Familes North London

A NEW FAMILY THEATRE FESTIVAL IN LONDON THIS SUMMER THE THREE BILLY THE ELEPHANT MERMAIDS GOATS GRUFF DREAM & PIGGIE & PIRATES



Issue 161 July/August 2023

22 JULY - 28 AUGUST CORAM'S FIELDS - 5 MINUTES FROM KINGS CROSS ↔ performinthepark.uk

Confidence Building Fun

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Choose from over 30 venues across North London. To book a class, visit perform.org.uk/try

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Numberblocks toys to giveaway

8 bundles worth £80 each

Collectables and playset for endless play and learning adventures

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Bundles include:

Numberblocks Friends One to Five

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Numberblocks Step Squad Mission Headquarters playset

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Families

T&C's apply

Welcome

We have tonnes of ideas for summer fun in this issue. If you're looking for a day out, take a look at our articles on top UK beaches, theme parks and outdoor adventure parks to get truly inspired. And, if you're heading on holiday or on a day trip, don't forget to download our free activity printables for those "I'm bored" moments.

Closer to home, try some Forest School activities and some great recipes which will develop your child's cooking skills.

September will roll round before you know it, so read our tips on how you can help your child with the transition to a new school year and check out the best uniform labelling and stationery ideas.

Look out for **LOADS** of fabulous giveaways in issue too. Apply inside and you'll also ensure you receive our digital magazine with lots more content and goodies on offer.

In this issue

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Get in touch

Competition winners from our March/ April issue

Congratulations to all our winners. You can find a list HERE



Make Neapolitan dairy-free ice cream!

We asked Emily Leary, multi-awardwinning food, lifestyle and parenting writer, presenter, photographer and author of **A Mummy Too** to share her delicious, creamy dairy-free ice cream recipe with us.

This perfect summer treat will cool you down on even the warmest of days and inspire the whole family to get in the kitchen just for a lick of the spoon!



Neapolitan ice

Make dairy-free











DOWNLOAD HERE!

WHAT'S ON

Take nature's pulse

Join The Big Butterfly Count, a UK-wide survey to assess the health of our



environment. Just spend 15 minutes anywhere outdoors on a sunny day between July 14 and August 6. Count the types and number of butterflies and day-flying moths you see. The results help to identify where conservation action is needed most. *www.bigbutterflycount.org*

MAGICAL CHILDREN'S THEATRE







CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT







Turning your child into a bookworm

By Emma Shingleton

Is your youngster a reluctant reader? Despite tempting them with every type of book, do they still only read when they 'have' to and not for pleasure?

The long summer holidays are an ideal time to encourage your child to ditch their screens and curl up with an engrossing story book instead.

So let's get started:

Create a reading den

Every home should have a reading corner or den; a place that is inviting and excites children. Choose a quiet spot and add some pillows, bean bags or cushions to curl up on. Perhaps you could put up some posters to get them in the mood for imaginative thinking. What about: Under the Sea, Rainbows, Castles, Transport, In the Jungle?

Use television subtitles

Put your child's favourite programmes on with subtitles and no sound. Can they read along and understand what is happening?

Try karaoke with lyrics

Host karaoke sessions so that children are challenged to read and sing lyrics on the screen.

Learn a poem together

Why not learn a topical poem alongside your child: find one about holidays, the weather or beaches to fit the season!



Film yourself reading a story

Think of it as CBBC bedtime stories. Use your phone to film yourself reading a story and send in the video to your child's teacher. If other parents do the same, the whole class can enjoy a story read by someone other than their teacher!

READ MORE

Get the best out of family life!

<text><text>

Fun 'back to school' stationery

There's nothing more guaranteed to get your child excited about the new school year than some new stationery for back to school. Here are our top summer shopping choices.







Giraffe Wooden Ruler £3.95 Mini Highlighters £2.00 each Mini Stationery Set £6.00



Magnetic Metal Ball Pen £14.99



Duck Crayons £3.95



Wild Wonders Colouring Pencils £9.95



Super 3D Moving Cover Notebook £2.65









Visual processing: what parents need to know

By Usha Patel



'My son's Educational Psychologist Report revealed he has visual processing problems. But what does this mean?' Opticians check your child's eye

health and how well their eyes take in visual data. But how well does your child's brain interpret what they see?

READ MORE

Helping your child with school transition

By Catherine Loble and Lisa Wander



Moving to a new class or school can be challenging for kids. Most adapt to changes within the first few weeks but preparation and emotional resilience can greatly help with this adaptation. So how can you support your child through this unsettling time?

READ MORE

Platform for change-makers

Kids are being inspired to change the world by not-for-profit social action platform Superkind. It has partnered with more than 40 charities. *www.superkind.org*





We also have online studies you can do from the comfort of home www.cbcd.bbk.ac.uk/online-studies

020 3926 1207 babylab@bbk.ac.uk www.cbcd.bbk.ac.uk



WIN!

3 months of swimming lessons

GetSetGo! with brand new pool

GetSetGo! Swim Academy will be opening this October in Golders Green and to celebrate the launch we will be giving one lucky winner **THREE MONTHS** of free swimming lessons worth £270!

GetSetGo! is a dedicated learn to swim academy focused on delivering exceptional swimming lessons in beautiful, purpose-built venues.

We know what our customers love and are driven by what you deserve – a modern, sophisticated and safe swimming pool that provides the ideal environment for you and your family to learn and enjoy swimming. Our team are inspirational, passionate and fun. We strive to deliver the best swimming lesson experience possible.

Bookings are open and spaces are filling fast. To find out more head to *www.get-set-go.com/ goldersgreen* or call 0208 050 0070.

To enter the competition head to https://gleam.io/tLWiu/win-3months-of-swimming-lessons to complete the entry form.

Competition ends August 31 2023. Winner will be announced by the September 7.









Do you have concerns about your child's wellbeing or mental health?

#HelpingFamiliesHeal

- Sensory Integration assessment and therapy
- Talking therapy and Creative Arts therapies (music, drama, play...)
- Research-evidenced therapy tailored to your child or young person's needs
- Helps neurodiverse children

Call us for a free consultation 020 7354 4161 www.familyfutures.co.uk

Beat "summer slump" with Ant Learning

It is common that in September children may experience "summer slump", where they forget what they learned the previous academic year due to the sixweek break.



Ant Learning, a

specialist tuition provider

in Southgate and online, has come up with a blend of structured learning and afternoon activities which is sure to be a hit with parents and children.

Summer school places are available from July 31–August 18 for children age 3½ to 11offering booster learning in reading, maths, English, and intensive entrance exam preparation, to build confidence, close learning gaps, and accelerate progress in key topics. In the afternoon, children enjoy activities such as arts and crafts, musical theatre, team sports and free play.

Ant Learning founder Lara Okpor said: "I'm very keen for children to walk away with skills and experience that will take them forward in their learning."

Her Saturday and Summer schools have helped children from state and private schools to boost their learning. To find out more, call 020 8050 5798 or visit *antlearning.co.uk/ summerschool*

Summer Reading Challenge 2023



The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children ages 4-11 to read six library books during the summer holiday and collect rewards, like stickers, on their way to receiving their challenge certificate and medal.

The Challenge will continue through September.

READ MORE



Grab Start Rite Schools shoes worth £50



Families has 5 pairs of Start-Rite Schools shoes to give away.

A leader in children's fitted footwear for over 230 years, Start-Rite school shoes are designed to be tough and provide the correct support for the age and developmental stage of the child.

Containing biomechanical sole units, a proprietary air flow system and with double industry standard testing, Start-Rite delivers shoes that are comfortable and dependable: **never outworn, only outgrown.**

Winners will receive a £50 voucher to select from a broad School Shoe range. The range includes a selection at a more value-driven price point and a selection that donates profits to The Daily Mile, a charity working to help children get more exercise during the school day, thereby improving their physical, social, emotional and mental health.

APPLY HERE

T&C's apply.

FREE Readly digital mag subscriptions worth £120



Families has 3 annual subscriptions to Readly to give away, offering hours of digital magazine fun for young readers, including 80+ Disney magazines and comics.

Featuring much-loved character comics such as Disney's Frozen, Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, High School Musical, Star Wars™ and MARVEL, kids can immerse themselves in the world of Disney through brilliant stories, fantasy adventures, craft ideas and activities revolving around their favourite characters.

The Disney magazines are available to all the family as part of the unlimited reading subscription on Readly – where users can instantly read over seven thousand magazines and newspapers via their smartphone, tablet or laptop. Five user profiles per household. Parental controls apply.

APPLY HERE

T&C's apply.

Avoiding summer learning loss

At home

Encourage creative play. Start with a box of dressing-up props. Teach them to cook. Check out skills it develops by age <u>HERE.</u> Make a scrap book. Encourages creativity, writing and reading. Get gardening. Explore plants in the garden, get kids planting their own.

Reading. Increases vocabulary, literacy and creativity. Try the **Summer Reading Challenge**

On holiday

Encourage organisation and research skills, **involve kids in planning activities for your trip.** Challenge kids to concisely describe their holidays in writing by **sending postcards. Sandcastle building** encourages learning about patterns and structure.

Learning lurks in seaside rockpools! Get the kids to draw and research their sightings.

How to go rockpooling



This guide gives you tips on what you need to take and shows what you may find.

Out and about

Go on a mini-beast hunt at your local park. Visit a museum, zoo or aquarium. Frequently an interactive experience with educational school holiday activities on offer. Physical activity. Develops concentration, team work and logic. Visit a castle or stately home. A

Visit a castle or stately home. A three-dimensional history lesson!

On the move

The AA's 10 best car games can transform a boring car journey.

Encourage appreciation of local food. Choose local and avoid fast food outlets or chain restaurants.

Help kids **observe climatic and geographic differences** compared to where they live.

Provide real life exposure to history and culture. Visit places of local significance.

Laying out a scrapbook



Watch this easy-to-follow guide to creating a scrapbook page.

School uniform labelling options

Labelling school clothes is not a fun job so, to help, we've identified some of the most reliable labelling options out there.



SnappyTag No ironing or sewing. Clip on plastic tags with special tool. 50 labels £23



WovenLabelsUK Sew On For traditionalists, sew on labels offer durability and value for money. 36 labels £4.99



Stamptastic Stamping with longlasting ink makes labelling fast and easy. Basic bundle £24



easy2name Shoe Label Covers

Stick these over a stickon label to protect name from wearing off. 20 labels £3.95







WHSmith Laundry <u>Marker</u> Short of time and money? Nothing beats a laundry pen. £4.99



MyNameTags Ministickers

Big enough for child's name but small enough for stationery. 175 for £15.95



Able Labels Iron On Labels Avoids sewing and produces similar result.

30 labels £3.75



tinyme Nursery Labels

Nursery-themed colourful stickers. Starter pack 144 sticky labels inc 72 iron on labels £23

Let's go plastic-free in 2023!

Mark Plastic-Free July by reducing your family's single-use plastic waste this summer. Try one of our ideas to help the planet and future generations.



Eco Warrior shampoo bar Lasts longer and produces foamy lather with fewer chemicals.



Shaving soap Free from plastics, including in the packaging.



Plant-based dental floss Made with 100% renewable resources. Recycle in food waste.



Aluminium refill bottle Zero waste. Just buy washing up liquid in bulk and refill.



Reusable cotton snack bag Perfect alternative for sandwiches and snacks.



Bamboo dish brush Made with natural bamboo, durable and effective.



Disney Stitch stainless steel straws Reusable stainless-steel straws with adorable Stitch toppers.



Zero Waste Locator Find your nearest plasticfree food outlets using this interactive map.



<u>Toy swap</u> <u>subscription</u> <u>library</u> The more affordable and sustainable alternative to buying toys.

Rock-a-bye scientist

Researchers in Hendon are looking to work with parents – and their infant scientists – to investigate babies' understanding of music and the



Junior visiting scientist, Middlesex Uni BabyLab

role it plays in early development and communication.

PhD researcher Tatiana Sobolewska said: "We think that sounds produced in caregiver-child communication reflect emotional cues that are also used in music, and we investigate this to better understand the basis of language development."

She is inviting parents or caregivers with 4-9 month olds take part in her exciting research, under the supervision of MCCLab Director Dr Fabia Franco.

"Caregivers can come to Middlesex University for one 30-45-minute session at our babyLab," said Tatiana.

Scan the code below to see a visit to babyLab. For more details and to book, go to *www.mcclabmdx.com/visit*

Or contact Tatiana at t.g.sobolewska@mdx.ac.uk

All participants are awarded £10 Amazon voucher. There is free parking at the site in Hendon, NW4, and there are baby changing facilities.







Booking Info Telephone 0208 359 6274

Mon – Fri 9.00 – 17.00 NGESSION 1

DATE: Thursday 20 July

> **TIME:** 18.30 – 20.00

LOCATION: 2 Bristol Avenue NW9 4EW

WWW.BARNET.GOV.UK/FOSTERING



BARNET LONDON BOROUGH

NEW Orchard Toys games to giveaway!

8 bundles of NEW Orchard Toy games



Let the kids in the kitchen!

We asked Heather Staller, writer of the new book Kid Kitchen, for some of her favourite recipes for developing kids' cooking skills.



No-Bake Trail Mix Cups Healthier granola bar alternative. Use crushed

pretzels, cereal, chopped nuts, seeds, dried fruit.



Stuffed Pizza <u>Bites</u> A fun twist on pizza night - stuff with whatever you like.



Baked Spaghetti Cups Healthy and easy weeknight meal kids can virtually make all by themselves.



<u>Healthy Pumpkin</u> <u>Cookies with</u> <u>Maple Glaze</u>

Wholegrain, lower in added sugar and made in one bowl!



Blueberry Pancake Breakfast Cobbler Blueberry pancakes BUT also a dessert cobbler that's healthy enough for breakfast!



Strawberry Oatmeal Snack Cake Made from wholesome ingredients. Easy to stir

up before breakfast.



<u>PB&J Breakfast</u> <u>Cookies</u>

Full of fruit, protein & whole grains, kids will love this breakfast choice.



Chicken Fajita Burrito Bowls Veggie-packed, easy

dinner. Kids can make with just a little help!



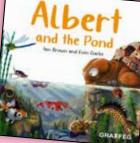
<u>S'mores Brownie</u> <u>Bites</u>

Easy, impressive dessert that kids can make with just a little help.

WIN! Albert The Tortoise books

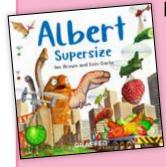
Find friendship with Albert

Children's favourite Albert The Tortoise is covering new ground in his latest book,



Albert and The Pond, where he finds a new friend, a tadpole, who vanishes suddenly, leaving Albert upset. After his hibernation, Albert wakes to find his new friend back in the pond, but something about them seems a bit different.

It is the fifth instalment in the series and follows on the success of Albert Supersize, in which



he must tackle dinosaurs and a volcano, before helping his little friends with a big problem of their own.

Perfect for use in Key Stage 1 STEM classes, Albert and the Pond, published by Graffeg, presents the lifecycle of a frog through Ian Brown's humorous and fun-filled writing and Eoin Clarke's colourful illustrations. Families North London has teamed up with Graffeg to offer readers the chance to win one of **FIVE PAIRS** Albert The Tortoise books. Closing date August 31. T&Cs at bit.ly/GraffegTCs. Enter HERE

How can different types of therapy help your child's wellbeing?



Does your child struggle with anxiety, low self-esteem, periods of depression, or other mental health difficulties?

Do they have difficulties with friendships, or struggle to cope in school? Do they have sensory difficulties, where they might feel overwhelmed in certain situations, or get upset in response to particular triggers?

There is help out there! Family Futures, a not-for-profit therapy centre, explains different types of therapy that use non verbal approaches to help children feel calm and secure, allowing them to express themselves in a safe space at their own pace.

Occupational and Sensory Integration Therapy might

focus on vestibular and proprioceptive perception, balance, and postural **READ MORE**



Free activity printables for all ages

Perfect for those 'I'm bored!' moments or for some quiet time.



Bluey and Bingo paper masks Make a Bluey and Bingo paper mask by downloading this template.



Make your own Routemaster Download the template to make this iconic double-decker bus.



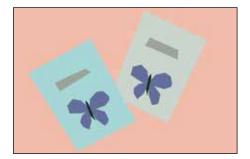
Tracy Beaker word search For Jaqueline Wilson fans! Find the hidden words connected to Tracy Beaker.



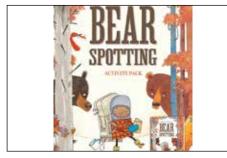
Duggee and his friends Download this sheet to colour in Duggee and the Squirrels.



Make a pirate hat Download this pirate hat template to sail the seven seas in style.



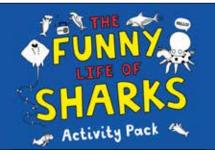
Let's play butterfly snap Download these cards and play a fun snap game.



A Beginner's Guide to Bear Spotting <u>activity book</u> Fun activities for 5-8s based on popular book.







The Funny Life of Sharks activity pack Activities for 8-11s based on the hilarious book.

This isn't your average playground...

Photos by Jenny Ellen, Magpie Eye Photography. See p38 for more



Super swing: inspiring imaginative play



"... It's been built with the children themselves," said Kerri Burton, a playworker at Somerford Grove Adventure Playground which is full of exciting climbing structures, jumping-off platforms, swings and slides.

"Our structures are totally unique and ever-changing," added Kerri. One of the most important things you'll find in an adventure playground is "loose parts" – repurposed objects, such as tyres, buckets, cardboard boxes, fabrics and rope - which can be played with in countless ways and can become anything in a child's imagination. **READ MORE**





Familiesonline.co.uk

Need to keep the kids busy this Summer? Check out these great clubs that your child will be begging to go back to.

Celebrate creativity with Wiz Kids fun

Creative wiz kids is one of london's oldest children's clubs. Founded in New York City in 1990 by painter and poet Frances



Bildner, it has seen thousands of happy faces come through its doors.

Cwk, in Hampstead, believes in "learning through play not pressure" and the emphasis is on the process of **READ MORE**







Moss Hall Playcentre - days filled with fun

Our fun-filled programme has lots of different activities daily.

There is the outdoor space for den building, planting, games, and freedom to run. Our

indoor areas give space for cooking classes, arts and crafts, 3D art, film-making and more.

See website for opening hours. Operating for over 25 years as a holiday childcare provider, our camp is registered with Ofsted, as Outstanding/ Met.



For more details about our centre in Finchley, great parent feedback and how to book go to www.mosshallplaycentre.co.uk

Make great memories at The Playing Space

Our drama games and activities are designed to encourage teamwork and co-operation. Children, often from different schools and backgrounds, form



strong bonds and parents tell us they beg to come back. There is always a real sense of exhilaration and camaraderie as the children make preparations for the final show to share with families.

This summer we are running three weeks of workshops with themes suggested by previous students: Robots of the Future, Pirate Adventures and Myths and Legends. We can't wait to see what exciting ideas your Playing children will come up with! info@theplayingspace.co.uk www.theplayingspace.co.uk







Fun-pack their days with North London Stars

North London Stars are enrolling!

Our classes in Finchley foster creativity,



teamwork and communication alongside motor skills for our younger students and vocational technique for our older students.

Dance Camp: Fun packed mornings trying different dance styles, learning routines and showing off our best moves, followed by creative afternoons with games & activities. 4-12s. Single day or full week, July 24-28. 50% off for siblings and early bird discount. www.bookwhen.com/northlondonstars

For Autum Term classes 2-16s, **READ MORE**









An unforgettable Rising Stars Activ<u>ities</u> Summer

Ready for a summer packed with excitement, learning and friendship?



Look no further! Rising Stars Activities Ofsted-registered, children's multi-activity Summer Holiday Camps are the ultimate destination for young adventurers aged 5-11, promising a diverse range of activities that will captivate and inspire (*www. risingstarsactivities.com*).

At all our camps, in N2, NW3, N3 and NW11, we prioritize safety and quality, ensuring our child is in the best hands. Our experienced and caring staff create a nurturing environment with activities that encourage self-expression, teamwork and growth, where children can flourish.

READ MORE

RisinqStars

Find confidence and friends with Stagecoach

Children and teenagers can make friends, have fun and build some great new skills at the fabulous



Stagecoach Holiday Workshop in Highgate this summer, **July 24-28!**

Created for 6 to 16-year-olds, Stagecoach courses are designed to increase your child's confidence, social awareness and fitness.

At the end of the Holiday Workshop, students will join together to showcase their newfound singing, acting and dancing skills to family and friends. No previous dancing, singing or acting ability and no audition needed – just a willingness to give it a go! Stagecoach Highgate accepts

Stagecoach Highgate accepts childcare vouchers. 307956436028. www.stagecoach.co.uk/highgate



Explore creativity and build life skills with Stage Academy

Stage Academy holiday courses are a



fantastic way to build your child's confidence and social skills.

STAGE ACADEMY

Through acting, singing, and dancing, children learn to express themselves in a safe and supportive environment. They learn to work as part of a team, developing collaboration and communication skills.

The courses are designed to be fun and engaging, so children don't even realise they're building important life skills. They get to explore their creativity and imagination, while learning about performing arts. And the best part is they get to do it all with other children who share their passions.

Whether your child is a seasoned performer or just starting out, why not join Stage Academy's "**Show in a Week course**" from July 24-28 at Lauderdale House, Highgate, N6 5HG and give them the gift of a life-changing experience this Summer Holiday complete with a wonderful final performance, suitable for ages 4 to 16 in age appropriate groups. *www.stageacademy.co.uk/holiday*



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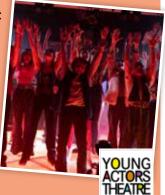
Families





DISCOUNT! £10 Off with code Magazine23 Film, act, sing, write with Yati, booking now

We have a fantastic selection of holiday courses for 6-17s who are passionate about the performing arts. Our courses are created to generate maximum



fun while building a range of theatre skills and supporting good mental health. Whether your child is interested in **Acting**, **Musical Theatre**, **Writing** or **Film**, we have a course perfect for them.

Courses run 10.30–5 Mon-Fri, July 24 to Sept 1. Prices from £230/£195 concs. Some free spaces available through our Stage Door scheme. Find out more 3 020 7278 2101. Gain £10 discount on any summer course online with code **Magazine23** at checkout.

www.yati.org.uk/summerholidays-2023

Discover so many exciting projects at Wac Arts

Join Wac Arts this Summer for our exciting Holiday Club!

We have 10 projects exploring the Performing Arts, Creative & Digital Arts, and Musical Theatre for those aged 4–26.

Our week-long projects start at £65 per person for half-day, and £130 per person for full-day, July 24 to August 11 in Belsize Park. We have 75 per cent bursaries available, as well as a Breakfast Club and Cinema Club to support families with childcare.

All our projects are led by experienced professionals, providing a safe space for young people to explore their creativity, learn skills, have fun and make friends.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to get creative this summer. Find out more, and secure a spot today, visit our website

wacarts.co.uk





Holiday and term time fun with Perform

Perform are ensuring a funpacked July and August with their Wizard of Oz drama, dance and singing holiday courses plus their first ever festival of child to try Perform. Packed with self-esteem boosting activities, Perform's weekly classes get the academic year off to a flying start with a fun and relaxed focus on devel-

children's theatre, Perform in the Park. See What's On.



oping confidence, communication, co-ordination and concentration. Using a mix of drama, dance and singing, these high-energy classes are designed to allow even the most reticent children to

Children can sing and dance down the yellow brick road with the Wizard of Oz. With col-

ourful costumes, uplifting songs and dazzling dancing, children age 4 to 10 will have the best fun of the summer as they bring this story to life. These five-day courses run across July and August from 10am to 3pm each day.

Age range: 4-10

Times: 10am to 3pm each day. Venues:

Jul 24-28: EC1Y, N8, N5 & NW8 Jul 31-Aug 4: N2, NW1 & N7 Aug 7-11: E5, N10 & NW6 Aug 14-18: NW11, N1, NW1 & N14 Aug 21-25: EC1R, N5, N6, NW8 & E11

3020 7255 9120. ⊠ enquiries@ perform.org.uk. *www.enquiries@ perform.org.uk*

And Perform's term time classes are back in September and there's no better time for your shine.

Classes are for all abilities and every child is welcome to try a free class in: N1, N2, N4, N5, N6, N7, N8, N10, N11, N12, N13, N14, New N16, N19, N20, N21, N22, EN2, EN5, EC1, NW1, NW2, NW3, NW5, NW6, NW7, NW8, NW11, EC1R, EC1Y, W1H. J 020 7255 9120

☐ enquiries@perform.org.uk Book FREE trial at *www.perform.org.uk/ try*



SCHOOL'S OUT

THEY'VE WORKED HARD AND Now it's time to play hard!

Whether it's with friends or family, you'll find so much to do across North London at your local Better leisure centre



JUNIOR GYM AND CLASSES

Junior gym is a dedicated session where teens and older children aged between 11-17 can access the gym in a safe and inclusive space. All sessions have a member of staff available to assist with technique, using equipment and safety advice. Whatever level of fitness, juniors are also welcome in our fitness classes called Basics. From HIIT Basics to Yoga Basics, these lower intensity classes with simpler movements help build confidence and the foundations to get moving.

FAMILY FUN SWIMMING

Our fun sessions include floats and toys in the pool, enjoyed by kids of all ages – and mum and dad too! Add swimming to your list of holiday activities in the confidence that whatever the weather, you'll get to make some great holiday memories together.

SWIM SCHOOL HOLIDAY SHORT COURSES

Why not keep the kids active this holiday while learning a new life skill with our Swim School Holiday Courses. Suitable for all levels, your child will build their confidence in the water and have fun at a swimming pool near you. Lessons run daily from Monday to Friday.

HOLIDAY CLUB

The popular Holiday Clubs are back at leisure centres across Hackney so kids aged 5-11 can enjoy a jam-packed summer of swimming, gymnastics, arts and crafts and so much more!









You'll find all this and more at your local Better leisure centre in Hackney. Discover more by scanning the QR code or visiting **better.org.uk/hackney**



RF

Better is a registered trademark and trading name of GLL (Greenwich Leisure Limited), a charitable social enterprise and registered society under the Co-operative & Community Benefit & Societies Act 2014 registration no. 27793R. Registered office: Middlegate House, The Royal Arsenal, London, SE18 65X. Inland Revenue Charity no. XR43398.



Great Forest School activities

We asked Naomi Walmsley, author, with Dan Westall, of the Forest School Handbook for some ideas from the book on how to connect kids with nature. Here are her inspiring ideas.

Be a mud detective



Mark out a sticky, muddy area (or area of loose dirt) with sticks about three by two feet. One person turns away whilst the other hops, skips and jumps through the pit. Now guess how they moved through by looking closely at their tracks.

Make a goblin or toy village



Imagine a family of tiny goblins or make this village for your favourite toy. Find places that have interesting characteristics, a hole in a tree, creeping roots etc. Add leaves on sticks for miniature trees, pebbles for bridges, moss for roofs and make mini shelters big enough for your imaginary guests or toy.

Nature is a rainbow



You'll be amazed how many different colours you can see when you start to look. Pick up a free colour chart from a hardware or DIY shop. Head to the park or forest or even into a town to see which natural things match the colours on your chart.

Conkers are a great resource



At the end of summer, the seeds (conkers), leaves and bark of the horse chestnut tree all contain saponin which has similar properties to soap. Grate the conkers, pour over warm water and leave to steep. Use after about half an hour to wash grubby hands or clean your clothes! Do not eat conkers.

Top family beaches in the UK

Pack the buckets, spades and picnic gear and head to one of these gorgeous 2022 Blue Flag Award beaches for an old-fashioned family day out. All have food outlets and toilets.



Llangranno, Wales Sandy, sheltered "village beach". Various food outlets. Water sports, surfing, dolphin viewing. Parking.



Burntisland, Fife Sandy/rocky beach. rockpools, Seaside Park with crazy golf, bouncy castle, fairground. Parking.



Cromer, Norfolk Traditional Victorian seaside resort, with a wide sand and shingle beach and iconic pier. Parking.



Scarborough North Bay, Yorkshire Esplanade, hills, cliffs, crazy golf, surfing. Parking.



<u>Mablethorpe,</u> <u>Lincolnshire</u>

Long sandy beaches, donkey rides, funfair, paddle boating, crazy golf, bike hire, parking.



Woolacombe, North Devon 3-mile sandy beach,

surf school, kayaking/ kitesurfing, rockpools, theme park. Parking.



Southwold, Suffolk Pier, attractions, lighthouse, model boating pond, shingle beach, harbour. Parking.



Blackpool Sands, South Devon Sand and shingle beach

Sand and shingle beach with clear, calm waters. Water activities. Parking.



St Ives, Cornwall 6 sandy beaches, surf & non-surf, Limited parking, take spectacular train ride from St Erth.

After School Education

Giggling Panda Chinese School

We are a Chinese language school established in 2015 specialising innovative Mandarin language courses for children aged 3-12. Classes suitable for children with or without Mandarin



background. Our focus is very much on fun. We guarantee an immersive experience full of art, craft, stories, games, songs & poems about Chinese traditions and history, and formal language learning through professional in-house content. Classes at weekends, various choices, at North/East Finchley and Watford. Contact us for a trial on 0793 249 4420.

⊠admin@gigglingpanda.co.uk www.gigglingpanda.co.uk

Magic of India Hindi Classes

Speak from the first lesson. No previous knowledge



needed. Small group zoom classes. Missed class support. Classes: 5-7, 8-14, 16-adult. New toddler singalong. Private lessons, Free trial class, Quick learning holiday clubs too. "Geeta uses English teaching methods and merges them with songs, poems, drawing, colouring, and various innovative methods so children are engaged in learning Hindi and at the same time learn about their culture." magicofindia.org

Vincent & Frida

Unlock your child's creativity in our fun and exciting art appreciation lessons! Give vour child the



gift of art and help them develop their creative skills with our specially designed classes. Our experienced teachers will engage vour child with interactive and enjoyable activities that will ignite their passion for art. We provide a safe and friendly environment that encourages learning and growth. Enrol your child today and watch them blossom into a confident and creative individual that loves art. Private lessons available. vincentandfrida.com

www.vincentandfrida.com

11+ Mocktestmasters

Specialist providers of information and resources for the 11+ entrance exam, to demystify and ease preparation for parents and children. 11+ events in Finchley, Barnet and Edmonton. Plus Holiday Learning Clubs, Mock Test Review Sessions, Pass Club - Saturday tuition and Weekly Practice Tests. www.mocktestmasters.com

"I saw you in Families magazine and..."

Ant Learning

Highly recommended and sought after professional tutoring,



experienced in developing and preparing children to learn, lead and succeed all around. Reading, English, Maths, verbal and nonverbal reasoning, ages 3½ -13. Book a trial and free assessment today 0208 050 5798. Plus learning and activity **holiday camp** to fill gaps, get ahead and

tackle learning loss.

www.antlearning.co.uk

Multi-Activity Camp

Rising Stars Activities

Our tailormade activities give a unique experience with



fun activities encouraging selfexpression, teamwork and growth. Holiday camps in N2, N3, NW3, NW11. Football clubs, school teaching & clubs, parties, personal training and basketball clubs. ♪0208 150 6655. Iminfo@risingstarsactivities. com. www.risingstarsactivities.com

Moss Hall Playcentre

Team games, model making, den building, bake offs, park



trips and more fun days at our highquality, affordable **holiday camps** for 4 to 11s. Flexible childcare where everyone is supported. In Moss Hall Infants, N12 8PE. Tax-free/ Childcare Vouchers accepted. ♪07731669002. Mmplaycentre2@gmail.com. www.mosshallplaycentre.co.uk

Performing Arts

Perform Classes

Confidence building weekly drama, dance and singing classes for 4-7s and 7-12s. Classes are designed to boost confidence,



communication, concentration and coordination. Holiday clubs. Visit **www.perform.org.uk/try** to book a FREE class.

Venues: N1, N2, N4, N5, N6, N7, N8, N10, N11, N12, N13, N14, New N16, N19, N20, N21, N22, EN2, EN5, EC1, NW1, NW2, NW3, NW5, NW6, NW7, NW8, NW11, EC1R, EC1Y, W1H. Summer holiday club: The Wizard of Oz, for 4-10s. 10am-3pm. Jul 24-28: EC1Y, N8, N5 & NW8 Jul 31-Aug 4: N2, NW1 & N7 Aug 7-11: E5, N10 & NW6 Aug 14-18: NW11, N1, NW1 & N14 Aug 21-25: EC1R, N5, N6, NW8 & E11 www.perform.org.uk/wizard J020 7255 9120 ⊠enquiries@perform.org.uk

www.perform.org.uk

Stagecoach Highgate

We aim to bring out the best in your child and we're not just talking about their new-found skills in



dancing, singing and acting. Our students also develop excellent communication skills, grow in selfesteem and enjoy the benefits of improved confidence! We welcome children of all abilities from the age of four to 16 years and offer twoweek trials. Holiday Club Jul 24-28 for 6-16s. To find out more visit www.stagecoach.co.uk/highgate

Young Actors Theatre Islington

YATI offers over 60 hours each week of high-quality and affordable classes in acting, singing and



dance. In school holidays we offer a range of holiday courses, in Acting, Musical Theatre, Writing or Film and our Agency represents young actors to gain professional work in the industry. Ages 4+. Classes from £95/term. Some free spaces available on application. 3020 7278 2101 ⊠ info@youngactors.org.uk www.youngactors.org.uk

The Playing Space

Our hugely popular holiday workshops have drama games and



activities designed to encourage teamwork and co-operation, fostering camaraderie as children work toward a final show to share with families. Our teachers are nurturing and full of fun. We are experts at building confidence, developing communication. Join us for Robots of the Future, Pirate Adventures and Myths and Legends. info@theplayingspace.co.uk www.theplayingspace.co.uk

YPS of Acting

Students learn acting in a fun, inclusive and exhilarating space.



High-quality weekly classes for 10-18s taught by professional actors. Act for screen, accents, fight combat and more. Up to 3 industry workshops a term. Audition entry only. All experience levels welcome. Week 1 acts as a trial.

Info@theyoungactingpro.com 307342 189 886 Fb/Insta: @ypsofacting www.TheYoungProSchoolofActing.com

North London Stars

Our dance and theatre classes for 2-16s, and holiday camps in Finch-



ley foster creativity, teamwork and communication, motor skills for younger students, vocational technique for older ones. At our funpacked **Dance Camp**, July 24-28, children try different dance styles in the morning, with creative arts and play games in the afternoons. Single day or full week. Siblings 50% off. Enrolling now for Autumn. Get in touch for a class trial. ℑ 07726931310. Imfo@northlondonstars.com www.northlondonstars.com

Wac Arts

High-quality affordable Arts Programmes for children and young people, 4-30. Weekend and evening classes,



holiday club, specialist workshops and week-long projects explore Performing, Creative & Digital arts at our HQ in Belsize Park. Classes from £2.50. Bursaries available. Creative Outreach Projects delivered in schools, youth and community settings across London. Our vision is for all young people to have access to the arts. www.wacarts.co.uk

Achieve Arts

Unlock creativity, confidence, solo speaking skills, performance skills, improvisation and characterisation at our



classes for 4-16s, in Crouch End, Muswell Hill, Harringay Ladder, Tufnell Park, Hampstead Garden Suburb, Mill Hill, and Pinner. Online too. 100% Lamda success rate. Book a free trial. For Summer holiday school

Pauline Quirke Academy

We believe performing arts have a huge, positive impact on young people. Our



students learn skills and make friends though our three core modules, Comedy & Drama, Film & Television and Musical Theatre. Through our ethos of "Be Yourself, Be Amazing" our students have the confidence to put themselves out there, the creativity to think differently and the community to feel supported. Classes in Finchely, Islington and Enfield. www.pgacademy.com

Stage Academy

Building self-confidence, teamwork, ambition and responsibility, we unlock the potential inside every



young person, giving them the chance to be the stars of tomorrow - on stage or off. Book a free trial. Discover the Stage Academy difference - and to secure your place for the new term. Act, sing, dance and succeed! Holiday Course N6, July 24-28, 4-16s. https://stageacademy.co.uk

Creative Arts

Creative Wiz Kids

We run creative **holiday clubs** in Hampstead, throughout Summer and other holidays, and think



being a kid should be fun. We believe in learning through play not pressure. We include cake decorating, face painting, daily outdoor play, drama games, individual and group art and storytime. No wonder we have seen thousands of happy faces come through our doors since we started in 1990. 307956 592 142 www.creativewizkids.com

Sports

Fighting Fit Fencing

We create a challenging <u>F G</u>hting fun environment for fencers FENĊ ŃG to learn under the quidance of our trained instructors. Fencers learn sportsmanship and respect in this game of strategy, tactics, and physical and mental agility. We are exceptionally proud to say that our youngsters have become recognised amongst the most successful club fencers in our discipline in the UK. One day FREE to all newcomers at our Summer School July 25-August 18. 3 0203 637 5707.

www.fightingfitfencing.com

Swim School

GetSetGo!

Luxury swimming pool opening this October in Golders Green! GetSetGo! Swim



Academy is focused on delivering exceptional swimming lessons in beautiful, purpose built venues. We know what our customers love and are driven on what you deserve: a modern and safe pool that provides the ideal environment for your family. A team who are inspirational, passionate and fun. We strive to deliver the best lesson experience. Call 0208 0500070 to book. www.get-set-go.com/goldersgreen



Schools & Nurseries

Hyland House School



A Christian, independent school, we empower our 2 to 11-year-olds to aim high and dream big. Our

children are achieving excellence. Our Early Years is Ofstedgraded Outstanding. Years 1-6 are graded



Good. Please contact us for more information or to arrange a visit. Hyland House School is at 97 Holcombe Road, Tottenham, London, N17 9AB. 3020 8520 4186. ⊠info@hylandhouseschool.org www.hylandhouseschool.org

St Joseph's Primary & Nursery

Based in Highgate, an Ofsted & Diocesan rated "Outstanding" primary school, offering the very best start for children 2-11 with high levels of progress and attainment. We provide an education rich in unique opportunities and experiences which influences a lifelong love of learning. We offer provision 7.30am-6pm. We would

be delighted to welcome you to our school. Arrange a tour 30207 272 1270 or ⊠emailing office@st-josephs. islington.sch.uk



www.st-josephs.islington.sch.uk

Mars Montessori

Mars Montessori in Angel is



Bilingual Nurseries

a small bilingual French-English Montessori nursery. We provide very high-quality childcare in a nurturing environment in two languages. In September 2018, we introduced an Introduction to Mandarin programme, and we are proud of the brilliant take up. In April 2018, we were given the highest possible rating of OUTSTANDING by Ofsted in every category.

Open day Sat Apr 22 9am-12.30pm. Must book 3020 7099 0452 www.bilingualnurseries.com

North Bridge House Schools

Independent school for children aged 2 to 18, on six locations for different age groups. We understand that success is not simply defined by



outstanding academic achievement, but by every pupil finding a direction in life that truly reflects their unique talents and personality. Call admissions to check for occasional immediate places on 020 7428 1520.

www.northbridgehouse.com

To appear in purple pages get in touch

07359 133954 editor@familiesnorthlondon.co.uk

Family

Barnet Fostering

You could have what it takes to become a Foster Carer, but you'll



never know unless you get in touch! Information session July 20, 6.30-8pm, 2 Bristol Ave, NW9 4EW, Find out how fostering can fit into your life and what it can add to your life. Every child deserves a safe and loving home and Barnet are on a mission to provide the best possible care for our looked after children. Get in touch. 20208 359 6274.

☑ fostering@barnet.gov.uk www.barnet.gov.uk/fostering

Family Futures Wellbeing Hub

Our not-for-profit therapy centre helps children, young people and their families through research-



evidenced therapy sessions. Rated Ofsted Outstanding, the team are currently offering a free consultation to any parent who has concerns about their child's wellbeing and would like to discuss how an assessment or therapy programme could help. 2020 7354 4161

☑ wellbeinghub@familyfutures.co.uk www.familyfutures.co.uk/ wellbeing-hub

Baby & Toddler

Tiny Talk Learn to communicate with your baby before they can speak, at an award-winning TinyTalk baby signing class. Interactive music class and sensory activities, plus time for a cuppa. www.TinyTalk.co.uk/zahrak

Cavendish Tots Creative movement classes for 18m to 3 years in Camden. Thursdays. **bit.ly/Cavtot**

Diddidance We create a funky pre-school dance class suitable for all children. We are here to nurture their love of movement in a relaxed environment and cover 16 dance styles. Classes are suitable for toddlers aged from 18 months upwards however if they're younger and steady on their feet, come and join us! We run classes in Enfield, Cheshunt and Potters Bar. Constantina-07983972095 ⊠constantina.menezes@diddidance. com

www.diddidance.com

Middx Uni Baby Lab

We are seeking parents/ caregivers with 4-9 month infants to take part in



exciting research on infants' understanding of music and its role in early communication! Take part in ONE 30-45min session at our babyLab, Middx Uni, Hendon, NW4, and be awarded a £10 Amazon voucher. Free parking. Scan code to see a visit to babyLab! E: Tatiana Sobolewska (PhD researcher) t.g.sobolewska@mdx. ac.uk

Book www.mcclabmdx.com/visit

"I saw you in Families

magazine and "

Colourstrings

 for a brilliant start and longterm success in music! Develop your child's musical talent in Kodaly-



based music kindergartens and instrumental programmes from six months to 19 years. Start early and avoid long waits later. Call 020 8444 9435 for a trial of 3 discounted lessons or email admin@nlcolourstrings.co.uk www.nlcolourstrings.co.uk

Photography

Magpie Eye Photography

I offer child-led photography for parents who want to capture the here and now. Photoshoots are relaxed and fun with no



need for awkward poses or clean clothes! Choose from three lengths of photoshoot session and three photo delivery options to capture authentic memories of your family as they are now.

⊠ magpie.eye.photography@gmail.com www.magpieeyekids.com

"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is hardly a waste of time." – John Lubbock, The Use

Top theme parks to visit this summer

If you're thinking of visiting a theme park this summer and are not sure where to head to, take a look at our suggestions.



Alton Towers & CBeebies Land Stoke on Trent Offers thrills and spills for older children. Cbeebies Land for younger kids.



Paultons Park & Peppa Pig World The New Forest Something for everyone, with Peppa Pig World tailored to pre-schoolers.



Landmark Forest Adventure Park Scottish Highlands From larger-than-life dinosaurs to water coasters



Chessington World of Adventures Surrey

40 rides and attractions, zoo, Sea Life aquarium and Go Ape.



Legoland Windsor Windsor, Berkshire Iconic theme park, dedicated to children 3-12 years.



Sundown Adventureland Retford, Nottingham Quaint and traditional attraction dedicated to children under 10.



Drayton Manor Resort & Thomas Land Rides for older kids plus Thomas the Tank area and big zoo.



Gulliver's Resort Warrington, Cheshire For ages 2-13, six themed areas, over 25 rides, host of attractions.



Lightwater Valley Family Adventure Park North Yorkshire 40 rides and attractions.

Outdoor adventures for summer

If you're heading out of your local area this summer, here's a selection of fantastic places where you can give your kids an outdoor adventure.



Lilidorei Play Village The Alnwick Garden Northumberland NEW! Largest play structure in the world. Fantastical play universe.



Belvoir Castle Grantham, Leicestershire NEW! Set over 4 acres. Giant timber fortress, tunnels, zip wire, toddler area.



WildPlay at Whinlatter Keswick, Cumbria FREE! Forest adventures in 9 play areas on a 600m trail. Summer water features.



Culzean Castle Ayrshire, Scotland Adventure Cove & Wild Woodland play areas include towers, treehouse, zip slides.



Heartlands Redruth, Cornwall FREE! Shipwrecked boat, mini beach, huge wooden climbing frame and more.



Tyntesfield Wraxall, Somerset Den-building village, Home Farm courtyard, big tractor to climb, slides.



Stanwick Lakes Northamptonshire Extensive adventure playground, water play, large sand play, climbing tower and more.



The Vyne Basingstoke, Hampshire Network of covered tunnels, wooden fort, slide, deep sandpit, stream, water play.



Chatsworth House Bakewell, Derbyshire Woodland playground with rope park, zip wire, water/sand play, working farmyard.