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Issue 89: October 2013
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Nov/Dec 2013: Seasonal Celebrations

Deadline Mon 7 Oct. **Jan/Feb: Nurseries**

and Childcare Deadline Mon 25 Nov.

Send in your news, stories and advertising
bookings to the details left.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 6 What's New
- 9 11+ test taking tips
- 12 Starting Nursery
- 14 School Open Days
- 16 What's On
- 20 Clubs and Classes
- 22 Technology



Front cover image:
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Trending articles on the FNWL website:

- ▲ Local Fireworks listings
- ▲ Local Halloween events
- ▲ Advice for 11+ students
- ▲ Competitions



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News & Views from around North West London



Isabelle Brewer (featured front right) just 11 years old gave a belting rendition of "Walking On Sunshine" and "Take a Bow" by Rihanna, which saw her pass, her grade 1 singing with Merit. There were smiles all around as she

Little Miss Sunshine is Walking on Sunshine

celebrated exam results with her fellow Music Gym students and their 100% pass rate. Ranging from age 8 to 15 and taking Rocks school guitar exams and singing exams the kids stormed through confidently, many receiving distinctions. Head teacher Jo Stevens said "we are really proud of the kids, their hard work, enthusiasm and dedication has really paid off and we look forward to seeing them grow as musicians and performers, I think the key is that the kids are engaged in the lessons and have fun, they make great friends in the small groups, they play electric guitar or sing with a mic and play top 40 or great rock classics whilst still getting a full musical

education with notation and rhythm". Music Gym who are an official Yamaha Music Point, recently expanded with the launch of their impressive keyboard studio. The keyboard studio has 8 superb Yamaha keyboards for each student to play on (max 8 per class). This week they also announced drum lessons which has seen huge demand.

To celebrate, Music Gym are offering free taster lessons for drums, keyboards and guitars please contact alan@musicgym.co.uk for further information or call 01923 523027.

www.musicgym.co.uk [www.facebook.com/
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News & Views from around North West London

Sign Up For Humphrey's Pyjama Week



Children throughout the country are being asked to join former CBEEBIES presenter, Sid Sloane in helping to raise money for a children's charity. He is supporting The Children's Trust in the massively popular Humphrey's Pyjama Week and is encouraging nurseries, playgroups, primary schools and mother and toddler groups to get involved. The exciting fundraiser runs from 7-11 October and for a voluntary donation of £2, youngsters, staff and parents can wear their favourite PJs for a day during the week. They can also organise themed events such as best dressed competitions and slumber party games. Why not register now to get a fundraising pack and start planning a week of pyjama fun! Participating

nurseries, schools and groups will receive an event pack which includes Humphrey's stickers, posters, party hats, a certificate for each child, and a story booklet. Money raised will benefit The Children's Trust in Tadworth which cares for children from throughout the UK who have complex health needs and disabilities and also provides rehabilitation for children with acquired brain injury.

To sign up or to find out more visit www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk/humphrey or e mail humphrey@thechildrenstrust.org.uk

Hertfordshire County Youth Theatre present **Fantastic Mr Fox** 31 October – 2 November



Fed up of being outwitted by a cunning fox, three nasty farmers called Boggis, Bunce and Bean hatch a ruthless plan to rid themselves of this pest once and for all. Armed to the teeth with shotguns and diggers, they sit in wait ready to shoot, dig or starve him out. But Mr Fox has plans of his own, and those bungling farmers

are about to be taught a lesson... The classic Roald Dahl novel is adapted by David Wood and performed by some of Hertfordshire's most talented young actors. **Fantastic Mr Fox** is directed by the Palace Theatre's Resident Director (Participation), James Williams in his 22nd production for the Palace.

Box Office 01923 225671 www.watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk

WATCH IT NOW!

Can't remember the story?

Scan the QR Code to see the film version trailer, then book your tickets!

www.watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk



Hillingdon Council opens **new Woodland Centre** at Ruislip Lido

The newly constructed centre, which is part of the council's Ruislip Lido enhancement project, boasts a classroom, exhibition area, café and an office for the newly appointed Ruislip Lido Manager. The Lido is already a centre for relaxation, recreation and escape, and the new Woodland Centre will provide an outstanding venue to bring members of the community together to learn more about the woodlands, lake and environment. The Ruislip Lido enhancement programme, which includes a new car parking facility, the Woodland Centre and café, refurbishment of Woody Bay and Willow Lane Stations, the installation of new rain shelters, changing rooms and public toilets, will be substantially completed by October. The completion will be marked by a celebratory fireworks display on 20 October. During the winter months further improvements will be made to the beach area.

www.Hillingdon.gov.uk/news



New Mother & Baby Charity Shop now Open in Watford

Alternatives is a Watford based charity offering free and unbiased advice and support to women of all ages. Alternatives offers free pregnancy tests, one to one support and advice for women (and their partners) who are facing an unplanned pregnancy, one to one support throughout pregnancy as you prepare to become parents, one to one support with space and time to talk following a miscarriage, one to one support for women suffering from post-abortion stress. GirlAbout schools work to empower teenage girls to make positive life choices and realise their value. All of their services and events are offered absolutely free of charge. They have recently opened a new Mother & Baby charity Shop on 15 Clarendon Road, Watford, WD17 1JR (Opposite Watford Palace Theatre). The shop has good quality second hand clothes, equipment, toys and books for babies and children aged 0-5 years. Opening Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9.30 am - 4.30pm & Saturday 10am - 4pm

www.alternativeswatford.co.uk

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New Uxbridge Clothes Bank to Help Those In Need



A Salvation Army church has bought a new clothes bank to help make it easier for people in Uxbridge to help those in

need in their community. The clothes recycling bank arrived at Uxbridge Corps (church) on Wednesday, September 11, and will be based in the car park next to the church. It means people can donate their clothes to the charity by dropping them straight in the box at any time of the day or night. Berri McKenna and her husband Callum are Salvation Army cadets (trainee ministers of religion) at the church (corps) in Cowley Road. They have been on a placement at the church and charity since July. During this time they have been supporting a range of programmes the church runs from parent and toddler groups and art classes to the food distribution programme, holiday play sessions, and charity shop. All money raised will help support the work of The Salvation Army in this community. The aim is to support people when they're in need and vulnerable and this will really help.

Open 10am - 4pm Monday to Friday (excluding Wednesday open 10am- 1pm). www.salvationarmy.org.uk



Start planning now for Road Safety Week 2013

Families and community groups are being encouraged to sign up now to get involved in Road Safety Week 2013 (18-24 November), the UK's biggest road safety event, to help make our communities safer for everyone who uses the roads. Parents and community leaders can log onto the website for ideas on how they can make a difference, and to register for a free e-action pack. Road Safety Week, coordinated by the charity Brake and involving thousands of communities across the UK, is now in its 17th year. It's an ideal opportunity for community groups, families and schools and to take action on local road safety issues, and run activities and campaigns to

promote safe road use and prevent needless casualties. Brake's main theme for 2013 is 'Tune in'. Through national and regional media, Brake will be raising awareness of the importance of tuning in to road safety and giving it our full attention - particularly if we're at the wheel, but also when we're walking, cycling, skating, running, you name it - to keep ourselves and each other safe.

www.roadsafetyweek.org.uk

Research finds mealtime chat supports kids' learning - but 1 in 4 missing out

New research from The National Literacy Trust shows that children who sit down to eat dinner and talk with their family are far more confident communicators than those who don't. However, the National Literacy Trust report reveals that 1 in 4 children (26%) don't have daily mealtime chat and almost a third (30%) spend more time online or watching TV than talking to their family. The research with nearly 35,000 children and young people across the UK found that two thirds of those who talk daily with their family at meals feel confident to speak in front of a group but less than half of those who eat in silence do. Children who don't enjoy regular talk at mealtimes are also four times more likely to not feel at all confident putting their hand up in class or working in a team. In the Government's proposals for a revised National Curriculum, there is a renewed focus on speaking and listening skills in primary schools from September 2014. The charity is calling on parents to recognise the importance of talking regularly at home for their child's well-being and success.

Parents can visit www.wordsforlife.org.uk to find everything they need to support their child's communication skills as they grow up



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email: jlevine@littlekickers.co.uk

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RRP from 12.99 for iPhone and 32.99 for iPad (Argos had it on offer at time of writing for 19.79!)

www.fisherprice.co.uk



Families Rating: ★★★★★



Multibandz

Designed to teach children their 1-12 times tables in a fun and unique way, Multibandz are a new range of educational, skinny fit wristbands from Headband. They consist of 12 brightly coloured bands which each contain one of the times tables levels. The 11 and 12 times tables are silver and gold and some even glow in the dark!

RRP £9.40 www.multibandz.co.uk

Families Rating: ★★★

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Mark My Time are digital booklights from Award Publications and are available in three camo-print designs. With these colourful accessories you can track your child's progress by setting reading time targets with the countdown timer; use the cumulative timer to count up to 100 hours to track reading times; or use the special 60 second timer to test their fluency. It has a bright LED light and an integrated clip so they'll never lose their place.

RRP £12.99 www.mark-my-time.co.uk

Families Rating: ★★★★★



Zeamu CD

Zeamu Music is a new record label that's been launched specifically for young children and they have created an album of songs designed to help children identify how they're feeling. This can be a problem with young children who can struggle to verbalise their feelings, especially when something is bothering them, eg starting school or dealing with bullying. The songs have been created to empower children and encourage them to talk with their parents about how they're feeling.

The songs include 'Friend of Mine', 'What Do You Want', 'School' and 'Beat the Bullies'.

RRP £10.99 www.zeamumusic.com

Families Rating: ★★★★★



'A Little More' Drinks

'A Little More' are a new range of vitamin-enriched drinks, designed to help children gain the optimum benefit from their diet in a convenient and tasty way. The range includes A Little More Vitamin C, A Little More Multivitamins and A Little More Vitamin D, and each drink is a blend of spring water naturally flavoured with orange, citrus or mango and passion fruit. They come in small, easy to carry bottles and are a good option for parents who struggle to get their children to enjoy fruit and vegetables.

RRP £1.09 from Tesco stores. www.moredrinks.co.uk

Families Rating: ★★★



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www.LucasFrank.com

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One word is not enough

Cruz was the apple of his parents' eyes! As their first child, he developed into an inquisitive and active toddler but soon became more and more frustrated. By the age of two years, he was barely communicating and had only said one to two words. His mother, Tina, recalled that "this reduced to one word which he would use to label everything." Her gut instinct was that something was not quite right but she was constantly told by family and friends that "Cruz will talk when he is ready".

With the arrival of their second child, Lennon, Tina and partner, Daniel observed that Cruz was even angrier. Alarm bells began to ring!

"His communication was a shrieking noise and finger pointing", explained Tina. "He got upset because we were unable to understand him and occasionally he would bang his head on the floor or wall in frustration."

Tina took Cruz to mother-and-toddler groups in the hope that this would encourage him to talk. "He was a sociable boy but he became very shy around other children and wasn't able to talk to them".

Tina remembers the strain this caused her family. "Cruz was unable to convey any feelings or explanations to his thoughts. We had coped with the finger pointing and facial expressions for so long that it started to become a priority over spoken words- it wasn't enough and we reached a point of desperation! His shrieking became so loud and powerful it was ear piercing. He was in total isolation within himself".

Enough was enough! Tina turned to professional advice. After a detailed assessment, Cruz was diagnosed with language delay and immediately started weekly therapy to develop his communication skills.

"Sangita used a variety of toys, games and activities to engage Cruz and we received weekly 'homework' of things to focus on." One word turned to two words which turned to three words until after 2-3 months, Cruz was saying up to ten new words per week. Within six months, Cruz was using 3-4 word sentences. Mother and therapist were equally delighted with the progress Cruz had made. "We could finally communicate with him!"

Statistics reveal that 10% of all children have speech, language or communication needs. Many children are referred to the NHS but the long waiting lists, due to NHS cuts, mean that parents like Tina are seeking private therapy to help their child. Children are seen by one-to-one or by a team of Therapists for a variety of difficulties such as stammering, speech difficulties, hearing impairment etc. Each child is individual and requires a tailor-made approach to help them.

As for Cruz, one year on and he is a different child. "We now find ourselves telling him to stop talking," laughs Tina. "Therapy has totally prepared Cruz for his nursery and early years at school. It's not just the quantity of speech Cruz has but the quality stands out miles too. His confidence has grown and he will now 'play Sangita' with his brother, describing objects to him, encouraging him to repeat the names and rewarding him with "well done, good talking!"

Sangita Amin is an Independent Speech and Language Therapist at the Northwood Speech and Language Therapy Practice (HA6).

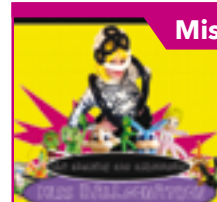
Having worked within the NHS for several years before setting up the Northwood Practice in 1995, she has worked closely with families, teachers and other professionals to help children who have been referred to her reach their full potential.

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A look at life: Nursery rhymes, the key to early reading

The excitement of hearing your child's first words is a milestone all parents look forward to with anticipation. But whilst talking may be the first outward sign of language, it is much earlier that a baby starts acquiring language skills.

Receptive language – absorbing language before being able to talk

From as early as five months, your unborn child will have heard the first phonemes language from the outside world and he or she will already be familiar with your voice.

At birth, most babies will have a hearing system that is fully developed and ready to receive sounds much clearer in the outside world. The more we talk and sing to our new born, the more opportunity they have to develop receptive language and fast. With every sound, your baby is mapping or storing these sounds in his or memory, to be retrieved later when he/she is able to replicate the sound.

Nursery rhymes make the whole process of receptive language much easier. Listening to the repetition and pattern of rhymes makes it easier to assimilate and learn.

Take a simple rhyme like Ole MacDonald. Try singing it to yourself and see how many different sounds there are to hear and learn to make. Being able to hear the word 'farm' will mean that your baby has received all the sounds f-ar-m and eventually they can sing the word farm. Later when they are able to read, they will be able to identify the sounds (phonemes) and put letters (graphemes) to those sounds.

Encouraging your child to sing nursery rhymes also helps them to correct common mistakes such as for example, confusing the 'f' in farm for 'v' and singing 'varm' instead of farm.

What are the other benefits of teaching nursery rhymes?

Teaching nursery rhymes help receptive language development by:

- teaching sound discrimination (as explained above)
- letter blending (twinkle twinkle little star)
- introduces short sentence formation (If you are happy and you know it...clap your hands!)
- introduces syllabic words (hick-ory hick-ory dick-ory dock)
- phoneme manipulation (dock clock)

...and lead the way for expressive language development

- helps develop the muscles in the mouth faster for making sounds
- sequence and story structure
- builds vocabulary
- helps learn counting and sequence (one, two buckle my shoe, three four knock on the door...)



The order of development is always, receptive language, expressive language and then reading. Those with strong expressive language skills will tend to pick up reading much faster than those with weak language skills (although there are exceptions to this, for example in cases of dyslexia)

Finally, perhaps the best reason of all is that singing nursery rhymes is great fun and provides a perfect bonding tool with your child, as they closely watch the movements of your mouth and try to mimic your pitch, volume and voice inflection. See the smiles forming at your response.

All the more reason to get your Tambourine and Maracas out as soon as possible!

Usha Patel (at Raviv Practice London) is a therapist working with children with language problems using motor-sensory therapy /computer intervention. For more information for local and UK wide remote help call **07766 837 616**

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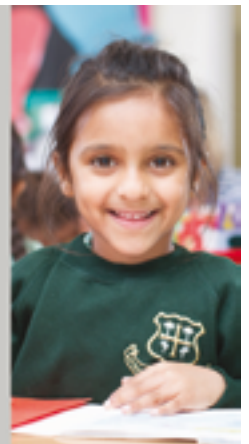
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20 TEST
TAKING
TIPS

Advice for 11+ Students

The following tips for test taking can help you to stay calm and do your best.



- 1. Always Get Plenty of Sleep** the night before. Being well-rested will help you focus on the task at hand. Losing even fifteen minutes of sleep affects the ability to process information correctly.
- 2. Make Sure You Are Comfortable.** If you are hungry, hot, cold or irritated it can affect your test performance. Make sure you use the bathroom before the start time.
- 3. Remind Your Parents** that a piece of sweet often makes students concentrate! Peppermint is said to stimulate the brain when eaten before a test.
- 4. When the Test Begins** take time to flip through it to know what to expect.
- 5. If You Get Stuck** place a question mark (?) in the margin against the question that got you stumped. You can come back to it when you have tackled the rest of the questions!
- 6. When Taking a Multiple Choice Test** there are usually two answers that are completely incorrect and two that could be right. Start by crossing off those that you know are wrong.

■ Comprehension

- 7. Preview** the questions so you know what to look out for before you start reading the comprehension passage.
- 8. Literal Questions** are 'right there' questions and have a right answer which can be found right there in the text. Literal questions ask you: What does the text say?
- 9. Interpretative Questions** may have more than one right answer, and must use text examples to be answered. Interpretative questions involve inference, deduction and expressions of opinion. Interpretative questions ask you: What does it mean?
- 10. Inferential Questions** require deduction and drawing conclusions from the text information. The answer is not explicitly stated in the text and so you will have to infer it. You must search for clues, or evidence, in the text to support your inferences. You must give the evidence fully in your answer. Inferential questions ask you: What do you think?
- 11. Creative Questions** need you to use relevant information from the text to create your own writing in the same style as in the text. Your choice of language needs to reflect the time period, the setting and the characters' personalities. Creative questions ask you to: Write like the author.
- 12. Vocabulary Questions** test for understanding of meanings of words in their contexts. You don't need a dictionary definition, just the one you understand from the way the word is used in the text. Vocabulary questions ask you: What does a word or phrase mean as used in the text?

■ Composition

- 13. Write from Your Experience** in a narrative form. You can use ideas or stories that you already know. Change the point of view, change the number of people involved and change the circumstances. The good thing about using an existing story is that it helps you to stick to your plan and keeps the story on track.
- 14. Write Imaginatively.** Anytime you're writing a description, use as many of the five senses as possible (taste, touch, sight, sound and smell). Comparisons (similes) help as well. You need to show and not just tell.
- 15. Write Persuasively** when writing an argument: try to convince the reader to support an

idea or to be against an idea. Use persuasive language. Have at least five paragraphs: an introductory paragraph, a concluding paragraph, three supporting points and examples. Use transition words such as firstly, secondly, however, contrary to, furthermore, consequently, importantly, therefore.

■ Maths

- 16.** When tackling word problems, always **Translate** the problem into a number sentence before starting to work it out.
- 17. Do not hesitate to Draw a Diagram.** It opens up the question and helps you to see what is required more easily.
- 18. Use the Unitary Method** to solve word problems whenever possible. This ensures quick and easy resolution of problems which otherwise seem to be difficult.
- 19. Follow Logic!** Some of the questions test your ability to reason logically as well as your mathematics skills. For such questions, you need to spot a pattern, test the pattern and apply it.
- 20. One Last Thing! Do Not Try to Be the First to Finish.** Take your time and recheck answers to make sure you have not made a silly mistake.

Download free e-book, **11+ Test Taking Strategies**, which includes 25 tips, and examples of 11+ questions and answers, at www.leadersareaders.co.uk.



Janet Sherlock is Head Tutor and Programme Developer at **Leaders are Readers**, the award-winning Saturday and summer schools.

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Has England got it wrong?



image: bibbysalt

By Joanna Parry

Here in England our students are used to a selective, vigorous education. We specialise in subjects at an early age. Our courses are test-driven, our exams rigorous and getting more so, and subjects such as music, drama and sport have been all but squeezed out. But have we got it all wrong?

As education minister Michael Gove announces measures to make the exams taken by students in England even more demanding, look across the border

...Scottish schools traditionally aim for a greater breadth of knowledge

and we can see that education in Scotland is run very differently. There, students take a curriculum in which national exams for 16-year-olds have been abolished. While schools in England encourage students to specialise, Scottish schools traditionally aim for a greater breadth of knowledge. Their secondary education lasts six years, ending with a single set of national exams, and their university degree programs last four years, compared with only three in England and Wales. In a nutshell, Scottish schools focus on more than just tests.

'When the Scottish Parliament came into being in 1999, we realised our schools were not performing as well as they should,' said the Scottish education minister, Michael Russell. 'Our students were over-examined, our schools over-inspected and the curriculum was too divided up and too shallow.' So Scotland introduced the Curriculum for Excellence, paying more attention to how subjects were taught. Starting with kindergarten, the curriculum has progressed through the system one year

at a time and has just reached the 16-year-olds who, until this year, would have taken Standard Grade exams. Students still take exams in as many as 15 subjects but those are pass/fail and set by their teachers. 'I don't believe for a minute that Curriculum for Excellence is touchy-feely or that we are watering down standards,' said Gordon Mouldsdaie, head teacher at Bishopbriggs Academy near Glasgow. 'It used to be that only students who did well on exams were thought of as the smart ones. But we've learned that there are different kinds of intelligence.' The changes mean a slightly longer school week, and more time for music, drama, sports and community service: precisely the areas that have been squeezed in England by the need to prepare students for so many exams. It is clear that in Scotland there is no appetite for the selective, competitive and test-driven approach being promoted by Michael Gove in England, and it looks like the experiment is succeeding. So should England take note?



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Starting Nursery:

What can you do to prepare your child (and you!) for that **all important first day?**

Always visit your chosen nursery prior to your child starting. A good nursery will arrange a pre-visit for you and your child. This pre-visit serves many purposes. The staff will want to find out about you and your little one; this will involve a chat and possibly completing a simple questionnaire. This background information will help your child to feel welcome and relaxed when they start; Mrs Gocher, Head of Aldenham Prep School, believes "Something as simple as having a favourite toy or picture on your peg can make all the difference on the big day. This first visit can be very daunting for you both so do not worry if your child does not want to talk or join in, they should not be pushed into 'performing' in front of staff. It is very important that this first experience is both happy and comfortable and it is very common for children to just want to observe what is going on around them."

Introduce your child to their key worker/room supervisor. Mention their names before you start so your child recognises them; these are the grownups they will be turning to.

Children will be encouraged to have some independence once they are at school. Encourage and praise this outside of school with a reward for your child doing up their own buttons or putting on shoes. Make sure clothes are as practical as possible so children can achieve without the hindrance of tricky fastenings.

Find out what the day will involve and what activities

they are likely to be doing. It is not unusual for a child when after a very busy day upon being asked what they have done to say they have done nothing. The more you know about what they are doing the more you can engage them in conversation. This can be as simple as knowing what they had for lunch.

Mrs Gocher commented "We encourage parent partnership as much as possible. Our weekly newsletter lets everyone know what we have been doing but also what we are planning for the following week. The children are encouraged to bring items in from home that are related to the topics of the week and parents are asked to complete 'I spy' books and read library books with their children. Our open and welcoming approach invites parents to become more involved and likewise feel comfortable expressing any concerns."

On the first day stay happy and confident. Make sure you say goodbye, but do not prolong your farewell as this helps no one. It might be that a member of staff will have to help you and your child part, but most children settle very quickly and a good nursery will encourage you to call after a short while to put your mind at rest – if they have not contacted you first to inform you of progress. Most children will cry at some stage, some will cry on the first few days others will cry once they realise that coming to school is not a temporary arrangement.

The ethos of the Early Years Foundation Stage is very much about the unique child so nursery days are very flexible; do not expect a set timetable for this age

group. Mrs Gocher added "Whilst there is careful planning underlying everything we do it is very important that child initiated activities are encouraged and changes to the day are accommodated and opportunities taken. We have a focus for different areas of the curriculum for each day, but many situations can incorporate the learning areas. The daily routine of snack time includes encouraging good manners and respect for each other. Sharing and taking turns are emphasised, the opportunity to be the helper builds confidence and independence, counting pieces of fruit and cups develops numeracy skills and there is the opportunity to discuss staying well and keeping healthy"

It is important that you encourage your child as they develop and reinforce what they are learning in nursery. Encourage good manners and independence; visit your local library for story times not only for the interaction but also for improving listening and sitting still. Your nursery will become an important part of your and your child's life, play dates with new friends, visits to parks with other mums, will become part of your routine and should be relished.

Aldenham Prep School has an Open Morning on Saturday 5th October 10.00am to 12.30pm.

Visits during the working week are also encouraged please call Mrs Turner on 01923 851664 for the Prep Department or Mrs Beech on 01923 85166 for the Nursery to make an appointment.

More information about Aldenham and all that it offers can be found at www.aldenham.com

www.FamiliesNWLondon.co.uk

for more **local events, news, competitions** and **features!**

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Independent School Open Days for prospective parents

Please check school websites to confirm in advance of visiting advertised open days. Listings are subject to change.

Aldenham School Elstree WD6 Boys and Girls 3-18 yrs (Boarding/Day) enquiries@aldenham.com	Open Day: Sat 5th Oct 10am-12.30pm - Prep School 01923 851664. Senior School By Appointment - 01923 858122
Buckingham College Preparatory School Pinner HA5 Boys School 4-11 years www.buckprep.org	Open Day: Wed 9th Oct 4pm-8pm. 020 8866 2737
Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School Elstree WD6 Boys 5-18 yrs. www.habsboys.org.uk	Open Day: Sat 5th Oct 1pm - 4pm 020 8266 1700.
Haberdashers' Aske's Girls' School Elstree WD6 Girls 4-18 yrs. www.habsgirls.org.uk	Open Day: Junior School Sat 5th Oct 10am-12.30pm; Tue 12th Nov 9.15am (4+ & 5+ only); Thu 14th Nov 9.15am (7+ & Year 3 only). Senior School Sat 5th Oct 2-5pm; Thu 10th Oct 6-8pm; Wed 13th Nov 9.30am. 020 8266 2302 email ldevine@habsgirls.org.uk
Harrow School Harrow HA1 Boys 12-18yrs (Boarding) www.harrowschool.org.uk	Open Day: Sat 5th Oct, Sat 2nd Nov; Sat 30th Nov; Sat 18th Jan; Sat 8th Feb; Sat 1 Mar. 0208 872 8003
Heathfield School (GDST) Pinner HA5. Girls 3-18 yrs. www.heathfield.gdst.net	Open Day: Sat 5th Oct 10am-12.30pm, Thu 17th Oct 6-8pm, Wed 13th Nov 10.30am-12pm, Thu 21st Nov 10.30am-12pm, Mon 3rd Mar 10.30am-12pm. 020 8307 5503
Merchant Taylor's School Northwood HA6. Boys 11-18yrs www.mtsn.org.uk	Open Day: By appointment 01923 845514
North London Collegiate School Edgware HA8 Girls 4-18yrs. www.nlcs.or.uk	Open Day: School in Action: Fri 11th Oct; Thu 17th Oct; Mon 11th Nov (all 4+ and 7+ only) Sr Sch 020 8951 6481/6468 Jr Sch 020 8952 1276
Northwood College Northwood HA6. Girls 3-18 yrs. www.northwoodcollege.co.uk	Open Day: Tue 5th Nov; Mon 3rd Mar; Wed 7th May; Mon 30th Jun - all 9.30am start. 01923 825446.
Northwood Preparatory School Rickmansworth WD3 Boys 4-13. www.northwoodprep.co.uk	Open Morning: Fri 11th Oct 9.45am-12 noon. 01923 825648
Orley Farm Harrow-on-the-Hill HA1 Boys and Girls 4-13yr www.orleyfarm.harrow.sch.uk	Open Day: Sat 5th Oct 10am-12pm or by appointment 020 8869 7634/7600
Purcell School of Music Bushey WD23 Boys and Girls 9-18yrs. www.purcell-school.org	Open Day: Sat 12th Oct 10am-12.30pm 01923 331107
Quinton Hall School Harrow HA1. Boys and Girls nursery 2-4yrs. Boys 4-13yr; Girls 4-11yr. www.quintonhall.org.uk	Open Day: By appointment 020 8427 1304
Reddiford School Pinner HA5 Boys and Girls 2yrs 9months - 11 yrs. www.reddiford.org.uk	Open Day: By appointment 020 8866 0660
Regent College Harrow HA Boys and Girls 11-18yrs www.regentcollege.uk.com	Open Day: By appointment 020 8966 9900
Regent Nursery Pinner HA Boys and Girls 2-5yrs www.regentnursery.com	Open Day: By appointment 020 8933 5410
Roxeth Mead School HA2 Boys and Girls 3-7yrs. www.roxethmead.com	Open Day: By appointment 020 8422 2092
The Royal Masonic School for Girls - Ruspini House Pre-School. Cadogan House Prep and Pre-Prep Rickmansworth WD3. Boys and girls aged 2-11. www.royalmasonic.herts.sch.uk	Open Day: Sun 13th Oct 2pm-5pm 01923 725354
Stanborough School Watford WD25 Boys and Girls 4-18yrs. Boarding/Day. www.spsch.org	Open Day: By appointment 01923 673268
St Helen's School Northwood HA6. Girls, 3-18 yrs. www.sthn.co.uk	Open Day: Tue 12th Nov 9.30am-12 noon. 01923 843230
St Hilda's Preparatory School for Girls Bushey WD23 3-11yrs. www.sthildasbushey.co.uk	Open Day: Sat 12th Oct 9.30am-12.30pm 0208 950 1751
St John's School Northwood HA6 Boys aged 3-13. www.st-johns.org.uk	Open Days: Wed 16th Oct 10.30am. 020 8866 0067
St. Margaret's School Bushey WD23 Girls 4-18 yrs (boarding/day) www.stmargaretsbushey.org.uk	Open Day: By appointment 020 8901 0872
St. Martin's School Northwood HA6. Boys 3-13 yrs www.stmartins.org.uk	Open Day: Fri 4th & Sat 5th Oct 10am-12pm. 01923 825 740
York House Rickmansworth WD3. Boys and Girls 3-16 yrs www.york-house.com	Open Day: Thu 3rd Oct 9.30am-12pm; Sat 5th Oct 9.30am-12pm. 01923 772 395



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What's On

listings for all the family

Compiled by Anna Blackshaw

To promote your local event, coffee morning, nearly new sale, parenting courses or community group in the next **What's On** listing (Nov/Dec 2013) send your entry by 5pm Friday 11 October Email Editor@FamiliesNWLondon.co.uk.

Listings in this section are FREE for most non-commercial ventures. Please check details of the events before setting off in case anything has changed since going to print.

Looking for our 'Regular Local Events' listings? Go to www.FamiliesNWLondon.co.uk/RegularEvents It's updated every Monday!

October

Throughout October – London Transport Museum (WC2E) From buses to tubes, original posters to workers and travellers' stories, London Transport Museum explores the heritage of London and its transport system. Open 10am-6pm Saturdays to Thursdays, from 11am Fridays. Admission free for under 16s; under 12s to be accompanied. All Aboard! Let your under 6 'drive' a scaled-down bus, train, tube or taxi, complete with passengers. They can also take control of the transport system, moving buses and trains around the museum's miniature London. Family Station. Pick up a free coin bag and choose some activities to do as you explore the Museum. Whether you fold your own bus and drive it between the vehicles, design your own poster-postcards or take photos through flickr frames, there is something here for families with children of all ages. Look For Longer, until December 2013. Enjoy playing a cryptic Underground game in the galleries where you try to find the 75 London Underground and DLR stations hidden within interactive graphics. You can also play at home at www.lookforlonger.com. ☎ 020 7379 6433, 🌐 www.ltmuseum.co.uk

Sat 5 Oct – Northwood Craft Market (HA6) Hands-on crafts for children to make & take home and also a table of colouring pages. A friendly atmosphere to browse & buy from a wide variety of beautiful and original crafts, all handmade by local crafters – great gift ideas! Crafts vary at



each market and range from woodturning, decoupage, embroidery, jewellery and cards, to knitted items, crocheted toys, fabric purses & bags, and much more. Teas, coffees & delicious homemade cakes are available during the morning at the church coffee shop. From 10am-3pm at Methodist Church Hall in Northwood.

🌐 www.northwoodcraftmarket.co.uk

Sat 5 – Sun 6 Oct – Vegfest UK London (W14) VegfestUK London is a new vegetarian lifestyle show at Olympia. Featuring Dale Pinnock, Chad Sarno, Dave Spikey, Janey Lee Grace, Roxy Shahidi, 150+ stalls, free food, cookery demos, yoga, kid's activities, talks, workshops, comedy, cinema music and lots more.

🌐 www.london.vegfest.co.uk

Sun 6 Oct – Messy Church (HA2) Lots of arts and crafts for children of all ages with a snack provided at the end of the session.

Minimum donation of £1 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. From 4-6pm at St Albans Church Hall, Norwood Drive, Harrow.

🌐 www.stalbans-nh.org.uk/messychurch.htm

Sat 12 Oct – Hillingdon NCT Nearly New Sale (UB10) Well organised huge sale of new and nearly new clothes (birth to 12 years), maternity, uniform, fancy dress, nursery equipment, toys, games, books, DVD's and more. From 1.30-3.30pm at Vyner's School in Ickenham.

🌐 nns@ncthillingdon.org.uk www.nct.org.uk

Sat 12 Oct – The Big Draw: Drawing Tomorrow (E2) Go along to the Museum of Childhood where you can work with creative geniuses from CIA (Central Illustration Agency) to create unique artwork. As part of the Big Draw, kids get to be art directors and tell the professional what to draw. Demonstrations, workshops and drop in activities.

🌐 www.museumofchildhood.org.uk

Sat 12 Oct – Dog Day Afternoon (W1U) Back by public demand Cabbages and Frocks lifestyle market in Marylebone village is putting on another special Dog Day Afternoon. The Good Boy Dog School will be back putting on a display headed by Dima including synchronised obedience and trick sequences. There will also be fashion and food stalls in abundance!

☎ 0207 794 1636

🌐 www.cabbagesandfrocks.co.uk

Sun 13 – Sat 19 Oct – Dyspraxia Awareness Week (Various) This week the Dyspraxia Foundation are set to re-launch their national phone line, with a full time information officer now available. They are also planning a range of exciting events such as 'dress down' for dyspraxia.

🌐 www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk

Sat 19 Oct – Love 2 Play (HA6) The giant event for 1-5 year olds. Huge soft Play area, face painting, crafts, story corner, tiny tots corner, songs and tea for the parents. At Northwood Methodist Church from 10am til noon.

🌐 <http://northwoodmethodist.ning.com>

Sun 20 Oct – Autumn Gardens Family Day (E2) Use fallen leaves and conkers from the Geffrye Museum gardens to make autumnal accessories, create garden animals from clay, hear stories about hibernating creatures and have a last look at the period gardens before they close for winter.

🌐 www.geffrye-museum.org.uk

Fri 25 – Sun 27 Oct – The Baby Show (W14) Taking place at Olympia in Kensington, experience the UK's leading pregnancy and parenting event; an essential part of the journey into parenthood.

🌐 www.thebabysshow.co.uk

Sat 26 Oct – Patchwork Quilt Display (WD17) The Little Gallery Tearoom at Watford Museum will be displaying wonderful Patchwork Quilts by Kathleen McMahon. There will be free quilting workshops and demonstrations, as well as tea and homebaked cakes to enjoy.

☎ 01923 233429

🌐 www.watfordmuseum.org.uk

Sat 26 Oct – Watford Twilight @ Cassiobury Park (WD18) On Sunday 16th June, 2013 the annual fundraiser for Cancer Research took place...now, for the first time this year, there will be a Twilight Run. Twilight events are 5k runs which take place in the early evening. So don your fairy lights, sparklers, glow sticks and shiny accessories ready to take on the night !!! Starts at 7pm.

☎ 01923 278333

🌐 www.raceforlifecancerresearchuk.org

Sat 26 Oct – Craft & Gift Fair (WD18) Arts, crafts and gifts that you won't find on the high street! From 11am to 3pm at St Mary's Church in Watford.

🌐 www.craftfairsuk.co.uk

Sat 26 Oct – Celebrate Black History Month (WD17) In collaboration with volunteers from the local community and the Watford African Caribbean Association, Watford Palace Theatre will be hosting an evening of rich, diverse and vibrant family entertainment on from 5.00pm - a highlight of the Black History Month celebrations in Watford.

☎ 01923 216958

🌐 www.watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk

Sun 27 Oct – Diwali on Trafalgar Square (WC2N) Trafalgar Square will be transformed with vibrant Diwali celebrations, including colourful decorations and traditional light displays. From 2pm until 7pm, there will also be food stalls catering to all tastes.

🌐 www.diwaliinlondon.com

Half Term



Dates TBC – Halloween at Lauderdale House (N6) Calling all ghosts and ghouls, witches and werewolves, skeletons and sprites! Explore the spooky Historic House and Gardens on a magical adventure trail. Who knows whom you might meet! Dress up, wear your masks and be ready for the unexpected! Then in the Spooky Workshops, create some seriously spooky stuff for Halloween. Rattle those bones and scare your parents! Who knows what you might come up with – silly skeletons, grinning ghouls, sparkly spiders, prize winning pumpkins, or even lucky charms!

🌐 www.lauderdalehouse.co.uk

Back in the West End - the perfect Christmas treat!

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image: ihdwallpaper

Thu 24 Oct – Sun 3 Nov – Top of the crops – Pumpkin Festival at Willows Farm Village (AL4)

Each child who visits Willows Farm Village will be able to pick a free pumpkin from the Pumpkin Patch to take home for a tasty, seasonal dinner or to the Willows Carving Cavern – where they can show off their creative skills. From spooky faces to farmyard animals or swirly shapes, there's a daily prize on offer for the child with the most creative carving! Those too small to carve a pumpkin can still get crafty thanks to the Willows Pumpkin Arts & Crafts area. Upon finishing their pumpkin masterpieces, it's back outdoors to take part in the Willows Pumpkin Olympics. Later get up close to – and learn about – creepy critters and creatures in the live Zootacular animal show.

☎ 0870 129 9718

🌐 www.willowsfarmvillage.com

Sat 26 Oct – Family Fun: Halloween Hocus Pocus (UB8)

Take along the children and join in for a fun filled day making your very own “spooky” flower filled pumpkin. You will first carve your fresh pumpkins with a spooky face then spend some fun time filling your pumpkin with seasonal flowers and finish by adding some fun accessories. Take your designs home and “wow” your friends and family. Suitable for families with children age five and over. From 10am-1pm at Brookfield Adult Learning Centre in Uxbridge.

☎ 01895 254766

🌐 brookfield@hillingdongrid.net

Sat 26 – Sun 27 Oct – Witch Weekend at RAF Museum (NW9)

If you have ever wondered how broomsticks fly, why not visit the Aeronauts Interactive display and find out? Children will be able to make their own witch with flying broomstick and cat. Broomstick making sessions will run from 11am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm on both days with all materials supplied free of charge.

☎ 020 8358 4896 🌐 www.rafmuseum.org.uk

Sat 26 – Sun 27 & Tue 29 Oct – Halloween Experience @ Canal Museum (N1)

Join in this year's amazing Halloween Experience on 26th & 27th Oct. There will be spooky boat trips, story telling and decorations in the museum. Then 29th Oct sees the Children's Activity Day with a boat trip and more.

🌐 www.canalmuseum.org.uk

26 – 27 Oct & 1 – 2 Nov – Lego DC Universe Superheroes Fireworks (SL4)

For the first time ever, LEGOLAND will be hosting a LEGO DC Universe Superheroes themed Fireworks extravaganza. Admire the spectacular Fireworks show, complete a LEGO DC Universe Superhero story, featuring iconic movie soundtracks. Then stay after the Fireworks show and try out some the iconic rides in the dark! Why not add an exciting extra dimension to this year's show by purchasing a pair of 3D glasses. Transform the fireworks into exploding 3D LEGO bricks!

☎ 0871 222 2001 🌐 www.legoland.co.uk

Sat 26 Oct – Sun 3 Nov – Tattoo T-Shirts @ HMS Belfast (SE1)

Get creative designing your very own tattoo shapes and drawing them onto t-shirts. As you draw, you will learn about different tattoos worn by people in the navy, and what they mean. This event is part of Big Draw 2013, the largest drawing festival in the world.

☎ 020 7940 6300 🌐 www.iwm.org.uk

Sat 26 Oct – Sun 3 Nov – 'Monster' Half-Term Events at Museum of London (EC2Y)

Head along to the Museum of London this half term and join in one of their many Monster themed story telling and craft workshops. These include City Dragons, Monster Alive! and Penny Dreadfuls. Visit website for details on activity dates and times.

☎ 020 7001 9844

🌐 www.museumoflondon.org.uk

Sat 26 Oct – Sun 3 Nov – Half Term Events @ WWT London Wetland Centre (SW13)

Join in for a fun October tradition, pumpkin carving. Make some spooky creations to decorate your home for Halloween! Spiders are the inspiration for their crafts sessions this half term, make spiders and learn more about these fascinating creatures. Also look out for their Halloween themed discovery trolley throughout the day where you'll be able to discover all about the gruesome side of wetlands.

☎ 020 8409 4400 🌐 www.wwt.org.uk

Sun 27 Oct – Harrow and Wembley Miniature Railway; Halloween Special (HA4)

Go along to Harrow and Wembley Miniature Rail way where there will be a special Ghost and Ghouls theme. Train rides will be available and fancy dress is encouraged! From 1pm until 4pm

🌐 www.hwsme.org.uk

Mon 28 Oct – Fri 1 Nov – Big Draw Week @ RAF Museum (NW9)

A week of activities that helps children explore their creative side through drawing, their imaginations fired by the Museum's stunning aircraft collection. All materials are provided free of charge. Sessions run from 11am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm each day in the Milestones of Flight Gallery.

☎ 020 8358 4896 🌐 www.rafmuseum.org.uk

📖 continued on page 18



Let your kids drive in London.

Now they can drive a Tube train, climb in a bus cab and lose themselves in our exploration zone. Better still, kids go free at London Transport Museum, Covent Garden.

ltmuseum.co.uk

Registered charity number 1123122



MAYOR OF LONDON



BANK OF ENGLAND | MUSEUM

Designs on your money

28 October – 1 November
10:00am – 4:30pm

Banknote Big Draw

Learn about banknote security features then design your own secure banknote. Enter our competition with prizes to be won. There will be talks on today's banknotes in the Museum cinema at 12:15pm and 1:00pm.

Admission free

10am – 5pm Monday to Friday. Closed weekends and public holidays. Entrance in Bartholomew Lane, London EC2R 8AH.
Tel: 020 7601 5545 www.bankofengland.co.uk/museum



continued from page 17

Mon 28 – Wed 30 Oct – Perform Half Term Activities (Various)

This October let your 4-8 year old bring to life the classic fairytale Rapunzel in a magical drama, dance, and singing adventure as a perfect half term holiday treat. Perform's energetic team of actors, musicians and dancers will be with the children every step of the way as they tumble down tresses, dodge the dastardly Mother Gothel then ride off into the land of Happily Ever After. With colourful costumes, original songs and live music, your child will enjoy a fun-packed week putting together a fantastic show that will delight family and friends. Courses run in Radlett, Hampstead and Pinner.

☎ 0845 400 4000 • www.perform.org.uk



Mon 28 Oct – Fri 1 Nov – Island Nation @ National Maritime Museum (SE10)

What does the sea mean to Britain? What does it mean to be an island nation? Go along and discover more about Britain, its navy and its connection with the sea, through a range of activities celebrating the opening of the new gallery Nelson, Navy, Nation.

☎ 020 8858 6565 • www.rmg.co.uk

Mon 28 Oct – Fri 1 Nov – Heroes and Sheroes @ Museum of Childhood (E2)

Faster than a speeding buggy. More powerful than a clockwork locomotive. Is it a bird? Is it a plane? It's... YOU! Transform into a superhero and test your powers in the Superhero Skills Station. Conceal your identity by creating a marvellous mask. Try on capes, belts and costume. Join Story Spinner at the Royal Academy of Superheroes and hear a tale of bravery and derring-do by local author Rebekah Lattin-Rawstone. Drop-in for all ages.

• www.museumofchildhood.org.uk

Mon 28 Oct – Sun 3 Nov – Family Fun at London Transport Museum Covent Garden and London Transport Museum Depot Acton (WC2E/W3)

At London Transport Museum in Covent Garden explore the Puppet Zoo for October half term. Help map maker Harry Beck connect the stations and discover a hidden Underground zoo during story time, then take home your own puppet zoo created in the make-and-take activities. Storytime at 11am & 2pm, followed by Make and Take at 11.30am & 2.30pm. Families will also have the opportunity to visit the Museum's Depot in Acton, West London. This year there will be Behind the Scenes workshops from Mon 28 to Wed 30 Oct as well as the annual Open Weekend taking place from Fri 1 to Sun 3 Nov. Behind the Scenes workshops include Travelling



Time Capsules, Depot Explorers, Snapshots of the Future and Cab It! Family Tours. The Open Weekend will provide a rare opportunity to explore the Museum's treasures as well as a number of activities for the family and adults to enjoy.

☎ 020 7379 6433, • www.ltmuseum.co.uk

Tue 29 Oct – Dino Day @ Compass Theatre (UB10)

Head along to the Compass Theatre for a day of Dinosaur Inspired Workshops in the Half Term holiday. Make and keep your own piece of craft in the Craft Workshop or alternatively learn and perform a routine in the Song and Dance Workshops. Suitable for ages 5 to 11, workshops last 2 hours and run at 10am and again at 1pm.

• www.compass theatre.co.uk

Tue 29 Oct – 18th Century Toy Workshop (WC2N)

As the days get shorter and the nights draw in, discover how Georgian children entertained themselves through long winters. Discover the past and make 18th century toys, such as whirligigs, cup-and-ball, optical illusions, and paper dolls at Benjamin Franklin House. For 5-11 year olds.

• www.benjaminfranklinhouse.org

Tue 29 – Thu 31 Oct – Room on the Broom Craft Workshops (N12)

Taking inspiration from their half term show 'Room on the Broom', these fun workshops at Arts Depot are a great accompaniment full of crafty excitement.

• www.artsdepot.co.uk

Tue 29 – Thu 31 Oct – Half Term Fun (HA5)

Harrow Arts Centre will be showing Disney's Alice in Wonderland and The Lorax on Tuesday and Wednesday, accompanied by craft workshops. On Tuesday make a fabulous hat for the Mad Hatter's Tea Party, and on Wednesday make your own forest of magical plants before watching the showing of The Lorax. On Thursday the half term fun continues with Captain Calamity's Adventures in Storyland. Captain Calamity sets sail from the Lollipop Lighthouse in Chocolate Button Bay in his travels around Story Land; solving problems and spreading joy and happiness amongst all the characters he meets along the way. You will also play a part in this great show as a member of Captain Calamity's Crew. Wherever he goes; you come too, joining in with the interactive fun and games along the way.

☎ Box Office: 020 8416 8989

• www.harrowarts.com



Tue 29 – Thu 31 Oct – Pumpkin Trail & Treats @ Knebworth House (SG3)

Pumpkin activities and trail through the garden and children will receive a goody bag on completion of the trail. Then complete your day with a children's disco in the barns where children will have a snack box and drink. Booking is essential for this popular event.

• www.knebworthhouse.com

Tue 29 Oct – Sat 2 Nov – The Insect Circus (N6)

Following last year's sell out run, The Insect Circus returns to Jacksons Lane with an all new crop of death-defying insects performing for your amusement. They've had a dancing bee and aerial flies, a strongman with an acrobatic ant, and this year's performing creatures are deep in training for their autumn premiere. A fun-filled extravaganza for all the family!

• www.jacksonslane.org.uk



Wed 30 – Thu 31 Oct – Activities @ National History Museum Tring (HP23)

On Wednesday head along to Tring Park for Crazy Camouflage activities. Advance booking required. Then on Thursday 'Go Batty This Halloween' and join in

at the galleries to make a bat finger puppet. Also meet the Bat Conservation Trust and learn about the world of bats.

• www.nhm.ac.uk/tring



Thu 31 Oct – Spooktacular Family Fun Day (SE10)

Put on your scariest fancy dress and joins in for a spooky, fun-filled day this Halloween at the bewitching Queen's House. There will be ghostly activities and scary entertainment for all, and prizes for the best costume. From 11am – 4pm at the National Maritime Museum.

☎ 020 8858 6565 • www.rmg.co.uk



Thu 31 Oct – Ship Shadow Puppets (SE10)

Create a shadow puppet inspired by Cutty Sark's journeys to India and see it come to life in your very own puppet show. Make your shadows spooky for Halloween! Drop-in workshop from 11.30am-1.30pm and 2-4pm.

• www.rmg.co.uk

November

Fri 1 Nov – Marty MacDonald's Farm (WD7)

A live puppet show at the Radlett Centre which is suitable for ages 3-7 years. It is set in a colourful farm and is full of fun songs and laughter, starring Martin Parsons and Kate Ashmead, with the voices of Justin Fletcher and Nicole Davis.

☎ 01923 859291 • www.radlettcentre.co.uk

Sat 2 Nov – Christmas Craft and Gift Fair (WD3)

The Peace Hospice, Watford invites you to their Christmas Craft and Gift Fair to be held at The Royal Masonic School for Girls, where you will have the opportunity to purchase cards and gifts from the Peace Hospice Christmas range. Shop early this Christmas!

☎ 01923 335370

• gcrowson@peacehospice.org.uk

Sat 2 Nov – Northwood Craft Market (HA6)

See October listing for details.

• www.northwoodcraftmarket.co.uk

Sat 2 Nov – Fireworks – Light up Watford (WD18)

A free firework display at Cassiobury Park in Watford. This year the event begins at 6pm with entertainment on the stage. The children's firework display will be at 6.15pm, the lighting of the bonfire at 7pm and the main firework display at 7.30pm.

• www.watford.gov.uk

Sat 2 Nov – Fireworks Event at The Walker Ground (N14)

A family friendly event with the gates opening at 5pm and the firework display starting at 8pm. There will also be children's rides, a bouncy castle, foodstalls, drinks and music.

• www.thewalkerground.co.uk/fireworks

Sat 2 Nov – Hatfield House Firework Display (AL9)

Gates open at 5pm, and entertainment will be provided in the build up to the firework display. The bonfire will be lit at 6.30pm and there will be a funfair and catering units offering hot food and drinks.

• www.hatfield-house.co.uk

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Captain Calamity presents an all new three-man show following his adventures through Story Land spreading cheer, solving problems and using his special powers of magic, song, dance, balloons and bubbles to make your childhood dreams and wishes come true.

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Thursday 31st October 2013
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image: wikimedia



Sat 2 – Sun 3 Nov – Family Fun Weekend @ Cutty Sark (SE10)

Go along and help celebrate Cutty Sark's 144th birthday at the Family Fun Weekend! There will be a land yacht workshop, a chance to design your own souvenir paper t-shirt and shadow puppet workshop.

☎ www.rmg.co.uk

☀ Sun 3 Nov – Butterfly World Firework Display (AL2)

This year's display at Butterfly World opens at 5pm, with the fireworks beginning at 6.30pm. Go along for a fun evening of firework spectacle and entertainment.

☎ www.butterflyworldproject.com

☀ Sun 3 Nov – Diwali Festival (WD25) Diwali means 'festival of lights' and will be celebrated at Bhaktivedanta Manor with elaborate firework displays, candles and lamps. There will be a colourful stage show with drama and traditional dance, followed by a spectacular fireworks display at 6.30pm.

☎ www.bhaktivedantamanor.co.uk

☀ Thu 7 Nov – Christmas Light Switch On (WD17) Head down to Intu Watford for their Christmas Light Switch On and Firework Spectacular. Tonight also sees the opening of Santa's Grotto!

☎ www.intu.co.uk/watford

☀ Fri 8 Nov – Abbots Langley Firework Display (WD5) Taking place at the Manor House Playing Fields with the fireworks beginning at 7.30pm. There will also be fairground rides for children, food and a bar will be open.

☎ 01923 265139

☎ www.abbotslangley-pc.gov.uk

☀ Sat 9 Nov – The Lord Mayor's Show and Fireworks (various)

The Lord Mayor's Procession will fill the area between Mansion House and the Royal Courts of Justice in Aldwych. It will travel out via St Paul's between 11am and 12.30pm, and return by the embankment between 12.30pm.

☎ www.lordmayorsshow.org

Sat 9 Nov – Diwali Celebrations at National Maritime Museum (SE10)

Celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights, and British Asian heritage with a day full of colour, music and fun activities for all the family. Take part in a spectacular outdoor lantern parade with Emergency Exit Arts and dance to the sounds of the Bollywood Brass Band. Go along and discover more about how trade by sea brought people, ideas and culture from Asia to Britain. From 11am to 5pm.

☎ http://www.rmg.co.uk/

Fri 15 – Sat 16 Nov – An Evening with the Stars (SE10) The popular after-dark experience at the Royal Observatory Greenwich including a show in London's only public planetarium, look through the gigantic 28-inch telescope plus spend some time on the Prime Meridian with a hot drink, an amazing view and astronomers on hand to answer all your space-related questions. For ages 7+.

☎ www.rmg.co.uk

Fri 15 – Sun 17 Nov – Knebworth Christmas Fair (SG3) Start your Christmas shopping early. There is a wide range of crafts, gifts, foods and drinks to choose from. Please purchase tickets on the day. Open from 10.00 – 4.00 pm.

☎ 01438 812661 ☎ www.knebworthhouse.com

Sat 16 – Sun 17 Nov – History in Your Hands (SE1) Discover hidden stories about HMS Belfast and explore the fascinating lives of the men who lived and worked on board. Examine authentic naval objects from IWM's collections.

☎ www.iwm.org

Sat 16 Nov – Sun 5 Jan – Ice at the Tower (EC3N) London's most spectacular ice rink returns to the iconic Tower of London. Located in the moat, the ice rink is set within the magnificent fortress battlements. The ice rink opens morning till night and is beautifully illuminated after dark. Skate in the most famous setting in London for an unforgettable experience!

☎ www.toweroflondonicerink.com

Sat 23 Nov – All Saints Church Christmas Market (WD3) Following the success of 2012, it is back for a second year. Feature a live band and over 25 stalls including a Tombola, food areas, jewellery and other crafts. Children also have plenty to entertain them with their own tombola, facepainting, glitter tattoos and activity room. The market will end with the Grand Prize Draw which includes prizes of £500 cash and a meal at a top London restaurant. From 11am until 4pm.

☎ www.croxleygreenallsaints.org

Sat 23 Nov – Craft and Gift Fair (WD18) See October listing for details.

☎ www.craftfairsuk.co.uk

Sun 24 Nov – Diwali At The Palace (WD17) Following the sell-out success of last year's Diwali celebrations at the Palace, all are invited to join in for a spectacular family evening of festivity, food and fun, to help celebrate the Hindu Festival of Lights.

☎ www.watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk

Sat 23 Nov – Tue 24 Dec – Santa's Spectacular Grotto and Festive Farm Fun (AL4)

Visit Santa in his Grotto at Willows Farm Village and receive a golden key to enter his toy shop where children can pick their own present. Join in with the Nativity story, hop on the Festive Wood Ride, enter the Elves House, see the reindeer plus Fun Fair Rides, undercover JCB Young Drivers Zone, Woolly Jumpers indoor play barn and Reindeer Hunt with prize for every child. Not forgetting Willows Magical Ice Rink – get your skates on to experience our synthetic ice rink for all the fun without the cold and wet.

☎ 0870 129 9718

☎ www.willowsfarmvillage.com



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Pumpkin Festival

24th October – 3rd November 2013

Pumpkin-tastic fun for all the family!

- 🎃 Pumpkin Olympics
- 🎃 Pumpkin Hunt
- 🎃 Match the Scarecrows
- 🎃 Pumpkin carving competitions
- 🎃 Zootacular Animal Show
- 🎃 Pumpkin Hoopla

Plus all your favourite Willows farmyard fun and adventure play

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Events and activities subject to change without notice. Please call to check the latest information.
We recommend wellington boots to be worn as the ground can be muddy at this time of year.

Weatherproof Willows!
We're acres of under cover fun!

- 🎡 Hay boulder town
- 🎡 Woolly Jumpers
- 🎡 Ride on Rabbit Racers and JCB Young Drivers Zone
- 🎡 The Farmyard
- 🎡 Woolly's Showtime Theatre
- 🎡 Captain Chicken's Egg Dodge



16275A 06/13

ADULT CLASSES

1st Steps Linedance (Various) Linedancing classes in Pinner, Eastcote and Ruislip. Have fun while you keep fit! Beginner classes every week and regular improver/intermediate classes. ☎ 07958 643307 ☎ www.1ststepslinedance.com

Bokwa Classes (HA7) Join in the fun with the new dance revolution sweeping the nation! Easy to follow steps, great music, all fitness levels and ages. Bernays Hall in Stanmore Tue and Thur at 11.45am. ☎ 07779 593253 ☎ steffab@hotmail.co.uk

Cooking Goddess (HA) Provide cooking lessons in their fully equipped kitchen in Stanmore, or in the convenience of your own home. Lessons can be step by step 1:1 or in small groups. Available for all ages any time of the day. ☎ 07932 775336 ☎ christina@ameris.co.uk

Focused Mind Meditation (WD24) A weekly, hour long class which guides you through a visualization to help you relax your mind and body. A different meditation each week, learn how to switch off the constant stream of thought and focus your mind in a way which will enable you to feel more relaxed in every area of your life. ☎ 07944 744493 ☎ www.focusedmind.co.uk

Lemy School Language Classes (HA1) Languages classes for adults, including Spanish and French. ☎ www.lemyschool.com

My Unique Home (HA5) Do you collect Interior Design Magazines and wonder how you can make your home that beautiful? Are you passionate about colours, but lack the knowledge or confidence to use it? Do you wish you could be clever about how you use the space you live in? For more info, ☎ www.myuniquehome.co.uk email to info@myuniquehome.co.uk.

NCT - Yoga for Pregnancy (Various) Classes focus on gentle postures, breathing techniques, positions for labour and relaxations. Designed so you can attend throughout your pregnancy and can be adapted to individual needs. ☎ www.nct.org.uk

Watford School of Drawing and Painting (WD25/HA5) A school for adults who wish to learn how to draw or want to improve their existing level of drawing skills. They are open 2 days a week all year round, with classes at Meriden Community Centre in Watford and Harrow Arts Centre. No previous experience necessary, classes are pay as you go. ☎ www.martinsart.net

Zumba Fitness® (Various) An exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning dance fitness-party™ that's moving millions of people toward joy & health. ☎ zumbawithsj-zumba@yahoo.co.uk www.zumba.com/profiles/46045/sylvia-johnstone

LANGUAGE AND BABY DEVELOPMENT

Baby Lab (WC1E) Have fun for free with your baby making discoveries about brain development at the Centre for Brain & Cognitive Development. Birkbeck College, Malet St, London. Travel expenses refunded. ☎ 020 7631 6258 ☎ www.cbcd.bbk.ac.uk

Baby Sensory (Harrow, Watford & Hemel Hempstead) The sessions are specifically aimed at babies from birth to 13 months and each week is different. All activities are accompanied by developmental information so you understand the value to your baby's learning experience. It also helps you develop fun ideas for home use and much more. Classes held weekly in North-West London areas. ☎ Lina (Harrow): 07809549103 ☎ northharrow@babysensory.co.uk ☎ Clare (Watford, HH): 07779 234228 ☎ hemel@babysensory.co.uk www.babysensory.com

Greek Language School in Kingsbury (NW9) For ages 4 to adult. Friendly and fun with traditional dancing lessons. Every Saturday 10am-1pm. ☎ 07956 493155 ☎ www.kingsburygreeksschool.org.uk

Gujarati Masti Maja classes by Sansaar (HA5) Fun and interactive Gujarati music, song and dance classes for 3 to 6 year olds in North London, to help your child speak Gujarati confidently. Run on a Saturday morning at 9am and 10am at Nower Hill School, Pinner. ☎ www.sansaar.org

La Jolie Ronde (HA5) Fun Spanish classes at Cannon Lane Methodist Church. Tues 4:15pm ☎ consueloroso@gmail.com ☎ 07949894212.

Sign Language

Sing and Sign (Various) Fun classes combining the benefits of baby signing with music to develop language, memory and attention skills. Babies 6-30 months. Bushey, Rickmansworth, Stanmore and Harrow.

☎ Angelina Melwani 07956 948776, 020 8950 0888. ☎ www.singandsign.com

First Aid

MCS Training (HA1, HA5) Paediatric First Aid Course. Accepted for voluntary OFSTED registration. Certificate valid for 3 yrs. ☎ Margaret 07814 191 395 ☎ mcstraining@hotmail.co.uk

ACTIVITY CENTRES

Aspire National Training Centre, Kidz Zone activities (HA7) Wide range of activities available from 6mths to 12yrs. ☎ Call 020 8954 5759 ☎ customerservices@aspire.org.uk. Aspire National Training Centre, Wood Lane, Stanmore, HA7 4AP

Gambado Watford (WD25) Giant play-frame, dodgems, climbing wall, and parties. ☎ 01923 892140 ☎ www.gambado.com

Parents Paradise (WD23) Soft play centre for all ages up to 11 with a large play frame, separate baby and toddler area, go-kart track, shooting gallery, party rooms and café. Offers different party themes: Paradise Play, Go Kart King, Forever My Bear Party and Arty Pottery Party. Parents Paradise aims to take away all the stress from a kid's party. ☎ 01923 248 747 ☎ www.parentsparadise.eu

The Windmill Studio Centre (HA4) An exciting venue which hosts many activities for ALL ages from babies to adults. ☎ 01895 624755 ☎ www.thewindmillstudio.com

MUSIC

Active in Music (HA5) Active in Music is a music school for children aged 5+, combining individual and group learning to give a fully rounded approach to learning an instrument. Piano, violin and guitar are available to learn. Please see website for further details and call to arrange a time to see the classes and the school. ☎ 020 3504 1000 ☎ www.activeinmusic.com

Hartbeeps (Various) Delivers original, exciting and educational classes for young children and babies suitable from birth to 4 years. They combine their own specialised music technology with a highly interactive approach, which following years of research and development they feel best offers each child and their grown-up a very personal and unique experience. Classes are held in Watford, Rickmansworth, Chorleywood, Bushey, Northwood, Stanmore, Pinner and Harrow. ☎ www.hartbeeps.com

Jo Jingles (Various) Interactive music and movement classes for children from 3 months to 5 years. Watford, Croxley Green, Abbots Langley, Bushey, Bricklet Wood and Radlett. jojingleswatford@gmail.com ☎ 01923 445221 ☎ www.jojingles.co.uk/watfordarea

Little Notes (HA1) Multi-award winning pre-school music classes run exclusively by professional musicians. Real music, real instruments, really fun! Classes for children from 0 to 5 years. Free Taster Session. Thursdays at St. Peter's Church, West Harrow. Additional venues planned for September. ☎ 020 8426 4114 ☎ www.littlenotes.org



Monkey Music

(Various) Founded in 1993, Monkey Music is widely recognised as the UK's premium provider of music

classes for babies and children aged 3 months - rising 5 years. Their unique four-stage teaching curriculum was written by classically trained musicians, and introduces music to very young children in a way they easily understand and enjoy. Parents across the UK have voted Monkey Music as "Best National Toddler Development Activity" and "Best National Pre-school Development Activity."

☎ 01895 674587 (Uxbridge, Harrow, Eastcote) 01727 831867 (Watford, Radlett, Bushey, Borehamwood) ☎ www.monkeymusic.com



Music Gym

(WD25) and launching in Harrow HA3 soon. Providing fun friendly music lessons

in guitar (8+), singing (8+) keyboards (5+) and Drums (5+) with the very best music teachers. Making music fun, cool & exciting teaching rock & pop with accredited grades (same value as classical grades) Adult lessons too! Their commitment to providing high standards of music tuition means: • Highly skilled trained music teachers • Enhanced CRB checked music teachers (All teachers) • Providing a YAMAHA electric guitar or Yamaha keyboard during lessons for each pupil (on Yamaha Courses) • We teach in fully equipped teaching studios • Offering accredited music grades which can earn UCAS points.

☎ Book your FREE no obligation taster lesson for 5 to 12 year olds now 01923 523027

The Sound Cube (WD17) Grab a mic and unleash your inner popstar! Go solo, or party with your friends, and sing your favourite songs just like your pop idols. Sing, Dance, Record and receive a FREE full-colour personalised "DVD of your performance!" (*Party sessions only) Suitable for 7 years +. ☎ 01923 222654 ☎ www.thesoundcube.co.uk

The West London School of Tabla (HA2) Learn rhythm and improvisation with classical Indian Percussion. Syllabus aimed at 4-11 years with assessments and examinations. ☎ 020 8864 6364 ☎ www.wlstabla.co.uk

SPORTS AND EXERCISE

Amanda's Action Club (NW3) Dynamic fun, fitness and music classes for pre-schoolers in Huggle Swiss Cottage. Wed 9.20-10.05, 10.15-11.00 and 11.10-11.55am. Pay as you go 4m - 4yrs. Parties for ages 1-12. ☎ 01895 623999 ☎ info@amandasactionclub.co.uk www.amandasactionclub.co.uk

Enjoy-a-Ball classes (Various) Sports coaching for 3-9 year olds in a fun, positive and non-competitive environment. Ten ball sports for the perfect introduction to sport. Physi-ball classes - Ball skills and core skills for toddlers aged 18months to 3 years. Perfect for active little ones who love playing with balls and more! Classes run in Mill Hill, Finchley, Golders Green and Muswell Hill. Call 08452 26 26 94 to book a trial session. Enjoy-a-Ball parties are for super-active 3 - 9 year olds. They are full of high energy games loved by boys and girls alike! ☎ 08452 26 26 94 ☎ www.enjoy-a-ball.com northlondon@enjoy-a-ball.com

Fit For Sport (Various) The UK's leading healthy lifestyle activities provider 3-12 yrs. ☎ 0845 456 3233 ☎ www.fitforsport.co.uk

Kiddikicks (NW6) The Early Years Sports Specialists. Classes cater for 18 months up to age 7 years for full timetable and to book see ☎ www.kiddikicks.co.uk ☎ 020 7937 7965

Little Kickers (Various) Enabling children aged 18mths up to their 7th birthday to develop their coordination, balance and agility through football activity classes Mill Hill, Swiss Cottage, Hampstead,

Golders Green, Muswell Hill, Friern Barnet ☎ 020 8201 1084 ☎ jlevene@littlekickers.co.uk. Ruislip, Northwood/Oxhey, Pinner, Harrow (HA2), Harrow on the Hill and Watford ☎ 0208 123 9346 ☎ jodiesloan@littlekickers.co.uk or Harrow (HA3) Bushey and North Wembley ☎ 0208 422 0676 ☎ niro@littlekickers.co.uk www.littlekickers.co.uk

Sportscoach (WD3 & HA3) Multi-sport sessions, team games, individual sports and team building activities for 4-6 years (Early Sporties) for an hour and a half and 6-16 years (3 hours sessions) Both at JFS The Mall Kenton and Rickmansworth Masonic school. ☎ 01923 255099 ☎ www.sportscoach.co.uk/harrow and www.sportscoach.co.uk/rickmansworth

White Crane Karate School (HA8) For children aged 4-11. Classes introduce children to the discipline of karate in a fun and friendly way. Karate teaches children self-discipline and develops confidence. Classes currently held in Edgware Friday evenings, East Finchley Saturday morning and in Stanmore from September. ☎ Sheena 0787 550 1674 ☎ whitecraneedgware34@hotmail.co.uk www.karatewhitecrane.co.uk See Facebook: Children's Karate Classes-Edgware & Finchley.

Swimming

Aqua Style (WD23/HA6) teachers Children, babies and Adults to swim without aids in small groups, or One to One. (Why pay for a teacher, when you can take your child swimming with arm bands?) They run Intensive 'Fast Track' Courses during School Holidays and weekly 'Term Time' courses. Details ☎ www.aquaswim.org ☎ 07925954144.

Aqua Vie (WD23, WD5) Small classes based on the Alexander Technique. Babies from 6 weeks. ☎ 07525 657 9878 ☎ office@aqua-vie.com www.aqua-vie.com

Little Fishes (WD23) Swimming lessons in Bushey from 4 months-9yrs. Using a hydrotherapy pool - perfect for babies and young children learning to swim. Family orientated swim school teaching through play and having fun. We are a very successful school running classes all over North London & Hertfordshire. ☎ Debbie 01707 276734 ☎ www.littlefishesswimclub.co.uk

Swimming Nature (various) For babies (3months-3years), Swimming Nature for Children (3-15years) Weekly lessons in wonderful family orientated clubs. Classes are tailored to the child's ability and they follow the Swimming Nature progressive scheme that builds strong and competent swimmers. They don't use floats or swimming aids and they only teach the correct strokes. ☎ 08445 040506 ☎ www.swimmingnature.com

Swimkidz Watford Ltd (WD4, HA1, HA9) Structured, progressive and fun swimming lessons for babies, toddlers and children. ☎ 07545523196 ☎ georgie@swimkidz.co.uk www.swimkidz.co.uk

THEATRE AND PERFORMING ARTS

JAM2000 Performing Arts & Agency (HA4) Classes available for everyone from 2.5 years - adults, male and female that include a creative explosion of styles in dance, drama and singing.

☎ 01895 624755 ☎ www.jam2000.co.uk

Jigsaw Performing Arts Schools (Various) Drama, Dance and Singing for students aged 3 to 18 years. Various locations in London, Herts and the South East. Two week trial available. ☎ 020 8447 4530. ☎ Email enquiries@jigsaw-arts.co.uk. www.jigsaw-arts.co.uk

Make Believe Group (Various) a performing arts school with classes in Harrow and Edgware. Their classes include Street Jazz, Hip Hop, Musical Theatre, Acting, Singing and Audition Technique. Suitable for ages 3-18 years. ☎ 020 8500 8107 ☎ www.makebelievegroup.co.uk

Perform Drama (Various) Together with a team of experienced theatre professionals, the children will combine live original music, inspirational dance and quick witted improvisation and colourful costumes into a performance at the end of the term. Perform sessions are specially designed to encourage creativity, confidence and communication skills as well as being a kaleidoscope of fun! ☎ 0845 400 1275 ☎ www.perform.org.uk

Perform PLUS (NW11) is a new type of children's drama school. They use a unique mix of drama,

dance and singing specially formulated to bring out every child's true potential. In Hampstead Garden Suburb will be on Saturdays Hampstead GS Free Church on Northway at 9.30 am and 11.15 am. All children are invited to a Free Trial Session. ☎ 0845 400 1275 ☎ www.perform.org.uk

Sharpe Academy of Theatre Arts (HA1, HA7, WD3) Sharpe Academy is a performance based theatre school with venues in Harrow, Rickmansworth and Stanmore where children aged 3-21 attend weekly classes in preparation for full scale Musical Theatre productions. ☎ 07500 569024 ☎ www.SharpeAcademy.co.uk

Stagecoach (Various) Training in three disciplines or drama, dance and singing. Great for building confidence, making new friends and beginning to hone talent and enthusiasm for performing, or being coaxed out of their shell by having fun! ☎ Harrow 020 3504 0100 Harrow on the Hill & Sudbury Hill 01923 248 294 Stanmore & Harrow Weald 020 3504 2154 Watford 01727 768 738 Queen's Park 020 7723 5861 Northwood 01442 263 599 ☎ www.stagecoach.co.uk

Wordworks Studio (HA5) Individual and group classes in Speech, Drama and Communication Skills for children aged 3-18yrs. ☎ wordworkstudio@gmail.com

Beverly School of Performing Arts (HA8) After school & Saturday classes in Ballet, Tap, Modern, Jazz, Street, Singing & Drama for boys and girls aged 3-18years. ISTD and LAMDA examinations to advanced level. ☎ 01923 243976 ☎ www.beverlydance.co.uk

Chantraine Dance of Expression (NW6) Classes for all ages covering all aspects of dance - rhythm, technique, creativity, choreography - for the development of the whole person. Friendly, non-competitive environment. All abilities welcomed. ☎ 020 7435 4247 ☎ www.chantrainedance.co.uk

Dinky Dancers (various) offers Dance, PE, movement & music classes for rising 2 - 4 year olds. High pace, high energy themed activities including character dances, fun & funky choreography, singing, percussion instruments and PE equipment. Taster class offered. Parties available. ☎ www.dinkydancers.com ☎ 01923 239424/0208 207 2109

Futurity UK Academy of Sport and Dance (UB8) Purpose built facility in Uxbridge. Offer classes for ages 2 through to adults. Ballet (RAD), Tap (ISTD), Contemporary, Hip Hop, Street Dance, Break Dancing, Street Cheer, Pole Fitness, Gymnastics, Free Running and Children's Parties. Classes range from beginners to advanced/competitive levels. ☎ 01895 251224 ☎ www.futurityuk.com

Lorna Clark School of Dance (Various) Classes for Boys and Girls age 3-18 yrs. RAD Ballet, ISTD Modern, Tap, Greek and National. Sat Jazz and Drama. South Harrow/Eastcote. ☎ 0208 8662105 01923 285380. ☎ www.lornaclarkschoolofdance.co.uk

The Van Niekerk Academy of Dance (HA7) Ballet classes to develop poise, technique and expression through dance, for boys and girls aged 3-16 years with Royal Academy of Dance examinations ☎ 020 8950 2457 ☎ www.vanniekerkacademyofdance.co.uk

ARTS AND CRAFTS

After-School Art Classes For Kids in Stanmore (HA7) Drawing, painting and mixed-media. Mon-Thurs and Sat for Reception through GCSE. One-to-one tuition for all ages, including portfolio-building for University applicants. ☎ Lisa 020 8954 2897 ☎ myartclub@yahoo.co.uk

Craft Club (HAS) Term-time, every Monday 4:30-5:30pm at Harrow Arts Centre. New craft activities each term: hand and machine sewing; knitting; fabric printing. For 5-11 yr-olds. All materials provided. Qualified teachers. ☎ 07946 055 422 ☎ www.mysistersandme.co.uk

JAMiots (HA4) Creative arts session Includes homemade cooking, sticking, making, colouring, model making, painting and more. ☎ 01895 624755 ☎ thewindmillstudio.com

Lara Bakes (various) Kids cooking classes for soft, chewy and delicious soft pretzel baking. Also kits and pizza base mixes available. ☎ www.larabakes.com

Mini Picassos (NW10) Offer exciting after school art courses for children aged 4-13 years. Toddler Picassos - weekdays at 10am & Tues 2.45-3.45pm: Painting, water play, collage, play dough and songs. Ages 15 mths-3 years. Adults evening Life drawing classes. Get creative with a Mini Picassos Art Birthday Party for children aged 2-10 years and Summer Holiday workshops too! ☎ 07903 638 817 ☎ www.minipicassos.co.uk info@minipicassos.co.uk

The Veggie Kitchen (HA7) offers pure vegetarian cookery courses in Stanmore. Specialising in Indian cuisines, as well as Thai, Chinese and many more, students will learn to cook nutritious and delicious vegetarian meals in a friendly and homely environment. Offer group and one-to-one hands on courses. ☎ 0208 204 1906 ☎ www.veggiekitchen.co.uk

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Camelot Progressive Education focus on the core fundamental educational skills that all pupils need to achieve their full academic potential. They provided gimmick free, traditional classroom based teaching and learning. They focus on Maths and English in line with the National Curriculum, and for those heading for the 11+ Verbal and Non Verbal Reasoning. ☎ www.cped.org.uk ☎ 020 8869 9395

Click IT! Computer lessons for Children (HA2) Fun, exciting and educational weekly computer lessons for children aged 2-5. Classes held at nursery schools all over North West London. Have fun learning with technology: mouse and keyboard skills and devices including graphic tablets, trackpads and digital microscopes. Every lesson is designed to complement the EYFS curriculum. Free trials available. ☎ 020 8864 0325. ☎ www.clickit-kids.co.uk wendy@clickit-kids.co.uk

Elisa's Tutorial School (HA8) Experienced private tutor in Edware. Programmes for children from 2.5-16 yrs. If your child needs a little extra help, in English maths verbal and non-verbal 4+ 7+ and 11+ preparing for entrance exams or you just want

to give them every advantage, Elisa can help. 99% success rate. ☎ 020 8958 1192 07956868119 ☎ www.childrenstories.net

Explore Learning (Various) Maths & English tuition for 5-14 yr olds of all abilities. Individualised courses tailored to your child's needs. Vibrant, energetic centres that make children enthusiastic about learning. Courses mapped to the National Curriculum and Curriculum for Excellence. ☎ www.explorelearning.org.uk

First Class Learning (Various) Structured yet flexible programme, designed for children studying the UK National Curriculum. Tailored to a child's learning needs & style. Find out more about this structured approach to learning, by contacting one of your local Centre managers. ☎ www.firstclasslearning.co.uk

Fleet Tutors (Various) Private home tutoring for Maths and English; 33 years' experience. ☎ 020 8580 3911 ☎ www.fleet-tutors.co.uk

Help4Learning (various) A fun movement based programme to help with focus/attention, hyperactivity, verbal instruction, reading & writing. ☎ www.help4learning.com

Integratedbrain - Improve Co-ordination for learning! (UB5) Activities to help those with poor co-ordination, dyspraxia, dyslexia or fine motor difficulties. Small groups of 4/5 children working to develop better all-round motor integration. ☎ Usha Patel 07766 837 616 ☎ ushapatel.raviv@gmail.com www.integratedbrain.co.uk

Kip McGrath Education Centre (Various) After school and Sat tuition for 6-16 years in Pinner, Hendon, Northwood, Uxbridge & Watford. Tuition in Maths, Reading, Spelling, Writing, SATS, 11+ and GCSE ☎ www.kipmcgrath.com

Kumon (Various) Every child can achieve. Every child can succeed. No matter what their age or ability, Kumon will help your child to improve their concentration and study skills, unlock their true potential and become an independent learner. ☎ 0800 854 714 ☎ www.kumon.co.uk

Leaders are Readers (HA8) Award winning reading programme helping children from as young as 3 years to read fluently, often to a standard three to four years above their peers reading age. ☎ 01992 651 300 ☎ www.leadersarereaders.co.uk

Magikats (HA1) offer innovative programmes, written to support the National Curriculum from ages 3 - 16, every Saturday at Gayton Library in Harrow. The friendly Magikats environment, with individual programmes and individual support for individual children, promotes confidence, skills and a love of learning. ☎ 02084275663 ☎ www.magikats.com

Math'scool Award-winning Maths Tuition plus out-of-lesson homework support. ☎ 0844 840 8400 ☎ www.mathscool.com

Maths Doctor (various) is an award winning company, run by qualified teachers. They have over 500 tutors providing one-to-one maths and physics tuition across the whole of the UK. They always start with a free online assessment of your child's level and learning style, which enables them

to hand pick the best tutor for them. To request a tutor please register your details on ☎ www.mathsdoctor.co.uk ☎ 020 7193 1871

The Northwood Practice Speech and Language Therapist (HA6) An independent service covering a range of children's communication difficulties. ☎ 01923 824 074 ☎ www.northwoodpractice.co.uk

Number Works 'n' Words (Various) After school Maths and English tuition classes which target identified needs to improve achievement levels. They set goals for your child, monitor progress and provide regular progress reports. Cater for all levels from Reception to Year 11. ☎ www.numberworksandwords.co.uk

Play and Learn (WD23) Play and Learn offer classes for children aged 3-16 years. They provide a formula that works to inspire and encourage learning with the added benefit of play, whilst reinforcing and supporting their school education. Each session will include a snack and drink, a 50-minute lesson and an hour's play to encourage your child's efforts. ☎ 01923 248747 ☎ play.learn@parentsparadise.eu www.parentsparadise.eu/play-and-learn

Raviv Practice London (UB5) Catch up reading course for children on the SEN register. Reading courses are flexible with home based learning (via computer) monitored daily. ☎ Usha Patel on 07766 837 616 ☎ info@ravivpracticelondon.co.uk (registered therapist)

Regent Learning (HA2) Harrow based learning club for 5-16 years enhancing their understanding of English, Maths, Science and ICT. ☎ 020 8966 9900 ☎ www.regentlearning.com

Stanmore Tutor CBR checked. Preparation for 7+ and 11+ Grammar/Independent entrance exams. ☎ 020 3538 2437

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Type IT! - Touch Typing Lessons for Children (HA5) Learn to touch type! Specifically designed courses for children from age 8-18. The Type IT! course follows the National Literacy Strategy and so also helps with literacy skills including spelling and word patterns. Highly recommended for children with dyslexia. Classes are held at Heathfield School in Pinner, HA5 1NB. Free trials available. Adult classes also available. ☎ 020 8864 0325. ☎ www.typeitforkids.co.uk wendy@typeitforkids.co.uk

U C MAS (HA2, HA3, WD18, UB4) A successful Abacus Mental Arithmetic training programme have been teaching hundreds of children in the UK since 2005, giving them a solid arithmetic foundation by applying the multiple intelligence of the human brain in learning mental arithmetic from the age of 4 with the help of the wonder tool Abacus which not only inculcates a love towards maths for children but also enhances the child's ability to listen, focus and think in pictures in a play way method without any stress or repetition. Enrol now to give your child a lifetime skill and discover the genius within them. ☎ 0208 907 8009 ☎ www.ucmas.uk.com

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Keeping up with the Touch Screen Generation

By Hannah Hunter

Most parents will admit to handing a smart phone to their toddler for a moment's peace in a traffic jam or supermarket queue. At home children have access to the Internet and games, either on their own phones, iPods and tablets, or those of their parents – there's even an iPotty with an in-built iPad stand, for entertaining impatient toddlers.

Without wanting to sound all Big Brother, do we really know what they are up to when they're using these devices? Are you sure there's no way your 5 year-old could rack up £1,700 on in-app purchases, as Bristol boy Danny Kitchen did earlier this year? Have you installed a secure browser so that your kids can't access unsuitable content? Do you know who they're texting or emailing, or who's contacting them?

If, like me, you grew up in the 80s, your 'screen-time' as a child would have been limited to after-school Blue Peter watching and maybe the odd half hour playing Donkey Kong on your Game and Watch. There was no Internet or Facebook to police, so our parents had control over what we were watching or playing, without any unwelcome outside influences.

Fast-forward to today, where the average UK home has five screens a child can access, including TVs, computers, tablets and phones, as well as Wi-Fi available pretty much everywhere. You can see why parents are flummoxed by how best to teach their kids to navigate this technology, when it's available 24-7.

Clearly, the best way to make sure you know what your children are up to is to be there when they're playing, and take an interest in what they're looking at. This becomes less possible as your children get older, and don't want their parents following them around like the technology police.

There are some pretty basic security steps we can follow which enable older kids to have relative freedom, in a safe virtual environment.

1. Check that Internet browsers are child safe.

The iPad doesn't come with parental controls, so disable Safari in Restrictions and download a new safe browser (there are several available in the App Store that offer parental controls). Filter content according to a child's age or enter specific categories and URLs for personalised site blocking.

On Android devices you can have multiple users, tailoring access appropriately – in Google Play, press Menu and select Settings, then enable Content Filtering. The Ranger Pro Safe Browser app enables you to monitor and manage your children's Internet use.

2. Keep your passwords to yourself, turn off in-app purchasing, and limit children's access to apps.

If you are an iPad/iPhone/iPod user, keep your iTunes password safe. Then stop anyone else from using the App Store. Go to the Settings menu, tap on General, then Restrictions. Enable Restrictions and choose a PIN (not the same one used to unlock the device). Go to the Allowed Content section, and either turn In-App Purchases off completely or change the Require Password option to "Immediately" rather than "15 minutes". The PIN will ensure that only you can change these settings in the future.

In Settings you can also turn off Game Centre (which shares data with other users), and disable social media access, Bluetooth and Location Services. Remember Airplane Mode, in Settings, effectively turns Internet access off. Children can still access movies, music games and apps and it exposes them to less radiation. The World Health Organisation has raised concerns about the levels of radiation coming from mobile phones and other wireless gadgets and they recommend limiting children's use of such devices.

The Android platform uses Sandbox Locks for younger children, which you can download to restrict access, from Toddler Lock, which makes the device show colours and shapes when tapped by chubby fingers, to apps like Flamingo Sandbox which enables you to restrict access to specific apps, lock profiles, wireless networks and system settings. App Lock is a free app that enables you to control which apps require PIN access.

With all of the security jobs done, you can let your children actually enjoy using touchscreens safely! There are so many different apps out there, from learning times tables to old fashioned platform-style games, it's hard to work out which ones are the best.

Review sites can be helpful, such as kidsbestipadapps.com, which gives you a list of apps for kids, by age.

Here are some of Families' favourite apps:



History Hero – provides kids and their families with a fun interactive guide to the world's most important and interesting museums and historical sites including British Museum, Natural History Museum, National Gallery, Tower of London and Tate Modern. 4+.

PocketPhonics – Children are taught letter sounds and how to blend them together to sound out and spell words. Writing is taught by the app demonstrating how to write a letter and the child mimicking this by tracing the letter with their finger – measuring how well they trace and their success is greeted with applause. 4+.



Fisher Price – Lets Count Animals! – This is just one of a wide range of great free apps offered by Fisher Price. Babies

are encouraged to interact with number learning through animation and sound effects. Baby can tap, tilt or shake to set a learning world in motion! 6months+ (see pg 6 for their great Appitivity products that protect your technology for inquisitive fingers!)

Fairytale Forest – Perform Workshops Ltd. (local Theatre Arts Club) are one of (if not THE) first ever drama school to come up with an interactive App which ties in with their termly creative and learning resources. It manages to be educational and theatrical all at the same time. And it's free!



Plants vs zombies – keep the zombies from invading. 9+.



Starwalk – find names of the constellations stars, planets, satellites and galaxies by pointing your phone/tablet at the sky. 4+.



Peppa Pig apps – another big hit for toddlers, fun games which can be played by one or more players together. 4+.



Toca – all of the Toca games are fantastic fun and beautifully designed 4+.



Nighty Night – award winning app where you listen to a story and say goodnight to the farm animals. 4+.



Cinderella – interactive animation of the traditional story, from Nosy Crow, an independent children's book and

app publisher, 4+. Their other apps include stories by authors and illustrators such as Philip Ardagh and Axel Scheffler

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