferred to other sports too.

Belief – swimming is a great confidence builder, helping children become body confident and develop belief in their athletic abilities, social skills and their teamwork.

Competing – once they have learned to swim proficiently, many children enjoy the excitement of competing for better strokes and faster times, either with themselves or with others.

Discipline – discipline is required for children to become good swimmers. They may have to dedicate more time to the pool and give up other activities in order to improve but they will also benefit from the rewards of this.

Equilibrium – swimming is great for mental health and mood balancing, as well as improving body balance.

Floating – floating is a peaceful activity which lowers blood pressure as well as stress-related neuro-chemicals, inducing your mind and body into a state of calm.

Great fun – being a confident swimmer means your child will be able to take part in a huge range of FUN activities like splashing about in the sea, kayaking, sailing or going to water parks.

Healthy – swimming is great for the heart and circulation, provides natural, low-impact resistance for building muscle and helps release endorphins which make you feel happy.

Inexpensive – swimming can be an inexpensive hobby. Pool fees are generally low and you can also swim free in the ocean and other appropriate bodies of water, with the right precautions.

Joins – water provides natural support and resistance which



helps develop strong joints.

Keeping going – swimming builds your kids' muscles and lung capacity, allowing them to swim for longer. This, in turn, builds their mental endurance.

Life-long – those who learn to swim during childhood are more likely to continue swimming as adults, offering life-long physical and mental health benefits.

Movement – kids who live active lives are happier, healthier and smarter because they keep blood pumping through their bodies and brains – essential for development in children.

No off-season – swimming can be enjoyed regardless of weather or season.

Outdoor swimming – what better way for your child to experience the great outdoors than diving into great bodies of water?

Playing – swimming is a great opportunity for children to meet and play with others from different backgrounds and schools. Playing is an important part of children's social development which teaches them to accept differences, be assertive and develop empathy.

Qualifications – children can make progress and earn medals and certificates. They can even enter competitions or qualify for a squad. This boosts self-esteem and confidence.

Relaxation – equally, swimming doesn't have to be about competing or even about pushing hard to get fitter. The soothing environment of the water is relaxing and can promote a sense of tranquility and calmness.

Safety – because safety is an essential part of learning to swim, children learn to be safety-conscious and aware of hazards. Being able to swim is a skill that your child will use to keep safe throughout their life.

Training – to become a competent or advanced swimmer, training is essential, providing your child with a routine to follow and an understanding of how following that routine leads to competence.

Underwater – not only is it fascinating to swim underwater in the ocean, needing to hold their breath means swimming underwater can also increase a child's lung capacity.

Vitality – swimming's benefits for physical and mental wellbeing mean your child will grow up with vitality.

Water sports – swimming can be a gateway to a wide range of sports like diving, surfing, water-skiing and scuba-diving.

Xtra benefits – unlike some other sports, swimming is low-impact and provides more resistance than dryland exercises. This means that less stress is placed on joints and muscles and children are therefore less likely to suffer an injury.

Younger longer – this won't be an incentive for your child but one interesting fact about swimming is that, by improving muscle mass, lung function and brain health, swimming can help you stay younger for longer.

Zeal – aka commitment, dedication and enthusiasm! All three will necessarily be present if your child progresses well as a swimmer.

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Now booking: Holiday sessions & September 2025 afterschool club places. Scan the QR Code

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Youth Options is a registered Charity (1056463).

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Local swimming pools

Take a dip this summer inside or outside: it's refreshing, fun and great exercise! Here are some local places to swim.

Alton Sports Centre, GU34 1ST

everyoneactive.com/centre/alton-sports-centre

Alton Sports Centre boasts two superb swimming pools and has family-friendly swim sessions.

Andover Leisure Centre, SP10 1QP

placesleisure.org/centres/andover-leisure-centre

Andover Leisure Centre is perfect for families with its main swimming pool, learner pool and splash pad, ideal for introducing children to water. Swimming lessons are available.

Basingstoke Aquadrome, RG22 6PG

basingstokeleisure.com/basingstoke-aquadrome

Make a splash in three swimming pools, including a lagoon. There are also rapids, flumes, a baby beach and water features.

Basingstoke Sports Centre, Festival Place RG21 7LE

better.org.uk/leisure-centre/basingstoke-and-newbury/basingstoke-sports-centre

This family-oriented venue features two swimming pools, with family splash times and lessons on offer.

Energique Fitness and Wellness Centre, Alton, GU34 2NB

energiquefitness.co.uk

Swimming lessons are available at this pool.

Hart Leisure Centre, Fleet, GU51 5EE

everyoneactive.com/centre/hart-leisure-centre

Hart Leisure Centre offers activities for the whole family, including three swimming pools, a toddler-friendly splash zone and fun 'wet 'n' wild' sessions.

Horizons, Aldermaston Roundabout, Basingstoke, RG24 9NU

apollohotels.com/workout

A clean pool within a hotel, which is ideal for family time.

QM Sports Centre, Queen Mary's College, RG21 3HF

qmleisure.co.uk

This venue in Basingstoke includes a swimming pool with sessions for all, from toddlers to adults. There are additional family swim sessions during school holidays.

Swim Odiham, RAF Odiham, Hook, RG29 1QT

swimodiham.co.uk

This is a great local pool which can be booked for family swimming sessions or parties.

Tadley Health and Fitness Centre, RG26 3LA

basingstokeleisure.com/tadley-health-fitness-centre

Whether you're looking to build children's water-confidence in swimming lessons or are looking for fun activities for weekends or school holidays, this is a great pool. Plus there is an inflatable obstacle course every Saturday from 2:45-3:45pm!

Whitehill and Bordon Leisure Centre, Whitehill, GU35 0JE

everyoneactive.com/centre/whitehill-bordon-leisure-centre

This centre includes a learner pool and a main swimming pool, with family swim sessions available.



Summer Holiday Clubs 2025

There's a long break from school coming up, and one way to keep the children busy during this time is at a great local holiday club!

Here are some local options that provide a range of activities.

Basingstoke Gymnastics Club

basingstokegym.co.uk

Packed with team games, gymnastics, arts and crafts and the chance to make new friends and learn new skills, these holiday camps are the perfect way to stay active and creative during the school break!

Elite Holiday Clubs

eliteholidayclubs.co.uk

Elite Holiday Camps in Fleet and Eversley offer fun, safe, and engaging activities for children aged 4-14. Programmes include exhilarating options like laser combat, immersive bushcraft and survival skills and show-stopping musical theatre.

Holybourne Theatre

holybournetheatre.co.uk

Wind in the Willows play-in-a-week acting workshop from 4-8 August. This fun-filled week of creativity and exploration will allow the children a rare chance to perform in front of a live audience and to experiment with characterisation in the most exciting way.

Perform

perform.org.uk

Take a tumble down the rabbit hole this July and August for a topsy-turvy adventure into Wonderland. Join Alice, the White Rabbit, the Queen of Hearts and all your favourite characters on a fun-filled drama, dance and singing adventure. These lively courses for 4-10s run for three, four or five days (10am-3pm), culminating in a colourful performance, complete with costumes and original music.

Ultimate Activity Camps

ultimateactivity.co.uk

Ultimate Activity Camps provide outstanding, inspiring, and Ofsted-regulated activity day camps with the primary function of delivering a very high level of care and welfare for 4-14-year-olds during the school holidays. They deliver this childcare through a fantastic range of exciting activities, whether these be in the art room, the sports hall, playing fields or in the woods – based at Wellesley Prep School in Hook.

Youth Options

youthoptions.co.uk

Based in Andover, highly trained and dedicated staff work to empower young people by providing opportunities that support their personal development, well-being, and future aspirations through a variety of activities including arts and crafts, baking and sports. Children will also go on some great days out during the holidays.

Summer 2025 Activities

There are lots of longer-term activities going on locally during the summer break this year. Here is a great selection to suit every taste!



Bubble Fun at Winchester Science Centre

A Natural History of Wonderland Trail at Gilbert White's House and Gardens, Selborne: 19 Jul-7 Sep

This summer the March Hare, Cheshire Cat and other curious creatures that Alice encountered in Wonderland will be hiding in the gardens! Each creature has a challenge for you to complete. Collect a map, find the creatures and compete the challenges along the way. 10:30am-4:30pm gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk

All Our Futures at Willis Museum and Sainsbury Gallery, Basingstoke: until 3 Aug

Three projects developed with the Arts Society Basingstoke: 1. Biodiversity, threats to local habitats and solutions, 2. Printing Like William Morris and 3. Rail 200. hampshireculture.org.uk

Bubble Fun at Winchester Science Centre: 19 Jul-3 Sep

Families are invited to discover the science of bubbles with every pop. Visitors can play with bubbles, dance with bubbles, explore nature's bubbles and even get inside bubbles as interactive activities and explosive shows bring all the bubble-tastic fun to life. winchestersciencecentre.org

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang: Celebrating 60 Years at Mottisfont, near Romsey: 19 Jul-2 Nov

Step into the world of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang with this extraordinary new exhibition, celebrating Ian Fleming's iconic tale like never before. See over 80 original illustrations, including, for the very first time, the complete set by legendary artist John Burningham, created 60 years ago. 11am-4pm nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/hampshire/mottisfont



Festival of Archaeology

Extinction at Marwell Zoo, Winchester: 19 Jul-7 Sep

The jaw-dropping Extinction event will bring visitors face-to-fang with lost legends and prehistoric creatures in a world-first collection of extinct animals crafted from over two million toy bricks. Included with general admission to the zoo. marwell.org.uk

Festival of Archaeology at Hinton Ampner, Alresford: 26 Jul-3 Aug

For an inspiring day out with all the family, you can depend upon the passion, skills and knowledge of the Hinton Ampner Heritage Archaeology Ranger Team to furnish you with the know-how and skills to get the most out of your archaeological adventure, be it your first or seventy-first! nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/hampshire/hinton-ampner

Finkley Summer of Fun at Finkley Down Farm, Andover: 23 Jul-2 Sep

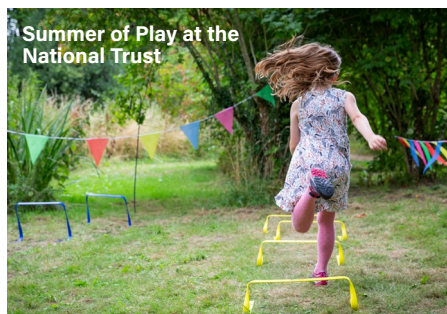
Spend a farm-tastic day out with all the family at this award-winning farm and adventure park, with special live shows for the kids every day. finkleydownfarm.co.uk

Let's Go Camping! at Proteus Theatre, Basingstoke: 26 Jul-3 Aug

Pack up your sleeping bag, your torch and your welly boots, and follow Pip and her Dad to the 'GREAT OUTDOORS' for a hilarious, theatrical and interactive camping adventure...just don't forget the tent pegs! 10am / 12pm / 2pm proteustheatre.com

Summer of Fun at Wellington Country Park, Riseley: 1-25 Aug

From thrilling skateboarding sessions to cooling off in the splash zone with a very special BBQ, the



Summer of Play at the National Trust

fun never stops. Let the little ones bounce to their hearts' content on bouncy castles, get creative with summer-themed crafts, and enjoy all the best of the Park's usual attractions. 9:30am-5:30pm wellingtoncountrypark.co.uk

Summer of Play at The Vyne, Sherborne St. John: 19 Jul-31 Aug

Young adventurers can get active with eight fun family games and challenges hidden in The Vyne's sprawling gardens. Throw hoops, play chess or create a tune on a music station. Play quoits in the tea garden or create your own play on the stage in the wild garden. Hold your own skipping rope contest on the north lawn or challenge each other to a relay race. In the summerhouse you can sit and read children's books. 10am-4pm nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/hampshire/the-vyne

The Very Hungry Caterpillar Trail at Hinton Ampner, Alresford: 19 Jul-7 Sep

Join an enchanting journey inspired by Eric Carle's beloved children's book, The Very Hungry Caterpillar™. Through this captivating trail, little ones can experience one of nature's greatest transformations. 10am-5pm nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/hampshire/hinton-ampner

Wild Wednesdays at Gilbert White's House and Gardens, Selborne: 30 Jul-27 Aug

An hour of hands-on activities for children and their parents to experience local wildlife. Using the range of habitats at the site, each day has a different theme to introduce the creatures large and small who live alongside us all the time. The sessions focus on the joy that experiencing nature brings, with a little bit of learning along the way. 10:30am / 2pm gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk



FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY AT THE SHED!

The Shed in Whitehill & Bordon has delicious food, unique shopping & exciting activities for all ages!

Eat, Shop & Play at The Shed! From **tasty treats** and **live entertainment** to **crafty workshops** and **unique events**, there's always something happening! Little ones will love **Toddler Tuesdays**, while adventurers can step into the Dino Dome to meet life-sized dinosaurs. Whether you're here for food, fun, or fantastic experiences, The Shed is the perfect place for families to explore and enjoy!

CHECK OUT WHAT'S ON AT THE SHED AND PLAN YOUR NEXT VISIT TODAY.



theshedwb.com



The Shed, Sergeants Yard, Bordon, Hampshire. GU35 0DJ



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Roar into the past with Extinction at Marwell

A fearsome sabre-toothed tiger and giant woolly mammoth will come roaring into Marwell Zoo this summer!

The jaw-dropping **Extinction** event will bring visitors face-to-fang with lost legends and prehistoric creatures in a world-first collection of extinct animals crafted from over two million toy bricks. Running from **July 19 to 7 September**, Extinction will shine a spotlight on lost species including dinosaurs, an incredible six-metre-long woolly mammoth, a hissing titanoboa and a giant ground sloth.

Explorers will collect a map and journey across the zoo's 140 acres of parkland to meet more than 20 life-sized recreations of the animals that once roamed the Earth. There will be plenty of photo opportunities, including the chance to pose with a giant dinosaur egg and dodo and visitors to Extinction Basecamp can help build a massive sabre-toothed tiger and craft their own mini mammoth or dodo to take home.

Extinction is included with general admission to the zoo. Book online to save at marwell.org.uk



Birdworld set to launch new outdoor play zone for summer

Birdworld is set to launch its eagerly anticipated outdoor play area, just in time for the school summer holidays.

The new woodland-themed zone is the latest addition to the Farnham-based park's multimillion-pound redevelopment and has been designed to inspire imaginative play, adventure and a deeper connection with the natural world.

Set amongst the trees, Birdworld's new 'Adventure Play' will feature bird nest towers, connecting bridges and a spiral clamber net – encouraging children to explore as if they were part of the woodland themselves. There'll also be accessible pathways at varying heights, ensuring a fun and inclusive space for all abilities. It's a huge moment for the UK's largest bird park, which is also preparing to open a 1,700-square-foot indoor play area later this year – as well as unveiling new developments to its entrance.

Be the first to hear about VIP invites and launch day details, sign up to Birdworld's Early Birds scheme at birdworld.co.uk/earlybirds



A memorable summer at Basingstoke Leisure Park

Basingstoke Leisure Park offers the perfect destination for families this summer. Splash about and ride the flumes at Basingstoke Aquadrome. For those who enjoy a bit of friendly competition, Hollywood Bowl is the perfect choice for all ages. Film lovers can catch the latest releases at the Odeon cinema, or for a touch of history, step back in time at Milestones Museum. For something more adventurous check out iFLY Indoor Skydiving.

When hunger strikes, there's no shortage of choice—grab a bite at McDonald's, KFC, or enjoy a relaxed meal at Spruce Goose. Costa offers a perfect coffee break, and most venues also have their own cafés.

With so much to see and do in one place and plenty of free parking, Basingstoke Leisure Park is the ideal destination for summer holiday adventures.

Visit www.BasingstokeLeisurePark.co.uk to find out more.



The Greatest Show On Wheels returns to Farnborough

The British Motor Show showcases the latest new cars, beautiful classic cars, amazing supercars and thrilling live action. With driving experiences, fun family-friendly activities and live music - perfect for families AND car fans.

The amazing Arena events include Stunt Shows, Strictly Cars Dancing, Supercar Showdown, Red Devils Parachute Display and more! They even have the LEGO Group and Smyths Toys Live Stage bringing you giveaways, game shows, celebrities, and a whole load of fun!

Activities for the littlest car fans in the family include LEGO builds & giveaways, giant Scalextric, car racing, driving sims, colouring station, rides, face painting and much, more. There are also driving lessons available for ages 10-17.

Enjoy an unforgettable day of entertainment for all ages. 15-17 August at Farnborough Exhibition Centre. Book your tickets online at www.thebritishmotorshow.live

What's on

July/August 2025

All listings are correct at the time of publication. Please check with the venue before you visit in case anything has changed.

JULY

5 Jul Wonder Gigs 0-4 Years at Proteus Theatre, Basingstoke

Each themed session includes toe-tapping, acoustic covers of well-known pop, rock and folk tunes from a live, professional musician.
proteustheatre.com

6 Jul Family Fete at the Watermill Theatre, Newbury

Have a go at some traditional fete activities and try your hand at some crafts. 12pm
watermill.org.uk

6 Jul Reggae Roast featuring Mr Williamz at The Town Park, Bordon

Bringing the sounds of Brixton and Notting Hill Carnival to Hampshire, this promises to be a day of sun, rum and good vibes! 12:30pm
phoenixarts.co.uk

6 Jul Outdoor Theatre: The Tempest at Shaw House, Newbury

Immersion Theatre proudly presents The Tempest: Shakespeare's unforgettable tale of magic, romance, comedy and revenge. With heaps

of audience participation, this mesmerising show will be brought to life in unforgettable style, perfect seasoned theatre-goers and newcomers to Shakespeare's. 5pm
westberkshireheritage.org

12 Jul Get Fishing at Alice Holt Forest, Farnham

Get Fishing is Farnham Angling Trust's campaign to get more people fishing more often and is free for any juniors that are brand new to angling. 9am / 12pm
forestryengland.uk

12 Jul Family Craft Morning - Rainbow Fans at West Berkshire Museum, Newbury

As part of Newbury Pride, West Berkshire Museum is hosting a family craft morning to make rainbow fans to wave and display at today's event. 10am-12pm
westberkshireheritage.org

12 and 13 Jul Matilda the Musical Junior at Holybourne Theatre

Matilda The Musical JR. is adapted from the full-length musical featuring words and lyrics by Dennis Kelly and Tim Minchin.
holybournetheatre.co.uk

19 Jul Dolls House Day at Alton Assembly Rooms

10am-4pm
altonassemblyrooms.com

19 Jul Gilbert White's Birthday at Gilbert White's House and Gardens, Selborne

Celebrating Gilbert White's 305th birthday with free admission! Gilbert White was born on 18th July 1720, and he loved company! So what better thing to do than invite all of you to enjoy his beautiful home and gardens free of charge! 10:30am-4:30pm
gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk

19 Jul Princesses Unite at The Lights Andover

The ultimate children's pop princess party that's sweeping the nation! Featuring a cast of dazzling princesses, this enchanting spectacle brings all your favourite hit songs and party dances to life in a vibrant, high-energy performance that will leave audiences of all ages spellbound. 1pm
thelights.ticketstolve.com

19 and 20 Jul Big Wild Weekend at Hawk Conservancy Trust, Andover

A festival of British nature, showcasing the wonderful natural world on our doorsteps. British wildlife TV Presenter, Naturalist and Conservationist Nigel Marven will be at the Hawk Conservancy Trust for the weekend!
hawk-conservancy.org

20 Jul Summer Fair at Shaw House, Newbury

Browse over 60 local stalls located

on the Great Lawn and enjoy refreshments from the café, bar and caterers. There will be creative crafts, face painting, a magic show and a bouncy castle. 11am-4pm
westberkshireheritage.org

23 Jul Out of the Box at Arlington Arts Centre, Newbury

A family-friendly circus comedy show, which sees an unlikely character and his box bring audiences together through joyful awe, never knowing what to expect next. 2pm
arlingtonarts.ticketstolve.com

25-27 Jul Vanlife and Overlander Celebration at Newbury Showground

A fun-filled family event celebrating everything about vanlife. There will be live music, great food and stalls, entertainment for all ages.
vanlifecelebration.com

31 Jul Sing-a-Saurus at Alton Assembly Rooms

Where dinosaur magic meets infectious pop music with incredible educational values. Meet the new singing superstar for pre-schoolers capturing everyone's hearts and attention. 10:30am
altonassemblyrooms.com

AUGUST

1-3 Aug
Reading FC Community Trust at Wellington Country Park, Riseley
Meet the coaches from Reading FC Community Trust on the main green. 10:30am-3:30pm
wellingtoncountrypark.co.uk



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1-3 Aug
Alice in Wonderland at the Corn Exchange Newbury
 Come along and join Alice in her wonderful fantasy adventure with a story that will remind us of the power of imagination, curiosity and creativity. 1pm / 6pm
cornexchangenewbury.com

2 Aug
Battle Proms at Highclere Castle, Newbury
 Pack up a picnic, stock up on fizz and join the party; whether you're planning a romantic evening as a couple, a celebration as a group, or want to enjoy an informal concert as a family then this could be the unique experience you have been looking for. 4pm
battleproms.com/venues/highclere-castle

2 and 3 Aug
Riseley Tennis Club at Wellington Country Park, Riseley
 Challenge the coaches from Riseley Tennis Club to a match on the main green. Come and test your tennis skills and learn from the professionals. 10am-4pm
wellingtoncountrypark.co.uk

3 Aug
Outdoor cinema: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone at The Vyne, Sherborne St. John
 For a magical movie under the stars, don't miss this screening of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone on The Vyne's north lawn. 6:30pm
nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/hampshire/the-vyne

4-8 Aug
WeekKicks Football at Wellington Country Park, Riseley
 Join the coaches from South Berks WeekKicks on the main green and

test your football skills. 11am-2pm
wellingtoncountrypark.co.uk

7-10 Aug
Retro Festival at Newbury Showground
 There's family fun for everyone at this epic retro weekend. You can have a whirl on the dodgems, jump & jive at a tea dance and set your senses alight at the burlesque cabaret show.
retrofestival.co.uk

8 Aug
Sing-a-Saurus at The Harlington, Fleet
 Little fans can sing, dance, and groove along LIVE as Sing-A-Saurus performs favourite songs, popular nursery rhymes, and interactive fun—complete with bubbles, dancing and surprise video appearances from Roxy, Chompy, and Stompy! 11am
theharlington.co.uk

8 and 15 Aug
Quantum Theatre presents Through the Looking Glass at Hinton Ampner, Alresford
 With live music and the full array of Carroll's fantastical characters, this lively new version follows Alice's adventures in the looking-glass world she enters through the mirror above her drawing-room fireplace.... 5:30pm
nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/hampshire/hinton-ampner

9 Aug
The Addams Family from RARE Productions at The Lights Andover
 In the kooky, upside-down world of the Addams Family, to be sad is to be happy, to feel pain is to feel joy, and death and suffering are the stuff of their dreams. 2pm / 6:30pm
thelights.ticketstolve.com

9 and 10 Aug
Meet the Fleet Vehicle Weekend at Wellington Country Park, Riseley
 Come and learn about all of Welly Park's vehicles, up-close and personal with the park wardens. See diggers, tractors, trucks and more all day on the main green. 10:30am-2pm
wellingtoncountrypark.co.uk

11 Aug
Knight Time at The Lights Andover
 This one-person show offers an exciting story using puppetry. The itself lasts approximately 45 minutes with pre-show games and a post-show workshop. 11am
thelights.ticketstolve.com

11-15 Aug
Skate School Workshops at Wellington Country Park, Riseley
 Join a fantastic skate school on the main green and test your skateboarding skills on a skate ramp! 10:30am-4pm
wellingtoncountrypark.co.uk

15-17 Aug
The British Motor Show at Farnborough Exhibition Centre
 The British Motor Show showcases the latest new cars, beautiful classic cars, amazing supercars and thrilling live action. With driving experiences, fun family-friendly activities and live music, it's perfect for families AND car fans. Enjoy an unforgettable day of entertainment for all ages. Activities for the littlest car fans in the family include a giant Scalextric, RC car racing, driving sims, colouring station, rides and much, much more. They can even get behind the wheel with Mini Rovers!
thebritishmotorshow.live

16 Aug
Scimitar-horned Oryx Day at Marwell Zoo, Winchester
 Celebrate the very first International Scimitar-Horned Oryx Day. Thanks to Marwell supporters, the once Extinct in the Wild scimitar-horned oryx now has its very own World Animal Day.
marwell.org.uk

16 and 17 Aug
The Seatacular Show and Junk Crafts with Junk Jodie at Wellington Country Park, Riseley
 Enjoy a fun-filled day of live entertainment and creative crafts! Junk Jodie is known for her energetic performances and eco-friendly fun, inspiring children to create, play, and explore through storytelling and upcycled art.
wellingtoncountrypark.co.uk

18-23 Aug
Animal Farm Week at Wellington Country Park, Riseley
 Adventure down to the animal farm and meet lots of farmyard friends. Join in with stamp trails, interactive talks and competitions! 10:30am-5pm
wellingtoncountrypark.co.uk

23-25 Aug
Bouncy Castles in the Park at Wellington Country Park, Riseley
 Inflatables include obstacle courses, games, challenges, bouncy castles, play zones and toddler castles. 10:30am-4pm
wellingtoncountrypark.co.uk

30 Aug
Music on the Views at The Harlington, Fleet
 Experience a family-friendly live music festival right here on your doorstep.
theharlington.co.uk

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19 JULY - 7 SEPTEMBER

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