

Loving life with little ones

FREE

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N. Hampshire
& W. Berks
Oct - Dec 2025

THE BEST
CHRISTMAS
GIFT IDEAS

VEGGIE VIBES
BECOMING PLANT
BASED

SAFETY AT
HALLOWEEN

WIN
DAILY PRIZES
THIS DECEMBER
THE 12 DAYS
OF CHRISTMAS
IS BACK!

Everything Bump, Baby & Toddler Near You

Covering Newbury, Winchester, Andover,
Basingstoke and surrounding areas.

COVER PHOTO BY

AMY HUNTLEY
PHOTOGRAPHY





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When

Sunday Mornings



Start Time

MINIS-09:00 under 6's - under 12's

JUNIORS-11:00 under 13's +



Tadley Rugby Club, Frank Jose Park, Red Ln, Reading RG7 4P

SCAN ME



Membership pricing for entire 2025/26 season :U6 **£75** / u7-u13 **£110**

TEAMWORK · RESPECT · ENJOYMENT · DISCIPLINE · SPORTSMANSHIP

WELCOME

AUTUMN EDITION!



Wasn't the summer just incredible? Long sunny days, adventures big and small, and plenty of family time to treasure. But as the seasons shift, there's something so exciting about what lies ahead. The leaves are falling, the pumpkins are out, and - dare I say it - we're officially allowed to mention the "C" word now...

ITS CHRISSSSSSTTTTTTMAAAAAAAS!

The next few months are truly magical for families. From **spooky Halloween** fun to sparkling firework displays and then straight into the wonder and warmth of **Christmas** - there's so much to look forward to together. This is the season of creating memories, of wrapping up warm, holding little hands, and watching children's faces light up with joy.

As this year draws to a close, I just want to pause and say a heartfelt thank you. It's been such a pleasure to meet so many amazing parents and inspiring small businesses. Hearing your stories, receiving your feedback, and feeling the love and support from our community - we are truly blessed. **Toddle About isn't just a magazine**; it's a place where families connect, and that's all thanks to you.

In this issue, we've packed in everything to help you make the most of this magical season. You'll find **Halloween activities and events** to get your little ones giggling, a round-up of the **best firework displays**, plus our **Christmas Gift Guide**, full of thoughtful ideas to make your shopping easier and support local businesses along the way.

Subscribe FOR FREE today at
www.toddleabout.co.uk/subscribe

Bill & Emily

Loving life with little ones!

PS. Have you used the Toddle About website yet? Simply pop in your postcode, and you will be shown all the different things on offer for little ones near you. Head there now: www.toddleabout.co.uk

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Cover picture:

Thank you to local photographer **Amy Huntley** for this gorgeous cover photo.

Find out more at:

www.amyhuntleyphotography.com



MEET THE TEAM



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Tim & Ruth - Franchisors

Call us on 07359 162 124 or email: bill@toddleabout.co.uk

📍 ToddleAboutNorthHampshireand WestBerkshire

🌐 toddleabout_nhants_wberks

9,000 copies of Toddle About are distributed every quarter around North Hampshire and West Berkshire including Newbury, Thatcham, Alton, Winchester, Andover, Tadley, Bramley, Basingstoke, Hook and surrounding area.

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Toddle About North Hampshire & West Berkshire, 19 Herriard Way, Tadley Hampshire RG26 3UG. Call us on 07359 162 124.



Community, Fun & Family All in One

What a day! Our very first Toddle About Live brought families, parents, and little ones together for a fantastic celebration of all things baby and toddler. From inspiring talks and fun demos to meeting brilliant local businesses, the event was buzzing with energy, laughter, and community spirit. A massive thank you to everyone who came along, our wonderful exhibitors, and the families who joined us—you made it a truly special day. Here's to making Toddle About Live the first of many!

www.toddle.fun/live



Family Law Help When You Need It Most

Local family law firm K J Smith Solicitors is offering free initial consultations of 45 minutes for those seeking expert advice on divorce, child arrangements, finance splitting, and more. During this session, their specialist lawyers will:

- explain how the law applies to your situation,
- outline the options you could take,
- give an estimate of likely costs.

If you're navigating family law concerns and want clarity on your next move, with no charge to start, K J Smith encourages you to reach out today.

www.kjsmith.co.uk. See P.9



First Aid, Your Way

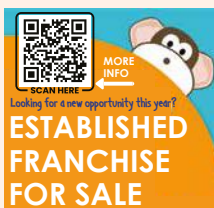
Want to feel calm and confident in a medical emergency? Been meaning to learn first aid for a while? Happy Hearts First Aid has you sorted. Join Sammy — mum of three, former nurse, and expert first aid trainer — for relaxed, fear-free training, either online or in person. From bite-sized modules to friendly 2-hour Baby & Child sessions, you'll learn what matters most, in a way that fits your life.

www.happyheartfirstaid.com

New Year, New Career

Are you looking for a new adventure that fits around family life? The Tots Play Basingstoke & Hook franchise is now available to take over — a rare chance to run a thriving, established business bringing multi-activity, developmental play classes for babies and toddlers to local families. If you or someone you know loves working with little ones, this could be the perfect opportunity. All current Tots Play classes will continue as normal for now. For more information, contact michelle@totsplay.co.uk or 07843479359

www.totsplay.co.uk/franchise See P.31



Pick the Right Kids' Bike This Christmas

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift that brings year-round fun? A well-made kids' bike is a present they'll never forget – encouraging confidence, independence and healthy outdoor adventures. But with so many cheap "toy" bikes around, it's vital to choose one that's safe, durable and great to ride. Cycle Sprog is the UK's go-to resource for family cycling advice, with trusted reviews, expert tips and buying guides to help you pick the right bike for your child this festive season and beyond.

www.cyclesprog.co.uk See P.13





Forget Me Not Ball

On 25th October, Old Thorns will host a memorable Charity Ball in support of Baby Loss Awareness Week, with all proceeds going to Hampshire Hospitals Charity. The evening promises elegance and purpose as guests come together to raise vital awareness and funds for families affected by baby loss. Guests will be directly supporting Hampshire Hospitals Charity, helping to provide crucial resources, care, and increased awareness for families who have experienced baby loss.

www.hampshirehospitalscharity.org See P.23

Baby Massage Classes Bring Comfort and Connection

Baby massage offers a host of gentle benefits for little ones and their parents. From easing wind, colic, constipation and teething discomfort to supporting digestion and circulation, the soothing techniques can make a real difference during those early months. Soothing Strokes Baby Massage offers classes in a friendly space where parents and carers can connect and share experiences.

www.soothingstrokesbabymassage.org

See P.35



Start Planning Your Christmas Celebrations

Whether you're planning a festive lunch on Christmas Day, a joyful pre-Christmas gathering or a special meal with loved ones, The Wellington Arms has the perfect setting for your Christmas celebrations. From indulgent dining experiences to relaxed get-togethers with friends, their cosy spaces and fabulous festive menus are designed to make your festive season unforgettable. Download their Christmas Brochure now!

www.wellingtonarmshampshire.co.uk/christmas-enquiry See P.27



Puddleproofs

Fed up with soggy socks and bags of drenched clothes, two mums set out to design kids' waterproofs that really work. With six little explorers between them, they knew outdoor play needed gear that could keep up, rain or shine. After countless prototypes and muddy test runs, Puddle Proofs was born. Their thoughtfully designed kids' waterproof waders are durable, comfortable, and built for adventure. Stylish yet practical, they keep children dry and happy through every splash, jump, and climb — and with the seal of approval from mums themselves, they're outerwear you can truly rely on.

www.puddleproofs.com See P.15



Brand New Play Village Comes To Basingstoke

Erica and Frank from Pop Up Play Village Basingstoke and Reading are launching a brand-new fixed Pop Up Play Village centre inside the iFLY unit

at Basingstoke Leisure Park — while continuing their much-loved mobile sessions! The new centre, opening soon, promises even more imaginative play opportunities for children, with exciting plans already underway. A fantastic new chapter for Pop Up Play Village and for families across Basingstoke and beyond!

www.popupplayvillage.co.uk See P.11



TODDLE MODELS

Baby and Toddler Photo Competition Winner

Thank you to everyone who entered
our Summer Toddle Models competition!

Congratulations to little Jude who won a **Banwood Eco
Scooter and Helmet**, worth £118!

We received so many gorgeous entries - we hope you enjoy
looking through them as much as we have and that this gives
all our entrants a lovely keepsake.



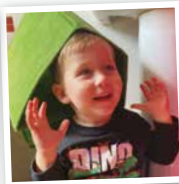
Jude, 18 months old

BANWOOD

Find out more at www.banwood.co.uk



Sienna, 4 years



Robin, 2 years 6 months



Siya, 7 months



Aiden, 15 months



Finley, 3 months



Clement and Benedict,
4 and 7 years



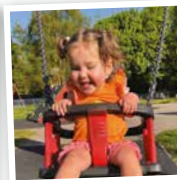
Ivy, 3 years



Veer, 2 years



Evelyn, 2 years 11
months



Azaria, 22 months



George, 8 months



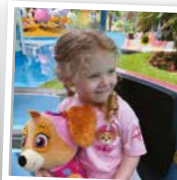
Alfie, 2 years 6 months



Robyn, 2 years



Reggie, 25 months



Maisie, 3 years



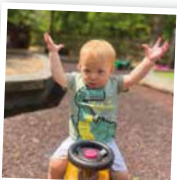
Hope and Sydney, 26
and 16 months



Jamie, 1 year 3 months



Albert, 1 year 2 months



Zachary, 12 months



Astrid, 2 years 5 months

TODDLE MODELS

WIN A FAMILY TICKET TO DISNEY ON ICE, WORTH £220

THE PRIZE: Win one of TWO family tickets to the London show (26th Dec – 4th Jan).

Disney On Ice returns with a brand-new magical adventure for the whole family!

In *Disney On Ice presents Find Your Hero*, audiences will discover what it truly means to be a hero as Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse and friends from the Disney Kingdom come together to bring timeless tales to life. Gliding into the UK from the 29th October 2025 – 4th January 2026.

Find out more at www.disneyonice.com.

T&Cs apply - all online at www.toddle.fun/toddlemodels. The winners will be chosen at random.



WORTH
£220

HOW TO ENTER:

Send us a photo of your little one enjoying some Autumn/Winter fun!

We will print as many entries as possible in the next magazine to give you a lovely keepsake.

Enter by **Sun 7th Dec 2025**.



ENTER AT:

www.toddle.fun/toddlemodels



Cornerstone Day Nursery
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Tel: 01256 818118



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www.cornerstone-nurseries.com



HALLOWEEN

&

FIREWORKS

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



SPOOKY WORD HUNT

Winchester City Centre
October 18 - November 2

Take part in a city wide Halloween-themed Spooky Word Hunt! Collect a copy of the trail sheet, explore the mysterious and eerie cobbled streets of Winchester to find all 9 Halloween themed words to win a treat.

Cost: free

Winchester SO23 9HJ

winchesterbid.co.uk/spooky-winch-2025



FIREWORK SPECTACULAR

Ascot Racecourse
November 1, from 4pm

Prepare to be dazzled by frivolous fairground rides, enthralling live entertainment and over 20,000 fireworks. A fun packed evening for the whole family full of bangs, crackles and booms!

Cost: Adult: £10; Child: £7.50; Under 5s: Free.

High Street, Ascot, SL5 7JX

ascot.com/racedays/fireworks



FIREWORK SPECTACULAR

Hatch Warren Community Centre
November 1, from 5:30pm

Enjoy a dazzling display lighting up the night sky, with food stalls, music, and glow-in-the-dark fun for all ages. Wrap up warm and celebrate with family, friends, and neighbours.

Cost: Adult: £14; Child: £7;

Families (2 adults 2 children): £28.

Long Cross Lane, Basingstoke RG22 4XF

hatchwarren.org/events-1/fireworks-spectacular



PUMPKIN NIGHT

4 Kingdoms
October 3 - 31, 5pm - 9pm

Experience 4 Kingdoms at night for a spook-tacular Halloween adventure. Brave the Haunted Woods, explore the lantern-lit Maize Maze, 'Enjoy' trick or treating and pick your perfect pumpkin!

Cost: £10 per person.

Headley, Newbury RG19 8JY

4-kingdoms.co.uk/events-at-4-kingdoms-adventure-park/



MINI HALLO'WELLY'WEEN

Wellington Country Park
October 22 - 24, 10am - 3pm

Mini Hallo'Welly'ween is back! Enjoy bubble shows, storytelling, recycled crafts, roleplay, and a spooky train ride, plus animal petting and fang-tastic entertainment. A treat-filled day for all the family!

Cost: Adult: £18.95; Child: £18.95; Under 1s: Free.

Odiham Road, Riseley RG7 1SP

wellingtoncountrypark.co.uk/whats-on/the-mini-hallowellyween/



THATCHAM FIREWORKS

Kennet School
November 7, from 6pm

Join Kennet, Francis Baily and Whitelands Park schools for a professional low-noise display set to music. Enjoy an entertaining evening to bring the local community of all ages together.

Cost: see website for details

Stoney Lane, Thatcham RG19 4LL

thatchamfireworks.co.uk



Some events must be pre-booked and event details are correct at time of printing but may change, please check before attending.

VEGETABLE & LENTIL PUFF PASTRY LEAVES

The perfect mix of comfort and creativity - a delicious and fun way to incorporate extra veggies into meals.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1-2 Rolls of puff pastry
- 200-250g Butternut Squash
- 1 tbsp oil or butter
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- ½ large courgette, finely diced
- 2 garlic cloves (minced)
- 1 tsp dried sage or type
- ½ tsp smoked paprika
- ½ can of green or brown lentils
- 75g grated cheddar cheese
- Egg or milk (for pastry wash)

MAKES: 6 LARGE 'LEAVES'

SUITABLE FROM 6 MONTHS

METHOD:

- 1 Preheat oven to 180°C and line a flat baking sheet.
- 2 Cook your butternut squash: either microwave it for 5-6 minutes or steam it until soft. Then, lightly mash with a fork until broken down.
- 3 In a dry pan, heat oil and add the onion. Sauté for 4-5 minutes. Add the diced courgette and cook for 4-5 minutes, until tender.
- 4 Stir in garlic, herbs, and spices. Cook for 1 min.
- 5 Mix the mashed squash, lentils, and vegetables in a bowl. When slightly cooler, stir in the cheese.
- 6 Roll out the pastry and cut out 2 identical leaf shapes. Repeat for as many leaves as you're making.
- 7 Fill a leaf with 1 heaped tbsp of the veg mix, leaving a margin for sealing. Place another pastry leaf on top, and press the edges together with a fork. Score leaf 'veins' on top. Use a whisked egg or milk to brush pastry.
- 8 Bake for 20-25 minutes until puffed and golden!



Recipe by Lucy Upton, The Children's Dietitian, and author of 'The Ultimate Guide to Children's Nutrition! Lucy is a specialist paediatric dietitian who supports children's nutrition & eating habits. www.thechildrensdietitian.co.uk.

kjs KJSmith Solicitors

Thinking of making a change?

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PETERSFIELD 01730 774 600
READING 0118 418 1000
ST ALBANS 01727 295 555
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2025



MONSTER MAZE

THESE CHILDREN WANT TO
EXPLORE THE CREEPY, OLD HOUSE.
CAN YOU HELP THEM GET THERE?
WATCH OUT FOR MONSTERS!



CHEEKY CHARLIE HUNT!

WE'VE HIDDEN CHARLIE, TODDLE
ABOUT'S CHEEKY MASCOT,
THROUGHOUT THE MAGAZINE
CAN YOU COUNT HOW
MANY TIMES HE APPEARS?



SANTA'S SWITCH UP

SPOT THE
DIFFERENCE.
THERE ARE
10 TO FIND!

ANSWERS ON P.38



Pop Up Play VILLAGE

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We run role play classes, children's parties, wedding entertainment, corporate family days and sessions in schools and early years settings across the UK for children aged 0-8 years old.

"I cannot thank the team enough for the amazing party they organised! Every detail was flawless, and both kids and adults had an incredible time. I was able to relax and enjoy the day without a single worry, as everything was handled seamlessly. The team went above and beyond my expectations."

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www.popupplayvillage.co.uk

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Dishing Out the Veggie Vibes

ONE FAMILY'S JOURNEY TO PLANT HOOD, AND WHY WE HAVEN'T LOOKED BACK!

By Natasha Ashton



Buckle up, because this plant mama of two (plus one lovely step-munchkin) is about to spill the chickpeas on why our family swapped the cow milk for the greens. Was it ethical enlightenment, eco-epiphany, or a quest for kale-fuelled vitality? A bit of everything, really.

Why We Went Plant-Based

For me, it's almost like coming full circle, I was on and off vegetarian as a teenager right up until I was 20, so plant forward eating was never completely unfamiliar. But as an adult, our family had a full on ethical awakening. One evening, my husband and I found ourselves asking: Do we want to be friends with cows or have them on our dinner plates?

Spoiler alert: the mooing won our hearts. So tofu took centre stage, and bacon quietly bowed out.

I also found myself deep in the world of food documentaries. Watching titles like *What the Health*, *Cowspiracy*, *Seaspiracy*, and *You Are What You Eat* helped solidify our decision. Seeing the environmental and ethical impact of animal agriculture was eye-opening – and something I couldn't unsee.

The Health Boost

Within just 10 days of cutting out animal products, my energy levels soared. I felt lighter, more awake, and less sluggish after meals. It turns out, plant protein is easier to digest than meat – which might explain that sudden spring in my step.

Studies suggest that a plant-based diet can lower the risk of heart disease, support blood sugar control, and help with weight management. And yes, you really can get all the nutrients and vitamins you need from plants (with a bit of planning).

Natasha Ashton is a wife, mama, bonus mama and full-tie content creator. If you want more plant-based info (plus a peek into Natasha's real-life family chaos), she's a content creator specialising in UGC content – you can follow along on Instagram. www.instagram.com/natashauk

The Challenges – and the Comebacks

Of course, going plant-based as a family hasn't been without its awkward moments. We've dodged more than a few side-eyes at family barbecues and navigated restaurant menus with military precision. My advice? Stay informed. Share facts gently. And when in doubt, ask: What's more important – taste or life?

Raising Plant-Based Kids

Bringing up plant-based kiddos is a balance of principles and flexibility. Here's what's worked for us:

Start Small: Introduce plant-based swaps gradually – like lentil Bolognese or sweet 'n' sour tofu.

Get Them Involved: Kids are more likely to try meals they've helped prepare.

Stock Up on Alternatives: Oat milk is our go-to! We absolutely love the plant-based Babybels and plant-based Dairylea Jumbo Tubes.

Keep Communication Open: Let schools and nurseries know your child's dietary needs – ours have been really supportive.

Be Flexible: While we stick to a plant lifestyle day-to-day, we take a vegetarian approach at parties & events, so our kids can fully join in celebrations without feeling excluded.

Final Thought

Transitioning to a plant-based lifestyle doesn't have to be overwhelming. Take it one step – or one lentil – at a time.



toddling about

N. Hampshire & W. Berks

SPOTLIGHT ON...
GLO GOLF ANDOVER



We've asked local blogger **Mama Around Town**, to share some of her favourite adventures and activities to try with little ones.

Glo-golf is an inside 9 hole glow in the dark mini golf course, recommended for children 5 and over (but **my little one is 3 and loved it!**). Based inside Riverside Bowl and open various times - see website as they vary day to day / term time and school holidays.

Once we had checked in at reception, we received our **glow in the dark golf ball** and putt. It was pretty dark as expected but the luminous golf course really lit the room up. There were 9 holes each with a theme of different cities around the world. It was really well done with various challenges around the course. It took us about 30 minutes to complete the course which was the perfect time to keep everyone engaged, and we could **take the buggy round** with us too!

Riverside Bowl also offers Ten Pin Bowling, AR darts, Shuffleboard, Arcade games with tickets.

We went on a **wet weekend** so it was the perfect activity. There were a few party groups at the same time but no one was in the way of anyone else. We really enjoyed our afternoon out and look forward to playing golf there again



INFO: **Opening Times:** Monday - Sunday. Session booking recommended.
Place: Riverside Activity Centre, 22-30 Bridge Street, Andover SP10 1BN www.riversideactivityzone.co.uk

Mama Around Town through her socials shares her adventures with her children and days out in and around Hampshire and Berkshire. Discover her world at @mamaaroundtown

www.cyclesprog.co.uk

Cycle Sprog

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WWW.KNITTING-MOUSE21.CO.UK



CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE



PERSONALISED SENSORY BOXES: FROM £20

Hand-finished and bursting with colour, these sensory boxes from Mini Mind Creations are filled with scarves, ribbon rings, shakers, bubbles, and more. Every item is carefully chosen to support developmental milestones while creating magical moments of connection - transforming everyday play into opportunities for discovery, growth, imagination and joy.

www.instagram.com/MiniMindCreations
or MiniMindCreations@outlook.com to order.



ARIA PERSONALISED INITIAL NECKLACE: £35.95

A little love letter in jewellery form – the Aria Personalised Initial Necklace is a delicate and meaningful personalised necklace designed to keep someone special close to your heart.

A thoughtful handmade touch that becomes a daily reminder of love, connection and the moments that matter most.

www.katiemariecreations.co.uk



BAMBOO SOFT HOODED TOWEL: FROM £31.99

Make bath time magical with this adorable CuddlePenguin Hooded Toddler Towel from Cuddledry. Perfect for cuddling dry, it's made from sustainable bamboo and cotton, so it's gentle on delicate skin AND the planet - and great for imaginative play too - practical, and cute! Available in Dinosaur, Bunny and Xmas Elf designs for 1-6 years, with a personalised option.

www.cuddledry.com



HANDS & FEET CASTING GIFTS: FROM £20

Capture hands & feet forever with Halcyon Casts. Beautifully detailed baby, sibling & family casting gifts & vouchers. The perfect keepsake for new parents, thoughtful gift for grandparents & a session experience for the family to remember. A timeless treasure to celebrate a moment in time. Give the gift of memories.

www.halcyoncasts.co.uk



NOSY CROW FOLD-OUT + PLAY DOLL'S HOUSE: £20

Nosy Crow's Fold-Out + Play Doll's House is part stylish board book, part imaginative play set – and utterly ingenious. It unfolds into a gorgeous 3D doll's house with four rooms to decorate using stand-up characters, press-out furniture, and colourful stickers. There's even a sturdy built-in storage drawer

– ideal for keeping everything together between playtimes or for on-the-go entertainment during Christmas family visits.

Buy from www.waterstones.com



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www.tropicskincare.com/alexnicholls



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www.match2learn.co.uk



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www.toddle.club/kindness

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Dig in and see what we have for you!



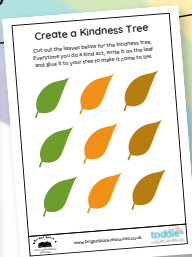
Dot-to-Dot



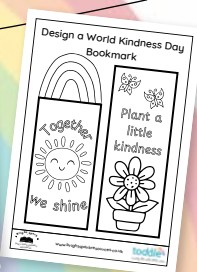
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CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST & PLAY
22ND DECEMBER
ENJOY A CHRISTMAS THEMED BREAKFAST
TAKE A PRESENT HOME
& PLAY IN OUR TINY WINTER WONDERLAND

SWEETS, SPOOKS & SAFETY: A PARENT'S GUIDE TO A CALM HALLOWEEN

by Sammy Davies



For some little ones, **Halloween is the highlight of the year** - costumes, spooky fun, and a bucket-load of sweets. But with excited kids running around in the dark (often full of sugar!), there are a few **safety hiccups** that can creep up if we're not prepared.

Costume Safety: What to Check

- Look for a **CE tag on costumes**. It doesn't mean it's fireproof, but it does mean the fabric has been safety tested.
- **Layer up** with natural fabrics (like cotton) under the costume. It offers extra protection in case of flames and keeps little ones warmer.
- **Avoid bulky costumes in the car** - just like with winter coats, pop the costume on when you arrive at your destination.
- **Ditch the Flames**. Keep the Glow. Skip open flame tea lights... excited kids + real fire = a risky combo. **Use LED tealights instead**, but keep them out of reach. Most contain button batteries, which can be very dangerous if swallowed.
- Help kids **be seen in the dark**. Sew in reflective tape, or just give them a torch.



Sammy Davies is a mum of three, former nurse, and the heart behind **Happy Hearts First Aid**. Visit happyheartsfirstaid.com to find out more about first aid that feels friendly, not frightening.

Choking Hazards: A Spooky Truth

Sweets can be hard (hello, boiled sweets), sticky (chewy toffees), and squishy (we're looking at you, marshmallows).

Here are some reminders to **reduce choking risk**:

- **Supervise your child** while they eat
- Encourage them to **sit down while eating**
- Sort through the loot and quietly **remove anything risky** (Enjoy those ones with a cuppa later!)

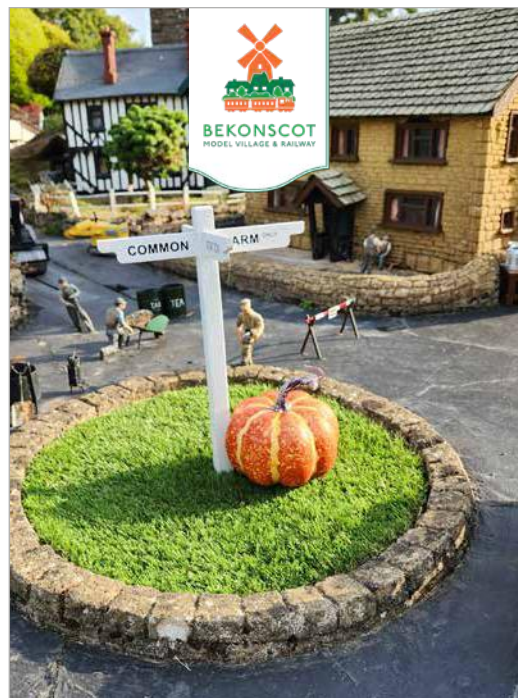
Allergy-Safe Trick-or-Treating

Allergy parents, you've probably already got this covered - but a **few safe treats** in the bag or handed out to neighbours never hurts. You're doing an amazing job.

And lastly, have you considered inviting the **Switch Witch**?

She's the sneaky sidekick who swaps out some of the trickier treats for something a bit more fun - like a **small toy or book**. Less sugar, fewer risks, and still all the Halloween magic.

Hope that takes a bit of the fright out of your night... **have a cracker of a Halloween!**



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To plan your next trip, visit:

www.bekonscot.co.uk

*Book online at least 48hrs in advance to get 10% off the standard entry price.



ENCOURAGING YOUR TODDLER'S FIRST WORDS

By Wendy Austin



We all love hearing our toddler's first words, but some toddlers can take a little longer than others to start speaking. Is there anything you can do to encourage those first words? Most definitely!

For children to communicate effectively, they need the **means, reasons** and **opportunities** to communicate. (D. Money, 1997)

The 'means' include pointing, facial expression, signing, pictures and speech. A 'reason' may include requesting food or a toy, or protesting about something. The 'opportunity' includes having the time and place to try out some lovely new words!

As a mum and a Speech and Language Therapist, I know how easily we learn exactly what our toddlers want, without them having to ask.... and there's the crux. Too often we anticipate our child's needs – we know when they're likely to want a drink or snack and provide it, which is very kind, but in doing so we take away their reasons to communicate!

If toddlers don't need to speak to meet their needs, they may not bother trying to speak!

Create reasons for your child to communicate with you, such as putting their favourite toy just out of reach so they need to 'ask' for help. Try putting desired objects in a clear plastic box your child can't open, so again they need to ask for your help. Offer choices at snack or play time, hold up the items as you offer them, or show pictures –

your child can point if they can't tell you verbally. Model the language as you show the items, for example, 'Banana or bread stick?'

Your child also needs opportunities to speak. Sometimes we get enthusiastic about talking to children when playing – often though, what we're actually doing is asking questions they may not yet have the words to answer!

Instead of asking, 'What have you got?' or, 'What's that?', reduce the pressure and **narrate their play**: 'A car, a red car!', 'Wow, a scary dinosaur!', 'You're pushing the train!' This provides a good model of language, but remember to pause occasionally so they have a chance to speak!

Pauses are very powerful – play 'ready, steady.... GO!' games; pausing after 'ready, steady...' gives your child the chance to provide the 'go!' themselves.

Finally, don't deny your child something if they can't ask with spoken words; communication can be verbal or non-verbal. If they use non-verbal communication, that's fine – just model the word as you give them what they are requesting.

If you're worried your child's speech may be delayed, contact a Speech and Language Therapist for advice.



Wendy Austin is an independent Speech and Language Therapist based in Capel St Mary, Suffolk, supporting children and adults with speech, language and social communication needs. She provides person-centred, evidence-based therapy to help clients communicate effectively. www.wendyaustinsalt.co.uk

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Can You Help? We'd love to know what you think!

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Win a Zoom Kart 6V Kids' Ride-On Go-Kart - worth £109!



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Available in red and white or blue and white, the Zoom is inspired by arcade racing games and offers fast-paced fun in a safe, easy-to-use design. It's perfect for youngsters who love to zoom around in style.

It features a rechargeable 6V battery, smooth handling, and a 2.4G **parental remote** so you stay in control.

Compact and travel-friendly, it's great for family outings. Just charge it up and let the fun begin. Thanks to the Zoom's compact size and shape, the kart can be taken along on family journeys and trips for thrill-seeking fun everywhere you go.

For more info, visit www.electricrideoncars.co.uk



Enter at toddle.club/rideoncars

Competition closes midnight on Sunday 30th November 2025.

T & C's apply, see www.toddle.club/rideoncars for details.



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Michelle Vint

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VIP CLUB READER REVIEW:

RAINBOCORN BABYCORN BABY DOLL



Written by **Beth Weston**, Toddle About Subscriber

Rainbocorns Babydoll is a magical surprise for ages 3+, with a capsule revealing a colourful Babydoll. Quick to open and perfect for cuddly play. £17.99 from www.thetoyshop.com

We were absolutely thrilled to be chosen to review the Rainbocorns Babydoll Magical Rainbocorn Babies Mystery Capsule! I knew it would be a hit with my daughter, who adores dolls - and I was right. The moment she saw the capsule, she squealed with excitement, eager to discover which adorable Rainbocorn baby was inside.

The packaging added to the suspense, with layers to unwrap before revealing a magical crib and Echo, a beautiful doll with sparkling silver eyes. My 4-year-old was over the moon, and the gold slime included was a big bonus she absolutely adored.

Best of all, the packaging doubles as a crib, giving Echo a cosy little home. Even my 1-year-old joined in, popping the dummy into Echo's mouth and rocking her gently. I appreciated the thoughtful design, especially the safe storage space for small parts - handy with a toddler around.

Although the doll is recommended for ages 3+, my youngest still enjoyed cuddling and playing with Echo, even if she couldn't use the accessories. The surprise element is a big part of the fun, and my 4-year-old already wants to collect them all! A delightful gift for children who love dolls and surprises.

Review has been edited.



Beth and her daughter were given this product as a **freebie** for writing this review. Subscribe to Toddle About and you can do the same!

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Oct - Dec 2025 **Toddle About North Hampshire & West Berks** 23



WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE?

Using Curiosity to Understand and Support Your Toddler

By Bryana Kappadakunnel, LMFT

As a therapist who specialises in early childhood mental health - and as a mother myself - I've seen firsthand how powerful it is when parents shift from reacting to their toddler's behaviour to getting curious about it.

Curiosity is one of the six Seeds of Connection in what I call the Connection Garden - a concept I developed to help parents build emotionally safe, responsive relationships with their children. When seeds like attunement, playfulness, and repair are planted and nurtured consistently, the parent-child relationship grows stronger and more joyful.

But when connection is missing, or only offered conditionally, we end up in what I call the Connection Desert. It's a place where children feel misunderstood and emotionally thirsty - and parents feel isolated, burned out, and unsure how to move forward. Fortunately, we can always begin to plant new seeds - and Curiosity is one of the most transformative.

What Curiosity Really Means

Many of us were raised to believe that discipline means control. That a toddler's tantrum needs to be "fixed," or that whining should be ignored until it stops. But when we get curious instead and ask, "What's going on in there?," we begin to understand that behaviour is communication.

Toddlers don't have the language or brain development to say, "I'm overtired, overstimulated,

and I miss you." So they cry, hit, throw, or resist. When we respond with curiosity instead of control, we teach them that it's safe to have big feelings - and we start to build lifelong skills for emotional health and relational trust.

The Power of Observation

One of the simplest, yet most profound, ways to cultivate curiosity in your relationship with your toddler is through observing them do what they do best: play. When you're just getting started with child observation, I recommend you make an effort to practice this intentionally for about 5-10 minutes a day. Eventually, this will become a natural part of your relationship with your toddler.

Here's how it works:

Set up the play environment so that it is totally safe for your toddler. Creating a "Yes" space where everything is safe (including toys, things to climb, etc) encourages your toddler to discover their own interests and get lost in the magic of play. At the same time, it will help you to resist the urge to hover, intervene, or take charge of their play process.

Pull up a chair nearby, settle into your body, and simply notice your breath and any sensations that arise. See if you can observe yourself with the same curiosity you offer your child.

Once you feel settled, start to notice what your child is doing with their hands and where their eyes are looking.

Following their hands and eyes allows you to become more connected to what their brain is curious about. Resist the urge to fix anything. If you see your toddler frustrated with stacking some blocks, you may feel it would be useful to offer your help. By doing so, you're undermining your child's intense drive toward mastery and competence. Instead, be curious with your toddler: "I wonder if that feels tough...I see you're not giving up." By resisting the urge to fix, control, change, or provide educational directives (e.g., "What colour is this?") while they play, you send the vital messages: I trust that you are competent. I'm curious about how you see things. I'm invested in knowing more about you.

Beware the "Monkey Mind." It's normal for your mind to wander - it might even feel boring to watch your toddler play. You don't have to love it. Just notice, and gently return your focus to what your child is doing. That's curiosity in action. The more you wonder about what they're doing and why it feels important to them, the more lush and vibrant your Connection Garden becomes.

In my experience with leading parents in observation exercises, many parents notice that they judge their children unintentionally: "Why doesn't my child behave like other kids?" Try to shift from judgement into wondering at what They are experiencing. That curiosity may help you see their behaviour not as a problem to correct, but as a strength to nurture

Why Observation Supports Independent Play

One of the beautiful benefits of using child observation consistently is that it nurtures your toddler's ability to engage in independent, imaginative play.

Your willingness to be more curious about their inner world, while resisting the urge to control, fix, or change it, will support your toddler with:

- Playing without constant adult involvement
- Developing longer attention span
- Resolving sibling conflicts with less need for intervention

Additionally, you'll be less likely to seek screens as a

virtual babysitter for your child, because your toddler will become a master at directing their own interests and commanding their physical space with confidence and courage.

Observation isn't passive - it's deeply relational. By watching and narrating without controlling, we say, "I'm interested in you. I delight in who you are." This kind of non-intrusive attention is both grounding and expansive for the developing toddler's mind.

How Curiosity Looks in the Hardest Moments

Here are some phrases you can try next time your toddler is having a moment that feels hard to manage:

- **When your child is hitting:** "You wanted that toy, and it was really hard to wait. I'm here to help."
- **In the middle of a transition:** "You weren't ready to leave. I get it - it's hard to stop playing when you're having fun."
- **When siblings are fighting:** "You both wanted the same thing. Let's take a breath and figure this out together."

What Gets in the Way of Curiosity?

Many parents tell me: "I know I shouldn't yell, but in the moment, I just lose it."

It makes perfect sense. If you were raised in a Connection Desert - where your own feelings were shamed, ignored, or punished - then of course it's hard to stay present with your child's big feelings. Your nervous system might interpret their distress as a threat.

That's why we must extend the same curiosity to ourselves that we do to our children. When we get dysregulated, instead of judging ourselves, we can ask, "What is this moment trying to teach me about what I need?"

This is the deep, healing work that I talk about in my book, *Parent Yourself First*.

Curiosity Is Connection

Your curiosity helps your toddler feel safe, seen, and supported. You tell them that they are not a problem to be fixed - but a person to be understood.

I know how easy it is to default to frustration, especially when you're exhausted or touched out. But if there's one thing I hope you take away from this, it's that curiosity is always available to you -



Bryana Kappadakunnel

Founder of Conscious Mommy and author of Parent Yourself First, Bryana empowers parents to parent with heart and intention. Through her courses, coaching, and expert resources, she helps parents heal past wounds, fostering compassion, clarity, and confidence in raising their children.

Christmas

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

DEC 11-
JAN 4

ALADDIN

Anvil Arts. Various Times.

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Churchill Way, Basingstoke RG21 7QR
Tel: 01256 844244

anvilarts.org.uk/events/aladdin

Cost: prices from £28.50, discounts for under 16s

DEC
12

VICTORIAN EXTRAVAGANZA

Hungerford High Street. From 5pm

Step back in time at the Hungerford Victorian Extravaganza! Enjoy twinkling lights, fairground rides, a Christmas street fair, Santa's grotto, Extravaganza parade and festive treats. With live entertainment, stalls, and even a visit from Frozen's Elsa, Anna, and Olaf—it's fun for the whole family!

High Street, Hungerford RG17 0NB

visithungerford.com/whats-on/victorian-hungerford-extravaganza

Cost: free, some activities may charge

FREE DRINK

DEC
13/19/20

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

Tiny Town Cafe. Various Times.

Join Tiny Town for a magical play session where the little ones can experience a personal meet & greet with Santa. Take home a present from Santa & Reindeer food to guide Ruldolf on Christmas eve, Christmas crafts, photo opportunities and a babychino or choco-chino

Kennet Centre, Newbury RG14 5EN
Tel: 01635 947036

tinytownnewbury.co.uk/book-now

Cost: Children £18, Adults £4

Details correct at the time of going to print

NOV 29-
DEC 24

MINI CHRISTMAS AT FINKLEY

Finkley Down Farm. Various Times.

A festive day out tailored for little ones! Enjoy a guided elf walk, meet Father Christmas in his barn, choose a toy, and warm up with a free kids' hot chocolate. Includes full farm entry, small group visits, and babies under 1 go free (gift optional).

North Way, Andover SP11 6NF

Tel: 01264 324141

finkleydownfarm.co.uk/event/christmas

Cost: Child from £17.95, Adults £16.95



NOV
24

LANTERN PARADE

Winchester Cathedral. From 5:30pm

Join the magical Lantern Parade at Winchester Cathedral! Celebrate Jane Austen's 250th birthday with this year's theme, Light, Bright, and Sparkling. Walk through the city with glowing lanterns, enjoy festive music, and return to the Cathedral for the prize announcements amid the Christmas Market's twinkling charm.

Winchester Cathedral, Winchester

winchester-cathedral.org.uk/event/lantern-parade

Cost: free, bookings open 14th October

NOV 22-
DEC 21

MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS

Milestones Museum. Various Times.

Meet Father Christmas in his magical Milestones grotto in the heart of their decorated indoor streets! An experience that will warm your heart and leave a smile on your face as you enjoy the festive family fun. Capture the magic with family photos and a special Christmas gift!

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milestonesmuseum.org.uk/fatherxmas25

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From the 1st to the 12th of December, unwrap a new surprise every day with the chance to win a dazzling new prize that's perfect for you and your little ones.

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Daily Activity Planner

Your local 'What's On Guide' for families with bumps - 5s in North Hampshire & West Berks.

BASINGSTOKE AREA

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WEST BERKS

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BASINGSTOKE

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WINCHESTER
& ANDOVER



MONDAY

PARENTS & TOTS

Christ Church

Christ Church, Chineham, Basingstoke, RG24 8LT. 01256 474280. www.christchurchchineham.org.uk.

- Sparklers: 10:00 - 11:30.

Cost: £1.50 per session (*booking essential*).

Dates: 1 Sep - 20 Oct & 3 Nov - 15 Dec.

Home-Start Basingstoke & Deane

The Sarum Hill Centre, Sarum Hill, Basingstoke, RG21 8SR. 01256325793. homestart-basingstokedeane.org.uk.

- Wellbeing Circle: 9:45 - 11:00. *Wellbeing group for graduates*

Ages: 0 - 5 yrs.

- Wellbeing 5 Week Course: 11:30 - 12:30.

Cost: Free (*booking essential*).

Dates: 1 Sep - 20 Oct & 3 Nov - 15 Dec.

oakley with wootton

St Leonard's Centre, Rectory Road, Oakley, RG23 7ED.

01256 782724. www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk.

- Pippins: 13:30 - 15:00.

Ages: 0 - 4 yrs. **Cost:** Free (*drop in*). **Dates:** 1 Sep - 15 Dec.

Pamber Heath Gospel Hall

Gospel Hall, 19 Pamber Heath Rd, Tadley, RG26 3XH.

pamberheath-gospelhall.co.uk.

- Toddler Time: 10:00 - 11:30. **Ages:** 0 - 4 yrs.

Cost: Free (*drop in*). **Dates:** 8 Sep - 20 Oct & 3 Nov - 15 Dec.

Petite School of Dancing

Pamber Memorial Hall, Pamber Heath, Tadley RG263TQ

www.petiteschoolofdancing.com.

- Grown Up & Me: 10:30 - 11:15. *Dance class for ages 1.5-3years*

Cost: £4.50 per session (*booking essential*).

Dates: 22 Sep - 20 Oct & 3 Nov - 8 Dec.

Bramley Village Hall, The Street, Bramley, RG26 5BP.

www.petiteschoolofdancing.com.

- Tiddlers: 16:00 - 16:30. *Dance class for ages 3-5*

Cost: £4.50 per session (*booking essential*).

Dates: 22 Sep - 20 Oct & 3 Nov - 8 Dec.

The Roger Morris Community Centre

The Roger Morris Centre, Eastrop Way, Basingstoke, RG21 4QE. 01256 473634. www.viables.org.uk.

- Tiny Town - role play village (walking-5): 9:30 - 10:30.

Cost: £4 per session (*booking essential*). **Dates:** 1 Sep - 15 Dec.

The Salvation Army

6 Mulfords Hill, Tadley, RG26 3LJ. +44 20 7367 4500.

www.salvationarmy.org.uk.

- Pebbles: 10:00 - 11:30. **Ages:** 0 - 4 yrs.

- BabySong: 12:30 - 14:00. **Ages:** 0 - 1 yrs.

Cost: £1.50 per session (*drop in*).

Dates: 8 Sep - 20 Oct & 3 Nov - 15 Dec.

DANCE & DRAMA

Drama Tots Basingstoke

St Mary's Church Room, The Street, Old Basing, Basingstoke, RG24 7BW. 07803 046549. www.dramatots.co.uk.

- Rising Stars 9.30am: 9:30 - 10:10 & 10:30 - 11:15.

Fun class for toddlers **Ages:** 1 yrs 6 mths - 3 yrs.

- Bright Stars 10.30am: 10:30 - 11:15.

Preschooler class **Ages:** 3 - 6 yrs.

Cost: £7.50 per session (*booking essential*).

Dates: 15 Sep - 13 Oct & 3 Nov - 8 Dec.

PHYSICAL FUN

Tots Play Basingstoke

Sherfield Park Community Centre, Sunwood Drive, Sherfield Park, RG27 0FP. 07843479359. www.totsplay.co.uk.

- Baby Tranquil 5 week Course: 23:30 - 0:30. **Ages:** 0 - 4 mths.

Cost: £59 (*booking essential*). **Dates:** 10 Nov - 8 Dec.

Tumble Tots Basingstoke

North Wamborough Village Hall, Priors Corner, Dunley's Hill, North Wamborough, RG29 1EA. 07368 500820. www.tumbletots.com.

- 2 - 3 Years: 9:30 - 10:15.

- Confidently Walking to 2 years: 10:30 - 11:15.

- 6 months to walking class: 11:30 - 12:15.

- 3 years to school age: 12:35 - 13:20.

Cost: £9.75 per session (*booking essential*).

Dates: 8 Sep - 20 Oct & 3 Nov - 15 Dec.

SWIMMING

Basingstoke Sports Centre

Festival Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7LE. 01256 326331.
www.better.org.uk.

- **Pre School: 11:00 - 12:00.** (booking essential).

Dates: 1 Sep - 15 Dec.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Buggyfit Basingstoke

War Memorial Park, Crossborough Hill, Basingstoke, RG21 4AG.
07747000137. lucyrowlandsfitness.co.uk.

- **Buggyfit Basingstoke: 10:30 - 11:30.** Postnatal fitness for mums

Ages: 6 mths - 5 yrs. **Cost:** £8 per session (drop in).

Dates: 1 Sep - 20 Oct & 3 Nov - 15 Dec.

FitMama™ with Marie Behenna

Studio 41 Ground Floor Suite BMS House, Stroudley Road,
Basingstoke, RG24 8FW. +44 7753 668843.
www.fitmamaonline.com.

- **Mums Circuit: 15:52 - 16:17.**

Fit pregnant mums and post birth mums after 6 months

Cost: £5 per session (booking essential). **Dates:** 22 Sep - 24 Nov.

OTHER

Basingstoke Discovery Centre

Festival Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7LS. www.hants.gov.uk.

- **Stay and Play at Basingstoke: 10:30 - 11:30.** **Ages:** 0 - 5 yrs.
- **Parent Meet and Connect: 11:30 - 12:30.** **Ages:** 0 - 2 yrs.

Cost: Free (booking essential). **Dates:** 1 Sep - 15 Dec.

Tadley Library

Mulfords Hill, Tadley, RG26 3JE. www.hants.gov.uk.

- **Stay and Play at Tadley Library: 10:30 - 11:00.**

Ages: 0 - 5 yrs.

- **U3A Cribb at Tadley Library: 14:00 - 16:00.**

Cost: Free (booking essential).

Dates: 1 Sep - 15 Dec.

TUESDAY

PARENTS & TOTS

Lychpit Village Hall

Great Binfields Rd, Lychpit, Basingstoke, RG24 8TF.

- **Basing Beans: 10:00 - 11:30.** **Ages:** 0 - 5 yrs.

Cost: £3 per session (booking essential).

Dates: 9 Sep - 21 Oct & 4 Nov - 16 Dec.

Melrose Community Association

Melrose Community Hall, Abbey Road, Popley, Basingstoke, RG24 9EF. 01256 420676. www.melrosecommunityassociation.co.uk.

- **Popley Little People: 9:30 - 12:15.**

Cost: £2.50 per session (drop in).

Dates: 9 Sep - 21 Oct & 4 Nov - 16 Dec.

Oakley with Wootton

St Leonard's Centre, Rectory Road, Oakley, RG23 7ED. 01256 782724. www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk.

- **New Life: 10:00 - 11:30.** **Ages:** 0 - 1 yrs.

Cost: Free (drop in). **Dates:** 2 Sep - 16 Dec.

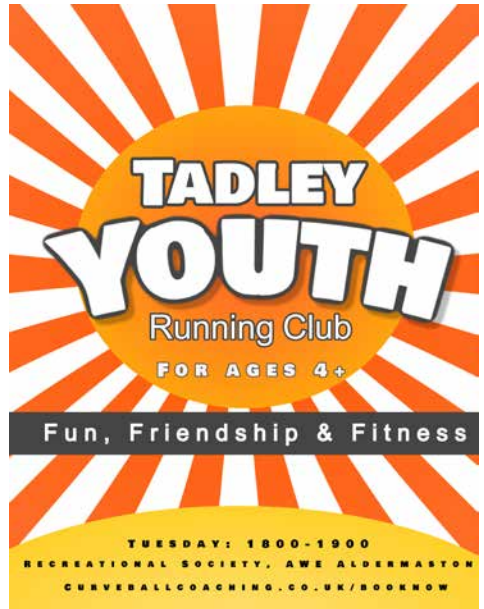
Sherfield Park Community Centre

Sunwood Dr, Sherfield on Loddon, Hook, RG27 0FP.
01256 883 967. sherfieldparkcommunity.co.uk.

- **Sherfield 0-5's: 10:00 - 11:30.**

Cost: £2.50 per session (booking essential).

Dates: 9 Sep - 21 Oct & 4 Nov - 16 Dec.



Soothing Strokes Baby Massage

St Luke's church, Church Rd, Pamber Heath, Tadley, RG26 3DX.
07912658209. www.facebook.com.

- **Baby Massage Pamber Heath**

Times: 9:30 - 10:45. **Ages:** 0 - 9 mths. **Dates:** 9 Sep - 21 Oct.

Times: 9:30 - 11:00. **Ages:** 0 - 9 mths. **Dates:** 4 Nov - 9 Dec.

Cost: £85 per course (booking essential).

St Mary's Basingstoke

St Mary's Church, Goat Ln, Eastrop Ln, Basingstoke, RG21 7PZ.
01256 464249. stmarys-basingstoke.org.uk.

- **Toddler Group: 10:00 - 11:30.** **Ages:** 0 - 5 yrs.

Cost: £2.50 per session (booking essential).

Dates: 9 Sep - 21 Oct & 4 Nov - 16 Dec.

Treasure Island Parent and Toddler Group

Popley Fields Community Centre, Carpenters Down, Popley Way,
Basingstoke, RG24 9AE. +44 1256 414014.

Times: 9:30 - 11:00. **Ages:** 0 - 5 yrs. **Cost:** £2 per session (drop in).

Dates: 9 Sep - 21 Oct & 4 Nov - 16 Dec.

Viabes Community Centre

The Harrow Way, Basingstoke, RG22 4BJ. 01256 473634.
www.viabes.org.uk.

- **Barn Tots: 10:00 - 11:45.**

Cost: £2 per session (booking essential). **Dates:** 2 Sep - 16 Dec.

DANCE & DRAMA

Perform Workshops LTD

Beggarwood Community Centre, Broadmere Road, Beggarwood,
RG22 4AQ. 020 7255 9120. www.perform.org.uk.

- **Perform Basingstoke: Drama, dance & singing classes for 4-12s: 16:00 - 17:00.**

Dates: 2 Sep - 16 Sep, 24 Sep - 29 Sep, 7 Oct - 21 Oct & 4 Nov - 16 Dec.



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PHYSICAL FUN

Tumble Tots Basingstoke

Sycamore Centre - Ashwood Hall, Sycamore Way, Basingstoke, RG23 8AB. 07368 500820. www.tumbletots.com.

- **Confidently Walking to 2 years:** 9:30 - 10:15.
- **2 - 3 Years:** 10:30 - 11:15.
- **6 months to walking class:** 11:30 - 12:15.
- **3 years to school age:** 12:35 - 13:20.

Cost: £9.75 per session (booking essential).

Dates: 9 Sep - 21 Oct & 4 Nov - 16 Dec.

SWIMMING

Basingstoke Sports Centre

Festival Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7LE. 01256 326331.

www.better.org.uk.

- **Pre School:** 11:30 - 12:30. Preschoolers' swimming skills
- **Dippers:** 9:30 - 10:00. Baby water fun with parents
- **Splashers:** 10:00 - 10:30. Toddler water fun with parents
- **Paddlers:** 10:30 - 11:00 & 11:00 - 11:30. Toddlers' swimming

Dates: 2 Sep - 16 Dec.

OTHER

Alton Library

Vicarage Hill, Alton, GU34 1HT. www.hants.gov.uk.

- **Storytime at Alton Library:** 10:30 - 11:00. **Ages:** 0 - 5 yrs.
- **Chat About at Alton Library:** 14:00 - 15:30.

Cost: Free **Dates:** 2 Sep - 16 Dec.

Basingstoke Discovery Centre

Festival Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7LS. www.hants.gov.uk.

- **Baby Rhymetime at Basingstoke:** 10:30 - 11:00. **Ages:** 0 - 2 yrs.

Cost: £1 per session (booking essential). **Dates:** 2 Sep - 16 Dec.

Chineham Library

Chineham District Centre, Basingstoke, RG24 8BQ.

www.hants.gov.uk.

- **Storytime at Chineham Library:** 10:30 - 11:00. **Ages:** 3 - 5 yrs.
- **Scrabble at Chineham Library:** 10:30 - 12:30.
- **Construction Club at Chineham:** 15:15 - 16:45. **Ages:** 5 - 12 yrs.

Cost: Free **Dates:** 2 Sep - 16 Dec.

Tadley Library

Mulfords Hill, Tadley, RG26 3JE. www.hants.gov.uk.

- **Baby Rhymetime at Tadley Library:** 10:30 - 11:00.
- **Chat About at Tadley Library:** 11:00 - 12:00.

Cost: Free **Dates:** 2 Sep - 16 Dec.



WEDNESDAY

PARENTS & TOTS

Hatch Warren Community Centre

Long Cross Ln, Basingstoke, RG22 4XF. 01256 811262.

www.hatchwarren.org.

- **Warren Tots Pre-Play Sessions:** 10:00 - 11:30. **Ages:** 0 - 4 yrs.

Cost: £3.50 per session (booking essential).

Dates: 10 Sep - 22 Oct & 5 Nov - 17 Dec.

Home-Start Basingstoke & Deane

Fairfields Primary School, Council Road, Basingstoke, RG21 3DH.

01256325793. homestart-basingstokedeane.org.uk.

- **Little Wellies Club:** 9:20 - 10:30. Outdoor play for under 5s

Cost: Free (booking essential). **Dates:** 3 Sep - 22 Oct & 5 Nov - 17 Dec.

The Sarum Hill Centre, Sarum Hill, Basingstoke, RG21 8SR.

01256325793. homestart-basingstokedeane.org.uk.

- **Bumps to Newborn:** 9:45 - 11:15.

Cost: Free (booking essential). **Dates:** 3 Sep - 22 Oct & 5 Nov - 17 Dec.

Melrose Community Association

Melrose Community Hall, Abbey Road, Popley, Basingstoke, RG24

9EF. 01256 420676. www.melrosecommunityassociation.co.uk.

- **Popley Little People:** 9:30 - 12:15.

Cost: £2.50 per session (drop in).

Dates: 10 Sep - 22 Oct & 5 Nov - 17 Dec.

Tadley & District Community Association

The Point, Newchurch Road, Tadley, RG26 4HN. 01189814538.

www.tadleycommunitycentre.org.uk.

- **Baby Massage (a 6-week bespoke course):** 11:00 - 12:30.

Cost: £55 per session (booking essential). **Dates:** 3 Sep - 17 Dec.

- **Cheeky Chimps:** 9:30 - 11:00. Fun packed toddler group

Ages: 0 - 5 yrs. **Cost:** £3 per session (booking essential).

Dates: 10 Sep - 22 Oct & 5 Nov - 17 Dec.

The Roger Morris Community Centre

Eastrop Way, Basingstoke, RG21 4QE. 01256 473634.

www.viabiles.org.uk.

- **Weigh and play:** 9:30 - 11:00.

Cost: Free (booking essential). **Dates:** 3 Sep - 17 Dec.

PHYSICAL FUN

Tumble Tots Basingstoke

Sycamore Centre - Ashwood Hall, Sycamore Way, Basingstoke,

RG23 8AB. 07368 500820. www.tumbletots.com.

- **Confidently Walking to 2 years:** 9:30 - 10:15.

- **2 - 3 Years:** 10:30 - 11:15.

- **3 years to school age:** 11:30 - 12:15.

Cost: £9.75 per session (booking essential).

Dates: 10 Sep - 22 Oct & 5 Nov - 17 Dec.

Tots Play Basingstoke

Chineham Village Hall, Thornhill Way, Chineham, RG24 8YE.
07843479359. www.totsplay.co.uk.

- **Action Tots:** 9:45 - 10:30. **Ages:** 2 yrs 6 mths - 4 yrs.
- **Social Tots:** 10:40 - 11:20. **Ages:** 8 mths - 2 yrs 6 mths.
- **Discovery Tots:** 11:35 - 12:15. **Ages:** 2 - 9 mths.

Cost: £9 per session (*booking essential*).

Dates: 10 Sep - 22 Oct & 5 Nov - 10 Dec.

- **Halloween Action Tots:** 9:45 - 10:30. **Ages:** 2.5 yrs - 4 yrs.
- **Halloween Social Tots:** 10:45 - 11:30. **Ages:** 9 mths - 2.5 yrs.
- **Halloween Discovery Tots:** 11:45 - 12:30. **Ages:** 2 - 9 mths.

Cost: £9.50 per session (*booking essential*).

Dates: 29 Oct.

- **Baby Development 6 week Course:** 12:30 - 13:20.

A Strong Foundation for Your Baby's Growth and Development

Ages: 0 - 6 mths. **Cost:** £69 (*booking essential*).

Dates: 5 Nov - 10 Dec.

SWIMMING

Basingstoke Sports Centre

Festival Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7LE. 01256 326331.

www.better.org.uk.

- **Pre School:** 11:30 - 12:00, 12:00 - 12:30 & 15:30 - 16:00.

Preschoolers' swimming skills

- **Dippers:** 10:00 - 10:30.

Baby water fun with parents

- **Splashers:** 9:30 - 10:00 & 10:30 - 11:00.

Toddler water fun with parents

- **Paddlers:** 11:00 - 11:30.

Toddlers' swimming basics

Dates: 3 Sep - 17 Dec.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Buggyfit Basingstoke

The Recreation Ground, The Street, Old Basing, Basingstoke, RG24 7DA. 07747000137. lucyrowlandsfitness.co.uk.

- **Buggyfit Basingstoke:** 10:30 - 11:30. *Postnatal fitness for mums*

Cost: £8 per session (*drop in*). **Dates:** 3 Sep-22 Oct & 5 Nov-17 Dec.

OTHER

Basingstoke Discovery Centre

Festival Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7LS. www.hants.gov.uk.

- **Rhymetime at Basingstoke:** 10:30 - 11:00. **Ages:** 0 - 5 yrs.

Cost: £1 per session (*booking essential*). **Dates:** 3 Sep - 17 Dec.

THURSDAY

PARENTS & TOTS

Christ Church

Chineham, Basingstoke, RG24 8LT. 01256 474280.

www.christchurchchineham.org.uk.

- **Sparklers:** 10:00 - 11:30.

Cost: £1.50 per session (*booking essential*).

Dates: 4 Sep - 23 Oct & 6 Nov - 18 Dec.

Home-Start Basingstoke & Deane

Oakridge Hall For All, Forsythia Walk, Basingstoke, RG21 5RL.

01256325793. homestart-basingstokedeane.org.uk.

- **Multiple Birth Group:** 10:00 - 11:30. *Twins and multiples group*

Ages: 0 - 4 yrs 11 mths. **Cost:** Free (*booking essential*).

Dates: 4 Sep - 23 Oct & 6 Nov - 18 Dec.

Melrose Community Association

Melrose Community Hall, Abbey Road, Popley, Basingstoke, RG24 9EF. 01256 420676. www.melrosecommunityassociation.co.uk.

- **Popley Little People:** 9:30 - 12:15.

Cost: £2.50 per session (*drop in*).

Dates: 4 Sep - 23 Oct & 6 Nov - 18 Dec.

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or contact 07843479359

www.totsplay.co.uk/franchise

Oakley with Wootton

St Leonard's Centre, Rectory Road, Oakley, RG23 7ED.

01256 782724. www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk.

- **Quackers:** 10:00 - 11:30. **Ages:** 0 - 3 yrs.

Cost: Free (*drop in*). **Dates:** 4 Sep - 18 Dec.

Petite School of Dancing

Brocas Hall, Minchens Lane Bramley, RG26 5BS.

www.petiteschoolofdancing.com.

- **Grown Up & Me:** 10:00 - 10:45. *Dance class for ages 1.5-3yrs*

Cost: £4.50 per session (*booking essential*).

Dates: 18 Sep - 23 Oct & 6 Nov - 11 Dec.

Sycamore Community Halls

Sycamore Way, Basingstoke, RG23 8AB. +44 1256 474660.

sycamorehalls.co.uk.

- **Munchkins:** 10:00 - 11:30. **Ages:** 0 - 5 yrs.

Cost: £1.50 per session (*booking essential*).

Dates: 4 Sep - 23 Oct & 6 Nov - 18 Dec.

Tadley & District Community Association

The Point, Newchurch Road, Tadley, RG26 4HN. 01189814538.

www.tadleycommunitycentre.org.uk.

- **Mini Make Believers:** 9:30 - 11:00. **Ages:** 1 - 5 yrs.

Cost: £3 per session (*booking essential*). **Dates:** 4 Sep - 18 Dec.

The Roger Morris Community Centre

Eastrop Way, Basingstoke, RG21 4QE. 01256 473634.

www.viables.org.uk.

- **Park Tots:** 9:45 - 11:30. **Ages:** 0 - 5 yrs.

Cost: £2.50 per session (*booking essential*). **Dates:** 4 Sep - 18 Dec.

Viables Community Centre

The Harrow Way, Basingstoke, RG22 4BJ. 01256 473634.

www.viables.org.uk.

- **Toot Toot Play:** 13:00 - 14:44. **Ages:** 1 - 5 yrs.

Cost: Free (*booking essential*). **Dates:** 4 Sep - 18 Dec.



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www.fitmamaonline.com WhatsApp: 07753668843

DANCE & DRAMA

Drama Tots Basingstoke

Lychpit Hall, Great Binfields Road, Lychpit, Basingstoke, RG24 8TF.
07803 046549. www.dramatots.co.uk.

- **Rising Stars: 9:30 - 10:10.** Fun class for toddlers

Ages: 1 yrs 6 mths - 3 yrs.

- **Bright Stars: 10:30 - 11:15.** Preschooler class

Ages: 3 - 5 yrs.

Cost: £7.50 per session (booking essential).

Dates: 18 Sep - 16 Oct & 6 Nov - 11 Dec.

PHYSICAL FUN

Tots Play Basingstoke

Sherborne St John Village Hall, King Road, Sherbourne St John Road, Basingstoke, RG24 9HR. 07843479359. www.totsplay.co.uk.

- **Family Tots: 11:35 - 12:15.** Ages: 2 mths - 2 yrs 9 mths.

A multi-activity, developmental play session

Cost: £9 per session (drop in). **Dates:** 2 Oct-23 Oct & 6 Nov-11 Dec.

- **Baby Development 6 week Course: 10:45 - 11:45.**

A Strong Foundation for Your Baby's Growth and Development

Ages: 0 - 6 mths. **Cost:** £69 (booking essential).

Dates: 6 Nov.

Tumble Tots Basingstoke

Victoria Halls, West Green Road, Hartley Wintney, RG27 8RQ.
07368 500820. www.tumbletots.com.

- **3 years to school age: 9:30 - 10:15.**
- **Confidently Walking to 2 years: 10:35 - 11:20.**
- **2 - 3 Years: 11:35 - 12:20.**

Cost: £9.75 per session (booking essential).

Dates: 11 Sep - 23 Oct & 6 Nov - 18 Dec.

SWIMMING

Basingstoke Sports Centre

Festival Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7LE. 01256 326331.
www.better.org.uk.

- **Pre School: 11:00 - 13:00.** Preschoolers' swimming skills

Dates: 4 Sep - 18 Dec.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

FitMama™ with Marie Behenna

Studio 41 Ground Floor Suite BMS House, Stroudley Road, Basingstoke, RG24 8FW. +44 7753 668843.
www.fitmamaonline.com.

- **Pregnancy Exercise and Birth Preparation: 14:44 - 15:29.**

Cost: £10 per session (booking essential).

- **Mums Circuit: 11:15 - 11:40.**

Fit pregnant mums and post birth mums after 6 months

Cost: £5 per session (booking essential).

Dates: 18 Sep - 20 Nov.

- **Post Birth Core Repair Course: 10:15 - 11:00.**

Repair your core and pelvic floor after birth.

Cost: £55 (booking essential). **Dates:** 16 Oct.



OTHER

Alton Library

Alton Library, Vicarage Hill, Alton, GU34 1HT. www.hants.gov.uk.

- **Rhymetime at Alton Library: 10:30 - 11:00.** Ages: 0 - 5 yrs.
- **Loopy Loopers at Alton Library: 14:00 - 16:00.**

Crochet and crafting group

Cost: Free. **Dates:** 4 Sep - 18 Dec.

Basingstoke Discovery Centre

Festival Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7LS. www.hants.gov.uk.

- **Rhymetime at Basingstoke: 10:30 - 11:00.**

Ages: 0 - 5 yrs. **Cost:** £1 per session (booking essential).

- **STEM Social at Basingstoke: 10:00 - 11:00.**

Science and technology social

- **Read Aloud at Basingstoke: 12:45 - 13:30.**

Relaxing storytime for adults

Cost: Free **Dates:** 4 Sep - 18 Dec.

Tadley Library

Mulfords Hill, Tadley, RG26 3JE. www.hants.gov.uk.

- **Scrabble at Tadley Library: 10:00 - 12:00.**
- **Storytime at Tadley Library: 10:30 - 11:00.** Ages: 3 - 5 yrs.
- **USA Scrabble at Tadley Library: 14:00 - 16:00.**

Cost: Free. **Dates:** 4 Sep - 18 Dec.

FRIDAY

PARENTS & TOTS

Hope Community Church

Sarum Hill Centre, The Sarum Hill, Basingstoke, RG21 8SR.

Bouncing Beans: 10:00 - 12:00. Ages: 0 - 4 yrs.

Cost: £0.50 per session (booking essential).

Dates: 5 Sep - 24 Oct & 7 Nov - 19 Dec.

Melrose Community Association

Melrose Community Hall, Abbey Road, Popley, Basingstoke, RG24 9EF. 01256 420676. www.melrosecommunityassociation.co.uk.

- **Popley Little People: 9:30 - 12:15.**

Cost: £2.50 per session (drop in).

Dates: 5 Sep - 24 Oct & 7 Nov - 19 Dec.

St Luke's Church

St Luke's Church, Pamber Heath, Tadley, RG26 3DZ. 07759 151576.

- **SBaby And Toddler Group: 10:00 - 11:29.** Ages: 0 - 4 yrs.

Cost: Free (booking essential).

Dates: 5 Sep - 24 Oct & 7 Nov - 19 Dec.

Tadley & District Community Association

The Point, Newchurch Road, Tadley, RG26 4HN. 01189814538.
www.tadleycommunitycentre.org.uk.

- **Tadley Tots: 9:30 - 11:00. Ages:** 0 - 5 yrs.
- Dates:** 3 Oct, 17 Oct, 31 Oct - 7 Nov, 21 Nov, 5 Dec & 19 Dec.
- **Soft Play: 9:30 - 11:30. Ages:** 0 - 5 yrs.
- Dates:** 10 Oct, 24 Oct, 14 Nov, 28 Nov & 12 Dec.
- Cost:** £3 per session (*booking essential*).

Viables Community Centre

The Harrow Way, Basingstoke, RG22 4BJ. 01256 473634.
www.viables.org.uk.

- **Little Seedlings Music: 10:00 - 10:45.**
- Cost:** £3 per session (*booking essential*). **Dates:** 5 Sep - 19 Dec.

PHYSICAL FUN**Tumble Tots Basingstoke**

Sherborne St John Village Hall, Kiln Road, Basingstoke, RG24 9HR.
07368 500820. www.tumbletots.com.

- **6 months to walking class: 9:30 - 10:15.**
- **Confidently Walking to 2 years: 10:35 - 11:20.**
- **2 - 3 Years: 11:35 - 12:20.**
- **3 years to school age: 12:35 - 13:20.**

Cost: £9.75 per session (*booking essential*).
Dates: 12 Sep - 24 Oct & 7 Nov - 19 Dec.

SWIMMING**Basingstoke Sports Centre**

Festival Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7LE. 01256 326331.
www.better.org.uk.

- **Pre School: 11:30 - 12:00 & 12:00 - 12:30.**
- Preschoolers' swimming skills**
- **Dippers: 9:30 - 10:00.**

Baby water fun with parents

- **Splashers: 10:00 - 10:30.**

Toddler water fun with parents

- **Paddlers: 10:30 - 11:00 & 11:00 - 11:30.**

Toddlers' swimming basics

Dates: 5 Sep - 19 Dec.

OTHER**Alton Library**

Alton Library, Vicarage Hill, Alton, GU34 1HT. www.hants.gov.uk.

- **Board Games Club at Alton Library: 15:30 - 16:45.**
- Ages:** 5 - 12 yrs. **Cost:** Free. **Dates:** 5 Sep - 19 Dec.

Basingstoke Discovery Centre

Festival Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7LS. www.hants.gov.uk.

- **Craft and Chatter at Basingstoke: 10:00 - 12:30.**
- **Community Connections at Centre: 10:00 - 12:00.**

Cost: Free

- **Storytime at Basingstoke Centre: 10:30 - 11:00.**

Ages: 0 - 5 yrs. **Cost:** £1 per session (*booking essential*).
Dates: 5 Sep - 19 Dec.

Chineham Library

Chineham District Centre, Basingstoke, RG24 8BQ.
www.hants.gov.uk.

- **Rhymetime for Under 1's: 10:00 - 10:30.**
- **Rhymetime for Over 1's: 11:00 - 11:30.**

Cost: Free **Dates:** 5 Sep - 19 Dec.

Tadley Library

Mulford's Hill, Tadley, RG26 3JE. www.hants.gov.uk.

- **Toddler Rhymetime at Tadley Library: 10:30 - 11:00.**
- **New Parents Meet at Tadley Library: 14:00 - 15:00.**
- **USA Rummikub at Tadley Library: 14:00 - 16:00.**

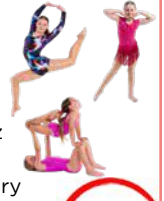
Cost: Free **Dates:** 5 Sep - 19 Dec.

Petite School of Dancing

Based in Bramley Village Hall



- Tap
- Ballet
- Modern Jazz
- Acrobatics
- Contemporary

**EXAMS—SHOWS—MEDALS**

From Tots to Teens

Plus an adult tap class for all abilities.

**GROWN
UP & ME**

NEW!

**Introducing Our Brand New Grown-Up & Me Dance
Class Starting September 2025!**

LOOKING FOR A FUN, CREATIVE WAY TO
BOND WITH YOUR LITTLE ONE? OUR
GROWN-UP & ME DANCE CLASS IS THE
PERFECT WAY TO GET MOVING, LAUGHING,
AND BUILDING MEMORIES TOGETHER.

Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays term time

Contact: misslouise@petiteschoolofdancing.com
for all available times and locations.

SATURDAY**PARENTS & TOTS****Petite School of Dancing**

Bramley Village Hall, The Street, Bramley, RG26 5BP. www.petiteschoolofdancing.com.

- **Tiddlers: 9:00 - 9:30. Dance class for ages 3-5**
- Cost:** £4.50 per session (*booking essential*).
- Dates:** 20 Sep - 25 Oct & 8 Nov - 13 Dec.

Tadley & District Community Association

The Point, Newchurch Road, Tadley, RG26 4HN. 01189814538.
www.tadleycommunitycentre.org.uk.

- **Tadley Toy Library: 10:00 - 11:00. Ages:** 0 - 5 yrs.
- Cost:** Free (*booking essential*). **Dates:** 6 Sep, 4 Oct, 1 Nov & 6 Dec.

PHYSICAL FUN**Tots Play Basingstoke**

Chineham Village Hall, Thornhill Way, Chineham, RG24 8YE.
07843479359. www.totsplay.co.uk.

- **Halloween Action Tots: 9:45 - 10:30. Ages:** 2.5 yrs - 4 yrs.
- **Halloween Family Tots: 10:45 - 11:30. Ages:** 3 mths - 2.5 yrs.
- Cost:** £9.50 per session (*booking essential*). **Dates:** 25 Oct.

SWIMMING**Basingstoke Sports Centre**

Festival Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7LE. 01256 326331.
www.better.org.uk.

- **Pre School: 9:00 - 9:30, 9:30 - 11:30 & 13:00 - 13:30.**
- Preschoolers' swimming skills**
- **Paddlers: 8:00 - 8:30 & 8:30 - 9:00.**

Toddlers' swimming basics

Dates: 6 Sep - 20 Dec.

HurlyBurly presents

you are the SUN

For 0-2 year olds

Celebrate the gift of nature as we conjure a world out of breath, water, sunlight and soil in this magical musical adventure.

“So transporting, so beautiful, so perfectly pitched for children of this age... just utterly magical.”

Created by Catherine Carter and Sarah Pugh with words and music by Catherine Carter

Fri 21 Nov / 11am, 1pm & 2.15pm

Anvil Arts at The Forge Basingstoke

01256 844244 | anvilarts.org.uk

NLP LTD PRESENT

Tales from Acorn Wood at Christmas

Based on the favourite stories by JULIA DONALDSON and AXEL SCHEFFLER

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

including Squirrel's Snowman a real festive treat

FEATURING: Rabbit's Nap, Fox's Socks, Hide-and-Seek Pig, Postman Bear

WED 3 - SUN 7 DEC

The Haymarket, Basingstoke

anvilarts.org.uk 01256 844 244

Anvil Arts at The Haymarket

Based on the Tales from Acorn Wood stories © Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler 2000 and 2021, published by Macmillan Children's Books

OTHER

Alton Library

Vicarage Hill, Alton, GU34 1HT. www.hants.gov.uk.

- Community Connections at Library: 13:00 - 15:00.
- Construction Club: 14:00 - 16:00. **Ages:** 5 - 12 yrs.

Cost: Free. **Dates:** 6 Sep - 20 Dec.

Basingstoke Discovery Centre

Festival Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7LS. www.hants.gov.uk.

- Construction Club at Basingstoke: 10:00 - 13:00.

Ages: 5 - 12 yrs. **Cost:** £1 per session (booking essential). **Dates:** 6 Sep - 20 Dec.

Tadley Library

Mulfords Hill, Tadley, RG26 3JE. www.hants.gov.uk.

- Family Fun Board Games Tadley: 14:00 - 16:00.
- Construction Club at Tadley Library: 14:00 - 16:00.

Cost: Free **Dates:** 6 Sep - 20 Dec.



SUNDAY

CREATIVE

Pop Up Play Village Basingstoke

The Wellington Arms, Basingstoke Road, Stratfield Turgis, Basingstoke, RG27 0AS. 07789 717076. popupplayvillage.co.uk.

- Wellington Arms Family Sunday

Times: 12:00 - 14:00. **Dates:** 7 Sep - 21 Sep & 5 Oct - 14 Dec.

Times: 14:30 - 16:30. **Dates:** 7 Sep - 14 Dec.

PHYSICAL FUN

Tadley Rugby Club

Frank Jose Park, Red Lane, Aldermaston, RG7 4PA. 0118 970 0072. tadleyrfc.rfu.club.

- Under 6 Rugby Classes: 9:00 - 10:00. **Ages:** 4 - 6 yrs.

Dates: 7 Sep - 19 Oct & 9 Nov - 14 Dec.

Are you running classes or events?

Advertise them on the Toddle About website for FREE at toddle.fun/free-listing

WEST BERKS AREA

MONDAY

PARENTS & TOTS

St Mary's Greenham

St Mary's Church, New Road, Greenham, RG19 8RZ.
www.stmarysgreenham.org.

- Teas, Toys and Tots Playgroup in Greenham: 9:30 - 11:00.

Cost: £1 per session (*booking essential*).

Dates: 8 Sep - 20 Oct & 3 Nov - 15 Dec.

St Nicolas Church, Newbury

St Nicolas Church, West Mills, Newbury, RG14 5HG.
+44 1635 47018.

- Hidden Treasures: 10:00 - 11:15. **Ages:** 0 - 4 yrs.

Cost: £1 per session (*booking essential*).

Dates: 8 Sep - 20 Oct & 3 Nov - 15 Dec.

Tiny Town Café

The Kennet Centre, Newbury, RG14 5EN. 01635 947036.
tinytownnewbury.co.uk.

- General Play Sessions: 9:30 - 11:00, 11:30 - 13:00 & 13:30 - 15:00. **Ages:** 0 - 6 yrs.

Cost: £7 per session (*drop in*). **Dates:** 15 Sep - 29 Dec.

- Christmas Breakfast: 8:30 - 10:00. **Ages:** 6 mths - 6 yrs.

Cost: £16.50 per session (*booking essential*). **Dates:** 22 Dec.

CREATIVE

Great Shefford Village Hall

Station Road, Great Shefford, RG17 7DR. 07765 508 867.
www.greatsheffordunderfives.co.uk.

- Great Shefford Under 5's: 9:30 - 11:00.

Cost: £3 per session (*booking essential*).

Dates: 8 Sep - 20 Oct & 3 Nov - 15 Dec.

Corn Exchange Newbury

Market Pl, Newbury, RG14 5BD. 01635 522733.
cornexchangeweb.com.

- Create and Make: 10:00 - 17:30. **Ages:** 4 - 11 yrs.

Cost: £37.50 per session (*booking essential*). **Dates:** 1 Sep - 15 Dec.

TUESDAY

PARENTS & TOTS

Aldermaston Parish Hall

The Street, Aldermaston, RG7 4LN. 07748 791544.
aldermastonparishhall.co.uk.

- Aldermaston Toddlers: 9:30 - 11:30.

Cost: £3 per session (*booking essential*).

Dates: 2 Sep - 21 Oct & 4 Nov - 16 Dec.

Kingsclere Village Club

George St, Kingsclere, Newbury, RG20 5NH. 01635 297913. www.kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk.

- Bunnies - Baby and Toddler Group: 9:00 - 11:00.

Cost: £2 per session (*drop in*). **Dates:** 2 Sep - 16 Dec.

Saint Mary's Church, Shaw

Church Road, Shaw, Newbury, RG14 2DR. 01635 40450.
shawchurch.org.

- Meeting Point: 9:45 - 11:15. **Ages:** 0 - 5 yrs.

Cost: Free (*booking essential*).

Dates: 9 Sep - 21 Oct & 4 Nov - 16 Dec.

St John's Church

St John's Road, Newbury, RG14 7PY. 01635 41249. stg-stj.org.uk.

- St John's Newbury Baby & Toddler Group: 9:30 - 11:15.

Cost: £2 per session (*drop in*).

Dates: 9 Sep - 21 Oct & 4 Nov - 16 Dec.

The Lambourn Centre

Close End, Lambourn, RG17 8NJ. 01488 73690. lambourn.org.

- Under 5's Parent & Toddler Group: 10:00 - 12:00.

Cost: Free (*booking essential*).

Dates: 9 Sep - 21 Oct & 4 Nov - 16 Dec.

Tiny Town Café

The Kennet Centre, Newbury, RG14 5EN. 01635 947036.
tinytownnewbury.co.uk.

- General Play Sessions: 9:30 - 11:00, 11:30 - 13:00 & 13:30 - 15:00. **Ages:** 0 - 6 yrs.

Cost: £7 per session (*drop in*). **Dates:** 16 Sep - 30 Dec.

WEDNESDAY

PARENTS & TOTS

The Parent Village at Educafe

Newbury Central Library, The Wharf, Newbury, RG14 5AU. +44 1635 936211. www.educafeuk.co.uk.

Times: 11:00 - 14:00. **Cost:** Free (*drop in*). **Dates:** 3 Sep - 17 Dec.

Soothing Strokes
baby massage

Relaxing Baby Massage Courses

in Hampshire, Berkshire & Surrey

Discover how to massage your baby in a welcoming and supportive class or through a personalised one-to-one session in your home, for babies from birth to pre-crawling.

Benefits of baby massage:

- ♥ relieves wind, colic, constipation and teething discomfort
- ♥ enhances the bond between you and your baby
- ♥ can help improve sleep and relaxation
- ♥ an opportunity to weigh your baby
- ♥ a friendly space to meet fellow parents/carers

Soothing Strokes baby massage is run by Danielle, a certified instructor with the world leading International Association of Infant Massage (IAIM) and an accredited tummy time instructor.

Please feel free to contact me to find out more:
Tel: 07912 658209
Email: soothingstrokesbabymassage@outlook.com
Web: www.soothingstrokesbabymassage.org.uk

The Salvation Army

Northcroft Lane, Newbury, RG14 1BU. +44 20 7367 4500.
www.salvationarmy.org.uk.

• **Stay and Play - Newbury:** 10:00 - 11:30. **Ages:** 0 - 4 yrs.

Cost: £1.50 per session (*drop in*).

Dates: 10 Sep - 22 Oct & 5 Nov - 17 Dec.

Tiny Town Café

The Kennet Centre, Newbury, RG14 5EN. 01635 947036.
tinytownnewbury.co.uk.

• **General Play Sessions:** 9:30 - 11:00, 11:30 - 13:00 & 13:30 - 15:00. **Ages:** 0 - 6 yrs.

Cost: £7 per session (*drop in*). **Dates:** 17 Sep - 17 Dec.

• **Trick or Treat Party:** 15:30 - 17:00.

Cost: £13 per session (*booking essential*). **Dates:** 29 Oct.

OTHER

Corn Exchange Newbury

Market Pl, Newbury, RG14 5BD. 01635 522733. cornexchangenew.com.

• **Memory Café:** 10:30 - 12:00.

Cost: Free (*drop in*). **Dates:** 3 Sep - 17 Dec.

THURSDAY

PARENTS & TOTS

Brightwalton Village Hall

Common Lane, Brightwalton, RG20 7BN. www.facebook.com.

• **Brightwalton Toddler Group:** 9:00 - 10:45. **Ages:** 0 - 4 yrs.

Cost: £3 per session (*booking essential*).

Dates: 4 Sep - 23 Oct & 6 Nov - 18 Dec.

The Lambourn Centre

Close End, Lambourn, RG17 8NJ. 01488 73690. lambourn.org.

• **Under 5's Parent & Toddler Group:** 10:00 - 12:00.

Cost: Free (*booking essential*).

Dates: 4 Sep - 23 Oct & 6 Nov - 18 Dec.

Tiny Town Café

The Kennet Centre, Newbury, RG14 5EN. 01635 947036.

tinytownnewbury.co.uk.

• **General Play Sessions:** 9:30 - 11:00, 11:30 - 13:00 & 13:30 - 15:00. **Ages:** 0 - 6 yrs.

Cost: £7 per session (*drop in*). **Dates:** 18 Sep - 18 Dec.

MUSIC & SIGNING

Sing and Sign Andover & Newbury

Newbury Rugby Club, Monks Lane, Newbury, RG14 7RW.
07720321502. singandsign.co.uk.

• **Sing and Sign Babes - Newbury Rugby Club:** 11:00 - 12:00.

Ages: 0 - 6 mths. **Cost:** £8 per session (*booking essential*).

Dates: 11 Sep - 23 Oct & 13 Nov - 27 Nov.

CREATIVE

Thatcham Discovery Centre

Nature Discovery Centre, Muddy Lane, Lower Way, Thatcham,
RG19 3FU. 01235862024. www.bbwt.org.uk.

• **Nature Tots: Hedgehogs - Nature Discovery Centre:** 10:00 -

11:30. **Ages:** 0 - 5 yrs. **Dates:** 9 Oct - 10 Oct.

• **Nature Tots: Sticks and Leaves - Nature Discovery Centre:** 10:00 - 11:30. **Ages:** 0 - 5 yrs. **Dates:** 6 Nov - 7 Nov.

• **Nature Tots: Winter Celebration - Nature Discovery Centre:** 10:00 - 11:30. **Ages:** 0 - 5 yrs. **Dates:** 4 Dec - 5 Dec.

Cost: £8 per session (*booking essential*).

OTHER

Corn Exchange Newbury

Corn Exchange Newbury, 522733. cornexchangenew.com.

• **Tots Create:** 10:15 - 11:15.

Ages: 2 - 4 yrs. **Cost:** £5 per session (*drop in*).

FRIDAY

PARENTS & TOTS

GLENDALE CHURCH

The Well, Green Lane, Thatcham, RG19 3RG. www.glendale-church.com.

• **Replenish Baby & Toddler Group:** 10:00 - 12:00.

Cost: £2 per session (*drop in*).

Dates: 5 Sep - 24 Oct & 7 Nov - 19 Dec.

Hungerford Youth and Community Centre

Priory Road, Hungerford, RG17 0AL. 07999 053744.

hungerfordyc.org.uk.

• **Ladybugs Playgroup (Hungerford):** 9:30 - 11:00.

Ages: 0 - 5 yrs. **Cost:** £2.50 per family - snack included (*drop in*).

Dates: 5 Sep - 24 Oct & 7 Nov - 19 Dec.

Newbury Baptist Church

Cheap Street, Newbury, RG14 5DD. +447901795987. www.newburybaptistchurch.org.

• **Giggles and Wiggles Toddler Group:** 9:30 - 10:45.

Cost: £1.50 per session (*booking essential*).

Dates: 5 Sep - 24 Oct & 7 Nov - 19 Dec.

The Lambourn Centre

Close End, Lambourn, RG17 8NJ. 01488 73690. lambourn.org.

• **Under 5's Parent & Toddler Group:** 10:00 - 12:00.

Cost: Free (*booking essential*).

Dates: 5 Sep - 24 Oct & 7 Nov - 19 Dec.

Tiny Town Café

The Kennet Centre, Newbury, RG14 5EN. 01635 947036.

tinytownnewbury.co.uk.

• **General Play Sessions:** 9:30-11:00 & 11:30-13:00. **Ages:** 0-6 yrs.

Cost: £7 per session (*drop in*). **Dates:** 19 Sep - 19 Dec.

• **Parent & Tiny Toes Yoga:** 13:30 - 15:00.

Yoga Session for grown ups / child/baby friendly **Ages:** 2 mths - 6 yrs.

Cost: £10 per session (*drop in*). **Dates:** 19 Sep - 21 Nov.

• **Christmas Santa Session:** 9:30 - 11:00.

Personal Meet, Greet & Play Santa Session **Ages:** 0 - 6 yrs.

Cost: £18 per session (*booking essential*). **Dates:** 19 Dec.

Upper Bucklebury Memorial Hall

Broad Lane, Upper Bucklebury, RG7 6QH.

buckleburymemorialhall.org.uk.

• **Bucklebury Baby & Toddler Group:** 9:30 - 11:00.

Cost: £1 per session (*booking essential*).

Dates: 5 Sep - 24 Oct & 7 Nov - 19 Dec.

CREATIVE

Corn Exchange Newbury

Market Pl, Newbury, RG14 5BD. 01635 522733.
cornexchangenew.com.

• **Messy Stories:** 13:00 - 14:00.

Ages: 0 - 4 yrs. **Cost:** £5 per session (*drop in*).

Are you running classes or events?

Advertise them on the Toddle About website for FREE at toddle.fun/free-listing

SATURDAY

PARENTS & TOTS

Tiny Town Café

The Kennet Centre, Newbury, RG14 5EN. 01635 947036.
tinytownnewbury.co.uk.

• General Play Sessions: 9:30 - 11:00, 11:30 - 13:00, 13:30 - 15:00 & 15:30 - 17:00. **Ages:** 0 - 6 yrs.

Cost: £7 per session (drop in). **Dates:** 20 Sep - 27 Dec.

• Christmas Santa Session: 9:30 - 11:00.

Personal Meet, Greet & Play Santa Session **Ages:** 0 - 6 yrs.

Cost: £18 per session (booking essential).

Dates: 13 Dec - 13 Dec & 20 Dec - 20 Dec.

OTHER

W Berks Mum2Mum Market

Thatcham Catholic Hall, 7 Bath Road, Thatcham, RG18 3AG.
www.mum2mummarket.co.uk.

• Thatcham 18th October 2025: 14:00 - 16:00.

SUNDAY

PARENTS & TOTS

Tiny Town Café

The Kennet Centre, Newbury, RG14 5EN. 01635 947036.
tinytownnewbury.co.uk.

• General Play Sessions: 10:00 - 11:30, 12:00 - 13:30, 14:00 - 15:30 & 16:00 - 17:30. **Ages:** 0 - 6 yrs.

Cost: £7 per session (drop in).

Dates: 21 Sep - 23 Nov & 7 Dec - 28 Dec.

• SEN Play Session: 16:00 - 17:30. **Ages:** 0 - 6 yrs.

Cost: £8.50 per session (drop in). **Dates:** 5 Oct, 2 Nov & 7 Dec.

PHYSICAL FUN

Tadley Rugby Club

Frank Jose Park, Red Lane, Aldermaston, RG7 4PA. 0118 970 0072.
tadleyrfc.rfu.club.

• Under 6 Rugby Classes: 9:00 - 10:00. **Ages:** 4 - 6 yrs.

Dates: 7 Sep - 19 Oct & 9 Nov - 14 Dec.

WINCHESTER & ANDOVER AREA

MONDAY

DANCE & DRAMA

Perform Workshops LTD

Perform Andover, Andover Leisure Centre, West Street, Andover,
SP10 1QP. 020 7255 9120. www.perform.org.uk.

• Perform Andover: Drama, dance & singing classes for 4-12s:
16:00 - 17:00.

Dates: 1 Sep - 20 Oct & 3 Nov - 15 Dec.

OTHER

Andover Library

Chantry Centre, Andover, SP10 1LT. www.hants.gov.uk.

• Chat About at Andover Library: 10:30 - 12:00.

• Storytime at Andover Library: 11:00 - 11:30. **Ages:** 3 - 5 yrs.

Cost: Free **Dates:** 1 Sep - 15 Dec.

Winchester Library

Jewry St, Winchester, SO23 8SB. www.hants.gov.uk.

• Scrabble Club at Winchester: 11:00 - 12:00.

• Home Education Club Winchester: 13:00 - 15:00.

Cost: Free **Dates:** 1 Sep - 15 Dec.

TUESDAY

PARENTS & TOTS

Christ Church - Winchester

Christchurch Road, Winchester, SO23 9SR. 01962 854454.
ccwinch.org.uk.

• Bumps and Babies: 10:00 - 11:30. **Ages:** 0 - 2 yrs.

Cost: Free (booking essential).

• Toddlers: 10:00 - 11:30. **Ages:** 3 - 5 yrs.

Cost: £1 per session (booking essential).

Dates: 2 Sep - 16 Dec.

OTHER

Andover Library

Chantry Centre, Andover, SP10 1LT. www.hants.gov.uk.

• Chatty Craft at Andover Library: 10:30 - 12:00.

• Dog Storytime at Andover Library: 11:00 - 11:30. **Ages:** 3-8 yrs.

Cost: Free **Dates:** 2 Sep - 16 Dec.

Winchester Library

Jewry St, Winchester, SO23 8SB. www.hants.gov.uk.

• Knit and Natter at Winchester: 10:00 - 12:00.

Cost: Free (drop in). **Dates:** 2 Sep - 16 Dec.

WEDNESDAY

PARENTS & TOTS

Picket Twenty Community Centre

Picket Twenty Way, Andover, SP11 6TY. 08081640909.
pickettwenty.org.uk.

• Baby & Toddler Group: 10:30 - 12:00.

Ages: 0 - 4 yrs. **Cost:** Free (drop in). **Dates:** 10 Sep - 10 Dec.

OTHER

Andover Library

Chantry Centre, Andover, SP10 1LT. www.hants.gov.uk.

• Rhymetime at Andover Library: 11:00 - 11:30. **Ages:** 0 - 5 yrs.

Cost: Free **Dates:** 3 Sep - 17 Dec.

Whitchurch Library

Gill Nethercott Centre, Whitchurch, RG28 7HP. www.hants.gov.uk.

• Sociable Stitching at Whitchurch: 13:30 - 15:30.

Cost: Free. **Dates:** 3 Sep - 17 Dec.

Winchester Library

Jewry St, Winchester, SO23 8SB. www.hants.gov.uk.

• Read Aloud at Winchester Library: 10:30 - 12:30.

Stories games and chat

Cost: Free **Dates:** 3 Sep - 17 Dec.

THURSDAY

PARENTS & TOTS

St Paul's Church

St Paul's Hill, Winchester, SO22 5AB. 01962 844878.
stmatthewstpaul.org.

• Bumps & Babies: 9:15 - 10:30.

Cost: £1 per session (booking essential).

Dates: 4 Sep - 23 Oct & 6 Nov - 18 Dec.

DANCE & DRAMA

Perform Workshops LTD

Holy Trinity Parish Church, Upper Brook Street, Winchester, SO23 8DG. 020 7255 9120. www.perform.org.uk

- Perform Winchester: Drama, dance & singing classes for 4-12s: 16:00 - 17:00.

Cost: Free (*booking essential*). **Dates:** 4 Sep - 23 Oct & 6 Nov - 18 Dec.

OTHER

Alresford Library

20 Broad Street, New Alresford, SO24 9AQ. www.hants.gov.uk.

- Rhymetime at Alresford Library: 11:15 - 11:45.

Cost: Free (*booking essential*). **Dates:** 4 Sep - 18 Dec.

Andover Library

Chantry Centre, Andover, SP10 1LT. www.hants.gov.uk.

- Parents Meet at Andover Library: 11:00 - 12:00.

Ages: 0 - 2 yrs. **Cost:** Free.

- Baby Play at Andover Library: 11:00 - 12:00.

Ages: 0 - 2 yrs. **Cost:** £1 per session (*booking essential*).

Dates: 4 Sep - 18 Dec.

Winchester Library

Jewry St, Winchester, SO23 8SB. www.hants.gov.uk.

- Rhymetime at Winchester Library: 10:00 - 10:30 & 11:00 - 11:30. **Ages:** 0 - 5 yrs.

Cost: Free. **Dates:** 4 Sep - 18 Dec.

FRIDAY

PARENTS & TOTS

St Barnabas Church, Winchester

Fromond Rd, Winchester, SO22 6EF. 01962 886629. stbchurch.org.

- Tiddlywinks: 10:00 - 11:30. **Ages:** 0 - 4 yrs.

Cost: Free (*drop in*). **Dates:** 5 Sep - 19 Dec.

St Paul's Church

St Paul's Hill, Winchester, SO22 5AB. 01962 844878.

stmatthewstpaul.org.

- Toddler Group: 9:30 - 11:00.

Cost: £1 per session (*booking essential*).

Dates: 5 Sep - 24 Oct & 7 Nov - 19 Dec.

OTHER

Andover Library

Chantry Centre, Andover, SP10 1LT. www.hants.gov.uk.

- Rhymetime at Andover Library: 10:00 - 10:30 & 11:00 - 11:30.

Ages: 0 - 5 yrs. **Cost:** Free

- Marigold Club at Andover Library: 10:30 - 12:00.

Social club for adults **Cost:** £1 per session (*booking essential*).

Dates: 5 Sep - 19 Dec.

Whitchurch Library

Gill Nethercott Centre, Whitchurch, RG28 7HP. www.hants.gov.uk.

- Rhymetime at Whitchurch Library: 10:30 - 11:00.

Ages: 0 - 2 yrs. **Cost:** Free. **Dates:** 5 Sep - 19 Dec.

SATURDAY

DANCE & DRAMA

Perform Workshops LTD

Holy Trinity Parish Church, Upper Brook Street, Winchester, SO23 8DG. 020 7255 9120. www.perform.org.uk.

- Perform Winchester: Drama, dance & singing classes for 4-12s: 9:30 - 11:00.

Cost: Free (*booking essential*). **Dates:** 6 Sep - 13 Dec.

OTHER

Alresford Library

20 Broad Street, New Alresford, SO24 9AQ. www.hants.gov.uk.

- Construction Club at Alresford Library: 10:00 - 13:00.

Cost: Free. **Dates:** 6 Sep - 20 Dec.

Andover Library

Chantry Centre, Andover, SP10 1LT. www.hants.gov.uk.

- Community Connections at Library: 10:00 - 12:00.

Helpful chats and support

- Dads' Rhymetime at Andover: 11:00 - 11:30.

Rhyme time for dads and kids **Ages:** 3 - 5 yrs.

- Construction Club at Andover: 14:00 - 16:00.

Lego and Duplo building fun **Ages:** 5 - 12 yrs.

Cost: Free **Dates:** 6 Sep - 20 Dec.

Whitchurch Library

Gill Nethercott Centre, Whitchurch, RG28 7HP. www.hants.gov.uk.

- Construction Club at Whitchurch: 10:00 - 13:00. **Ages:** 3 - 8 yrs.

Cost: £1 per session (*booking essential*).

- Saturday Storytime at Whitchurch: 10:30 - 11:00.

Ages: 3 - 8 yrs. **Cost:** Free

Dates: 6 Sep - 20 Dec.

Winchester Library

Jewry St, Winchester, SO23 8SB. www.hants.gov.uk.

- Family Fun at Winchester Library: 14:00 - 16:00.

Family Lego building fun **Ages:** 3 - 12 yrs.

Cost: Free. **Dates:** 6 Sep - 20 Dec.

Play & Discover

Cheeky
Charlie
Hunt!



x10

Answers

SANTa'S
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