



M U M S & D A D S M A G A Z I N E

For families with children from 0 to 11

Spring 2018

Issue 60

FREE

Playground cliques

Three hours to Haven

Choosing a nursery

mgs | The Manchester
Grammar School

THE SUNDAY TIMES
SCHOOLS
GUIDE
2018

NORTHWEST
INDEPENDENT
SECONDARY
SCHOOL
OF THE YEAR

Education for life

Whole School Open Event
Thursday 10 May 4.30 pm - 7 pm

Our Junior boys gain automatic entry into Senior School

Visit MGS.org

For information contact Kath Heathcote, 0161 224 7201 extension 234
k.heathcote@mgs.org @MGSmagic

“What we learn with
pleasure we never forget”

Alfred Mercier



Top independent
school in the north
Sunday Times Parent Power

Means
-tested
bursaries
available
from Year 5
upwards



Withington
GIRLS' SCHOOL

Find out more by calling 0161 249 3371
Wellington Road, Fallowfield, Manchester M14 6BL

wgs.org

Contents

- 05** To play or not to play?
- 06** Playground cliques
- 09** Choosing a nursery
- 11** Benetton - M&D Special Offer
- 16** Three hours to Haven
- 20** Easter Clubs and Events Watch

Editor **Zoe Drobnis**
Art Editor **David Aldred**

Cover: Sarah Jane King
www.sarahjanekingphotography.com

Issue 60 Spring 2018

Published by M&D Publishing Ltd

All rights reserved. Reproduction without the express permission of the Editor is strictly prohibited. The opinions expressed within M&D Magazine are not necessarily the views of the publishers, but those of individual writers. The publishers accept no liability of any nature arising out of or in connection with the contents of this magazine.

M&D Magazine,
4 Granville Gardens, Didsbury, Manchester, M20 2SX.
Tel: 0161 445 5388
editor@mums-dads.co.uk www.mums-dads.co.uk



editor's note

The number of positive phrases associated with spring is huge - you can be feeling a 'spring in your step', be ready to 'spring into' something, or be full of 'the joys of spring'. No doubt about it, spring is the ultimate feel good season. And this spring, you can feel even better than usual by diving into our cheery new M&D issue!

Plan a photoshoot based on a frolic in the flowers with your little one (page 13), start thinking about making your next holiday a staycation (page 16), and get to grips with a jam packed timetable for the whole family over Easter with our events guide (pages 20-22).

Nothing makes you feel good quite like a spring clean (maybe not during, but definitely after), and it's the perfect symbol of the fresh, bright days to come. So why not take it one step further, and check out some great redecorating ideas from Nest (page 10), with their new design-board style tips.

While you're in the rejuvenation mindset, why not bring a splash of colour to your family's wardrobe, with our fabulous 20% off voucher for the new 'United Colours of Benetton' store in Wilmslow - head to (page 11) to embrace some new garments for the warmer weather to come!

So - let's all embrace the sunny season - the weather might not be, but our dispositions definitely will! **Zoe x**

visit www.mums-dads.co.uk





Cheadle Hulme School

chadlehulmeschool.co.uk
0161 488 3345 | admissions@chschool.co.uk

Successfully educating boys and girls since 1855

To play or not to play... that is the question



At the end of 2017, Ofsted published a report critical of standards of teaching and learning in the Reception classes of our primary schools. The report found that Reception teachers are failing a third of five-year-olds by focussing on playing, rather than teaching reading, writing and maths properly. Inspectors' research found that a third of children lack the essential knowledge they need by the time they move into Year One.

Photo courtesy of Wilmslow Preparatory School

The report concludes, *'For too many children, Reception is far from successful. It is a false start and may predispose them to years of catching up rather than forging ahead. Put simply, by the end of Reception, the ability to read, write and use numbers is fundamental. They are the building blocks for all new learning. Without firm foundations in these areas, a child's life chances can be severely restricted. The basics need to be taught - and learned well, from the start.'*

These comments provoked the following response from the newly created National Education Union: *'The youngest children in our schools should not be fed a narrow curriculum diet of synthetic phonics and rote memorisation, but encouraged to explore their world through play. Play-based learning is not a soft option, but the best way to ensure rounded development of young children. Done well, a play-based approach will help children to develop the broad vocabulary, self-regulation, and the fine motor skills to thrive when the time is right to begin more formal learning. This is something that other countries grasp, but we are in danger of forgetting in England.'* Kevin Courtney- NEU 2017

The view of the teachers' union is not exactly new or unexpected. In the 1960s, the influential Plowden Report was published, which became known for praising child-centred approaches to education, stressing that at the heart of the educational process lies the child. However, the child centred / teacher directed opposition has been leading to confusion for

decades. As a school inspector, I remember spending an hour with a head examining the school's approach to teaching and learning, which she assured me was child centre and based on pupils' individual interests, only to witness a few minutes later how she delivered a well-planned, directly taught lesson to 180 pupils! If there was one system of learning and teaching which would serve the interests of every pupil, it would be embraced wholeheartedly by everyone involved in education. But there isn't and never will be such a prospect. Thirty separate levels of experience, competence, sociability and intellectual ability in every classroom, which change rapidly as every pupil grows and learns at different rates, sets up an enormous amount of complexity which every teacher must face.

Every teacher needs a tool box which ranges through the use of whole class instruction, ability group working, teacher directed activity, and child centred activity. These basic organisations will be used to facilitate various forms of learning which are appropriate for what is to be learned - listening, playing, making, performing, discussing, mental modelling, discovering, inquiring and questioning, practising and perfecting, answering, speculating, remembering. **None of these are the sole prerogatives of either of the warring factions of child centred or teacher directed learning. The very best teachers are good at using whatever methodology is most appropriate for the planned learning.**

Imagine setting up an individualised, child centred learning activity for thirty pupils when what you want them to learn is that it is the hairy end of the brush that spreads the paint! A good teacher tells them, demonstrates, and then lets them practice in smaller groups, because the learning isn't worth any more time and effort than that! Now imagine that what you want is for each of them to have an original idea about something they have experienced at home - well just try telling thirty children to have an idea! You will need to be working on a much higher level involving listening, speculating, discussing and valuing idiosyncratic responses. The teaching methodology needs to be much more complex, because the learning is of a much higher order.

In most occupations, having access to the necessary range of tools and being able easily to select the right one for the job in hand is taken as read. The teaching profession, however, seems to shun such an approach in favour of an on-going debate about what the best way to teach our children is. Despite this, the issue has remained unresolved for 50 years. This report into Reception class teaching highlights the dispute once again, and perhaps the impact of the report might lead to a re-consideration of the facts of the matter on all sides before we embark on another 50 years of failing to teach the basics properly to half our children before they even enter Year 1.

Playground cliques:

When the parents are worse than the kids



photo: Ben White

Katie Price hit the headlines recently for slamming 'rude and patronising' mums at the school gates who consistently blanked her. Talking on ITV's Loose Women towards the end of 2017, she explained that the cliquiness of the playground mums was the reason that she doesn't enjoy the school run.

Katie's comments struck a nerve with parents across the UK, with many relating only too well to the feeling of exclusion at the school gate by cliques of other parents. Indeed, whilst many parents worry about their kids fitting into playground dynamics, they don't quite realise that they may run into just as many difficulties as their children. In fact, the cliques of the parents often mirror those of their kids; after all, kids mimic their parent's behaviour so if they see mum blanking Chantelle's parents, they are quite likely to do the same to Chantelle.

Parent cliques are often based on flimsy foundations, centring around such matters as existing friendship groups, 'coolness', social gain and insecurities of those in the clique. In fact, these are usually exactly the same as the grounds for the kids' cliques - only we might be entitled to expect that the benefit of a bit more maturity might make parental cliques less common. Sadly, not so.

A survey by online parenting resource Families Online.co.uk of 1000 parents in 2017 about their pet hates on the school run revealed that the 4th most annoying element of taking the kids to school is cliquey parents (after bad parking in 1st place, parents smoking in second place and dog mess near school in 3rd place). In another survey, a staggering 92% of the 2225 mums questioned for Channel Mum.com in 2017 claimed they feel lonely and isolated, which 50% attributed entirely to 'cliquey and bitchy' groups at the school gate.

One mum on a blog explained the situation clearly: *"As I stand at the school gate with the other mums I have come to realise that I obviously don't belong in their clique. To be honest I think they are rude, unfriendly and even a bit arrogant. I have often tried to smile and make conversation with them, but the very next day when I try to make eye contact I end up hitting the same unfriendly brick wall again. It is so disheartening and I just can't understand what the problem is. I am nothing special, average in height, looks and weight. I'm not one of these 'stuck up' mums with the 4x4 and an attitude to match. I am just an ordinary and I'd like to think, nice and friendly person."*

This comment drew around 9 pages of empathy from other parents who understood only too well this mum's pain. (www.weeklygripe.co.uk/horrible-mums-at-the-school-gate)

Distressing as it is for excluded mums, the bigger problem of cliques at the school gates is their effect on the children. Kids are highly tuned into social hierarchies because they are such an important factor in their own lives. They often know from quite a young age who is cool and who isn't, and exactly where in the pecking order they and their peers fall. They notice too how their own parents treat other adults and will learn acceptable behaviour towards others from them. Parents who blank others teach their kids that it is OK to classify people into desirable and undesirable - and to treat the undesirables less favourably. Kids also pick up the subtle cues as to

what makes other parents 'undesirable' and thus develop their own prejudices which are likely to play out in the classroom and playground. And however hard it is for excluded parents, it is a lot harder for excluded kids who have to spend hours a day with unfriendly faces rather than just a few minutes at the school gates.

Any efforts then that schools make in managing social exclusion in school should always include work with the parents. The cliquiest kids are highly likely to have the cliquiest parents, so if we are ever to help that child who doesn't get invited to playdates or parties and is last to be picked in PE teams, we have to look at the parents' behaviour too.

As parents, we should tackle this by reaching out to other parents in the playground, even if they are 'different' from us or we don't consider them to be 'cool'. And, if it is you that is being excluded, take the same advice we might offer a lonely child in the playground; take the initiative sometimes, smile, be kind, remember that it is you not them, and look for other sources of friendship groups elsewhere. And, remember, you will not be bound to the school gate for ever - even the playground mafia have to grow up and move on at some point.

Dr Sandi Mann is the director of The Mind Training Clinic and specialises in the treatment of phobias, panic attacks and anxiety conditions. She is also author of *Surviving the Terrible Teens* and *Dealing With Difficult Eaters*, both published by Crimson. www.mindtrainingclinic.com

Junior School Open Morning

Saturday 17 March 2018
10.00am – 12.30pm

For further information please
contact admissions@aesg.co.uk

Tel: 01625 583028
www.aesg.co.uk

Aspire not to have more,
but to be more.

At AESG, we believe in giving
girls aged 2-18 the best possible
opportunities to achieve success,
in a secure, focussed and stable
environment.

Find us on Facebook  @schoolforgirls



ALDERLEY EDGE
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

The King's School in Macclesfield
King's
Independent education for 3 to 18 year olds

Top performing
school at GCSE
& A Level

Infant & Junior Open Afternoon

Friday 27 April, 1.15pm–3pm

- Inspirational teaching
from Pre-School
to Sixth Form
- Rated 'excellent'
in all aspects
in ISI inspection
- Small classes
& nurturing
environment



**Come
and be
curious!**

01625 260000 : admissions@kingsmac.co.uk : www.kingsmac.co.uk

education



FOUNDED IN 1487

STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL

An independent school for girls and boys from 3-18 years
Assistance with fees available at 11+ and 16+ (means tested)

Pre-Reception Open Day (from 3+)

Thursday 22nd March, 9am - 5pm

Call 0161 419 2405 for further information

Junior School and Pre-Reception Open Morning

Saturday 19th May, 10am - 12pm

Come and spend a day in the Senior School

Year 5 Taster Days

17th May, 24th May and 12th June

To book call 0161 419 2408

Senior and Junior School day tours available

Extensive school bus routes
including Sale & Hale

Inspiring your child

Tel: 0161 456 9000

www.stockportgrammar.co.uk

Parent + child = mathematical success *by Oksana Kiseleva*



Schools always emphasise that parental involvement is vital to the success of a child and encourage parents to help their children at home with English and maths. If reading and discussing books with a child can significantly improve their language skills, maths cannot be 'picked up' like this. A parent can support a child with maths effectively only if a child does well-set homework regularly. However, in many schools the maths homework is irregular and often is so poorly thought out that it causes tensions between a child

and a parent, and makes children dread maths. Parents are also given many pieces of inept advice such as 'take your child shopping' or 'practice quick recall of number facts'. Maths is not a collection of facts, and there is much more to it than counting change. Mathematics is learned best when it is taught systematically and conceptually, starting from basic concepts and small numbers. The concepts should be expanded gradually, building up on the child's knowledge and understanding. Only in this way can a child develop

strong number sense and mathematical thinking, which are highly valuable skills for their success in the future. Though parental support is very important, it is essential that the processes of learning mathematics from the very beginning is led by a teacher who has a conceptual understanding of the subject and access to the best teaching resources. Bad teaching makes even basic maths a struggle.

Maths is an easy and enjoyable subject when it is taught well. We do it by breaking difficult concepts into small steps and mastering each step through a carefully designed set of exercises. We know how to teach maths well, and with some parental support, we can make each child a confident mathematician and bring them to the next level of their ability.

Oksana Kiseleva, who holds a PhD from Manchester University, is the author of a number of articles that can be found on the M&D website. Oksana teaches maths to children aged 6 to 12 and currently offers Child & Parent Lessons.

Child and Parent Lessons last 30min, 45min or 1 hour and can be taken once or twice per week or once per fortnight. Personalized homework is given out. Home educated children are particularly welcomed.

If interested please see details at www.mums-dads.co.uk/international-maths or contact Oksana on 0161 637 4853 or oksana.kiseleva@talktalk.net

The Learned Owl
Supplementary School



Maths | English | Science

Primary to GCSE level
including 11+ Preparation

Sunday classes | Group sessions
Booster and Revision sessions during school holidays

0161 850 7218
07522 894 028

info@thelearnedowl.co.uk
www.thelearnedowl.co.uk

Alfiah School, 86 Clifton Street, Old Trafford
Manchester, M16 9GN

@thelearnedowl | [facebook.com/thelearnedowl](https://www.facebook.com/thelearnedowl) | [thelearnedowl](https://www.instagram.com/thelearnedowl)



The Liberty School

The Liberty School Manchester is a small, specialist independent school for children with dyslexia, dyscalculia, dyspraxia and other learning needs.

To request a prospectus or to arrange a visit please:

E-mail: thelibertyschoolmanchester@gmail.com

Phone: 07791280873

Visit: [facebook.com/libertyschoolmanchester](https://www.facebook.com/libertyschoolmanchester)

**A WORLD-CLASS
EDUCATION
FOR YOUR CHILD**



Across the globe, the Kumon
Maths and English Programmes
advance students beyond their
school level.

Contact your local Instructor for a free assessment.

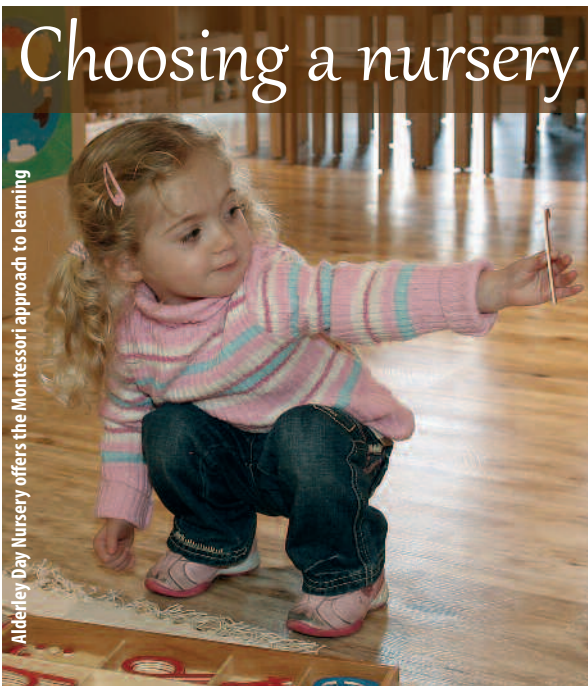
Altrincham	0161 905 2474
Bramhall	0161 439 3946
Cheadle	0161 286 0791
Knutsford	01565 621142
Timperley	0161 980 0851
Wilmslow	01625 532529
Withington	0161 292 2691

KUMON

Fees vary. Please refer to your local study centre.

kumon.co.uk

Alderley Day Nursery offers the Montessori approach to learning



Gut feelings goes a long way in many life decisions, and choosing a nursery is no different. Understanding the ethos, culture, aims and methods of your potential choices and assessing how these fit with your own ideals and requirements is vital to a successful partnership.

Montessori owner, Melanie Hallam, of Alderley Day Nursery had a clear view when starting out 10 years ago: "I strongly believe that achievement comes through shared goals and mutual respect in a team - minimise hierarchy and empower individuals. For us, this not only governs our adult interactions but also the relationships we forge with our children. I found Montessori's approach to learning to be in perfect symmetry with our thinking". The Montessori method is based on a deep

respect for the child and an appreciation of the special learning abilities a child has during the first 6 years of life. The approach is holistic and aims to develop the whole child by prioritising social interactions, grace and courtesy skills and sensory development, along with the more usual creative, mathematical and literary aspects of the curriculum. Given the opportunity, children are natural learners who want to explore the world hands-on. Harboursing this intrinsic curiosity, a Montessori setting provides an environment rich in 'real life' activities. When children are self-motivated to learn, they develop positive self-images and grow in confidence, all the ingredients needed for a successful school career and happy life.

The early years are a pivotal time when children are most receptive to learning, hence attending the right nursery and pre-school is crucial. When making a nursery decision, if nothing else, allow time to visit different types of nursery environments - it may not always be the most convenient choice, however an extra few miles could make a huge difference to your child's future.

NEW PLACES AVAILABLE

Ofsted Outstanding

Alderley Day Nursery
01625 860660
www.alderleydaynursery.com

Alderley Day Nursery

MONTESSORI

2017 Class of 2017

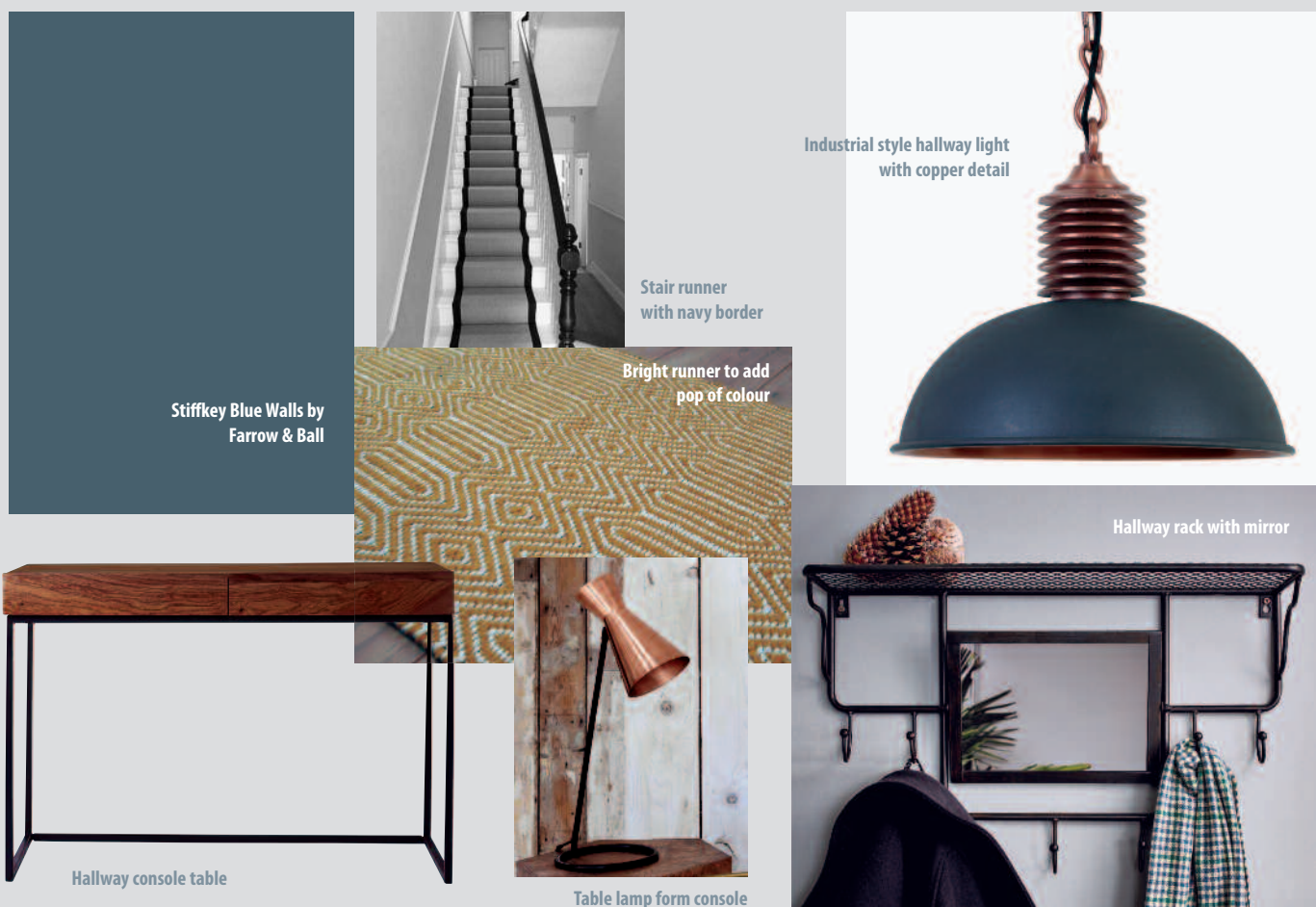
* My Nursery * by Evelyn

Fun Love Smiles Caring Nurturing Happy Memories Letters Numbers Bikes Sand Painting Mud Kitchen Chickens Cuddles Reading Fun

Make an entrance by Ceri Murray

Welcome to our latest article. This month, we have decided to change the way we do things a little. We thought that M&D readers might be interested to see some real life design boards similar to those our customers receive. In each issue, we will show you a new room design with fabrics, wallpaper, paint, flooring, furniture and accessories. In short, everything you need to get going!

In this issue we are looking at hallways. In many cases, this is often the darkest, narrowest part of the house. With the trend towards deep colours we think it's a great idea to embrace the darkness! Be brave in your colour choices and your hallway can be your talking point.



Hallway design broken down

The basis of this design is blues & coppers with industrial style accessories to create a strong modern look.

The walls are in Farrow & Ball's Stiffkey Blue. Couple this with white woodwork (skirting, coving, ceiling, balustrades and bannister) to frame the colour and break up the space. A picture gallery mounted in white frames running up the stairs will also help provide strong contrast to the dark walls.

If you are considering replacing your stair carpet then a plain carpet to match your landing carpet cut as a runner and bound with dark blue edges creates a smart look. [image from theflooringgroup.co.uk]

Try a relatively inexpensive runner to brighten the hall floor and bring pattern to the scheme (Sloane rug from modern-rugs.co.uk).

Lighting is a key investment and an eye-catching ceiling light makes all the difference. This utilitarian light in grey and copper fits perfectly with the industrial look (thefarthing.co.uk). The copper lamp for the console is elegant and bang on trend (grahamandgreen.co.uk).

If you have space then a console table will provide both a beautiful addition and a practical space in

your hall (console from swooneditions.com). If you don't have space, then a radiator cover or shelf also provides a focal point over which a mirror can be hung together with a space for a lamp.

Finally, this mirror with shelf and hooks complements the industrial look and is a practical piece to have in your hallway (grahamandgreen.co.uk).

If you do decide to take the plunge and create this or a similar look, then we would love to see your pictures of the finished room!

At nest we work on a variety of projects and we charge by the hour so you can enjoy exactly the required amount of input from us. We can both recommend all relevant contractors and work collaboratively with you to ensure your new space is tailored to your requirements. Just get in touch for an initial chat and quote 'M&D Spring' for 10% off initial consultation fees.



Benetton springs into the new season with colourful children's collection

The Italian fashion brand Benetton came back to Wilmslow at the end of last year

'The United Colors of Benetton', a standalone children's store on Water Lane, is now presenting Benetton's new Spring/Summer collection and is offering M&D readers 20% off the latest range for children and babies with all purchases over £30. To claim your discount, just bring the voucher with you to the store - a page from the magazine, a photocopy or a photo on your smartphone will all do.

The new children's collection features sizes from 0 - 3 months right up to 12 years. With key pieces that ooze colour, energy and fun, it is set to be a big hit with young fashionistas and parents alike. It is the perfect time to get your little ones ready for the new season!

To keep up to date with the latest news and offers from the new store in Wilmslow, like United Colors of Benetton Wilmslow on Facebook and follow @BenettonWilmsl on Twitter and Instagram.



Boys raincoat - ages 6/7 to 11/12
£49.95



Boys stripe raincoat - ages 1/2 to 4/5
£29.95



Baby girl polo vest - 0/3 to 9/12 months
£9.95



Baby girl harem pants - 0/3 to 9/12 months
£15.95



Girls Rain coat - ages 6/7 to 11/12.
£49.95



Girls stripe multi-colour jumper - ages 1/2 to 11/12.
£29.90



Baby girl flower Top - 0/3 to 9/12 months
£17.95



Baby boy quilted jacket - 0/3 to 9/12 months
£22.95

Baby girl floral dress - 0/3 to 9/12 months
£17.95



Girl stripe dress. Age 1/2 to 11/12
£17.95

SHOP THE
BENETTON LOOK

WATER LANE, WILMSLOW



20% OFF FOR **M&D** READERS
THE LATEST COLLECTION WITH THIS LEAFLET*

*when you spend £30 on full price items and present this voucher

Is your child happy?



Children's Happiness Coach
FUN 1-2-1 and group sessions



www.simonbenn.co.uk

Today's children have a lot to deal with! SATs, cyber-bullying, playground bullying, divorce, new families, even terrorism are all very real worries for youngsters.

It's little wonder that our children's happiness is taking a battering! As the UK's first Children's Happiness Coach, Simon Benn uses a mindset metaphor called The Juicer. He gets 7-11 year old children to play Juicer games and take part in fun activities that empower them to boost their mental health and emotional wellbeing. He believes that the game helps kids be happier, more confident, and resilient to bullying. Simon says: 'Children learn how to put happy apples, confident coconuts and resilient raspberries into the Juicer - their brains - to make happy, confident and resilient juicy feelings! They also practice how to put smiley strawberries into their Juicer so they can stop feel-

ing sad. Every Juicer has a lid, which kids 'put on' to stop bullies throwing in rotten raspberries, so other children can't upset them.'

Simon's Top 5 Happy Tips

- 1 Ask your child what they love doing. Then do more of that.
- 2 Ask your child what they don't like doing. Do less of that.
- 3 Encourage your child. Encouragement does to children what helium does to balloons.
- 4 The next time your child says they can't do something, reply with one word - 'yet'.
- 5 Get your child to remember their favourite memories when they're sad.

Simon runs 1-2-1 and group sessions - visit www.simonbenn.co.uk to find out more and get your free Juicer comic.

Giddy Goat Toys

Come and see what's new in Didsbury's favourite toy shop or shop online at www.giddygoattoys.co.uk

2 Albert Hill Street • Didsbury
Manchester M20 6RF • T: 0161 445 1097
email: info@giddygoattoys.co.uk

TOYS • GAMES • BOOKS • GIFTS

JUMP NINJA TRAMPOLINE PARK

REGENT ROAD, MANCHESTER, M5 3GR

www.jumpninja.co.uk
0161 848 7333

10% OFF FOR MUMS AND DADS
READERS USE THE ONLINE CODE (mag2018)
FOR THE OPEN JUMP SESSION.

Daffodil Walks with Helen Rae

Imagine your child running through a field of dancing daffodils, peeping up through the golden heads and having a lovely time! Well, this Easter your imagination could become a reality.



For the third year running, Cheshire children's photographer, **Helen Rae**, joins forces with *Daffodil Walks* near Northwich to help raise funds

for Macmillan Cancer Support, the UK's leading source of cancer care, by photographing happy children in the daffodils.

Daffodil mini sessions are on 3rd and 5th April 2018. All bookings must be made in advance - details are available by emailing enquiries@helenraephoto.com or on the website www.helenraephoto.com and www.daffodilwalks.com

Exclusive mini portrait sessions will be held throughout the day on 3rd and 5th April, but you need to book soon as these slots fill up really quickly! Each 20 minute photo session includes a package of prints and digital images, with all profits going to the charity. A daffodil session is suitable for children from 7 months (sitting baby) to 12 years. Further details are available on Helen's website, under **Spring Daffodil Sessions** or by emailing Helen direct.

The Daffodil Walks happen annually around Easter at Foxwist Green Farm in the heart of Vale Royal in Cheshire, and this year are held from 30th March to 8th April. Last year Helen and her clients raised nearly £1300 as part of a £11,225 donation from *The Daffodil Walks* to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Helen Rae is a children's and family photographer, working in beautiful locations across Cheshire. Known for her ability to capture natural expressions and for her ease with her young subjects, Helen is a published photographer with work displayed in clients' homes throughout the world.

Take your perfect shot

Do you have a fancy DSLR camera which you don't know how to use?

You're not alone!

Helen Rae runs informal photography training days in Cheshire, which are aimed at the complete beginner. She helps inexperienced photographers to take control of their camera, get off AUTO and start creating the images they want.

This workshop is for you if:

- you have a posh DSLR or mirrorless camera but you're not sure how to use it
- you are baffled by the buttons, dials, settings and manual
- you just leave it on AUTO and hope for the best
- you just resort to using your camera phone instead while your DSLR gathers dust in the cupboard.

Helen explains, "This day-long course is a balanced mix of theory and practical training explained in a simple way. I will teach the basics of how your camera works and give you the confidence to take control of your photography. We will look at how to capture action shots of your kids or pets, get that lovely blurry background in your portraits, get sharp and in-focus pictures every time, and move off AUTO mode once and for all."

The workshop, held at the Helen Rae Photography studio near Northwich in Cheshire, runs from 10am to 3pm and includes tea, coffee, home-made cake, and a lunch. Spaces are limited to 8 people. Gift vouchers are available. Cost for the day is £95.

Full details are available at:

www.helenraephoto.com click on WORKSHOPS.

Glastonbury for kids

Geronimo festival announces awesome 2018 headliners

Justin Fletcher and Mr. Bloom return to the biggest Children's Festival in the UK



25th - 28th May 2018 Geronimo is coming back to the stunning Arley Hall in Northwich, Cheshire. This setting, encompassing many acres of land, ensures not only more attractions, but also a top-notch campsite. The duration of the event has also been extended to four days so that more families can take advantage of everything the show has to offer.

Geronimo Festival is delighted to confirm that Children's TV Megastar, Justin Fletcher, returns to Geronimo this year and will headline the Main Stage on Saturday 26th May. The ever-popular Cbeebies star will be on-hand to keep young children and their families entertained during his afternoon performance.

YouTube teen stars, Max and Harvey, will be joining the stellar line up for 2018, and cementing Geronimo's place as the premier children's UK festival.

On Sunday, children are in for another treat, as Mr. Bloom takes to the stage introducing his 40 minute show which features his amazing four-piece band. The hilarious duo, Cook and Line, will also be hosting their brilliant slapstick Pirate Show, and don't forget that there is a whole host of other performers and activities to enjoy!

Geronimo is thrilled to welcome for the very first time the world famous Gandey's Circus with their 1,200 seater big top - one of the attractions which you shouldn't miss! In addition, there will be a 130 ft big wheel, just perfect for taking pics from the top! Dubbed 'Glastonbury for Kids', Geronimo hasn't forgotten the adults either. Bathing under the Sky are providing excellent spa facilities which, together with an on-site crèche, should allow parents to have some relaxing "me time".

You can bring your own tent, caravan or motor home, or simply let Geronimo take the hassle out of camping with their range of themed tents available to suit families whatever their size.

For further information about the Geronimo Festival and to book tickets, please visit www.geronimofest.com



ARLEY HALL & GARDENS, CHESHIRE
25th - 28th MAY 2018
WHY NOT MAKE IT A WEEKEND ADVENTURE? (CAMPING / GLAMPING OPTIONS AVAILABLE)



www.GERONIMOFEST.com
FULL LINE UP DETAILS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE



It's like Glastonbury for kids!



Flipping wonderful!



New for 2018, Flip Out Manchester is a state-of-the-art trampoline and adventure park located in Sportcity, opposite the Etihad Stadium. Providing the biggest and best trampolines in the UK spread across 35,000 square feet, Flip Out Manchester is packed full of adrenaline and adventure.

Experience the Ninja Obstacle course, action-packed with awesome climbs; Cyber Towers where you race your mate to the top; a 20 foot drop on Ninja Slide; or try out exiting Laser Maze or Stunt Box Zones. For those special occasions, there are dedicated themed party rooms including the Medieval Castle and the Enchanted Forest.

Flip Out Manchester is not your standard trampoline park, it's the ultimate fun destination. No matter what your age, it will help you to stay healthy, active and have fun. With a café serving up nutritious treats, a viewing gallery, a special trampoline area exclusively for under 7 and a toddler soft play area, this adventure park offers a perfect family day out. Flip Out Manchester also hosts dedicated fitness sessions and classes. Flip Fit is a non-stop conditioning class. The session is action packed and choreographed to provide a total body workout. Running every Tuesday 7pm-8pm and 8pm-9pm.

With Toddler Time, specialist sessions for families, that run Monday to Friday during term time, you and your little one can have unlimited bouncing time for just £5.00. A standard one-hour jump is also available daily for £10.00, and if one hour isn't enough the two hour experience is only £15 per person.

Flip Out Manchester offers fun for all, whether you are 1 or 101. It's open and ready to welcome you in:

Sunday - Thursday 10am - 9pm

Friday - Saturday 10am - 10pm

To keep updated on the latest news please find Flip Out on Facebook at Flip Out Manchester.

FLIPOUT
MANCHESTER

TRAMPOLINE & ADVENTURE PARK
FLIPOUT.CO.UK

MORE THAN JUST TRAMPOLINES!

OPPOSITE ETIHAD STADIUM - M11 4BD
FLIPOUT.CO.UK/MANCHESTER

Three hours to Haven

“Our adventures in

words Paul Wojnicki photos Alena Chalmovska



Last May, we decided to forgo one of our overseas holidays and head to the Northumberland coast instead. The decision was not taken lightly as Alena and the children love visiting new countries, but I promised them all that the Northumberland coast was every bit as exciting and beautiful, as anything we would see abroad, though admittedly a tad colder. And it's only three hours by train from Piccadilly station.

Our adventures begin with a trip to one of the most dramatic beaches anywhere in the UK; Bamburgh Beach. The pristine white sands and clear (but chilly) waters are stunning and would be packed with tourists if they were further south; especially since the beach is backed by one of the most impressive castles in England. But packed is not a word synonymous with Northumberland, and consequently we have large swathes of the beach, right below the massive castle, entirely to ourselves.

The sand is white and the water is clear and blue, but the waves here are too treacherous for Harrison and Ella to dip their toes, so we walk ten minutes north of



the castle toward Bamburgh lighthouse and an area known as Stag Rocks, where a number of rock pools are deep enough and warm enough to paddle in and search for crabs and starfish.

After a picnic between the rock pools we head to another castle, Haggerston Castle- our home for the next seven days. To be fair, we're not staying in the castle itself, because Haggerston Castle is now best known as a Haven holiday park.

I've become a big fan of caravan holidays after a recent trip to Lisbon because the kids can eat their favourite meals and I don't have to worry about them annoying other diners. Interestingly though, I've never stayed at a Haven park, until now. And I'm happy to report that I'm really impressed.

We spend the first three days simply exploring and enjoying the Haggerston Castle site, using the free pool, play parks and soft play areas and taking the occasional pedalo voyage on the main lake - which is certainly a haven for wildlife. There are ducklings, goslings and cygnets aplenty around the lake, while more elusive animals such as otters and beautiful red squirrels can be found by more determined nature hunters. Haven actually run a programme called Nature Rockz on several of their sites - including Haggerston - for the younger visitors to explore local nature and learn cool bush craft techniques like lighting fire with sticks. Harrison and Ella are a little

young for some of these courses but they both have a great time on the family fun-bikes and pedalos. Harrison also tries his hand at bungee trampolining and turbo paddlers- which are essentially hand powered pedalos used under close supervision in the swimming pool.

Many of these activities only cost £4, so it's a little frustrating that Harrison is afraid to try them all! The Water Waterz - also known as aqua zorbing- and the mini jet bikes look like great fun and there's no shortage of four year olds using them but Harrison lacks confidence in water, unfortunately.

Two year old Ella on the other hand knows no fear and wants to try everything, including the Segways when her mum takes one for a spin on day three. Alena loves this and feels like a big kid herself zooming around the specially designed track at the back of the complex. So much so that she ends up booking it again for days six and seven! Still at just £20 for an hour it's a very affordable way to enjoy yourself, and holidays aren't just about the kids after all.

On day four we are up early to watch the tide going out at Beal, just two miles down the road from the campsite. Ordinarily, the tide going out wouldn't be worth rushing breakfast for, but this tide is a little different from your average one because as it recedes a road magically appears and leads to the Holy Island of Lindesfarne across the sea.

Northumberland begin with a trip to one of the most dramatic beaches in the UK”

Harrison is literally dumbstruck by the event and wants to see it happen again.

“In about 12 hours you can, son,” I tell him.

Once we’ve crossed the ‘magic road’ we park in the main village – population 160 – and head for the island’s main sights; Lindesfarne Castle and the nearby Priory. It’s disappointing to see that the castle is currently covered in scaffolding as it’s one of the most picturesque sights on the island. Still, the bay on which it’s perched is beautiful in any case, and we follow the coast around past upturned fishing boats – now turned into storage sheds for nets and lobster pots – to the nearby Priory and ruins instead. From the headlands by the Priory we hear the haunting sounds of a dozen or so seals wailing on a sandbank near the mainland. The ghostly noises add to the spooky atmosphere of the Abbey ruins and the Church’s graveyard but the children are only worried that the ice cream van might have left by the time we get back to the carpark.

On day five we take advantage of the sunny weather to visit another one of the region’s highlights; the Farne Islands. These rocky outcrops, two miles off the mainland, are famous for the resident puffins, thousands of which whizz around carrying beaks full of fish from the sea and the holes in which they rear their chicks. It’s a truly magical sight.

The harbour at Seahouses is just 13 miles south of Haggerston Castle and is the launch point for most of the region’s Farne Island tours. Here, you’ll find no shortage of companies plying the route but it’s always best to book ahead, especially in the warmer seasons, because the trips are incredibly popular and only a limited amount of people can land on the islands at one time.

By far the most famous of these operators is Billy Shiels, whose boats have been running trips to the Farne Islands for six decades and have included several notable guests. Billy welcomed the Queen aboard from the Royal yacht Britannia in 1958, and the Queen Mother in 1962. More recently, Billy hosted Princess Anne aboard and was awarded an MBE for services to hospitality.

Afterwards, we return to the mainland and traverse the sand dunes in front of Bamburgh Castle one last time before heading back to Haggerston to relax by the lake and make new friends on the last two days of our holiday.

Did we miss travelling overseas this May? Not really. The children loved the facilities at the camp site, loved meeting new friends and gallivanting on the beaches and sand dunes, and mum and dad enjoyed the relative simplicity compared to travelling abroad.

I never thought I’d say this but we might just skip another overseas break this May and head back up to Haggerston again.



Come rain or come shine

There is a new pre-school in Adlington, but this is no ordinary pre-school. It's fully outdoors, and is called 'Nest in the Woods'. Mark Redford and Sally Cliffe have run an Ofsted Outstanding outdoor pre-school in Warrington for two and a half years, and have recently brought the opportunity to children in the West Cheshire area.

Mark says, "We're extremely pleased to bring 'Nest in the Woods' to this part of Cheshire. Our philosophy is based on the Forest School approach, which puts the child at the centre. Children develop their independence and resilience, communication skills, their imagination and thinking, teamwork, and of course have loads of fun in the process."

We asked Sally what a Forest School is, and whether it is held in all weathers. She tells us, "A Forest School takes place all year round, and in all weathers, the rainy, muddy days are some of the best! We provide children with the right equipment to ensure they are warm and dry."

"A Forest School encourages imagination, thinking and fun, we create dens & miniature worlds, organise scavenger hunts, track animals and get creative with art. The outdoors is the best place for children to be natural explorers and little scientists, finding out about the world for themselves with the support of passionate, experienced and qualified staff. Children connect with and understand nature, themselves and each other in a deep and meaningful way in a rich and stimulating environment. They experience the changes of the seasons and learn about nature first hand, as well as how to look after themselves and each other."



Nest in the Woods Forest School



Outdoor Pre-School Now Open
funded places available

We also provide;

Home Education Groups

School Holiday Clubs

Woodland Parties

Family Events

School Trips

Toddler Groups

Our location:

Adlington

(between

Stockport and
Macclesfield)

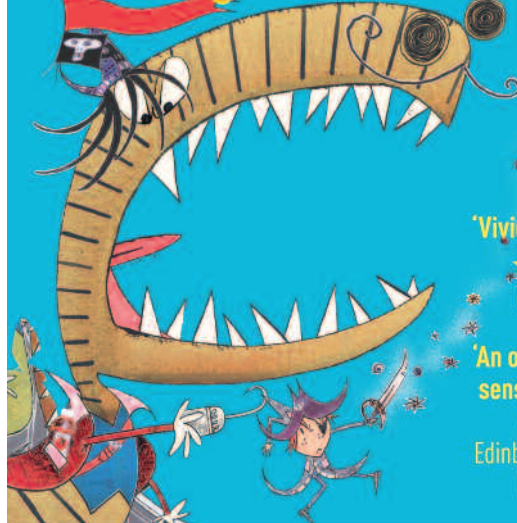
Formerly known as
Wacky Woods

T:07504 675551

nestinthewoods.co.uk

facebook.com/NestintheWoodsAdlington

Captain Flinn and the Pirate Dinosaurs 2: The Magic Cutlass



'Vividly engaging'

★★★★

The Stage

'An overwhelming
sense of fantasy
and fun'

Edinburgh Festivals
Magazine

TUESDAY 27 TO THURSDAY 29 MARCH 4.30PM

MATINEE WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY 1.30PM

TICKETS: £13, FAMILY TICKETS: £33-£44

BOX OFFICE: 01298 72190

www.buxtonoperahouse.org.uk

BUXTON OPERA HOUSE
& PAVILION ARTS CENTRE



Unlock your child's potential

with our expertly led singing,
dancing and acting classes
for 4-18 year olds.

**ENROLLING
NOW**

ALTRINCHAM

01925 222445

altrincham@stagecoach.co.uk

stagecoach.co.uk/altrincham

DIDSBURY

0808 208 5134

didsbury@stagecoach.co.uk

stagecoach.co.uk/didsbury

**STAGE
COACH**

Creative Courage For Life®

Chetham's
School of Music

The MUSICAL MENAGERIE

A Hargreaves and Ball Trust Family Concert
THE STOLLER HALL
at Chetham's

**Strange creatures, colourful characters and mysterious happenings...
a magical musical tale to set your imagination on fire!**

Saturday 12 May 2018 - 10.15am Early Years - 11am Family Concert
£8 (£6); family £25 (5 tickets)

Do you know a young musician who just loves to play?

Straight after The Musical Menagerie, Chetham's School of Music are hosting our first ever **Junior Open Afternoon**, aimed at families considering applications for entry into Years 4-6. Meet students and staff before joining our Outreach and Junior Music teams in a fun, informal music workshop. 1-3pm. Free.

0333 130 0967 | www.chethamsschoolofmusic.com | outreach@chethams.com



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Registered charity no. 526702

Events Watch

Easter Clubs

3-6, 9-13 April

Easter Holiday Tennis Camp

9-4pm full day, 9-12 am only, 1-4pm - afternoon only. Early drop and late collection are available. The camp is open to children of primary school age. Bring your own tennis racket or use the rackets provided (available in all sizes). Children will need to bring appropriate clothing and footwear suitable for rainy days. A drink and snack is essential for mornings and afternoon. For a full day please bring a packed lunch which will be eaten inside the clubhouse between 12pm - 1pm. Poynton Tennis Club
Contact Michael Atherfold tel: 07984 973887 email: point-onetennis@hotmail.com Or visit www.point-onetennis.org

3, 4 April 10:00 - 15:00

(Presentation starts at 2:15pm on Wednesday)

Manchester 2 Day Easter Camp

Every child receives a medal, a certificate and a free ticket to Gulliver's team park. Plus lots of chances to win other trophies and medals in competitions such as: Penalty Shoot-out, American Shoot-Out, FA CUP Tournament. Price: £25 Manchester Health Academy, Moor Road, Wythenshawe, Manchester M23 9BP
T: Booking 07983 565 847, Office: 0121 384 4781 <http://soccerstarcoaching.co.uk/camps>

4-6 April 10 am - 4.30 pm

SciTech Easter-2018

Fun with science and technology for kids. Three separate days (come to any or all of them) with three different age groups and science topics.

Thin Film Technology - Bubbles!

You'll be using lots of 'soap' to make bubbles of all shapes, sizes and colours.

The Forces of Nature! - Volcanos, Earthquakes and Hurricanes!

Build a volcano and make it erupt! Measure the strength of an earthquake! And pop a hurricane into a bottle!!

Bodyworks (and how to fix them when they break down!)

This is all about an amazing machine - your body! Baguley Hall Primary School, Ackworth Drive Baguley, Manchester M23 1LB
Tel: 0161 903 9133 www.scitech.co.uk

3-6 April 2018

Kings Camps - All week or daily camps

Standard Hours Drop-off 9.30am, pick-up at 4pm
Extended Hours Drop-off 8.15, pick-up at 5.45pm
Morning Hours Drop-off 8.30, pick-up at 12.30pm
Children participate in a lot of different sports and activities each day in groups with others of a similar age and get active, while making new friends.

Multi-Active Mornings: 4+ years.

A week of shorter days allowing children to experience a mix of sports, games, arts.

Multi-Active: 5-11 years.

A week packed with a wide range of sports and activities with theme days, challenges...

Cheadle Hulme School, Clarendon Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle SK8 6EG

Tel: 0114 263 2160 www.kingscamps.org

3-6 April

Easter Workshop - Stagecoach Performing Arts at The Grange Theatre

From the moment you arrive at the workshop you will be caught up in the excitement of fun, hard work and creativity whilst making new friends. Students will experience the process of casting, rehearsing and performing with a professional team of directors. You will learn lines, songs and dance routines and many other new skills in just a few days. Find new and invaluable confidence as an important part of the team.

The Grange School, Bradburns Lane, Hartford Northwich Cheshire, CW8 1LU

Tel: 01606 45132 or 07709 684 390 (Sue)

www.stagecoach.co.uk

3-13 April 2018

Superstars Holiday Club

Bring your kids for whole day filled with fun and exciting sports and fitness activities. You could choose Multi Sports, Dance or Football program. Prices for the Holiday Club:

8-16.30 - £17.50 per day, or £77 for the week.

Flexible 5 hrs (whatever time you drop off you must pick up within 5 hrs) - £12.50 per day or £60 for the whole week.

Late pick up slot 16.30 - 18 - £2.50 per child per session paid by cash on the morning at the centre Run at different venues across South Manchester, to find a venue near you check the website.

www.littlesuperstars.co.uk T: 07904 311 552

5, 10, 12 April 14:00-16:00

Shimmer and Shine Window Workshop

Red and yellow and pink and green, The John Rylands Library amazing stained glass windows have it! Using colourful papers and textures make your own version in the family friendly workshop. Suitable for children 4 yrs and above.

The John Rylands Library, 150 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3EH T: 0161 3060555 www.library.manchester.ac.uk/rylands

11 April 13:00 - 14:30

Easter Family Dog Training Class

At Dog School Manchester they believe that training your dog should involve the whole family, so are inviting parents and their children to learn dog training basics. The workshop will be run by professional Dog School Coaches and Education & Community Officers.

One adult and up to two children aged 7-11 are welcome to the classes with their family dog. Free. Dogs Trust Manchester, Parkway, Denton M34 3SG
Tel: 07920 658671 Tel: 07388 377385 manchesterdogschool@dogtrust.or

Daily 10:00 - 17:00

Experiment!

Stare into the mirror of infinity, create a tornado, and watch your own skeleton ride a bicycle. Play with 25 hands-on exhibits and see science in action. Could you lift a MINI? Find out how the power of gears can give even the weakest of weaklings super strength.

Be mesmerised by bubbles passing through giant columns of coloured liquids to demonstrate viscosity, see how many of the city's homes can be lit by using household waste as power, and measure your reactions against the speed of light. Recommended for all ages.

Museum of Science & Industry, Liverpool Road, Castlefield, Manchester M3 4FP

Tel: 0161 833 0027 www.msimanchester.org.uk

Thursdays 11:15 - 12:00

Baby Ballet for Children aged 2.5 to 4 years

A lovely and gentle introduction to ballet for toddlers with professional dancer Karolina.

Price: £3 per child, adults free.

Additional children £2.

All classes are term time only.

1 Waterside Plaza, Sale, Trafford, M33 7ZF, UK
Tel: 0161 912 5616 www.watersidearts.org

Saturdays 10:00 - 11:00

Dance Jam for Children aged 4 to 7

This class will encourage creativity and individual expression using dance games, fun themes and movement ideas created by participants. There will be a variety of dance activities that will help to build confidence and the ability to mix and work together with other children.

Price: £3 per child. Adults free. £2 each additional child. All classes are term time only.

1 Waterside Plaza, Sale, Trafford, M33 7ZF, UK
Tel: 0161 912 5616 <http://watersidearts.org>

Saturdays and Sundays 12:30 and 13:30

Engineer Evan's Difficult Day

Learn how a steam engine works in this interactive show right in the pulsating heart of the Power Hall. It's lots of fun and a little bit loud. Stoker Sam is learning how to get Pender the steam locomotive up and running, but when Engineer Evan leaves him to his own devices, Sam's going to need to call on the help of his friends.

Recommended for ages 5 to 11. Museum of Science & Industry, Liverpool Road, Castlefield, Manchester M3 4FP. Tel: 0161 833 0027 www.msimanchester.org.uk

Saturdays and Sundays

Mum2mum market

Local nearly new baby and children sales where mums sell to mums. A mum2mum market is the place to buy a second-hand pushchair and pre-loved baby clothes and toys - all top quality brands and in great condition. Cater for babies and children up to age 6.

Cheadle Hulme (Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church, Ramillies Avenue, Cheadle Hulme, SK8 7AL)
Sunday 25th March 1:30pm-3:30pm
Sunday 27th May 1:30pm-3:30pm
Stockport (Hazel Grove High School, Jacksons Lane, Hazel Grove, Stockport, SK7 5JA)
Sunday March 25th. 2:30pm-4:30pm
Sunday April 29th. 2:30pm-4:30pm
Macclesfield (Senior Citizen Hall, Duke Street, Macclesfield SK11 6UR.)
Saturday May 12th 2:30pm-4:30pm
Saturday May 26th 2:30pm-4:30pm
Chorlton (Chorlton High School, Nell Lane, Chorlton, Manchester, M21 7SL)
Saturday 21st April 1.30-3.30pm

March

1-25 March 10:30-15:00

Curious Kids Trail

Families can be curious too. Collect your own cabinet of curiosity on a trail around the garden. Let your imagination run wild as you peek inside forgotten drawers, discover feely boxes and uncover stories along the way.

Dunham Massey, Altrincham, Ches., WA14 4SJ

Tel: 0161 941 1025

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dunham-massey

3 March 10:00-17:00

Kids' Takeover Day

St. Wilfrid's C.E. Primary School are taking over the Museum of Science and Industry, and they're inviting you for the day to celebrate the Year of Engineering, and the history of Newton Heath and East Manchester.

Mather and Platt were a huge engineering firm in Newton Heath. Families will be able to follow a specially designed trail around the museum highlighting some Mather and Platt objects, become engineers themselves by creating their own paper machines, and see more things from our collection picked out by the St. Wilfrid's kids Museum of Science & Industry Liverpool Road, Castlefield, Manchester M3 4FP
Tel: 0161 833 0027 www.msimanchester.org.uk

3-4, 10-11, 17-18 March 11:00- 15:30

Below Stairs Tour

Bring the family along to discover what life was like for Dunham's servants and step back in time on a guided tour of the servants quarters with our Victorian Estate Agent.

Dunham Massey, Altrincham, Ches., WA14 4SJ
Tel: 0161 941 1025

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dunham-massey

10-31 March 11:00 - 17:00

1-6 April 11:00 - 17:00

(not Wednesdays and Thursdays)

'Gifts for the Gods' - Animal Mummies Revealed

In association with the Manchester Museum & their Egyptology specialists, an exciting exhibition about mummified animals is coming to Lyme. In the early 1800s, Thomas Legh travelled to unexplored areas of Egypt, taking part in digs and excavations along the way. To celebrate, this exhibition will present and explore ancient Egyptian animal mummies, prepared in their millions as offerings to the gods.

The display will include mummified specimens such as jackals, crocodiles, cats and birds! Lyme Park, Disley, Stockport, Cheshire, SK12 2NR
Tel: 01663 762023

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lyme

17 March 10:30 - 15:30pm

Pi: Platform for Investigation

A monthly event where families discover cutting edge research that's happening right now in and around Manchester and the North West. Each month universities, research centres and other organisations take over Science Museum to introduce visitors of all ages to important innovations via conversation and fun.

March's Pi: Wonderful Wetlands

Explore marvellous marshes and wonderful wetlands with the conservation team from Manchester Metropolitan University, using Lego, mud and music. Learn about why these environments are so important, how species survive in them and why when it comes to marshes, bumpy is better. Age: 8+



Events Watch

Museum of Science & Industry, Liverpool Road, Castlefield, Manchester M3 4FP
Tel: 0161 833 0027 www.msimanchester.org.uk

17 March 10:30 - 12:13:00 or 13:30 - 15:30

The Macbeth 'Who Killed Banquo?' drama workshop

It is a lively, interactive session for young people. Participants take on the roles of police officers, forensic officers and characters in crime reconstructions to piece together what actually happened to the character of Banquo and investigate who is ultimately responsible for his murder. Under the direction of Chief Inspector Chaplin children will interview suspects, write and present reports, consider forensic evidence and perform scripted reconstructions. This workshop aims to bring the story of Macbeth to life, to explore character motives and culpability – and to find out whether Macbeth is actually guilty of murder. Recommended for children aged 8 and above. (Adult accompaniment is not required). Price: £12 per person. Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire
Tel: 01625 374400, 01625 374428
www.tattonpark.org.uk

17 March, 21 April 10:00 - 12:00

Saturday Art Club For Families

Sat 17 Mar: Flower Press - Decorate a wooden flower press with hand painted flowers.
Sat 21 Apr: St George Sculpture - Create a small statue of St George from clay.
Kids, mums and dads can all enjoy action-packed arty fun at the morning Art Club. A monthly drop-in art club for families. Recommended age 4+
Family club membership costs £7.50. Sessions are £1.00 per child. Non Family Club members can attend activities for £2.50 per child.
1 Waterside Plaza, Sale, Trafford, M33 7ZF
Tel: 0161 912 5616 www.watersidearts.org

17 March 9:15 - 12:15

21 April 9:15 - 12:15
19 May 9:15 - 12:15
Sensory activities especially aimed at autistic children. Each month we explore different themes and ideas with our artists and volunteers. Aimed at children and young people aged 5 - 16 and their families or carers.
To find out more please contact Katy McCall on 0161 235 8869.

Manchester Art Gallery, Mosley Street, Manchester M2 3JL. Tel: 0161 235 8888
www.manchesterartgallery.org/exhibitions-and-events

17-18 March 11:00 - 16:00

Science Explorer Challenge

Become a science explorer and solve a perplexing challenge at the Farm! Evil Dr. Bovine has arranged a number of tricky activities and only those who solve them all will receive their prize. Bring your family, work as a team and show Dr Bovine that he is simply no match for you! This activity is offered as part of British Science Week - a national celebration of science, technology, engineering and mathematics; coordinated by the British Science Association. Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire.
Tel: 01625 374400 / 01625 374428
www.tattonpark.org.uk

22 March 10:30-12:30

Walking to Health - Elmerhurst walk

A moderate 2.4 mile walk, taking in the Gage and walking into the woods to hear the Spring birdsong

Keep active and improve your health by joining an experienced Lyme Park volunteer on a guided walk. These easy to moderate walks take in beautiful scenery and explore lesser known areas of the Park.

Lyme Park, Disley, Stockport, Cheshire, SK12 2NR
Tel: 01663 762023
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lyme

23 March, 27 April, 25 May 10:30-12:00

Experitots

Once a month our hands-on science gallery, Experiment!, is filled with a range of multisensory activities. During these relaxed sessions, toddlers and their adults are encouraged to play, explore and experiment together. Our team of friendly Explainers are on hand to support young explorers throughout the morning; and at 10.45 and 11.15 you can join them for 20 minutes of songs, play and multi-sensory fun. Specifically for children aged 1 - 4. Museum of Science & Industry Liverpool Road, Castlefield, Manchester M3 4FP
Tel: 0161 833 0027
www.msimanchester.org.uk

23 March, 27 April, 25 May 10:00 - 12:00

(for 2-5 years), 14-15pm (for babies up to 2 years)

Mad Hatters Art & Crafts Club

An action packed hour of arts and crafts with the emphasis on fun and age and ability appropriate crafts. Dress to get messy!
Price £5 per child (for babies up to 2 years)
Price £7 per child (for 2-5 years)
Hat Works Museum, Wellington Road South, Stockport SK3 0EU. Tel: 0161 474 2487
www.stockport.gov.uk

28 March, 25 April, 30 May 10:00-12:00

Walking the Walls

Lyme has miles of dry stone walling that are looked after by a team of volunteers. Join this walk to find out more about the work that goes in to conserving and restoring these walls. Join the expert dry stone walling team who help upkeep the hundreds of miles of walls at Lyme.
A hilly, 3 mile walk, therefore appropriate footwear and clothing recommended.
Lyme Park, Disley, Stockport, Cheshire, SK12 2NR. Tel: 01663 762023
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lyme

30-31 March, 1-2 April 10:30 - 16:00

Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt

Follow the Springtime Easter trail around Quarry Bank to get your chocolate treat.
Price: £2 per trail.
Quarry Bank, Styal, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 4LA
Tel: 01625 527468
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/quarry-bank

30-31 March, 1-2 April 11:00 - 16:30

Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt at Lyme

Head to Lyme throughout the Easter holidays and take part in a wonderful trail that celebrates Lyme's great outdoors. Follow the trail in the garden in search of the Easter Bunny and discover the best that nature has to offer at Lyme along the way. You may even get a special chocolate treat! The trail takes place every day throughout the school holiday. The rangers will be doing engagement activities over the bank holiday.
Price: Trail £2 per child
Lyme Park, Disley, Stockport, Ches., SK12 2NR
Tel: 01663 762023
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lyme

30-31 March, 1-2 April 11:00 - 16:00

Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt at Little Moreton Hall

Follow our outdoor trail clues to discover more about nature at Little Moreton Hall and to get your chocolate reward!
Price: Hunt maps £2 each.
Little Moreton Hall, Congleton, Ches., CW12 4SD
Tel: 01260 272018
www.littlemoretonhall@nationaltrust.org.uk

30-31 March, 1-2 April 10:00 - 16:00

Easter Fun at Tatton Park



Help Chef Albert Joubert find the missing ingredients for a dazzling dessert at the Tatton Ball and search for the chicks hiding out in the Mansion. Take up the challenge and join in our egg and spoon race and egg rolling competitions in the Gardens, or follow the trail in our Parkland to earn your chocolate treat! At the Farm meet our newly hatched chicks and help our Miller find the Easter eggs hidden in the Mill. Watch Berry, the Jersey cow, being milked and help Aunt Mary make home-made butter using Berry's milk.
Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire.
Tel: 01625 374400 / 01625 374428
www.tattonpark.org.uk

31 March 10:00 - 12:30

Fun Easter Orienteering Event

Organised by Life Leisure Sport Development Team in Woodbank Park.
All ages can come down and have a fantastic day in the park, following the map to find the Easter themed markers. T: 0161 482 0918.
Contact: samantha.barton@lifeleisure.net
Woodbank Park, Turncroft Lane, Offerton, Stockport SK1 4JR.

April

1-13 April 11:00-16:30

Spring Holiday Sensory Gardens

Discover the smells of a Tudor garden and plan your own floral journey filled with scent memories. Little Moreton Hall, Congleton, Ches., CW12 4SD
Tel: 01260 272018
www.littlemoretonhall@nationaltrust.org.uk

3 April 10.30 - 12.00 and 13.00 - 14.30

Travellers Junior Time

Step back in time and experience a fun, hands on introduction to the past. Will you be best suited as a daring Viking explorer, a brave Tudor knight or a clever Victorian inventor?
Recommended for children aged 3-5 years old. (All children must be accompanied by an adult)
Price: £10 (includes 1 accompanying adult)
Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire.
Tel: 01625 374400 / 01625 374428
www.tattonpark.org.uk

3,10 April 18:00 - 19:30

Fostering open evenings

If you're interested in fostering, join us at our open evening where we'll talk about what it takes to

become a foster carer, the different types of fostering and the specialist scheme which offers a salary of £28k to £30k.

We will also explain about the process on how to become a foster carer and you will be given the opportunity to speak to an existing Stockport foster carer about their experiences of fostering. The evenings normally last around 90 minutes.
Tel: 0161 474 3400
familyplacement@stockport.gov.uk
www.stockport.gov.uk

3-6 April 11:00 - 16:00

9-13 April 11:00 - 16:00

Spring Holidays - bluebells and butterflies

Take and wild adventures in the colours, smells and buzzing sounds of spring as Quarry Bank comes to this Easter life. Enjoy outdoor activities. Quarry Bank, Styal, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 4LA
Tel: 01625 527468
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/quarry-bank

4 April 13:30-15:30 drop-in

Egyptian Crocodiles



Victorian explorers often tried to bring back crocodiles as souvenirs of their adventures. Make the figure of Sobek, the Egyptian God of the Nile, who was depicted as a Nile crocodile and then make a climbing crocodile snapping at the explorers' heels! Price: £3 per person
The Old Sunday School, Roe Street, Macclesfield SK11 6UT. Tel: 01625 613210
www.macclesfieldmuseums.co.uk

4 April 13:30-15:30 drop-in

Under The Microscope

Take a look at some small objects under the microscope, make them big to see their detail, then think of one of your favourite things and create it in miniature to fit into a matchbox. Decorate the matchbox and you have a tiny artwork to take away!
Price: £5 per person
The Silk Museum, Park Ln, Macclesfield SK11 6TJ
Tel: 01625 612045
www.macclesfieldmuseums.co.uk

6 April, 4 May 10:00 - 12:00

Bramall Hall Dragon club

An exciting developmental discovery session for children aged 2 to 5 with stories, play and exploration in the Hall and park. Price: £7
Bramall Hall, Hall Road, Stockport, SK7 3NX
Tel: 0161 474 2399
www.stockport.gov.uk/events

7 April 10:00 - 11:30

Early bird opening and craft session for families with autism

An opportunity for families with autism to come and have a go at different crafts in a quiet space. Experienced staff will be on hand to help with the activities, which include felt making, printing and batik. There is also the opportunity to explore the museum whilst it is not too busy. Suitable for all ages. Price £2 for craft activity.
Hat Works Museum, Wellington Road South Stockport SK3 0EU. T: 0161 474 2487
www.stockport.gov.uk

Events Watch

7 April 11:00-13:30

Special Guided Walk - Birds & Habitats

Grab your binoculars and join our Park Guides to discover the variety of birds and wildlife that call Dunham their home.

Dunham Massey, Altrincham, Ches., WA14 4SJ
Tel: 0161 941 1025

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dunham-massey

10 April 10:30-12:30

Attending the Ball

The year is 1897 and the Egerton's of Tatton cordially invite you to attend a fabulous, costumed ball. Please join us in your finest fancy dress costume and be welcomed into the splendid surroundings of the Mansion. Tour the state rooms, sample the fine food and participate in a ball-room dance - RSVP now to attend a party you simply won't forget! Recommended for children aged 7 - 11 years old. Price: £12

Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire.

Tel: 01625 374400 / 01625 374428,

www.tattonpark.org.uk

10 April 13:30 - 15:30 drop-in

Professor Mace & his Amazing Panda Medals



Meet Professor Mace, explore some of his amazing discoveries and work with his assistant David to cast your own panda medal in tribute to our Macc Panda. Price: £3 per person
West Park Museum, Prestbury Road, Macclesfield SK10 3BJ. T: 01625 665010
www.macclesfieldmuseums.co.uk

11 April 13:30-15:30 drop-in

The Knight's Quest



Wednesday 11 April, 1.30-3.30pm, drop-in
Celebrate St George's Day by taking on the Knight's Quest, making your own helmet and shield before going in search of the dragon. Price: £3 per person. The Old Sunday School, Roe Street, Macclesfield SK11 6UT. T: 01625 613210
www.macclesfieldmuseums.co.uk

12 April 10:00 - 12:00

31 May 10:00 - 17:00

Teddy picnic down at Tatton Farm

Grab your favourite bear and join us for a tremendous teddy picnic down at Tatton Farm. Explore the farmyard to discover where different ingredients for your picnic come from and how they are made. Bring your own picnic or lunchtime snack and we will end the workshop eating in our teddy's special woodland camp. A fantastic educational opportunity that brings to life the journey of food 'from field to fork' in a fun, interactive way.

Recommended for children aged 3-5 years old
Price: £12. Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire.

Tel: 01625 374400 / 01625 374428,

www.tattonpark.org.uk

12 April 13:30-15:30 drop-in

STORYBOOK FINGER PUPPETS

Macclesfield's Charles Tunnicliffe illustrated lots of story books, particularly featuring animals & birds. Make a family of finger puppets to illustrate your own story. Price: £5 per person

The Silk Museum, Park Ln., Macclesfield SK11 6TJ

Tel: 01625 612045

www.macclesfieldmuseums.co.uk

17 April 10:30 - 12:30

Walking to Health - Canal & Woodland Walk

A moderate 4 mile walk, out of the park to Macclesfield Canal and back via Pursefield Wood
Lyme Park, Disley, Stockport, Cheshire, SK12 2NR
Tel: 01663 762023

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lyme

22 April 11:00 - 14:00

St George's Day celebration Hosted by Macclesfield Town Council

Come and celebrate St George's Day in Macclesfield. There will be Morris dancing, Birds of Prey, family games, quizzes, a Knight's training school, hot food and sweet stalls.

Then, at 2:30pm there will be a parade from Duke Street to the Market Place
Market Place, Macclesfield.

May

12 May 10:15-10:45

Free musical activities for Early Years in the Oglesby Atrium

11:00-12:00
Family concert in The Stoller Hall, recommended age 7+-. The Musical Menagerie: Hargreaves and Ball Trust Family Concert.

Strange creatures, colourful characters and mysterious happenings... a magical musical tale to set your imagination on fire! Price: £8
Chetham's School of Music, Long Millgate
Manchester M3 1SB. T: 0161 834 9644
www.chethamschoolofmusic.com

12 May 10:00 - 16:00

PLAYFEST 2018 at Tatton Park

A spectacular event inspiring business, schools and community to come together to compete, get active, play, and have fun.

Every ticket sold will raise funds to support the work of one of the country's best loved charities; the British Red Cross. The event offers a full day of activities centred around Play to Win Competition Zone, where more than 1000 people will compete on the World's longest inflatable assault course - at over 1000ft long!

Primary Schools will join in the fun, competing on a Mini-inflatable assault course. Discounted activity passes, providing unlimited access to the Play Together and Play for Thrills Zones will be available to all competing teams to ensure that families can come along to support and join in the fun! Prices: £280 per team (8 people)
Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire.
Tel: 01625 374400, 01625 374428
www.tattonpark.org.uk

17 May 10:30 - 12:30

Walk to Health - Historic Drive walk

A moderate 3.8 mile walk, across varied terrain taking in Knightslow Wood and Paddock Cottage
Lyme Park, Disley, Stockport, Ches., SK12 2NR
T: 01663 762023

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lyme

19, 20 May

Tatton Park Country Show 2018



Returning for the 5th year, this family Country Fair will have something for everyone with all day entertainment including the Equestrienne All Female Horse Stunt Display Team, Jez Avery's Stunt Bikes and Buggies, PADS dog training including have-a-go scurry and agility. Living History from medieval right through to World War 2, Terrier Racing, Birds of Prey Flying Displays, Goat Show including bottle feeding lambs and kids, children's petting pens as well as children's entertainment from Mario Magic as well as Arts, Crafts and Gifts Marquees, Food Hall and outside Trade Stands. On Sunday we will also host the Companion Dog Show so bring along a canine friend and have a go (proceeds from Dog Show to Marie Curie). The event is fully catered and has a licensed bar.
Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire.
Tel: 01625 374400, 01625 374428

www.tattonpark.org.uk

www.oakleighfairs.co.uk

20 May 11:00 - 16:00

Bramhall Duck Race 2018

Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club is, once again, holding the Duck Race and Family Fun Day and this year it will be held at Bramhall Park
Bramhall Park, Hall Road, Stockport, SK7 3NX.
enquiry@bwrrotary.org.uk

25 - 28 May 10:00 - 21:00

Geronimo Fest - Cheshire's family festival



Catered solely to children allowing families to connect in a fairy-tale existence for an amazing weekend. Tigers motorcycle display team, the highland games, sock wrestling and many more. This year Geronimo festival proud to be supporting Marie Curie.

Arley Hall & Gardens, Northwich, Ches. CW9 6NA

Tel: 01565 777 353

www.arleyhallandgardens.com

www.geronimofest.com

27-28 May 10:00-17:00

MakeFest

MakeFest is an annual celebration of making produced by the Museum of Science & Industry. The programme consists of playful, interactive activities and demonstrations inspired by making, engineering and technology that allow visitors to get hands-on and try something new. For families with children who are aged 7-14.
Museum of Science & Industry
Liverpool Road, Castlefield, Manchester M3 4FP
T: 0161 833 0027 www.msimanchester.org.uk

29 May 13:30-15:30 drop-in

Anubis Mask

Make a mask of the Egyptian Jackal, or Dog-Headed God Anubis. Price: £3 per person
West Park Museum, Prestbury Road
Macclesfield SK10 3BJ. T: 01625 665010
www.macclesfieldmuseums.co.uk

30 May 10:00-13:00

Cycling Boredom Busters

Fundamentals of off-road skills, exploring 'out of bounds' farmland trails and woodland single-track with the Tatton Park Rangers. Medals and certificates for achievements will be awarded at the finish. A basic bike safety check is included. Please bring a packed lunch and a backpack to carry it in. Own bike and cycling helmet are compulsory. An additional 45 mins of more challenging off-road skills will be provided (1.15 to 2pm) for those children who wish to participate - this is optional and at no extra cost!

Minimum age: 8 years old. Price: £12

Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire.

Tel: 01625 374400, 01625 374428

www.tattonpark.org.uk

30 May 13:30 - 15:30 drop-in

Egyptian Scarabs And Amulets

Create an Egyptian scarab complete with your own secret inscription along with an amulet to protect you in the 'afterlife'.

Price: £3 per person

The Old Sunday School, Roe Street, Macclesfield SK11 6UT. Tel: 01625 613210

www.macclesfieldmuseums.co.uk

30, 31 May 13:00 - 15:00

Creative family workshops this May half term

Free, drop in event suitable for all ages
Manchester Art Gallery, Mosley Street
Manchester M2 3JL. Tel: 0161 235 8888
www.manchesterartgallery.org

31 May 10:30 - 12:30 and 13:30 - 15:30

Crime and Punishment

Become part of the jury in the trial of fearsome historical criminals. Use your detective skills to ask searching questions and gather evidence to make your final judgement. If found guilty, you can go on to select their gruesome punishment! This workshop focuses on real historical crimes and their perpetrators and demonstrates how our understanding of crime and punishment has changed throughout history.

Recommended for children aged 7-11 years old.

Price: £12. Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire.

Tel: 01625 374400 / 01625 374428

www.tattonpark.org.uk

31 May 13:30-15:30 drop-in

Wacky Machines

As part of Jacquard Legacy Project, make your own wacky machine combining some low-tech recycling with a little bit of technology.

Price: £5 per person

The Silk Museum, Park Ln, Macclesfield SK11 6TJ

www.macclesfieldmuseums.co.uk

The M&D Easter Clubs and Events Watch listings have been carefully selected to offer our readers useful information. Although every effort is made to ensure that information is correct at time of The M&D Events Watch and Shows and Pantos listingsliable for any errors or omissions. We strongly advise you to check details with the event organisers.

Go KiddyKarts

AGES 4-9



AGES 4-10

RedmoX
Leisure

MAIN VENUE: PARRS WOOD HIGH SCHOOL,
DIDSBURY, M20 5PG

- ★ SAFE & SECURE ENVIRONMENT ★
- ★ FREE INVITATIONS & CERTIFICATES ★
- ★ CATERING OPTIONS AVAILABLE PLUS PARTY BAGS ★

BATTLEFIELD LIVE MANCHESTER

OUTDOOR
COMBAT GAME

AGES 7-ADULT



BodyZorbing



AGES 7-ADULT

WWW.REDMOX-LEISURE.COM | 07956 557 653



**+ Slater
Gordon**
Lawyers

No Will?

No say.

Making a Will is the only way to ensure your wishes will be met after you die.

To find out more, call our wills and probate team now on **0808 175 7909**
slatergordon.co.uk

Offices in Manchester and throughout the UK



Slater and Gordon (UK) LLP is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

Family | Employment | Estate Planning, Wills and Probate
Property | Crime | Dispute Resolution | Personal Injury